

Western Division of the American Fisheries Society
EXCOM Teleconference Minutes
Date: May 20, 2003

Participants: Don MacDonald, Dave Manning, Jim Tilmant, Eric Knudsen, Mary Whalen, Cindy Williams

2003 Meeting

- From the initial accounting figures for the 2003 meeting in San Diego, the WDAFS will receive \$15,000 in revenue and the Cal/Neva Chapter will likely break even. The accounting for the meeting is still in progress and we anticipate final figures for attendance and accounting in another month or so;
- Registration for the meeting was estimated to be between 550 - 600 (breakdown of attendance: 265 AFS members; 89 non-members; 12 Mexicans; 2 retired; 57 students; 46 daily; 18 exhibitors; and 26 guests); and,
- Mexican Connection - The results of efforts to encourage Mexican participation in San Diego were mixed. We had lower attendance by Mexican colleagues than was hoped for. In spite of that, the Mexican sessions went well and were reasonably well-attended. In particular, the discussion of a Mexican chapter was successful, with a plan being formulated to have a 2004 meeting in LaPaz to discuss chapter formation and prepare for a possible 2006 WDAFS in Mazatlan. The question remains: should we keep up the process of inviting and encouraging Mexican participation for the 2004 meeting in Salt Lake City? The thematic topic will be relevant to many inland Mexican fisheries interests so it makes sense to do so. The EXCOM needs to discuss this issue on the next teleconference call and also discuss the possible bid for the 2006 meeting to be held in Mazatlan.

2004 Meeting

no report

Secretary/Treasurer

no report

Environmental Concerns Committee

a). Fire Suppression

- no report

b). Klamath River Committee

- The letter from the WDAFS has been sent out to the various people involved in the issue including local congressman and senators. Yvonne Muirhead will forward the final letter to Mary Whalen for posting on the web site.

Reauthorization of Federal Aid in SFRA

- The letter Chuck Knutson has drafted regarding the reauthorization of federal aid in SFRA has been sent out to the WDAFS leaders. Chuck is currently incorporating comments that we have received from members of the EXCOM. The revised letter will undergo a final review by the EXCOM and then it will be sent to Gus Rassam.

2003 Retreat in Phoenix

- It was decided that the EXCOM retreat will be held during the week of October 20, 2003. Members of the EXCOM agreed that October 19th and 20th were the dates that worked best with their schedules.

AFS Membership Dues and Archives

- This issue will be discussed at the conference call.

Meeting with the American Water Resources Association (AWRA)

Members of the EXCOM decided not to provide sponsorship for this meeting at this time. It was decided that if AWRA would like to receive money from the WDAFS then they should submit a proposal for grants funding that will be reviewed along with other worthy projects at the WDAFS retreat in October.

Fourth World Fisheries Congress

- Members of the EXCOM need to talk about the sessions that are being proposed at the conference. Cindy Williams has agreed to help with the WDAFS session and will contact the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to identify a key participant. Yvonne Muirhead will send background information on the session to Cindy Williams.

Pallid Sturgeon Recovery

- Ken McDonald has approached WDAFS to assist with the independent review of the entire pallid sturgeon situation. There are currently conflicting positions on what to do regarding this issue. The Inter-agency Upper Basin Working Group is at a stalemate and would like the WDAFS to do an unbiased review and to make recommendations of their findings;
- It was suggested that the Environmental Concerns Committee along with the Pallid Sturgeon Subcommittee could find 3 - 4 reviewers to take on this review. There are already resources in place to pay for the reviewer's work;
- There was some concern expressed by certain members of the working group regarding Harold Tyus's involvement in this project. Eric Knudsen will discuss with Harold Tyus the concerns raised and determine an alternative ECC coordinator for this activity; and,
- This issue needs strong support and input from the WDAFS.

Enabling the Past-President to Become a Voting Member

- The EXCOM needs to develop the appropriate language to change the bylaws to enable the past-president to become a voting member;
- Eric Knudsen agreed to draft some proposed by-laws language changes to present to the EXCOM;

- This language will then be reviewed by EXCOM for approval; and,
- A motion will need to be made. Once the EXCOM has approved this change, the revised bylaw will be submitted to the Parent Society.

Next Tributary

- Deadline for submissions is July 1, 2003.

Next Call

- The next conference call is scheduled for June 24, 2003 at 10:00AM PDT. Yvonne Muirhead will contact Eric Knudsen to see if he can set up this call.