

Western Division American Fisheries Society
EXCOM Meeting
21 February 2006

In attendance: Joe Margraf (President), Bob Hughes (President-Elect), Eric Wagner (Vice-President), Lynn Starnes (Past-President), Dave Ward (Secretary-Treasurer), Russ Kiefer (Idaho), Barry McPherson (Oregon), Keith Underwood (NPIC), Hilda Sexauer (CO-WY), Phaedra Budy (Bonneville), Mary Whalen (Electronic Communication), Bob Gresswell (Maughan & Trachtenberg Scholarships), Bill Bradshaw (Grants/funding).

Quorum Established

Old Business

Minutes from the January 17, 2006 call were approved.

Dave Ward gave the Treasury Update. Dave also summarized the issue of non-payment to date by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians for the Western Division review of NOAA's Biological Opinion on the Federal Columbia River Hydropower System. Dave reported that efforts are being made to locate funding for the reviewers.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the disposition of funds remaining in the Cutthroat Trout Documentary account (\$4,904.84). The Idaho Chapter is producing copies to be made available to members. Chapters can make and distribute copies at minimal cost. No final decision was made on disposition of the remaining funds.

President's Report

President Joe Margraf reported that he had received annual reports from all chapters.

Joe will travel to San Francisco on March 4 to sign the MOU for the 2007 meeting. Numerous ExCom members discussed the need for a better arrangement than that traditionally given by the Parent Society (80% of proceeds to Parent Society and 10% each to host Division and host Chapter). Joe indicated that Parent Society leadership is not ready to make significant changes to the traditional allocation. Nevertheless, ExCom encouraged Joe to negotiate with the Parent Society.

After San Francisco, Joe will attend the CO/WY Chapter meeting, and then attend the meeting of the Governing Board in Washington, D.C.

Grants/Funding

Bill Bradshaw led a discussion on changing the Western Division's procedures to require two ExCom signatures to withdraw money from the Endowment Fund, rather than one. The two signatures would be those of the President and the Secretary-Treasurer. Bill moved that the procedure be changed, and Dave Ward seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill then led a discussion about accommodating chapter investments into the fund. So far, the AZ/NM and CO/WY chapters have expressed interest. Potential protocols to be discussed at the ExCom meeting in Bozeman include (1) Minimum transaction amounts of \$1,000, (2) Chapters can make withdrawals as needed, (3) All investment decisions to be made by the Division Committee, and (4) Earnings/losses to be shared according to proportion of the total invested by unit. Costs to the Division are expected to be minimal.

Newsletter/Webmaster

As previously discussed, Mark Brouder resigned as newsletter editor. Mary Whalen volunteered to take over the newsletter, but needs a replacement for her role as Webmaster. .

New Business

The Equal Opportunities Section (EOS) requested \$500 towards travel to the Parent Society meeting in Lake Placid. Dave Ward noted that to date, the Division had awarded \$3500 of its \$6000 grant budget. Bob Hughes moved that the grant be awarded to the EEO section with the caveat that it is limited to use by a Western Division member. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Bob Gresswell led a discussion regarding a one-time student scholarship to be awarded with funds realized from last year's Coastal Cutthroat Trout Symposium held in Washington. The funds are currently in the Oregon Chapter's account, but numerous chapters sponsored the symposium. Bob moved, and Barry McPherson seconded, a motion that the Western Division award a graduate student research scholarship of \$5,000 with these funds. The motion passed unanimously.

Annual Meetings

Abstracts were received for about 181 papers and 37 posters for the May 15-19, 2006 meeting in Bozeman. Early registration deadline is March 31.

No updates were available for the September 2007 meeting in San Francisco.

The North Pacific International Chapter (NPIC) previously committed to contributing to the Native Species Conference, held as part of the 2004 annual meeting in Salt Lake City. No funds have yet been distributed. After some discussion, ExCom decided that NPIC should send the contribution to Dave Ward, who will deposit it, and designate the deposit for the Native Fish Fund.

Miscellaneous

The NPIC discussed problems with maintaining critical mass and asked for advice. This issue will be discussed at Bozeman.

The Humboldt Chapter is virtually defunct. It may disband, and then a Humboldt State University student subunit of the Cal-Neva Chapter may be formed.

The ExCom meeting in Bozeman is scheduled for Monday afternoon, May 15th, at 1:00 PM. Members flying through Seattle will need to arrive the night of the 14th to attend the entire meeting. No flights arrive before 1:00 PM.

The **next conference call** is scheduled for 21 March at 1230 MST, 1130 PST, and 1030 AST at 800-689-9401, *3272720*.