

Western Division of the American Fisheries Society
EXCOM Teleconference Minutes
Date: September 30 , 1999

Present—Cheslak, Ken Hashagen, Bill Bradshaw, Mike Mines (CA), Allen Bingham (AK), Paul Evans, Eric Knudsen, Walt Duffy (Humboldt), Raleigh Montang (WY), Doug Young (OR), Cindy Hartmann (AK)

1. Call to Order/quorum— Ken called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Report of President— Busy communicating with chapters. Had a problem with sending out proposed plans and goals for the year. Humboldt chapter got a transmittal—Ken has sent out to chapter president, president-elects; many have been unsuccessful in getting through. Part of the problem may be updated version of the chapter web-page. Ken has four proposed things for this year. Wants to take a look at strategic Plan for society and craft one for WDAFS; Certification challenge to chapters (incentive based-\$500 award for chapter with the most new members); tracking and retaining students; identify any way we can work with Chapters (meetings, workshops, etc.) to help them.

Discussion—several concerned about challenge. The \$500 incentive would not be very great and therefore not an incentive. Suggested alternatives—one trip to national annual meeting, a raffle donation to the chapter (could use it in their annual meetings). Raleigh was in favor of the meeting trip, possibly to WDAFS meetings or national. The president and chapter excom would decide; at least get chapter president to the meeting, maybe one other excom member. Certification costs \$100; should we try to get those who certified to be eligible. Suggestion—pool all those who became certified, draw from that pool, send recipient \$100 for cost of certification and send him/her to WDAFS meeting or national. Discussion continued about making it WDAFS member wide or focused on Chapter; chapter may need to get award (say a plaque). Decided—plaque to chapter (chapter that had highest proportion of membership that was certified), pay for certification cost for winning person, and travel cost to WDAFS meeting in Telluride (actual expenses not to exceed \$1500). Want to advertise Challenge in Tributary, after clarification from National AFS that handles certification. Tributary coming out in October.

1. Secretary/Treasurer's Report— Currently have a little over \$24k in checking and \$55k in savings. The approximate annual meeting income was around \$24,200 with expenditures of about \$9300 making a net profit of \$14,900. These figures may change a bit as the last financial details are worked out (e.g., outstanding credit card vouchers paid, po's from agencies paid, etc.). The Division remains in good financial shape.

Committee reports—Eric; only specific committees working on is membership and bull trout. Ken has communicated with the chairman to form committees and then get moving forward on assignments. Bylaws list all our internal committees, also listed on web page; only a couple not covered by these—e.g., time and place (for meetings). The Time & Place committee is looking at advanced locations plans for the next few years of Annual Meetings—Ken wants to make sure that there is a lineage (Eric Knudsen volunteered his membership on this committee). There is a concern about the time the WDAFS meeting occurs in the year; T&P will look into this and present a proposal for dissemination to membership.

Membership committee- Bill will send proposals he introduced for boosting WDAFS membership and involvement. Eric Knudsen- Program Committee for 2001 WDAFS Annual Meeting. This meeting will be in conjunction with the Parent Society meeting and is planned for Phoenix, AZ. Eric is working on how WDAFS will coordinate with Parent Society on this meeting. He is considering WDAFS special sessions, a well positioned Division business meeting, etc. to enhance the overall profile of the Division at this meeting. Bill Bradshaw—Annual Meeting in 2000. Scheduled for July 16th to 22nd in Telluride, CO. He is currently developing three sessions but is soliciting suggestions for other sessions from others. He is going to get an informal request for session ideas into the Tributary, the Web Master, and Chapter Presidents; asked that excom members solicit ideas from coworkers, etc. so that we can have a stirring conference. Ken is working on a letter intended for the Fish Chiefs that solicits feedback on key issues relevant to them and their staff which could be addressed by the WDAFS. He is also asking for the Fish Chiefs to support attendance at the Division annual meetings. Bill offered to work with Ken on this letter to include ideas for sessions/workshops; Ken accepted and together they will get this letter out. Bill asked the OR Chapter, since they are one of the largest and most active chapters, if they had any special issues or sessions/workshops that they would like to see presented. BLM has already committed to a riparian workshop at the 2000 meeting. Any others? Ken said he was attempting to get an e-mail address for all chapters and enhance communication requests such as this electronically; maybe something like that could even be done for the entire WDAFS membership...he has been experiencing technical problems doing this and is checking into it with his department. Allen Bingham—WDAFS Web site. Allen solicited information for the web site from all excom members and committees. He said he is getting material from Bill Bradshaw and that is about all right now. He tries to get material onto the site promptly (and was congratulated for his success in that arena); he has committed to updating the site at least once a week. In October, however, he will be traveling a lot and may not be able to meet that schedule; he will do the best he can during that time. Hits on the site peaked after the Parent Society's annual meeting and now have dropped to about 20 per week.

2. Newsletter Editor's Report—none given; Paul had to leave the conference call before this agenda item was reached.

Old Business— Alaska's request for funding of the Stock Status Committee was discussed in detail. The Alaska Chapter is asking that we match their 5K contribution to the Stock Status project. The excom had discussed this in Moscow but no specific decision had been made. The total project is estimated at 125k and other contributions are being sought; it is possible to complete the stock evaluation in stages. The excom was in favor of the proposal, however, 5k is a significant share of the grant budget for the next fiscal year. The question was raised about the impact of this on the budget, the ability of the excom to approve funding that exceeded the budget (even though there are sufficient funds to support this allocation in our accounts), and other options. It was pointed out that the FY 1999-2000 budget allocations (income, expenses, and the balance sheet) were presented at the annual business meeting and approved by the membership. It was felt that the excom did not have the discretionary authority to take unilateral action that would be in opposition to this budget and the direction of the membership. The excom does have the discretionary authority to spend funds within the budget, that are in line with the stated purpose of the society and the mission of the Division. This proposal fulfills, in our opinion, the purpose and mission statements of our Division, is a significant and noteworthy effort, and should be supported. Consequently, the motion was made

and seconded to pledge 5K of the Divisions FY 1999-2000 grant money to this Stock Status proposal given the ability of the Alaska Stock Status Committee to raise sufficient funds for a staged effort to succeed.

Other grant requests were discussed. In particular: a request for \$300-500 from the NCD Rivers and Streams Technical committee for sponsorship of guest speakers at the 1999 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference; a \$1,000 request from the Fisheries Management Section for creating a user-friendly version of a SAS based Beaverton-holt model; and, a challenge from the Northeastern Division Excom to provide \$3,000 to AFS for Transactions backlog publication support. It was decided that before action could be taken on the requests the Treasurer would evaluate the current status of the WDAFS budget and the impact of these requests on that budget. Consequently, it was decided to table discussion of the remaining grant request to the next conference call when the budget analysis was complete.

3. New Business—see discussion of new grant requests above. The NCD and the Northeastern Division Excom Challenge were new business items that were discussed under old business grant requests due to their interrelationship.

External Committee—Ken is trying to get the Bull trout (Shelby Spalding) and EEO (Mary Lou Keefe) formed and active. Ken has asked Hannibal Bolton, President of Native Peoples Fisheries Section to provide the name of a Western Division member of that section who might be willing to chair the Western Division Committee.

Next meeting scheduled for October 29th at 10:00 am. Meeting was adjourned at 11:30am