



Minutes From the 2003 Annual MCAFS Meeting

To: Montana Chapter AFS Members
From: Beth Gardner, Secretary/Treasurer
RE: **Minutes from 2003 Business Meeting**

AGENDA

- I. Opening of meeting and call for quorum.
- II. Minutes of 2002 Business Meeting.
- III. Treasurer's Report
- IV. Elections: President – Elect and Secretary/Treasurer
- V. Recognition of officers
- VI. Committees and Ad-hoc Committees: Reports and Chair Status
 - a. Species of Special Concern
 - b. Bull Trout Restoration
 - c. Environmental Concerns
 - d. Land Management
 - e. Public Outreach
 - f. Continuing Education
 - g. UM Sub-Unit
 - h. Awards
 - i. Membership
 - j. Legislation / Lobbyist
 - k. Newsletter
 - l. Historian
 - m. Raffle
 - n. Intermountain Journal of Science
 - o. Chapter Website
 - p. Yellowstone River and Whirling Disease task forces
 - q. Westslope Cutthroat Trout Steering Committee Representative
 - r. Past-President's Club
- VII. New Business
 - a. Summer Workshop
 - b. Resource Action Fund Requests: ExCom Recommendations / Vote
 - c. Changes to the Procedures Manual
 - d. Western Division Meeting
- VIII. Open Floor
- IX. Time and Location of 2004 Annual Meeting

X. Adjourn

---- Minutes ----

I. Opening of Meeting. President Pat Byorth opened the meeting at 3:30pm on February 13, 2003 in Great Falls. At least 30 members were present, making a quorum.

II. Minutes of 2002 Business Meeting. A motion was raised to accept the minutes from the 2002 meeting. No discussion. Motion passed.

III. Treasurer's Report. Secretary/Treasurer Beth Gardner presented an overhead projection of the chapter's current assets and liabilities and compared it to where we were at last year. The chapter's overall financial assets are about \$48,000 just prior to the business meeting. The chapter's assets had decreased about \$24,000 in one year due to numerous Resource Action Fund (RAF) grants, declining economy, travel costs and insufficient revenue to host the 2002 annual meeting. A motion was raised to accept the treasurer's report. No discussion. Motion passed.

IV. Elections. Past-president Pat Clancey announced that elections are needed to fill the President-elect position and the Secretary/Treasurer position. Pat discussed how diversity of candidates (from all agencies and positions) helps strengthen the chapter and called for nominations from the floor. Only one nomination for President-elect was received; Clint Muhlfeld. Pat read Clint's biography. Since there was no other candidate, a voice vote was held and Clint was elected unanimously. Likewise there was only one nomination for Secretary/Treasurer; Travis Horton. After reading Travis' biography, a voice vote was held and Travis was elected unanimously. Clint Muhlfeld and Travis Horton begin their positions in September 2003.

V. Recognition of Officers. Past-president Pat Clancey received a plaque in appreciation for his leadership and service to the chapter. Secretary/Treasurer Beth Gardner also was commended for her service to the chapter.

VI. Committees and Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

a. Species of Special Concern. Co-chair Wally McClure reported that the committee discussed the emerging issue that Kootenai River burbot have become scarce and it may be appropriate to list them as a "Species of Special Concern". Burbot are common elsewhere in their range but are they a Distinct Population Segment in the Kootenai River? The membership discussed how our chapter's species of special concern list has little political clout but it does help raise awareness of a problem. A motion was proposed to consider Kootenai River burbot G5, TQ1 ranking. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Wally also noted that 12 out of 16 current Species of Special Concern have status papers prepared on the chapter webpage. Four committee members have offered to prepare the remaining reports. Wally listed the letters that the committee has written on behalf of the chapter and acknowledged the work of Co-Chair Clint Muhlfeld. The committee is considering making a video of Species of Special Concern and Travis Horton is looking for good video clips. Finally, Wally noted that the poster created by the committee a few years ago is due for reprinting.

b. Bull Trout Restoration. This Ad-Hoc group has run its course after the completion of the Governor's Bull Trout Restoration Team. The Ad-Hoc group was dissolved.

c. Environmental Concerns. Chairperson Carol Endicott reported that the committee is focusing on TMDL reports. The committee will try to review the proposed TMDL's based on native fish priorities. Carol has also helped the chapter prepare comments on Coalbed Methane EIS.

