



American Fisheries Society

Western Division

President Scott Bonar, President-elect Leanne Roulson, Vice-president Lori Martin, Secretary-Treasurer Dave Ward, Past-president Eric Wagner

Minutes for ExCom Meeting November 20-21 2008

Present: Scott Bonar, Lori Martin, Dave Ward, Leanne Roulson, Eric Wagner, Jim Shannon (WA/BC), Neil Ward (OR), Brad Cavallo (CA/NV), Mike Slater (UT), Marianne Cox (AZ/NM), Kathy Foster (CO/WY)

By telephone: Lourdes Rugge (CA/NV (representing Mexico)) – November 21 only.

A Quorum was established.

President's Report

President Scott Bonar gave a brief overview of his plans for the next year. Scott emphasized the importance of getting chapter members involved and attending chapter functions. Scott also mentioned continuing progress on the Western Native Fishes Project, WDAFS involvement in aquatic education, and supporting interaction with scientists from the Mexico Chapter. Each of these will be discussed in detail during the meeting.

Financial Report

Secretary-Treasurer Dave Ward provided an in-depth review of the Division's financial status and FY 2008 accounting. Although the Division received record income in FY 2008 because of the highly successful annual meeting, distribution of funds exceeded revenue. Past-President Eric Wagner pointed out that most of the perceived over-spending actually included funds that had been encumbered but not yet spent. Eric suggested that these encumbrances be tracked on the budget spreadsheet but not actually count as expenditures. Dave agreed that this was appropriate and suggested some potential changes to the budget spreadsheets. The ExCom approved.

Discussions regarding the proposed 2009 budget were inter-woven with discussions specific to expenditures and protocols for the grant endowment fund, student travel, professional travel, the 2009 annual meeting, and other grants. Approval of the budget was deferred until later in the meeting, after all these items had been discussed.

Grant Endowment Fund-Eric Wagner provided some background on the purpose of the fund,

including principal goals and distribution protocols. Original protocols included allocating 50% of WDAFS profit from annual meetings to the fund, and using annual proceeds to fund grants. After considerable discussion, the ExCom approved a motion to task the WDAFS Investment Committee with developing specific guidelines for dispersal of funds. These guidelines should include specific “triggers” for dispersal (basement and ceiling funding levels), percentage to be dispersed, and potential minimum annual dispersal. The recommendations are due by and will be considered by ExCom at the 2009 annual meeting in May.

Student Travel-the WDAFS has encumbered \$10,000 for student travel to future annual meetings. After considerable discussion, the ExCom approved a number of motions regarding these funds (the third motion included two amendments):

- (1) WDAFS will develop and advertise criteria, with priorities, to support student travel. Subunit officers will receive highest priority, but all students are welcome to apply for travel support.
- (2) There will be no set number of applications approved per year. Support will be considered as long as funds remain available.
- (3) There will be a non-advertised cap of \$1,000 per award. Support will exclude registration costs, and students must volunteer to work at a meeting to receive support.
- (4) The \$10,000 will be moved to a CD earmarked for student travel.

Professional Travel-this discussion centered on supporting travel of Mexican scientists to the Mexico Chapter annual meeting and the WDAFS annual meeting. Both meetings are in May 2009. The WDAFS wants to promote interchange among scientists throughout North America, and would like to include a symposium on “border issues” at the WDAFS annual meeting. After discussion, the ExCom approved two motions regarding professional travel:

- (1) Provide \$2,000, as requested by Bob Hughes, to support travel to the Mexico Chapter meeting;
- (2) Provide \$2,000 for travel by Mexican scientists to the WDAFS meeting, contingent upon matching funds being identified by each participant.

WDAFS 2009 Annual Meeting-the AZ/NM Chapter presented a proposal to change the proceeds split from annual meetings. Previous splits have been 50/50, but AZ/NM proposed a tiered approach. The tiered approach was well received. Discussion centered primarily on the amount of work required hosting the meeting (primarily done by the Chapter) versus the increased attendance realized because the meeting is co-convened by the Western Division. The ExCom agreed that any motion passed regarding proceed splits would be applicable to all future meetings (until re-visited by ExCom), not just the 2009 meeting. A motion was approved to change the proceeds split so that:

- (1) Net profit of \$0 to \$10,000 will be split evenly between Chapter and Division;
- (2) Net profits in excess of \$10,000 will be split 65% for the Chapter and 35% for the Division (with the first \$10,000 remaining 50/50).

Costs incurred “up-front” by both the Chapter and the Division will be repaid in full before

calculating net profit.

Other Grants-after all other matters concerning the 2009 budget were discussed and agreed upon, \$3,000 remained available for unspecified grants to be awarded on a case-by-case basis.

FY 2009 Budget

After all preceding budget items were discussed and approved, a balanced budget for FY 2009 was approved.

2009 Annual Meeting

AZ/NM Chapter President Marianne Cox provided a progress update on the WDAFS annual meeting, scheduled for May 3-7 in Albuquerque. The call for symposia was recently distributed. Response has been light, but is expected to increase. The Chapter needs help with fund raising to help keep registration costs down. The Western Division will help with fund raising, and many chapters will make contributions. A list of potential Plenary Speakers has been developed.

Western Native Fishes Project

President-Elect Leanne Roulson provided a brief update on the project while Michael Ziyambe, student at the University of Redlands in Southern California, prepared a presentation on the interactive web-based database. Leanne reported that existing funds should be sufficient to complete tasks required over the next year.

