

18 October 2005 WDAFS Conference Call Minutes (Bob Hughes, acting Secretary)

Attendees: Joe Margraf (President), Bob Hughes (President-elect) Scott Maclean (AK), Patrick Goddard (Bonneville), Russ Bellmer (CA/NV), Kate Walker (MT), Barry McPherson (OR), Leanne Roulson (WD2006), Dave Manning (WD2007), Mary Whalen (Electronic Communications), Jim Tilmant (Western Native Fishes).

Due to an insufficient number of WD officers attending, a quorum was lacking; therefore the September minutes were not approved, and there was no Treasurer's report or approval.

Margraf noted that the WD is lacking an Environmental Concerns Committee chair. As committee liaison, Hughes agreed to contact Hiram Li and other possible candidates.

Margraf assumed that the Cutthroat Documentary was completed, and the contractor paid. He also sent an amendment to Garcia & Associates to develop a GIS stream network to complete the Western Native Fishes project in Mexico. This had been approved at the September ExCom meeting. Joe lacked information from Mark Brouder concerning progress in transforming The Tributary from paper to electronic format and distribution, but agreed to give him a call.

Roulson briefed us on the 2006 WD meeting in Bozeman 15-19 May. Web links for the meeting are on the WD and MT AFS web sites, including a call for papers, posters, and symposia, and an abstract submission site. Abstracts are due 11 January 2006. Bob Hughes is symposium chair, Chris Guy is contributed papers chair, and Mike Meeuwig is poster chair. Clint Muhlfeld is chairing fund raising and Kate Walker is chairing the trade show. Suggestions for sponsors and vendors should be forwarded to them. Each WD chapter is asked to produce at least one sponsor for the meeting. A pledged amount from the USFWS has not yet arrived. Joe noted that Clint should also contact Bill Bradshaw (Grants Funding & Investment Committee) for fund raising assistance. **It was agreed that there would be a WD ExCom meeting for a half-day on 15 May—so mark your calendars if you care how your money is spent.** Bellmer asked about sponsoring WD attendance by Mexico chapter representatives. Roulson agreed to contact Gus Rassam (Executive Director of the Parent Society) for funding aid, and Margraf indicated that WD grants could also be used for this. Bellmer suggested a total of \$2500 of assistance. Note, a formal request from the Mexico chapter is needed. McPherson and Bellmer asked about how MTAFS was handling web registration and abstract submission/tracking. Roulson replied that Montana State University had a tested site for registration and had developed a new abstract submission and tracking site.

Concerning the 2006 Gala Fund Raiser, Margraf indicated that Bill Bradshaw planned to focus on this in 2006, along with Don McDonald and Lynn Starnes. Jim Tilmant agreed to continue helping as well. [Note, this is an attempt to bring some wealthy donors together for some fishing, presentations, and discussions at an exclusive lodge.]

Discussion next focused on nonconforming chapters. Hughes agreed to determine the viability of the Portland Chapter by contacting past officers and current Portland residents. Bellmer and Manning agreed to work with the Humboldt Chapter to reconstitute it as a student chapter. Margraf agreed to do the same with the New Mexico State University Chapter. Joe also will contact Hawaii AFS members concerning their interest in reactivating a chapter there, and suggested that others who know members could do the same. The WD goal is to present status change recommendations to the Governing Board in March 2006.

Manning raised concerns with the 2007 joint meeting funding splits. The net proceeds have recently been split 80% Parent Society, 10% Chapter, and 10% Division. Margraf noted that the Chapter does most of the work, but earns less than at its own meeting if it is a large chapter. The WD is squeezed in fund raising because most federal agency money is now controlled in Washington DC, and state agency sponsors fund state chapters. Joe also noted that—unlike the WD--the parent society no longer depends on meetings as a major source of its operating budget, and that with its current budget the parent society is able to assist its subunits more. Manning stated that no formal MOU exists among the collaborating units for the 2007 meeting. It was agreed that an MOU was needed that apportioned income more equitably. Margraf also agreed to speak with Rassam about the WD split from the 2005 meeting, which had originally been 10% but then was reduced to \$10,000 because of projected shortfalls in WD fund raising, and to raise these issues at the March Governing Board meeting.

Whalen reminded attendees to update their contact information and to submit issues of interest for posting to the web site to maintain its accuracy and vitality.