



MINUTES From the 2001 Annual MCAFS Meeting

TO: MCAFS EXCOM
FROM: Ken Staigmler, MCAFS Secretary / Treasurer
SUBJECT: Minutes of MCAFS 2001 Business Meeting – Butte
DATE: January 25, 2001

AGENDA

- I. Opening of meeting and call for quorum.
- II. Minutes of 2001 Business Meeting.
- III. Treasurer's Report
- IV. Elections: President – Elect & Secretary – Treasurer
- V. Recognition of officers
- VI. Best Student Paper Award: to be announced in next newsletter, motion to change process.
- VII. Committees and Ad-hoc Committees: Reports and Chair Status
 - a. Species of Special Concern: Redband Trout Resolution, SSC/NHP merge List
 - b. Bull Trout Restoration
 - c. Environmental Concerns
 - d. Land Management
 - e. Public Outreach (NOWA solicitation)
 - f. Continuing Education
 - g. UM Sub-Unit
 - h. Awards
 - i. Membership (National drive)
 - j. Legislation / Lobbyist
 - k. Newsletter (email poll)
 - l. Historian
 - m. Raffle
 - n. Intermountain Journal of Science

- o. Chapter Website (committee activities, links, etc.)
- p. Yellowstone River and Whirling Disease task forces
- q. Westslope Cutthroat Trout Steering Committee Representative
- r. Past-President's Club

VIII. New Business

- a. Summer Workshop - Native Species Symposium
- b. Resource Action Fund Requests: ExCom Recommendations / Vote
 - i. Good Creek WCT Restoration - \$3000 (Mike Enk)
 - ii. WCT T-Shirt / Postcards - \$500 (Mike Enk)
 - iii. Arctic Grayling Recovery - \$3,000 (Ken Staigmiller)
 - iv. West Fork Wilson Creek Fish Barrier - \$8,000
(Buddy Drake)
 - v. Mountain Whitefish Population Study - \$2,000 (Pat Clancey)
- c. ExCom Proposal to change procedures for approving RAF requests
- d. Coalbed Methane Development Plan: Scoping Process
- e. Open Floor

IX. Time and Location of 2002 Annual Meeting

X. Adjourn

MINUTES-----

- I. Opening: President Mike Enk called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm and it was determined that a quorum was present.
- II. Minutes from the 2000 Business Meeting were accepted and filed.
- III. Treasurer's Report – Ken Staigmiller
See attached report. Financially speaking, the Chapter is ahead of where we were this time last year due to a successful annual meeting which netted over \$4,000. In addition, expenses were fairly low due to a very limited number of RAF requests (\$300). Treasurer's report was accepted and filed.

IV. Election of Officers

Candidates for President-Elect: Steve Leathe and Pat Byorth
Candidates for Secretary / Treasurer: Beth Gardner and Jay Frederick
Mike Enk read brief bios of the candidates after which ballots were cast. Pat Byorth was elected President-Elect and Beth Gardner was elected Secretary -Treasurer.

V. Recognition of Officers

Previous Secretary/Treasurer - Greg Kindschi, current Secretary/Treasurer - Ken Staigmiller, and Past-President - Buddy Drake, were presented with certificates of appreciation for their service to the Chapter.

- VI. Student Paper format – Awards committee chair Pat Byorth made a motion to consolidate the student papers into single panel or group of panels to make it easier to judge and present the award for best student paper. Several students expressed concerns that they

