

Western Division of the American Fisheries Society
EXCOM Teleconference Minutes
Date: March 25, 2003

Participants: Don MacDonald, Lynn Starnes, Mary Buckman, Eric Wagner, Eric Knudsen, Dana McCanne, John Alves, Dave Zafft, Tom McMahon, Jim Whelan, Chuck Knutson, Carol Kerkvliet, Yvonne Muirhead

Quorum Established

Mid-Year Governing Board Meeting (Tom McMahon)

- This year's meeting was very laid back;
- Gus Rassam's contract has been renewed for the next five years;
- The 2003 Parent Society meeting in Quebec is progressing nicely so far they have 1000 papers for the meeting;
- The Parent Society has nearly \$500,000 US in reserve and is working towards the million dollar mark;
- The profits for the Parent Society has gone up exponentially for the last 3 years;
- The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society (WDAFS) was again head and shoulders above the rest of the Divisions when it came to the Division's program of work, profits, and membership;
- The Parent Society is discussing the possibility of having two Outstanding Chapter awards instead of the one award. They are hoping to have a small Chapter(100 members and less) and large Chapter award.
- The letter to the editors section in Fisheries will back in the next issue. There was some concern that this section in Fisheries had been taken out of the magazine since it has not appeared in the last couple of issues; and,
- All abstracts and registrations will now go through the Parent Society's office in Bethesda for the Parent Society's Annual General Meeting.

2003 Annual Meeting (Tom McMahon)

- Registration
 - To date, we have 361 people registered for the conference;
 - The conference budget is based on 500 registrants so things are looking positive for us to meet our target.
- Program
 - To date, we have 280 oral presentations and between 53 - 60 posters for the conference;
- Mexican Connection (Eric Knudsen)
 - We have 4 symposia for the program that will be of Mexican interest;
 - To date, we have raised \$12,200 US including the money from WDAFS and Cal-Neva to support this initiative; and,
 - Thus far, Eric has only received 9 requests for funding which totals between \$8,000 - \$9,000.

- Fundraising
- To date, we have raised \$31,700 US for the conference with Chuck Knutson working on getting a donation from Budweiser
- Western Division Banner (Eric Knudsen)
 - The EXCOM supported Eric Knudsen's ideas of creating a new, more generic Western Division banner for the business meeting, if the current banner cannot be modified. The current banner has the word "breakfast" into so it does not apply to this year's business meeting. Eric Knudsen will contact Brenda Brouder regarding the banner and will try to find out the company's contact information that originally made it so we can save money on making a new one. Tom McMahon volunteered his time to help make this happen. In addition, Yvonne Muirhead will look for the smaller Western Division banner in the Don MacDonald's office that was at the conference last year.
- 2003 Business Meeting Agenda in San Diego
 - Need to solicit chapter presidents for "new business" items for the agenda;
 - The EXCOM will need to decide on which committee reports will be discussed at the business meeting;
 - The Chapter President's report should be handed in to Don MacDonald by July 1, 2003 so he can prepare the Division's report in time for the Parent Society meeting in Quebec. The Chapter President's report should only be one to two pages in length describing the activities that the Chapter has undertaken over the past year.
- It sounds like everything is in place for a very successful meeting in San Diego!

2004 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah (Lynn Starnes, Dave Zafft and Eric Wagner)

- The WDAFS, Bonneville and Colorado/Wyoming Chapters are working on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the 2004 meeting;
- The organizers of the meeting are having a conference call on March 28, 2003 to assign chapter members to the various local committee appointments for the meeting;
- Subsequent conference calls on the progress on the 2004 meeting will occur on the last Friday of every month. These conference calls will begin in April 2003;
- Symposia to date for the meeting are as follows:
 - Western Native Fishes Project (this topic is so strong that meeting organizers are considering a plenary session on Native Fishes);
 - Whirling Disease Symposia which will occur over 2 days of the meeting;
 - Inland Cuthroat Trout - organized by Kevin Meyers;
 - Aquaculture
- Possible topics for Shorter Symposia at the meeting:
 - Livestock grazing (a follow up session from the 2002 conference in Spokane);
 - Reservoir Sampling;
 - The Use of Science in Public Policy Arena (organized by Tony Faast);

- Aquatic Education;
 - Adaptive Management.
- Tom Pettengill will be looking into getting more bids for the booths/displays at the meeting. Eric Wagner will email Yvonne Muirhead with the contact information of the person who will be in charge of the Trade Show for the meeting. Yvonne Muirhead will then forward the bid she has received from Modern Display.
 - Overall, the organization of the meeting is progressing nicely!

Approval of the Meeting Minutes (Don MacDonald)

- Dec. 17, 2002 - A motion was made for the minutes to be approved as they stand. The motion was seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved;
- Jan. 28, 2003 - A motion was made for the minutes to be approved as they stand. The motion was seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved;
- Feb. 25, 2003 - A motion was made for the minutes to be approved as they stand. The motion was seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved;
- Yvonne Muirhead will send the minutes from this call to the EXCOM so they can be approved at the EXCOM meeting in San Diego.

