

**Western Division American Fisheries Society
EXCOM Meeting
November 29-30, 2006**

In attendance: Bob Hughes, Joe Margraf, Eric Wagner, Scott Bonar, Dave Ward, Leanne Roulson (Montana), Keith Underwood (NPIC), Pam Sponholtz (AZ-NM), Jeff McLain (Cal-Neva), Mike Reed (Oregon), Lori Martin (CO-WY), Paul Cowley (Bonneville), Mary Faurot (Idaho), Jamal Moss (Alaska), David Manning (Cal-Neva; 2007 Meeting Chair), Shelley Spalding (Bull Trout Committee), Troy Brandt (Riparian Committee).

Quorum Established

Minutes from the October ExCom teleconference were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Dave Ward summarized the final fiscal year 2006 expenditures and income relative to the fiscal year 2006 proposed budget. Income was much higher than expected, and expenses were only slightly higher than expected, resulting in a net income for the year. The Division is currently in very good financial shape.

Dave discussed some of the details of the Division's financial accounts and obligations, including the funds encumbered and yet-to-be-received for the Western Native Fishes project.

On Day 2 of the meeting, Past-President Joe Margraf moved that \$10,000 be moved from the Division's checking account to an account at the same credit union that will provide interest, yet still be accessible. Dave Ward seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ATNI Report

President Bob Hughes provided some background regarding the agreement between WDAFS and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians regarding payment to WDAFS for reviewing and commenting on the Federal Columbia River Hydropower System Biological Opinion. ExCom recently authorized Bob to have a lawyer draft and send a letter to ATNI threatening legal action if payment is not received soon. The letter has been sent, and has been received by ATNI. The Division is awaiting reaction by ATNI. (In a subsequent letter faxed on 8 December ATNI refused to pay for the review.)

FY2007 Budget

Bob Hughes presented a draft proposed fiscal year 2007 budget. The proposed budget was balanced. ExCom reviewed the budget in detail and made some minor revisions, with the budget remaining balanced. Dave Ward moved that the revised budget be approved in principle, with minor "clean-ups" related to form be made before the next ExCom teleconference. Paul Cowley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2007 Annual Meeting

Dave Manning provided a detailed overview of the 2-6 September 2007 meeting to be held in San Francisco, co-hosted by the Parent Society, the Division, and the Cal-Neva Chapter. The meeting will be at the Marriot, and all symposia, sessions, etc., will be in the same hotel. The Marriot agreed to charge the federal per diem rate for rooms (\$140 single or double for the first 1200 rooms, well below going rates for San Francisco), but most other costs will be relatively high. Even with an increase in registration fees to \$345 for members, expected income from the meeting will be very low unless attendance exceeds 2,000. Dave also provided a quick summary of proposed sessions and events, and provided meeting posters and magnets.

2008 Annual Meeting

Mike Reed provided a brief overview of the 2008 meeting to be held May 4-8 in Portland, co-hosted by the Division and the Oregon Chapter. The meeting is expected to be large for a Western Division meeting, with a target of at least 600 attendees. The venue has been selected, and further details will be worked out over the next year.

2009 Annual Meeting

Both the Idaho and AZ-NM chapters indicated they were willing to host the 2009 meeting. The AZ-NM Chapter preferred 2009 over 2010 because its regular rotation between states and among co-hosts facilitated a meeting in Albuquerque, for which the chapter had already initiated planning. A meeting in 2010 would need to be held at a location yet to be determined in Arizona. The Idaho Chapter also preferred 2009 over 2010 because its regular rotation calls for the 2009 meeting to be in Boise, the preferred location for a Western Division meeting. Paul Cowley moved, and Keith Underwood seconded, that the Division award the 2009 meeting to AZ-NM, and invite Idaho to co-host the 2010. After a lengthy discussion, Joe Margraf moved, and Jeff McLain seconded, that a vote be postponed until Pam Sponholtz (AZ-NM) and Mary Faurot (Idaho) received word from their Executive Committees regarding their willingness to co-host the meeting in 2010.

Western Native Fish Status Report

Leanne Roulson provided an update on the Western Native Fish Project. The project team has received data from every western state plus the pertinent areas of Mexico and Canada. Data from most states have been validated, or someone has been identified for validation. Many corrections were required on the data supplied. Distribution information is currently being presented at the 4th field HUC scale (relatively large-scale). A draft of the report will be out for review around March. Final products will include an article in *Fisheries* and a website.

