



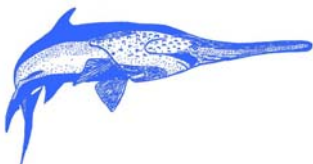
# AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

## MONTANA CHAPTER

To: Montana Chapter AFS Members  
From: Travis Horton, Secretary/Treasurer  
RE: **Minutes from 2004 Business Meeting (5 Feb 2004, Whitefish)**

### AGENDA

- I. Opening of Meeting and Call for Quorum
- II. Minutes of 2003 Business Meeting
- III. Treasurer's Report
- IV. Elections: President-Elect
- V. Committees and Ad-Hoc Committees: Reports and Chair Status
  - a. Awards
  - b. Bull Trout Restoration
  - c. Continuing Education
  - d. Environmental Concerns
  - e. Past Presidents Committee
  - f. Historian
  - g. Intermountain Journal of Science
  - h. Land Management
  - i. Legislative/Lobbyist
  - j. Membership
  - k. Newsletter
  - l. Public Outreach
  - m. Raffle
  - n. Species of Special Concern
  - o. University of Montana Student Subunit
  - p. Web Page
  - q. Westslope Cutthroat Steering Committee Representative
  - r. Whirling Disease
  - s. Yellowstone Task Force Technical Committee Representative
- VI. New Business
  - a. Report on Summer 2003 Workshop
  - b. Resource Action Fund Decisions – Informational
  - c. Western Division Meeting in Montana – 2006
  - d. Wally McClure Scholarship
  - e. MSU Student Sub-Unit
  - f. MSU Student Sub-Unit Grant Request
  - g. Vote on Establishing Raffle & Web Page Standing Committees
  - h. Dissolve Inactive Ad-Hoc Committees



- VII. Open Floor
- VIII. Location/Topic of 2004 Summer Workshop
- IX. Time and Location of 2005 Annual Meeting
- X. Adjourn

---- Minutes ----

- I. Opening of Meeting. President Steve Leathe opened the meeting at 4:00 pm on Thursday 5 February, 2004 in Whitefish Montana. At least 40 national members were present, making a quorum.
- II. Minutes of the 2003 Business Meeting: A motion was approved to accept the minutes from the 2003 business meeting. There was no discussion about the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.
- III. Treasurer's Report: Secretary/Treasurer Travis Horton presented the chapter's current assets and liabilities and compared it to where we were at last year. The chapter's overall financial assets were about \$59,439 as of 31 January 2004. The chapter's assets have increased approximately \$11,000, compared to January 2003. This increase is somewhat misleading since the chapter had already collected some of the credit card registration payments, which used to take several months when we used the Bethesda's credit card processing equipment. A motion was raised to accept the treasurer's report. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Elections: President-Elect: Past-president Pat Byorth announced two candidates for President-Elect. The candidates were Sue Camp and Kate Walker. The floor was opened for other nominations, but no other nominations were introduced from the floor. Pat Byorth thanked each candidate for running, background was given for each candidate, and a vote took place on paper. Kate Walker was elected and will start her term in September 2004.
- V. Committee and Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:
  - a. Awards: No report.
  - b. Bull Trout Restoration: The Governor's Bull Trout Advisory Committee was dissolved last year, and this Ad Hoc committee should be dissolved as well.
  - c. Continuing Education: David Schmetterling was introduced as the new chair of the committee. Ideas were solicited for next years meeting. Some discussion took place regarding certification of classes through Bethesda for credits.
  - d. Environmental Concerns: Carol Endicott summarized the committee meeting. Only 5 people came to the meeting and only 5 went to the Land Management committee meeting. Carol indicated that the committee has several major issues to deal with and asked the membership for assistance. Issues that they are currently dealing with include: oil and gas development on the Rocky Mountain Front, Coal-bed methane development, and the Healthy Forests Initiative. Coal-Bed Methane issues are still on the radar. The committee will draft a letter to look at violations on two creeks and the resulting biotic impacts. Several draft TMDL plans will be coming up for public comment and help will be requested from chapter members. An EIS for gas and oil development on the Rocky Mountain Front will be out soon and Dave Yerk has agreed to lead the review and comment on the EIS. The 2004 TMDL 303D list was put out by DEQ, some omissions were found (Westslope cutthroat trout were left out) and Carol suggested

