

ADDENDUM I

PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
WESTERN DIVISION AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
Seattle, Washington  
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ORGANIZATIONAL BALANCE

The past year I attended three Western Division Chapter meetings - the California-Nevada, the Bonneville, and the Colorado-Wyoming, and an executive meeting of the Oregon Chapter. Four out of about a dozen isn't too good, and hopefully, future Division Presidents can have more direct participation. The meetings I did attend were very impressive with well-structured business meetings. The increasing involvement in environmental and professional affairs at the chapter level is very encouraging.

The chapters are fast becoming the backbone of the society, and the Division has attempted to speed up this process. The chapters need to take the leadership in developing the forum for the membership -- as this is one phase in which the Division and the Society have been weak.

Our Society should have balance at all three levels (Society, Division, and Chapter). Today, and in the past, we have placed our eggs at the upper Society level. A proper balance will require adequate financing at all levels. The Society level must be

financed to originate leadership; the Division must be financed to handle Chapter and Society coordination; and the Chapters need financing to carry the major workload. In order to allow each level to accomplish its responsibilities in the Society, some way must be developed to place resources at the lower two levels.

During the past five years, it has cost each Division member less than a nickel a year to keep the Division going, probably a little more than \$1.00 to keep the Chapters going, and about \$20.00 each year to keep the Society level financed. Thus, it is understandable why the Division is weak and does not carry out its coordinating responsibilities in our hierarchical scheme. Some members still feel their annual Society dues support their local Chapter or Division. Members have expressed that they feel the Division is not functioning and should be discontinued, and possibly it should if present available resources continue. What is gained nowadays for a nickel, usually isn't worth hanging on to.

However, rather than consider eliminating one of the hierarchical levels or certain factions splitting from other levels, I strongly urge Chapters and the Division to get on a solid financial basis so they can provide service to their members -- even if it means rebates from dues that all members pay to the Society. Twice the Society Executive Committee has authorized rebates to the lower level, but these were only on a one time shot. The mail ballot in the Society

Newsletter plugs for a raise in active membership dues to \$26.00 with a \$1.00 rebate to the Division per active member only. This will probably be defeated by a membership vote. So the Division needs to take another route. It wouldn't hurt any of us to pay a Division dues of one or two dollars.

With adequate financing, the Division could initiate a Newsletter for Western and Chapter coordination. Some of our more progressive Chapters are already doing this. A Newsletter would provide an avenue for exchange of information between Chapters and between the Division and the Chapters. The flow of ideas would initiate immediate development within the Division. The Society Newsletter is the most valuable and widely read publication of our Society. A Division Newsletter could be just as important. A financial basis would allow the Division to strike out on its own and not work under the subordination of the WAFGCC. We have been under their shadow so long we are scared of the sunlight. With adequate financing, the Division would be in a position to sponsor much needed symposiums. Balanced funding is a must, if we are going to have a balanced professional organization. It's time to take a serious look at assessing Division dues.

## DIVISION TO SOCIETY INPUTS

After stumbling through my first Society Executive Meeting last September, in Hawaii, I finally got going in the second Executive Meeting last March in Pittsburgh and contributed Division and Chapter input into the Society decision-making level. From my Chapter attendance and communication with Chapter presidents and members, I tried to present their thinking to the Executive Committee by offering the following questions and comments for their consideration:

1. Some Western Division Chapters are questioning if there is a need to split from the parent Society.

2. Many of our membership have a hard time identifying with the Society.

3. Does the membership really guide, direct, or have a voice in the Society?

4. Are the transactions serving the membership?

5. Why doesn't the Society represent our profession on issues of Regional or national importance?

From these questions and comments, President Bailey appointed an Ad Hoc committee to address itself to these and other comments. Hopefully, someday this committee will start to function. At the time I presented these comments and questions to the Executive Committee, I was attempting, in my own mind, to determine if they were really problems and if so, why aren't they being solved. I do

believe that these problems are real, but I also feel the time has come for us to quit laying all of them at the parent Society level for solution. The time has arrived when the Division and its Chapters are going to have to absorb some of the leadership. If this requires building the lower too layers, and I believe it will, which means a reassessment of the level of financing -- then let's get on with it. Powerful Chapters with a coordinating Division can take care of some of the problems that are not being solved at the Society level.

#### WESTERN DIVISION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

##### STREAM RESOURCE FLOW SYMPOSIUM

This year the average cost per member to run the Division is about a dime, so we need to show some Division accomplishment. I have tended to downgrade the Division more than it deserves because even without resources we do have some excellent accomplishments to be proud of. Our best accomplishment must be the Division's final move towards its first symposium on "Stream Resource Flows." Thanks to the great work of Fred Eiserman from Wyoming, this symposium will take place in Boise, Idaho, next May 3 through May 6 at the Rodeway Inn. This symposium not only has national interest, but multidiscipline interest, and will make an excellent first symposium publication for the Western Division. There is a need for the Division to sponsor more symposiums. Examples would be road construction and

fisheries, fish passage, models for fishery management, tolerable levels of sediment, aquatic methodology for quantification of stream variables, livestock effects on aquatic resources, and many more. This is an untouched area. The publications from these symposiums will be of great value to our Division membership and will fill a vacuum not being taken care of by the transactions.

#### MEETING AFFILIATION, TIME AND PLACE

For many years there has been concern among the members about the time, the affiliation, and the place of the Western Division meeting. Our unfair treatment received last year in Albuquerque brought this concern to a head. This year the lack of recognition stands out. I felt the only way to determine what the members really want was to face up to the problem and find out. So, I formed an Ad Hoc committee chaired by Bud Bassett of Arizona to take this problem to the membership for solution. Members from every Chapter were requested to be on the committee. This team was instructed to dig deep into the concern and determine if there were solutions to the annual complaints. The team's main objective was to determine if our annual meeting was being conducted in the best interests of the membership. If we approach it objectively, we won't open a can of worms. Let's take our time, look at it very seriously, discuss it thoroughly, and go the way the complete membership directs. This may even take a mail ballot of the Division membership. With Bud Bassett handling the committee, the concern is in mighty good hands.

## STANDARD STREAM SURVEY

The Standard Stream Survey Committee work, under the direction of Bob Borovicka, is in the final period. The committee is in the process of finalizing the aquatic inventory system and possibly a Western Division publication. If so, this again will be a first for the Western. The dime per Division member is paying off. With adequate financing, the Division accomplishments would be many fold.

I appreciated the chance to be your President this year and I'm sorry we didn't accomplish more. The year goes by before a President really gets his feet on the ground and finds out what's going on. This past year I worked closely with Ron Goede and, because of this, Ron should be off and running at the very start. I'm looking for a bigger and better division this coming year with Ron at the helm. The Western Division is asking questions and getting answers, there is excellent interest and the next five years are going to see the Division come into its own.