Bull Trout Survey Report

Shelley Spalding provided a presentation summarizing results from the WD AFS survey of bull trout biologists. The survey was requested by the Montana Chapter AFS in 2005. The objectives of the survey were to (1) summarize current bull trout information, (2) identify gaps in current understanding of bull trout biology and management, (3) identify consistency of limiting factors across regions, and (4) evaluate the effectiveness of regulatory actions. Survey results indicate that (1) limited data exist to identify population and habitat changes, (2) non-native species, forest management, and migration barriers were the most common limiting factors, and (3) ESA listing has been and will continue to be the most effective regulatory mechanism in protecting bull trout.

Prior to the EXCOM retreat Shelley had asked members of the Bull Trout Committee what WD AFS could do to help promote bull trout recovery. The majority of respondents identified the need for the Bull Trout draft Recovery Plan to be finalized. Bob Hughes suggested scheduling a meeting with the Regional Director to discuss both the survey results and the need for the finalized Recovery Plan. Shelley noted that the survey will likely be published in *Fisheries*.

Cutthroat CD Status

Additional Cutthroat Trout Documentary CDs are being burned and distributed to interested parties, as suggested during the May WD ExCom meeting.

Finance Committee

Bob Hughes led a discussion on the following proposal submitted to ExCom by the Finance Committee:

Establish a money market certificate within the existing Charles Schwab account. Grant the Investment Committee Chair the authority to make investment purchases from this account and to deposit proceeds from the sale of investments into the account. The current process for developing all investment decisions remains in effect as do requirements for withdrawing funds from the Investment Fund.

This would streamline transactions involving funds already in the account (the Division's grant endowment fund), but would not change the current practice requiring the Secretary-Treasurer to deposit or remove funds. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion then turned to allowing individual chapters to invest in the Division's endowment fund. The Investment committee provided potential guidelines, the most important of which were:

- Chapters may invest a minimum of \$1,000 at any time and make multiple investments per year.
- The Western Division and Chapters shall share the net profits and losses of the fund equally in proportion to their total individual contributions.

- Decisions regarding all fund transactions are the sole responsibility of the Western Division as specified in current procedures.
- Western Division and Chapter interests in the fund will be calculated proportionate to their contributions.

President-Elect Eric Wagner moved and Past-President Joe Margraf seconded that Chapters be allowed to participate in the Division's endowment fund as described above. The motion passed unanimously.

Audit Report

The Division's financial records for FY 2006 were recently reviewed by Henry Booke, chair of the Finance Committee. Henry found all records to be in order. A second, independent audit will be scheduled.

Archives Report

Western Division archives are currently housed in Venice Beske's attic. She needs about two full weeks to complete sorting and filing records. Permanent storage options include transferring the archives to the Spearfish (D.C. Booth) Fish Hatchery in South Dakota and scanning the documents for electronic storage and retrieval. Lori Martin will look into the availability of students from the CO/WY Chapter to help with scanning.

Newsletter and Website Reports

The next newsletter will be coming out in December. Updates and articles must be submitted by December 15.

AFS Business

During a discussion of potential future Division officers, Bob Hughes emphasized the under-representation of women in the Division and many Chapter Executive Committees, as well as other leadership roles.

The regular December conference call, scheduled for December 5, was cancelled due to its proximity to the current meeting. The next call will be on January 2, 2007, at 11:30 AM PST. Calls will continue to be scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month, except for June 2007, which will be re-scheduled.

Bob Hughes and Eric Wagner will attend the mid-year Governing Board meeting.

Columbia River BiOp Review

The Idaho Chapter has requested that the Western Division take a lead in reviewing the Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion, which is due to be completed in early to mid 2007. Mary Faurot and Dave Ward provided a brief background of the issue, and ExCom discussed some details concerning effort required and audience. ExCom also discussed the possibility of using BLOGS or popular websites to get members involved in expressing opinions and sharing expertise. ExCom agreed that any effort would be volunteer in nature, and the review would be a product for the Division, not an outside client. Mary Faurot moved, and Eric Wagner seconded, that the Western Division form and Ad-Hoc committee to review the BiOp when it is completed and the comment period is open. The motion passed unanimously. The Ad-Hoc committee will include Russ Kiefer (Idaho Chapter), Leanne Roulson (Montana Chapter), Dave Ward (Western Division), an NPIC Chapter member, an Oregon Chapter member, and Jeff McLain (Cal-Neva Chapter). Others may be added to the committee pending expertise and availability.