detailed review by interested parties. Travel plans need to be commented on, and the committee doesn't have the resources to do all of the comments. Carol asked for ideas to attract people to the committee. Aquatic Nuisance species issues include Salt Cedar in the Powder River. Carol stated that a goal is to check local providers in the state (e.g., the Home Depot) to see if they are still selling this and other nuisance plants. Carol mentioned the BOR water 2025 plan and mentioned that fish and conservation issues were not represented. Clint Muhlfeld suggested contacting Greg Hoffman in the Species of Special Concern committee for help on some of these issues. Mike Enk mentioned that fish interests are probably getting coverage through various agencies, and that other issues are being missed.

- e. Past Presidents Committee: Eight past presidents attended the meeting. The meeting focused on the upcoming Western Division meeting in Montana, documenting oral histories of the past presidents, and posting the histories on the website.
- f. Historian: Paul Hamlin introduced himself as the new historian. Paul gave an update about the chapter archives. Some 5 ¼ floppies exist in the files, and Paul mentioned converting them to newer medium or printing paper copies. Overall, the files need some organization. Paul introduced an idea of obtaining a fireproof cabinet for safe storage of the records. Steve Leathe questioned the membership about allocating \$700 to \$1,600 for a fireproof file cabinet. There was some discussion about scanning records and storing on a server. Buddy Drake moved to approve \$1,000 for purchase of a cabinet, and Pat Clancey seconded the motion. Mark Lere asked about past president files, stating that he had some boxes of files. Mark's point was that more room would be needed if all materials were pulled into one place. A third-party storage company was discussed, using microfiche was discussed, and scanning documents was approached again. Some people pointed out the high costs associated with converting to electronic form. A call for question was introduced, and the motion was re-read. Twenty people voted for the motion and three voted against, and the motion passes. Paul mentioned that he may give a more detailed summary of the archives next year.
- g. Intermountain Journal of Science (IJS): Bob Bramblett gave an update on the MTAFS dealings with IJS. He and Pat Clancey attended a meeting last March with the IJS staff. According to Gary at IJS, MTAFS has three representatives on the IJS board, including the past president, and two other representatives (Carter Cruise and Lynn Keating). Carter is willing to remain as a representative and Pat Byorth will replace Pat Clancey. Volume 9 has just been mailed with issues 2 & 3 combined. The journal is not getting many submissions and needs more articles submitted by Chapter members. IJS is has financial problems and therefore has increased page charges from \$45 to \$65, and are now breaking even on publishing and administrative costs. Various abstract search engines can now search IJS. IJS invites special topics or symposia. Abstracts from the 2003 meeting will be coming out soon. Abstracts from this year must match IJS formatting needs.
- h. Land Management: Four issues of interest to MT were brought up. Forest plan revision: the Forest plan gets revised every 15 years, and many forests are currently going through the process. This plan specifies management activities of issues (e.g., fish issues). The chapter should be tracking and commenting on these plans. Contact the chair of this committee to comment. Issues are different from forest to forest. A specific objective is to protect riparian areas. Issues also include land exchanges and other aquatic issues. Flathead: DNRC has a new management plan for school trust lands in the Flathead area. DNRC has been inundated with special requests (e.g., mountain bike trails), and has hired consultants to manage school trust lands with the main objective of getting the most money out of the land. Environmental concerns are not an issue that DNRC is worried about. This type of management of state lands may spread to other state lands around the state. Travel Management Plans: Forest has been requested to revisit road networks and come up with a new plan. The process will only look at