were being unfairly singled out and feared they would be cut short if the meeting was behind schedule. It was mentioned that one advantage of consolidating the panel would be that it would then be possible to present the award at the meeting rather than announcing in the newsletter. Pat amended the motion, proposing that the papers be consolidated but that the time frame be protected. The motion was denied by a vote of 25 to 14.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Species of Special Concern – Co-chair Bill Gardner reported that upgraded status reports are coming soon. At the recent committee caucus, the committee unanimously recommended to upgrade Redband trout from a class B to a class A Species of Special Concern (SSC). This recommendation is based on a reduced distribution in Montana and population levels that are not showing signs of recovery. Based on this recommendation, the committee made a motion to upgrade and the proposal passed unanimously. The committee also made a recommendation to next year's annual meeting organizer that a panel on SSC be put together. A proposal to combine our SSC list with the Natural Heritage Program's (NHP) list was again discussed. It was noted that this would require a change from our current classification system. The committee recommended that one of the chairs is sent to the NHP to look into the new classification system. It was also noted that the committee is in need of a new co-chair, as Bill will term-limit out in the fall.
- b. Bull Trout Restoration – no report. Linda Ulmer will continue as chair.
- c. Environmental Concerns – Don Skaar reported that in the last year the committee commented on the Plum Creek HCP and the State's TMDL plan. Bob Wiltshire recommended that the committee send a letter to various agencies looking for information on New Zealand Mudsnails. It was noted that the ExCom is currently drafting a letter to this effect. The committee plans to stay involved in the EIS processes for Coalbed Methane development and the Zortman Landusky reclamation project. The committee will need a new chair in September.
- d. Land Management (Ron Spoon Chair) - Discussion at the committee caucus focused primarily on two issues. First on the need to keep informed of salvage logging proposals and to send letters to the forest offices informing them of our concerns with these proposals, and also on the need to monitor the roadless proposal and correspond with the Bush Administration regarding this issue. Wally McClure has agreed to be the new co-chair.
- e. Public Outreach – no report. It was mentioned that the Northwest Outdoor Writer's Association is meeting in Kalispell and there would be an opportunity for Chapter participation. Wade Fredenberg is currently working on a Fishes of Montana CD.
- f. Continuing Education (Jim Magee chair)– The recent workshop on fisheries management during drought was very successful and well attended. It was suggested that the chapter try to get more involved in drought related issues. The committee is in need of a new chair, as Jim Magee's term will expire in the fall.
- g. UM Student Subunit – a total of 12 student (both graduate and undergraduate) are currently involved and they are exploring recruitment options. Bill Good has been an advisor to the unit in lieu of Andy Sheldon. Working with the Natural History Center, the unit has been helping to educate students in the Missoula area on various aquatic

education issues.

- h. Awards – Ladd Knotek is the new committee chair
- i. Membership – Dan Downing is the new committee chair. It was noted that there is currently a national membership drive being conducted through the chapters due to declining AFS membership in recent years.
- j. Legislation – there is not currently a chair of this committee; however, our paid lobbyist, Jeff Barber, is conducting committee activities. Jeff has been tracking bills and providing testimony on our behalf, as well as keeping ExCom updated on legislative activities.
- k. Newsletter - Please notify Andrew of any address changes. The committee plans to explore the option of publishing the newsletter electronically. A new committee chair is also needed.
- l. Historian – Wally McClure will take over chair from Wayne.
- m. Raffle – Brent has once again lined up a great stash of prizes, so be sure to buy plenty of tickets.
- n. Intermountain Journal of Science – Al Zale reported that the journal is doing well with more manuscripts and more subscriptions rolling in all the time. He also mentioned that a special issue on the Henry's Fork River will be coming out soon.
- o. Web Page – Lee Nelson reported that the switch to a new server has been completed and things are going smoothly. Information on committee and student activities is needed as well as comments on a message board feature that is being considered. A link to current job announcements is also being developed and the latest species of special concern information will be forthcoming. Any ideas or suggestions for the web site should be forwarded to Lee.
- p. Yellowstone River Technical Committee – Brad Shepard report that things are going well for data collection and coordination efforts between various agencies. No comments were made on the chapter involvement in the Whirling Disease Task Force (ExCom recently agreed that chapter involvement is not warranted at this time due to a lack of activity by the task force).
- q. Westslope Cutthroat Trout Steering Committee – no report
- r. Past-President's Club – Buddy reported that the group recently held their inaugural meeting which was well attended. The group expressed some concerns about the grant process for RAF's and recommended a change to ExCom. Based on this recommendation a motion was made to change the procedures manual so that RAF requests for \$2,000 or less be submitted 30 days prior to a regularly scheduled ExCom meeting and that ExCom be granted authority to approve these requests (RAF requests in excess of \$2,000 still need a vote by the membership at the annual meeting). The motion carried by a vote of 42 to 1.