Grant Request from Canadian Aquatic Resources Section

The Canadian Aquatic Resources Section submitted its annual request for the Division to help fund travel for students to its annual meeting. After brief discussion, Vice-President Scott Bonar moved and Joe Margraf seconded that the Division award \$500. Keith Underwood offered an amendment stating that the recipient(s) be made aware that the \$500 comes from the Western Division, and that the student(s) ideally come from the Western Division. The amendment and motion passed unanimously.

Other Grants

Because grants were being discussed, Joe Margraf moved and Scott Bonar seconded that an expected request for \$500 from the Equal Opportunities Section be approved in advance. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe and Scott also moved and seconded that the Western Division start a scholarship fund for travel to the 2007 meeting in San Francisco by earmarking \$1,000 from the Grant line item in the annual budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Jeff McLain moved and Jamal Moss seconded that an additional \$1,000 from the Grant line item be earmarked for participation in the 2007 meeting by student(s) nominated by the Mexico Chapter. The motion passed unanimously.

These actions resulted in the budget for grants being fully spent for FY 2007.

Back to the 2009 Annual Meeting

Both Mary Faurot (Idaho) and Pam Sponholtz (AZ-NM) reported that their chapters were ready to host the 2009 meeting, but they would need further discussion with their Chapter ExComs

before they could commit to hosting in 2010. The two chapters will discuss their options separately and together, and report back during the ExCom conference call in January, 2007.

Chapter Reports

Idaho – Mary Faurot distributed a copy of the Chapter newsletter and gave updates on the Chapter’s most recent and next annual meetings. The Chapter revised its bylaws recently and added a new student subunit, the Portneuf Subunit at Idaho State University.

Bonneville – The Chapter commented on a proposed pipeline on the Utah-Nevada border that would transport water to Las Vegas. The proposed system would take ground water from an aquifer that flows in a different direction. The Chapter’s annual meeting is in March, 2007 in Logan, at Utah State University. The Chapter bylaws were recently revised, and the Chapter will be reviewing the listing status of the Colorado cutthroat trout.

Alaska – the Chapter is considering changing its logo, with a number of options designed by Ray Troll. Priorities for 2007 are to (1) establish a financial planning committee, (2) publish proceedings from a sockeye symposium, and (3) find a Chair for the Environmental Concerns Committee.

Cal-Neva – the Chapter is enjoying good communication with the Mexico Chapter; each is attending the others meetings. The chapter added 48 members over the past year, and needs to work on retention. The Chapter website needs improvement, and a newsletter editor is needed. A procedures manual is being developed. Members from Hawaii have shown interest in joining the Chapter.

Oregon – The next annual meeting will be February 28 through March 2 in Eugene; registration is electronic for the first time. The Chapter website was updated this year. The Chapter is weighing in on the Klamath River FERC re-licensing process, and now has official standing for further comments. The Chapter is considering funding for a legislative liaison. The Chapter’s Administrative Assistant position changed hands for the first time in 11 years.

CO-WY – The annual meeting will be February 28 through March 2, and will feature a full day plenary session with 18-20 speakers. The newsletter is going electronic, and the website is being updated. The Chapter is trying to increase participation from Colorado members. The Chapter would like to exchange items with Chapter logos among other chapters.

Montana – The Chapter developed a position paper on intelligent design, which is now being reviewed by the Parent Society. The annual meeting will begin on February 14. The Chapter hosted a summer workshop on the use of Antimycin for brook trout removal. A new student subunit at the University of Montana has been formed; but the Chapter needs to make it clear that the subunit is not an independent entity.

A relatively lengthy discussion on “affiliated membership” (being members of the Chapter but not of the Parent Society or Division) ensued, with all recognizing the need to limit or eliminate this practice if possible.

AZ-NM – Amy Unthank was recently elected President-Elect. The Chapter holds annual meetings in conjunction with the Arizona and New Mexico Chapters of the Wildlife Society, with each entity taking the lead every third year. The Chapter will be the lead organizer in 2009. The Chapter is developing continuing education programs for members. The University of New Mexico Chapter will become a student subunit of the Chapter.

NPIC – the Chapter is struggling for identity. Issues include being from two countries with a less than descriptive name, little encouragement from the state fish and wildlife agency, and no incentive for University of Washington students to join. A survey was sent out to members regarding the future of the Chapter. As a result, the Chapter will experiment over the next year by having separate meetings in Washington and British Columbia, but retaining only one ExCom. The Washington meeting will be in June in Tacoma, and will emphasize urban fisheries management.