Fire Suppression (Jim Whelan)

- The work that has been done by this committee has got the attention of the US Forest Service and his involvement in the committee is now causing some work related problems. He is now contemplating his role as chair for this committee;
- The issue of fire suppression will be discussed at the Bonneville Chapter meeting on April 10, 2003;
- It was suggested that we highlight the things that US Forest Service are going right such as fuel management treatment and send it out to the list server;
- Yvonne Muirhead will send Dave Lentz's contact information to Jim Whelan to help out with this;
- Jim is hoping that the Fire Suppression committee can have a meeting after the Fire Management Symposia in San Diego; and,
- Eric Wagner volunteered to help with the coordination of the committee meeting in San Diego and at the Bonneville Chapter meeting.

Alaska Transfer of Power on Instream Habitat Permitting (Eric Knudsen)

- Both the Alaska Chapter and the WDAFS sent a letter to the Governor of Alaska indicating their concern with the Executive Order (E.O.) that was filed transferring fish habitat protection and permitting authority from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Habitat Division to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR);
- In addition, the WDAFS forwarded this letter to all members of the legislature and senate for review;
- Several members of AFS testified at the public hearings on their own behalf and did not represent the WDAFS' position; and,
- Hopefully, testimony from our members will encourage members of legislature and senate to question this E.O. and make it an item on their agenda.

Bull Trout (Eric Knudsen)

- Four reviewers from the WDAFS Bull Trout Committee provided three reviews on the critical habitat rule to John Young at the US Fish and Wildlife Service; and,
- After further investigation with John Young regarding the reviews from the WDAFS. It was determined that since these reviews were from a request by John Young so they did not have to go through the process for approval from the WDAFS EXCOM and the Policy Review Committee.

2004 Meeting with the American Water Resources (Yvonne Muirhead)

- Kate Dwire (WDAFS member) has contacted the WDAFS for support and sponsorship for the upcoming 2004 American Water Resources Association Meeting in Olympic Valley, CA. So far, the WDAFS has helped out this organization by enabling them to advertise their meeting at the upcoming NPIC Chapter meeting and the 2003 Annual General Meeting in San Diego with brochures on the registration table and in the registration packages. In addition, Yvonne Muirhead will have a further discussion with Kate Dwire to clarify the meaning of "sponsorship". Hopefully, this issue can be discussed further at the EXCOM meeting in San Diego.

Upper Basin Pallid Sturgeon Recovery Workgroup (Eric Knudsen)

- Ken McDonald has contacted the WDAFS looking for support to do a peer review of the whole upper basin sturgeon recovery program especially on the propagation program. The hatchery propagation program has not been very effective over the last few years due to a variety of reasons and the situation is dire for pallid sturgeon populations in the Missouri River and the lower Yellowstone Rivers;
- Funding is already in place from Montana to move this project ahead. The project would consist of soliciting the members of the WDAFS and the North Central Division (NCD) for reviewers. These reviewers would write a report which would be reviewed by the Policy Review Committee and the EXCOM;
- Yvonne Muirhead will contact Harold Tyus asking him to take the lead on this issue;
- It was suggested that Ken McDonald and the WDAFS should get in contact with the Norm Stucky or Jerry Rasmussen of the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Agreement (MICRA) to see if they are working on this issue and/or if we could collaborate with them.

NOAA Appointment (Lynn Starnes)

- The EXCOM decided that Don MacDonald should write a letter on behalf of the WDAFS to offer assistance and guidance to Robert Walton during his appointment as head of Salmon Recovery. The group believes that it is a better course of action to build bridges with Mr. Walton and NOAA instead of criticizing NOAA on their appointment.

Western Division Table at the 2003 Meeting in San Diego (Eric Knudsen)

- There will be a table at the 2003 meeting in San Diego and we will be selling T-shirts (L - only);
- There was some discussion regarding the selling of ball hats. The WDAFS sold 500 hats in the last two years and the EXCOM was wondering if it is worthwhile to have more made for the 2003 meeting. Eric will contact Betsy Fritz to see where she gets that hats made and if its feasible, get 200 hats made. All agreed that hats increase the visibility of WDAFS and are a good advertisement for the Division;
- It was suggested that a brochure on the 2004 meeting should be created to insert in the registration packages or to have them on the table.

Chapter of the Year Award

- The Cal/Neva and Colorado/Wyoming Chapters are submitting their application for the Chapter of the Year Award. The Alaska Chapter will discuss whether or not they will submit an application at their upcoming meeting. The Oregon Chapter has decided not to submit an application this year.

Klamath River Fish Kill

- It was suggested that the Cal/Neva should weigh in on this issue since water flows will be similar to last years and will probably result in another fish kill;
- Dana McCanne will contact George Guillen at the Humboldt meeting to see how we are doing on the WDAFS position statement.

Next Meeting: EXCOM business meeting in San Diego

Next Teleconference: May 20, 2000