

**Western Division American Fisheries Society  
EXCOM Meeting  
December 13, 2005**

In attendance: Joe Margraf (President), Bob Hughes (President-Elect), Eric Wagner (Vice-President), Lynn Starnes (Past-President), Dave Ward (Secretary/Treasurer), Phaedra Budy (Bonneville), Kate Walker (Montana), Scott Maclean (Alaska), Russ Kiefer (Idaho), Russ Bellmer (Cal/Neva), Hilda Sexauer (CO-WY), Barry McPherson (Oregon), Keith Underwood (NPIC), Jim Tilmant (Western Native Fishes), Rob Nielson (NPIC).

**Quorum Established**

Minutes from the November 15, 2005 were discussed. Two minor additions were requested, and then minutes were approved.

**Request from Cal/Neva**

The Cal/Neva Chapter requested that the Western Division help fund travel of Mexican scientists and students to the Chapter's 2006 meeting in San Louis Obispo. The theme of the meeting is "Fisheries Without Borders", and 11 researchers from Mexico have committed to speak at the meeting, including two plenary speakers. Abstracts from the meeting will be printed in both English and Spanish. Russ Bellmer noted that the Chapter would match or exceed donations from the Division and Parent Society. Russ then moved that the Division donate \$4,800 to the Chapter for travel by Mexican members. Bob Hughes seconded the motion to facilitate further discussion. Dave Ward noted that only \$4,500 remained in the Division's annual budget for grants. The Chapter requested a donation of \$4,800 from the Division. With Russ' approval, Bob Hughes moved that the motion be amended to provide a donation of \$2,000. Dave Ward seconded the motion. The amendment was approved, and then the main motion was approved.

**Fish Passage Center**

Russ Kiefer provided background on the de-funding of the Fish Passage Center (FPC). Russ suggested that options for a letter from the Division to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) included (1) addressing only the functions of the entity chosen to replace the FPC, or (2) addressing those functions and also expressing disappointment in how this matter was handled (no chance for comment before the de-funding decision was final). No clear consensus on the appropriateness of closing the FPC was reached among chapters representing the Columbia River Basin. It was clear, however, that affected chapters support the functions of the FPC, and believe that functions should be maintained within one entity that preserves objectivity in data collection and reporting. After extensive discussion, Joe Margraf appointed an ad-hoc committee charged with developing a letter to BPA and the NPCC by a deadline of January 9, 2006. The committee will be chaired by Russ Kiefer (Idaho), and will include Keith Underwood (NPIC), Dave Ward (Division and Oregon), and Brian Marotz (Montana).