level 3 roads and above (level 1&2 roads are a big issue). Many historic roads won't be looked at and have impacts to aquatic resources. Healthy Forest Initiatives: Provide opportunity for AFS to comment on issues. There has been limited opportunity for public comment on small (<1000 acres) projects. The committee needs help commenting on issues. Jay Frederick would like to get off the committee. Al Zale made a motion to combine the Land Management and Environmental Concerns committees since they have similar issues of membership and topics. Buddy Drake seconded the motion. Kate Walker noted that this action would not preclude the need for new members. Mark Lere noted that Jay (one of the Committee Chairs) was not here to discuss the issues of combining the committees. Carol noted that the combination would not change the workload of the committees. There was a call for question, 31 people voted for the motion and 14 voted against, and the motion passed. Pat Byorth commented about merging 2 committees would require amending the bylaws. Cindy W. commented that changes in bylaws wouldn't take effect until the next year. Pat Byorth and Clint Muhlfeld consulted the procedures manual and the chapter bylaws about combining the two committees. Standing committees are established by bylaws, the chapter must follow the parent society bylaws to alter our bylaws. Committee changes must be approved by Bethesda. Pat asked Al Zale pursue the change with the parent society. Mike Enk suggested a co-caucus of the two committees instead of officially combining them. Al moved to have the two committees co-caucus. The motion was seconded, and it was noted that this motion dissolved the first motion on this issue. The motion passed with only one opposed vote.

- i. Legislative/Lobby committee: non-legislative year.
- j. Membership: Dan Downing recapped the meeting, listing that over 300 people registered for the meeting. Previous meetings had around 170 to 180 people registered. The new database reduced problems of long lines.
- k. Newsletter: No report
- l. Public Outreach: John Wachsmuth reported that the attendance was down to two people. Discussions at the meeting revolved around five issues. A survey is planned of N and NW chapters to look for outreach ideas. Dave Hagenruber has done a lot of outreach work for FWP and AFS needs to index what materials exist so they can be located and utilized. There is a push to get more people involved in the Hutton program. The committee wants to add a few links to the AFS webpage dealing with ANS, the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, etc. The committee plans to create a professional day to target high school students. They hope to address education gaps and help students to make better environmental decisions in the future. Cindy Williams read a list of MTAFS members who were Hutton mentors, and made a call for more mentors. The deadline for applying is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Graduate students can apply to be mentors. Hutton students are paid \$3000 and are required to work for 8 weeks. Kate Walker mentioned that the Missoula area needs more mentors.
- m. Raffle: No report;
- n. Species of Special Concern: Gregg Hoffmann and Bob Bramblett are the new chairs of the committee, and Bob gave the update at the business meeting. Clint Muhlfeld gave a narrative regarding the changes in the chair status of the committee, and he thanked the new co-chairs for the commitments. The new ranking process proposed by TO Smith was introduced. The MT Heritage program presented a new process to rank Montana's rare and endangered fish species. There was a lot of discussion regarding this new system and how the new system ranks species relative to previous rankings. TO Smith presented a new list classifying Montana's fish species of special concern, and this list had inconsistent results relative to the previous ranking method. Concerns were voiced about the inconsistent results of the new program. The new program changed the ranking of the Columbia redband trout from T1 to T2, and Clint Muhlfeld disagrees with this result. Some examples of other species with rank changed were paddlefish (from 1 to

