

**Western Division American Fisheries Society
EXCOM Meeting
November 15, 2005**

In attendance: Joe Margraf (President), Eric Wagner (President-elect), Dave Ward (Secretary/Treasurer), Clint Muhlfeld (Montana), Kate Walker (Montana), Bert Lewis (Alaska), Russ Kiefer (Idaho), Dana McCanne (Humboldt), Barry McPherson (Oregon), Shelley Spalding (Bull Trout), Jim Tilmant (Western Native Fishes).

Quorum Established

Minutes from the September 11, 2005 ExCom meeting in Anchorage were approved with minor edits provided by Bob Hughes.

Minutes from the October 18, 2005 ExCom conference call were approved.

Update on Treasury:

Account balances as of October 30, 2005 were: Checking - \$19,565.92, plus \$17,076.19 encumbered for Western Native Fishes and \$369.51 encumbered for Pallid Sturgeon; Savings - \$17,958.46; Cutthroat Documentary - \$4,928.39; CD - \$13,977.39; Grants Endowment - \$88,784.02.

A potential issue is forming regarding an invoice for \$16,000 sent to the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) for WDAFS review and comment on the NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion regarding the Columbia River hydropower system. The ATNI has not yet paid the invoice, and may not be able to do so. Dave Ward and Joe Margraf will investigate further.

Committee Reports:

The Environmental Concerns Committee does not have a new Chair yet.

The Cutthroat Trout documentary DVD has been completed and distributed. No one on the call had viewed the documentary yet.

The Western Native Fishes Project is going well. An addendum to the original contract with Garcia and Associates is in place.

Bozeman Meeting Update:

Meeting plans are moving forward. A call for papers is out, and may be extended for two weeks if necessary. Openings exist for symposia and papers. Registration will open soon. The Montana State University electronic registration system will be used.

Bull Trout Biologists Survey:

Shelley Spalding provided a handout and summarized the response of the survey committee to the three questions previously submitted by ExCom:

- (1) What will be your Committee objectives?
- (2) What will be the Committee's approach?
- (3) How will the information be analyzed and reported.

After discussion regarding specifics of potential survey questions, a motion was made by Dave Ward that ExCom charge the Survey Committee to move forward with work on and investigation of the survey. This further work is expected to result in another request by the Committee later for funding for the actual survey. The motion was seconded by Eric Wagner and passed unanimously.

Request from CARS

The Canadian Aquatic Resources Section of AFS submitted a request to the Western Division for \$500 to support student travel to the Canadian Fisheries Conference. To date, the Division has spent \$1,000 of a \$6,000 annual budget for grants. After discussion regarding the appropriateness of this particular expenditure, Dave ward moved that the grant be awarded. Bert Lewis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Fish Passage Center

Russ Kiefer led a discussion on the de-funding of the Fish Passage Center (FPC) in the federal budget. The FPC, which is funded by the Bonneville Power Administration, gathers and summarizes data concerning flow, spill, and salmonid passage at Columbia River dams. A rider authored by Senator Craig from Idaho specifically de-funds the FPC. Joe Margraf suggested that this matter be considered by the Environmental Concerns Committee. Russ will also work with the Oregon and North Pacific Chapters regarding a potential response to this action.