Other upcoming actions the committee will review are Milltown Dam removal, guidelines for fire suppression, invasive species including a new demand for mosquitofish and whirling disease.

d. Land Management. Co-Chair Jay Frederick will help the chapter prepare comments for the Forest Service new planning regulations (for preparing Forest Plans). Jay has drafted a comment letter and is open to more reviewers. Jay acknowledged the work of outgoing Co-chair Ron Spoon and requested someone to step forward and fill the vacancy.

e. Public Outreach. This committee is currently dormant but at one time it was especially vibrant. Chris Clancy described a project he had undertaken to prepare a brochure about piscicides on behalf of the chapter. The committee could be particularly useful in educating the public about aquatic nuisance species and chitrid fungus (suspected agent for the decline of toad abundance). Upon hearing the need for the committee, John Wachsmuth offered to serve as the committee chair.

f. Continuing Education. Chairperson Wade Fredenberg was not present but Pat Byorth described the successful workshop Wade had organized on February 11. The workshop was about fish disease and the class was full to capacity. There was discussion about having our continuing education courses accredited with AFS. ExCom will follow up on this idea.

g. UM Sub-Unit. Student Sub-Unit President Charles Ferguson described how the group helps with research projects, assists FWP in Missoula, offers fly-tying seminars and helps with river cleanup projects. The membership is mostly undergraduates, which makes it hard to maintain continuity. The Sub-Unit is open to new volunteer opportunities.

h. Awards. Chairperson Ladd Knotek recapped the awards presented on February 12 banquet. Awards were given to Scott Rumsey (Fishery Worker of the Year), Allen McNeal (Individual), Linda Hicks and Betsy Sharkey (Educators), Roger and Cynthia Lang (Landowners), Dr. Andy Sheldon (Career Achievement) and Stan Proboszcz (Best Student Paper). Ladd requested more nominations from the membership to be sure we continue to have a good pool of candidates. ExCom offered to nominate more candidates for Fishery Worker of the Year. Ladd Knotek's position will expire this year and he announced that Buddy Drake will serve as the new Chairperson.

i. Membership. Chairperson Dan Downing reported that 181 members attended the 2003 meeting. The current roster is 65% active AFS members and 35% affiliate members.

j. Legislation / Lobbyist. There is a vacancy for chairperson. Pat Byorth discussed several upcoming bills that could potentially affect Montana's aquatic resources. The chapter has hired a lobbyist, Robert Throssell. As the president of the chapter, Pat may occasionally contact members via e-mail to inform them of critical bills. If anybody does not want to be notified or needs to provide an alternative e-mail address, please

contact Pat at pbyorth@montana.edu.

- k. Newsletter. Chairperson Mark Kornick was not present to give a report. ExCom reminded members that the newsletter is no longer mailed but instead members get electronic notification that it is on the web.
- l. Historian. There is a vacancy for chairperson. Someone is needed to help store items that Wayne Black has preserved over the years. (postscript note: Paul Hamlin has stepped forward to serve as Historian chairperson).
- m. Raffle. Chairperson Brent Mabbott has once again set up a great raffle. He urged everyone to dig deep and buy more tickets.
- n. Intermountain Journal of Science. Bob Bramblett is the chapter's representative on the editorial board. Bob reported that the 2002 MCAFS meeting abstracts should be in the next issue. This should be an annual event and would cost the chapter about \$850 to print the abstracts. The six submitted abstracts from PACNIFM symposium are almost ready for print. Bob noted how the journal is now being abstracted and members should consider submitting worthy articles.
- o. Chapter Website. Co-chair Eileen Ryce reported the website gets heavy use (about 4,000 hits per year). The most popular sections seem to be the status papers by Species of Special Concern committee, the job announcements and the chapter correspondence.
- p. Yellowstone River and Whirling Disease task forces. Chapter representative Brad Shepard said that flood control recommendations on the Yellowstone River are expected by August. The whirling disease task force is currently dormant.
- q. Westslope Cutthroat Trout Steering Committee Representative. Buddy Drake was the Ad-Hoc chapter representative. This steering committee seems to have run its course and the Ad-Hoc is now dissolved.
- r. Past-President's Committee. Pat Clancey reported that this committee discussed whether it is appropriate for RAF to fund research project. He will describe this later in the meeting when we review RAF applications.

