



American Fisheries Society
Western Division

BRITISH COLUMBIA
YUKON
MEXICO
ALASKA
ARIZONA
CALIFORNIA
COLORADO
HAWAII
IDAHO
MONTANA
NEVADA
NEW MEXICO
OREGON
UTAH
WASHINGTON
WYOMING
WESTERN PACIFIC ISLANDS
AND TRUST TERRITORIES

13 August, 1988

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Fall 1988 Annual Report
TO: AFS Executive Committee
FROM: Alvin D. Mills, President
Western Division

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ACTION ITEMS: None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Officers:

Alvin D. Mills (Al), President UT
Nancy M. MacHugh, President Elect OR
William P. Dwyer (Pat), Vice President MT
Dudley W. Reiser, Secretary/Treasurer CA
Don M. Martin (Don), Immediate Past President ID
William S. Platts (Bill), National Nom. Representative ID

Chapter Affairs of Note:

During the 1987 Annual Meeting in Winston-Salem President Mills and Immediate Past President Martin solicited the opportunity to participate in a very productive breakfast meeting with Bob Iverson from the Hawaii Chapter. Bob had travelled the goodly distance from Honolulu to represent his chapter at the Annual Meeting. As a result of Bob's ambassadorial skills in carrying the WDAFS message of support back to his troubled chapter, things in Hawaii are looking up. The chapter has had an election to select new officers and has given them the charge to step up the pace. They have had some reorganizational meetings, established a new schedule and informed WDAFS they wish to become active participants in the program once again. Welcome back Hawaii!

Working with the Alaska Chapter, the North Pacific International Chapter has taken the lead in initiating and organizing a biennial Chinook/Coho Salmon Workshop to be sponsored on a rotational basis among the west coast chapters. Coastal chapter leaders conducted a caucus at the Seattle mid-year AFS meeting and established a protocol and rotational agenda for conducting the workshops. The first session is scheduled for October 3 & 4 and will be hosted by the North Pacific International Chapter at Nendels Inn, Bellingham, Washington.

The California/Nevada Chapter continues to be assertive and strong in it's leadership of the challenge and the legal action against NMFS in support of the Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook Salmon. The fish is seriously threatened due to unacceptable water and habitat management by the Bureau of Reclamation. WDAFS and AFS have indicated total support for the legal action. Now that the formal legal challenge has been filed in the courts it appears that delicate negotiations are being pursued to avoid court action requiring protective measures.

The Montana Chapter has taken the lead and along with co-sponsorship from WDAFS, the U.S. Forest Service, the Society for Range Management, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management a major Riparian Resource Management Workshop is planned. The session is scheduled for May 9-12, 1989 in Billings, Montana. Chapter and workshop leaders will publish all papers in a Proceedings by May 1, 1989 and the published works will be available at the workshop. Good work Montana for the timely effort. Riparians are in the news more and more these days.

WDAFS Excom Annual Retreat:

For good reason the Western Division has noted with some fanfare, the fact it conducts an Annual Executive Committee Retreat in conjunction with it's annual meeting. These informal day-long events are scheduled the day in advance of our annual meeting and provide a forum for team building and total interchange between Division and chapter leaders. These sessions serve to create the important atmosphere of oneness between chapters and their link with the national organization.

The 1988 WDAFS Excom Retreat was the third in the current series of retreats. It is now to the point of paying obvious dividends in terms of trust, openness, sharing of concerns and proposed change without threat, embarrassment or fear of treading on toes. An obvious smoothing of the Division business meeting process is a welcome but originally unexpected side benefit. Through the retreat process we are able to more thoroughly and appropriately explore chapter concerns and prepare action items as needed to carry their concerns to the appropriate levels and sub-units within AFS.

The attached "1988 WDAFS EXCOM RETREAT SUMMARY & RESULTS" covers issues and actions resulting from the 1988 Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. A debt of gratitude is owed to Jerry Burton, immediate Past President of the AZ/NM Chapter, and other chapter members for arranging excellent retreat facilities at the renowned Sandia Ski Resort, and the transportation and excellent food for the highly successful 1988 Excom Retreat.

WDAFS Annual Meeting:

The WAFWA/WDAFS Joint Annual Conference was held at the Holiday Pyramid in Albuquerque, New Mexico, July 10-13. Facilities were outstanding, the state of New Mexico and the Arizona/New Mexico Chapter of AFS were excellent hosts and the conference was a resounding success. WDAFS Program Chair and President Elect Nancy MacHugh did an outstanding job of assembling and conducting a dynamic program which was well received by those in attendance. Nancy's right arm in the preparation and execution of an excellent program was Jerry Burton, immediate Past President of the AZ/NM Chapter. The theme for the conference was "CHALLENGE - THE FUTURE".

One of the highlights of the conference was the jointly attended participatory workshop conducted by the Naisbitt Group. The workshop portion of the program was designed to instill a sense of "Projecting Toward The Future" to encourage fisheries and wildlife professionals to re-orient their thinking toward a pro-active mode.

Highlights of the meeting included the presence and solid participation of national officers and staff members in all aspects of the session but particularly the Retreat. Those in attendance were honored with a solid presentation to the opening plenary session by President Stan Moberly speaking to the subject of "Fish Rights". President Elect Bob White and 1st Vice President Joe Dillard were active participants throughout the conference. Executive Director Sullivan was away to the big continent of Australia but he was ably represented by Deputy Director Paul Brouha. One of the highlights of the Excom Retreat was a 40 minute session conducted by Paul Brouha on AFS Officer Orientation & How To Better Manage Affairs and Personnel in a Volunteer Organization. Paul was well prepared and his efforts were well received.