3) and westslope cutthroat trout (from 2 to 3). An argument was made that the program was not reviewed by the appropriate people (authors of the status reviews). Clint Muhlfeld lined out the process for change of status for a species of special concern, and Clint questioned the programs criteria (e.g., using the same criteria categories for aquatic and terrestrial species). The Heritage program will wait for MTAFS approval before finalizing the new rankings. Apparently this program is being used nationwide to rank species of special concern. The committee reported that Bob Snyder recommended to the committee to review the status of native lake trout and to make a motion to the membership to accept native lake trout as a S2 category species. This is a two-part motion, first to perform a status review (Bob Bramblett and Dick Oswald to author) and second to list the species as a S2 species. There was a lot of discussion regarding this motion. Many members were concerned with approving a species classification without knowledge of the species status. A recommendation was made to complete the status review and then come back to the membership for category approval. It was mentioned that the purpose of obtaining the classification was to qualify for funding. In addition, it was pointed out the Species of Special Concern Committee felt they already had enough information (without the status review being completed) to make this motion to the membership. Al Zale requested that the committee present to the membership the status of this species. There were some discussions regarding the correct process for handling this motion. Jim Magee reported that there are 5 distinct populations of native lake trout in Montana. Three of the northern populations are fairly stable. Two of the five are in SW Montana lakes, and both of these populations are declining. These populations are part of a glacial relict system. Dick Oswald is concerned with the SW MT populations. Based on this information, the SCC decided to recommend a S2 classification. There was some question regarding the genetic structure of the northern Montana populations. Apparently, there is a history of stocking lake trout into those areas and genetic information is not available/conclusive to classify the lake trout as native. Genetic information is available for the SW MT populations. There was some discussion about the SCC ranking process, and the classification definitions were read to the membership. A concern was introduced that the process is getting ahead of itself if the status review has not been completed. Buddy Drake reminded the membership that there was a motion that must be voted on, and there was some discussion on what could be done with the motion (e.g., tabling the motion). A question was called for clarification of the motion. The motion was defeated by a margin of 18 yes and 20 no votes. Buddy motioned to list lake trout as S2 for a period of one year until the status review had been completed. Peter Brown seconded the motion. It was pointed out that the new Heritage program was going to cause the re-evaluation of all species anyway. A suggestion was made to conduct the status review quickly and to get membership approval through the mail. Pat Clancey proposed an amendment to the motion on the table. This amendment was to give the authors until 1 March to produce a status report, then to post the report on the website, and have the membership vote on the status through the mail. Buddy and Peter accepted the amendment. Mark Lere asked if there was any peer review. The motion passed by a vote of 40 to 2. The committee reported that Ken McDonald updated them on the Missouri River biological opinion, and the Kootenai River Biological Opinion. A report was given to the committee about a frog fungus disease, and the committee discussed developing a SSC poster.

- o. University of Montana Student Subunit: Chris Corbin gave an update on the subunit's activities. The subunit met frequently throughout the year, and completed/worked on several projects. Chris introduced Dawson Dunning as the new president of the subunit. They reported that membership was up, and that the subunit was getting involved in a lot of new projects. They made a call for other projects in the Missoula area to the membership. Some examples of current or future projects include: willow plantings and tours of bank restoration sites, work with the Montana Water Trust, a weed pull with the Federation of Fly Fishers, and river clean up trips

- around Missoula. The subunit thanked the chapter for their financial support for attending the meeting. Steve Leathe requested that the subunit update contact information with Travis.
- p. Web Page: Eileen Ryce gave an update on the web page committee's activities. She said to keep sending announcements and comments, but they are currently having software problems. A request was presented to put some PowerPoint presentations on the web, but Eileen mentioned there may be memory space issues and that ExCom and the authors would have to approve prior to being placed on the web. A request will be sent to Bethesda for short term storage (2 months) space. Bob Wiltshire commended the committee on the great job they have done.
  - q. Westslope Cutthroat Steering Committee: Ken McDonald recently had a meeting, but no report was given.
  - r. Whirling Disease Committee: MTAFS has a representative on the National Partnership Board (Eileen Ryce), and the board met in October. The Board concluded that whirling disease is still a problem and is still spreading. The committee made some decisions on how to direct research money. The Board will no longer fund basic research, are looking for large-scale projects, and has more money than past years. The board will focus on information outreach and state agencies should hear more soon.
  - s. Yellowstone Task Force Technical Committee Representative: Pat Byorth made a motion to dissolve two adhoc committees (the Yellowstone Task Force Technical Committee and the Bull Trout Restoration Committee). The motion was unanimously approved by the membership. It was pointed out that the effort in the Yellowstone basin is on-going, and the Corps is creating a special area management plan.