VII. New Business

- a. Summer Workshop. Pat Byorth described the 2002 summer workshop that discussed Coalbed Methane. He showed a few slides of the fieldtrip and reported that it was very informative and enjoyable.
- b. Resource Action Fund Requests:
 - i. Anglers Against Weeds - \$1,000. This application was granted in 2002 but the applicant withdrew due to insufficient partnership funding and then re-submitted again for 2003. This application was already approved by ExCom on February 11.
 - ii. Sun Ranch WCT Hatchery - \$5000. ExCom reviewed it and recommended to the membership vote a \$2500 approval (Byorth abstaining). A motion was made to fund it at \$3000. Discussion followed on how the funds were needed and whether the chapter can afford it in light of declining revenues. Motion passed by simple majority.
 - iii. Past-President's Committee - \$400. The committee

would like to buy a MP3 recorder to interview retired professionals. ExCom voted to defer funding until the committee is more prepared. Buddy Drake offered to take charge of this initiative. Motion was made to fund \$400 as soon as the committee is ready. Motion passed unanimously.

iv. South Fork Judith River - \$1,500. This application to help fund a migration barrier was already approved by ExCom on February 11 (Leathe abstaining).

v. Yellow Bay BioStation Edge Effect Research - \$1200. The applicant, Michelle Anderson, explained her research project and possible management applications. ExCom reported that they did not have a recommendation on this application. The RAF criteria is not specific about the whether funding research is appropriate. Motion was made to direct that RAF may fund up to \$2000 for research projects per year. The motion also specified that ExCom would decide the beneficiaries. There was discussion about how difficult it is to fund research. Motion passed by simple majority. Following this, a second motion was raised to fund Michelle Anderson's research for \$1200. Motion passed by simple majority.

vi. Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Spawning Research - \$2000. ExCom deferred this application to the membership since it was not received in a timely manner. The applicant, Brad Shepard, explained the urgency and said that he would only accept the money if he finds out it is truly needed. Motion was made to fund. Discussion followed about whether this violates the \$2000 yearly cap the members just passed 5 minutes ago. President Byorth explained the \$2000 cap is technically not in effect yet. Voice vote was too close, showing of hands found the motion passed 23 to 7.

c. Changes to the Procedures Manual.

i. Awards. Pat Clancey read the proposed new award categories recommended by Ladd Knotek. Specifically, the 7 categories would be Outstanding Fisheries Professional (previously named Fishery Worker of the Year), Career Achievement, Landowner, Media, Educators, Natural Resource Professionals and Groups/Industry. A motion was made to accept these changes and it passed unanimously.

Pat Clancey also read the proposed new criteria for awarding Outstanding Fisheries Professional that would drop the national AFS membership criteria. Initial discussion was to alter the procedures manual to base award on their membership and accomplishment in MCAFS (and not AFS) as well as other criteria in order to make affiliate members eligible. However, a motion was raised to keep Montana Chapter and AFS membership as the criteria, along with others. This is just as the manual is written now. Some discussion about whether this would eliminate possible good candidates. It was understood that AFS membership is important but not an exclusive criteria and the award can be given to affiliate members. Motion passed unanimously.

The procedures manual currently ranks criteria (with Montana Chapter and AFS membership as highest ranking criteria). Motion was raised to keep criteria as it is currently written. Voice vote was too close. The hand votes were so close, the members had to endure four recounts until all parties were in agreement on the number. Motion failed 17 to 18.

Following this, a new motion was raised that all award criteria is equally

important and should not be ranked or prioritized. Furthermore the motion states that ExCom should use its discretion to select the best candidate. No discussion. Motion passed 24 to 5.

ii. Resource Action Fund. Pat Byorth reviewed the motion passed earlier to allow research projects to be funded through RAF, up to \$2000 per year, to be decided by ExCom. This motion will now amend the procedures manual.

d. Western Division Meeting. Pat Byorth noted the next Western Division meeting is April 14-17 in San Diego. He will be attending.

VIII. Open Floor. Pat Byorth, Joe Urbani and Bob Wiltshire announced that the next Wild Trout Symposium will be in September 2004 at Yellowstone National Park. If you can help organize the symposium, please contact any of these people.

IX. Next Meeting. Clint Muhlfeld announced that the 2004 annual meeting would probably be held in Whitefish, Montana.

X. Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.



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