VIII. New Business

- a. Summer Workshop – the upcoming Native Species Symposium in June will take the place of a summer workshop and attendance is encouraged.
- b. Resource Action Fund Requests
 - i. Good Creek Westslope Cutthroat Restoration Project - \$3,000 is being sought by the Forest Service to restore WCT to the Good Creek Watershed in the Stillwater basin by building barriers and removing non-native species. Brad Shepard raised some questions about the commitment from other agencies as well as whether or not the status of the watershed made the project worthwhile. ExCom recommended granting the request contingent on other funding being secured for the project. A motion was made and seconded to grant the RAF for \$3,000 and it passed unanimously.
 - ii. Westslope Cutthroat Trout T-shirts and Postcards - \$500 is being sought by the Patagonia Outlet store in Dillon for start-up costs to design and print T-shirts and postcards depicting Westslope Cutthroat Trout. These would be sold at the store with all of the proceeds going to the Chapter to be earmarked for WCT restoration projects. A motion was made and seconded that the RAF be granted for \$500 and it passed unanimously.
 - iii. Arctic Grayling Recovery - \$3,000 is being sought by the Fluvial Arctic Grayling Workgroup to partially fund the Arctic Grayling Recovery Program due to uncertainty from other funding sources. This program is directed towards protecting the Fluvial Arctic Grayling in the Big Hole River, which are recognized as a species of special concern by the Chapter and MFWP. A motion was made and seconded to grant the request for \$3,000 and it passed unanimously.
 - iv. West Fork Wilson Creek Fish Barrier - \$8,000 is being requested to fund a joint project by MFWP and USFS, which would build a barrier to protect 1 of the last 2 remaining WCT population in the Gallatin River Drainage. This is an extension of a previous RAF Grant of \$500 in 1999 that provided “seed” money for the project that later turned out to be more difficult and costly than expected. A motion was made to grant the RAF for \$8,000, but this was then amended to state that this should be contingent upon other funding sources being found. After considerable discussion focused mainly on funding sources and implementation issues, the motion passed as amended.
 - v. Mountain Whitefish Population Study - \$2,000 is being sought by Andrew Whitely, a graduate student at the U of M who is conducting a study of the population structure of mountain whitefish by using genetic markers to determine evolutionary relationships among whitefish populations throughout it’s range. ExCom moderately recommended support based primarily on concerns about setting the precedence of funding student research. Other concerns were raised about funding basic or pure research type projects rather than action oriented projects. The motion to grant this request failed to pass by a majority vote.
- c. The proposal to change the RAF approval process was previously approved in section VII. r.

d. Coalbed Methane Development Plan: Mike pointed out the current scoping process for the plan and stressed the need for the Chapter to monitor progress and provide comments on the plan.

e. Open Floor

i. Mark Kornick has agreed to take over the chair of the newsletter.

ii. Bob Wiltshire commented that the issue of funding basic research as opposed to action related research is one that the chapter needs to consider and address.

iii. Chris Clancy pointed out that many of the current projects require using Antimycin and that the Chapter needs to get more involved in the debate to ensure it's use in the future.

IX. Time and Place for 2002 Annual Meeting

Newly elected President-Elect Pat Byorth expressed a preference for Chico Hot Springs as a location for next year's annual meeting, and the suggestion did not meet much resistance. The majority of the students feel that the earlier date reduces conflicts with school and makes it easier for them to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.



Copyright; 2001 by American Fisheries Society, Montana Chapter