Michael worked on the database as part of his Senior Project at the University of Redlands. Michael gave an excellent presentation highlighting the structure and potential uses of the database. The database will be housed by the USGS at no charge. WDAFS and the USGS will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement regarding updating and housing the database. The website should be up and functional in early 2009. A web designer will be needed to complete this process.

Environmental Concerns Committee

Eric Wagner gave a presentation summarizing mining law in the western United States and AFS involvement in attempts to modify a law dating back to 1872. Eric then reviewed a draft letter from WDAFS to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding the Environmental Impact Statement by the Office of Surface Mining OSM-EIS-34 entitled "Excess Spoil Minimization/Stream Buffer Zones." The letter states that the WDAFS (1) supports the No-Action Alternative which we feel is in the best interest of the aquatic resources, and (2) is greatly concerned that the amendment to the stream buffer zone rule, as proposed in the Office of Surface Mining", will reduce restrictions on stream-valley filling. The ExCom approved a motion to send the letter.

Eric advised that the Chair of the committee is now Bob Hughes. The committee is also monitoring progress on a salmon stronghold fish habitat bill.

Old Business

Vice-President Lori Martin has been trying to get updated information regarding Division and Chapter memberships from the Parent Society. Lori reported that the databases are hard to follow and inconsistent. She will continue her efforts.

WDAFS Education Program

The ExCom held a “brainstorming session” to discuss potential education projects that the WDAFS could develop or support. The ExCom agreed that the primary target of any program should be youth.

Ideas included:

- Existing programs – Project Wet, Project Wild, etc.
- Training teachers - workshops
- Individuals volunteer to work directly with a classroom – WDAFS provides interface between volunteers/teachers/state programs (WDAFS website link, etc.)
- List of resources/programs by state with contact information-on website
- “Kids” section on WDAFS website
- Financial/logistic/people support for existing “wilderness/camping/outdoor awareness” programs
- Work directly with zoos to develop aquatic education exhibit/curriculum
- Provide materials/support for in-classroom projects
- Fishing clinics

After considerable discussion, the ExCom agreed in general to start by getting a list of volunteers to work with teachers and classrooms:

- Leanne will develop an announcement for chapter newsletters
- The education program will be the focus of ExCom talks at chapter meetings
- Chapter presidents will involve chapter education chairs to get lists of volunteer names
- These names will be put on the WDAFS website
- Get links to information on WDAFS website
- Have “skeleton” of website available at chapter meetings

The Aquatic Education Committee was formed with the following members:

Leanne Roulson – Chair
Scott Bonar
Lori Martin
Dave Ward

Chapter Reports

Utah

- The 2009 Chapter meeting will be February 17-19 in Moab.
- Planning is underway for the 2010 WDAFS meeting in Salt Lake City, April 18-23. Theme will be “The future of aquatic resources in the west: science, management, and politics.
- A new subunit is being formed at Brigham Young University.
- Website will be updated.
- Transitioning name from “Bonneville” to “Utah”.

Oregon

- The 2009 Chapter meeting will be February 25-27 in Bend.
- The Chapter is commenting on Marine Reserves and Klamath Dam re-licensing issues.
- Proceeds from 2008 WDAFS meeting will be used in part for increased scholarships and a grant for an “on-the-ground” project. A new “Carl Bond” scholarship has been created.

Mexico

- The 2009 Chapter meeting will be May 12-14 in Ensenada, and will include scientists from Central America (see pertinent section in “Professional Travel” section under “Financial Report”).

California/Nevada

- The 2009 Chapter meeting will be April 1-4 in Santa Rosa.
- The Chapter website needs to be updated.
- This year the Chapter will emphasize (1) improving communication within the chapter, including recruitment of young members, and (2) increasing involvement from Nevada members.

Washington/British Columbia

- The 2009 Chapter meeting will be April 20-23 in Shelton, Washington.
- The Chapter now has a full ExCom.
- The chapter co-sponsored a salmon genetics conference with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- A number of website innovations are forthcoming.
- Planning is underway for the 2011 meeting of the Parent Society.

Montana

- The 2009 Chapter meeting will be the week of February 9 in Kalispell.
- The Chapter funded projects totaling \$7,000 over the past year.
- The Chapter supported the AFS student symposium held at Montana State University.
- A new logo is being designed.

- The Chapter is considering adding a year to ExCom terms for President (from 3 to 4).

Colorado/Wyoming

- The 2009 Chapter meeting will be February 22-26 in Loveland, Colorado.
- The Chapter is supporting student attendance at WDAFS meetings.
- The website needs to be updated. The Chapter has purchased a domain, and will eventually use the website for registration and voting.
- The Chapter will be hosting the 2012 WDAFS meeting.

Arizona/New Mexico

- The 2009 Chapter meeting, co-hosted by both the Arizona and New Mexico chapters of the Wildlife Society, will be February 5-7 in Gallup, New Mexico.
- The Chapter is hosting the 2009 WDAFS meeting May 3-7 in Albuquerque.
- A new meeting webpage is on-line.
- The Chapter's Environmental Committee is very active.
- The Chapter has subunits at New Mexico State University, the University of Arizona, and Arizona State University.

New Business

The ExCom meeting early in FY 2010 will be in Montana.

Eric Wagner suggested that the ExCom consider developing infrastructure to help new ExCom members plan annual meetings. One possibility is to develop a planning guide. The concept was well received and will be discussed further during the December teleconference.

Next Meeting

The next ExCom teleconference will be December 18, 2008 at 10:30 AM PST, 11:30 AM MST.