Elections:

The WDAFS Nominating Committee under the lead of immediate Past President Don Martin assembled an excellent slate of candidates. Mail ballots were tallied prior to the Albuquerque annual meeting and election results were announced there. WDAFS Officers assuming responsibilities as of the Toronto meeting will be:

Vice President: Cay Goude, California\Nevada Chapter
Secretary-Treasurer: Don Chase, NPI Chapter
Nat. Nominating Rep: Richard S. Wydoski, Colo./Wyo. Chapter

Congratulations candidates, I think.

Awards:

Western Division awards presented at the annual meeting in Albuquerque went to:

Award(s) of Excellence: Cindy Williams, CA/NV Chapter
Jack Williams, CA/NV Chapter

Outstanding Student: Chris Frissell, OR Chapter

Robert L. Borovicka Conservation Achievement Award:
Northwest Power Planning Council

Chapter of the Year: Idaho Chapter

Riparian Excellence Awards

1988 Most Outstanding U.S. Forest Service Project:
Barlow Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, OR
for Excellence in the Fifteenmile Creek Basin.

1988 Most Outstanding Bureau of Land Management Project:
Gila Resource Area, Safford District, AZ
for Excellence in the Bonita Creek Drainage.

The Excellence in Riparian Management Awards are new to the WDAFS and 1988 was the first year they were presented. The awards resulted from a friendly challenge between public land management agencies that grew to a somewhat reluctant and cautious acceptance by agency leaders. Thanks to a lot of work by Awards Chair Don Martin and his able committee the effort came off in a very positive atmosphere of recognition for excellence by public land managers.

In addition to the two awards of Excellence there were almost equally beautiful silver and black award plaques presented to an additional 27 units who were awarded the WDAFS "Award of Recognition In Riparian Management". There were 188 projects submitted by the May deadline for competition.

Membership:

WDAFS Chapters are emphasizing national membership as a pre-requisite for chapter membership. The larger chapters require it and Montana agreed on a one time basis to pay the national dues for those who had neglected that duty but wish to be bona fide chapter members. As evidenced by the WDAFS sponsored "Chapter Dues Re-bate Initiative" WDAFS Chapters are somewhat uncomfortable with paying the way for other units who enjoy the privileges of AFS affiliation but let their fish brothers and sisters from other units pay more than their fair share. Those chapters emphasizing national membership should receive more reward than simply taxing their members to help carry sub-units and members who aren't willing to become real professionals.

Western Division membership in 1988 increased by 112 over the previous year and emphasis by the chapters on national membership receives the lions share of the credit. In addition a membership campaign rewarding sponsors with the newly minted and very attractive WDAFS Fish Pins for newly sponsored members has been initiated by Membership Chairman Pat Dwyer.

Notable Committee Affairs:

Frank Halfmoon (OR) has been appointed to chair a newly formed committee on Native American Fisheries. Frank has formed his committee, given them an ambitious charge and now has sights set on a major workshop for 1990 on Native American Fisheries. The members voted on providing \$500.00 to the committee as seed money for beginning and planning the proposed workshop.

Don Sada (NV) has replaced Jack Williams (CA) as Chairman of the Threatened Fishes Committee. Jack was appointed by President Moberly to lead the national Threatened Fishes effort.

The Riparian Committee chaired by Bruce Smith (ID) instigated and participated heavily in the new Excellence In Riparian Management awards discussed above and in the Retreat Summary. Bruce has recently changed his agency affiliation, location, marital status and has now asked to be replaced as Committee Chair. He will henceforth be known as Bruce (Smith) Gleason of the U.S. Forest Service in Salmon Idaho. Bruce and the delightful former WDAFS Secretary-Treasurer, Ellen Gleason have decided to team up against the Idaho wilderness country. Best wishes to two special folks.

The newly re-created Marine Fisheries Committee chaired by Lou Carufel (AK) has been active in establishing it's membership, putting together it's new charter and assisting coastal chapters in establishing the groundwork for the newly initiated series of Chinook/Coho Salmon biennial workshops.

The Editorial Guidelines (Publications) Committee chaired by Bob Gresswell (MT) has been very active with a major publication on Cutthroat Trout as well as soliciting and preparing manuscripts for the proposed Proceedings of the 1989 Riparian Workshop discussed above.

The Water Development & Streamflow Committee co-chaired by Tom Wesche & Dudley Reiser has been busy preparing a manuscript for publication in "Fisheries" entitled "Status of Instream Flow Legislation and Practices In North America".

WDAFS-WAFWA Relations:

(Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies)

Relations with the Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) are valued by most leaders in WDAFS and are cultivated and nurtured to the degree time and logistics will permit. They do however depend to a large degree on personalities of officers and their location in relationship to where the next joint conference will be held.

In 1987 the WDAFS President Elect and Program Chairman happened to reside in the same state as the 1987 conference location and WAFWA President. Things could not have been much better. In 1988 logistics and a last minute turnover in WAFWA officers created some strain to the relationship and questions by the two entities as to the need to continue to meet together. This was particularly true on the part of a few newer state directors. Some last minute but minor logistical questions arose as to program and scheduling details which appeared to open the question as to the desirability of continuing the joint conference arrangement. Cooler heads prevailed and with assistance from a few outside sources the question of continuation did not come before the WAFWA leadership.

It is however a continuing question nurtured in part by the differences between primary responsibilities of the predominant membership of each group. WDAFS is an organization primarily scientific and technical in nature compared to the governing members on the other side of the issue who are primarily administratively motivated. The question will continue to arise but hopefully the parties involved will continue to be guided by the preponderance of benefits in comparison to the problems involved.