## VI. New Business

- a. Election Results: Pat Byorth presented the president-elect election results. Kate Walker was elected the new president-elect.
- b. Report on 2003 Summer Workshop: Steve Leathe summarized the 2003 summer workshop. Anne Tews gave a tour of the restoration project on the Brewery Flats section of Big Spring Creek near Lewistown, MT. The group then traveled to the Wild and Scenic reach of the Missouri River where presentations regarding sampling techniques, pallid sturgeon management, and paddlefish management were presented by Bill Gardner, Paul Garrity, and Dennis Scarnecchia.
- c. RAF Requests: The three RAF requests that were approved by ExCom were reviewed for the memberships benefit. Details of these RAF requests can be found in the 2/2/04 ExCom meeting minutes.
- d. Western Division Meeting in Montana—2006: The 2006 Western Division meeting will be held in either Bozeman or Missoula. Clint Muhlfeld has agreed to help put a committee together to plan and implement the meeting. Help will be solicited in the future.
- e. Wally McClure Scholarship: The idea for a scholarship honoring Wally McClure was introduced to the membership. The original idea was to help fund student research on native fish projects. Pat Byorth looked into the history of MTAFS scholarships. The CJD scholarship fund was absorbed into another scholarship and no longer exists. There was some discussion about the term of the scholarship (once or annual), and that the interest may go away in the future. An idea was introduced to create a scholarship action fund, where graduate or undergraduate students apply from either university for a \$1000 dollar grant. Mike Enk mentioned that this is the time to ask for seed money and donations to get a fund started. He suggested taking some of the money generated from this meeting and putting it toward the fund. Some ideas will be put into a future newsletter.
- f. MSU Student Subunit: Andy Dux petitioned the ExCom to create a new student subunit at MSU. All the required paperwork has been submitted to ExCom. The membership needs to

approve the subunits bylaws. There is some conflict as to whether or not the subunit has a vote in ExCom. Bob Wiltshire moved to adopt the subunit's bylaws, Buddy Drake seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the membership.

- g. MSU Funding Request: The MSU student subunit requested \$1000 grant from the Chapter to fund subunit activities. The intended use for the money was outlined to the membership. The subunit was questioned as to availability of funding from MSU, and they agreed to look into possible funding from the university. Chris Guy motioned to grant the subunit a \$1000 grant, Clint Muhlfeld seconded the motion, and the motion passed the membership with one vote against the motion.
- h. Vote to Establishing Raffle and Web Page as Standing Committees: Pat Clancey indicated that to make the committees standing committees requires a re-write of the procedures manual, and the process requires an amendment to the bylaws. The membership was asked if we should wait until next year? No motion was introduced, so the issue will be addressed at later meetings.

## VII. Open Floor

- a. Tom McMahon questioned the ExCom as to why they required registration fees for graduate students. Tom stated that a decision was made in the past not to charge students registration fees to encourage their participation at AFS meetings. Clint Muhlfeld stated charging students for the workshop was overlooked, and that the ExCom decided to charge graduate students registration fees due to the financial status of the chapter and the high cost of the Whitefish meeting. Clint mentioned that he made it clear to students that they should not have to pay for anything out of their own pockets. Steve Leathe indicated that the chapter provides free lodging to students, free refreshments, and that the Chapter lost money in Bozeman. The chapter has been spending down its funds, and the ExCom was trying to protect the trust fund; thus, the decision was made to charge grad students half price and not to charge undergraduate students. Steve pointed out that students are charged \$100 at national AFS meetings. Tom indicated that the issue is not about the money, but that the gesture of having no meeting fees for students was to entice/encourage student participation. A questions was raised as to whether or not this issue was addressed in the bylaws, and someone pointed out that the issue is currently up to the ExCom committee.

VIII. Location/Topic of 2004 Summer Workshop: The 2004 summer workshop will take place in the Flathead Valley, and may include tours of the St. Mary River electric barriers.

IX. Time and Location of 2005 Annual Meeting: The 2005 meeting will be held in Missoula. More detail will be put into a future newsletter.

X. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 18:30.