



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

MONTANA CHAPTER

To: Montana Chapter AFS Members
From: Matt Jaeger, Secretary-Treasurer
RE: Minutes from 2006 Business Meeting (18 May 2006, Bozeman)

AGENDA

- I. Opening of Meeting and Call for Quorum
- II. Introduction and Remarks
- III. Minutes of 2005 Business Meeting
- IV. Treasurer's Report
- V. Elections: President-Elect
- VI. Committees and Ad-Hoc Committees: Reports and Chair Status
 - a. Awards
 - b. Continuing Education
 - c. Past Presidents
 - d. Historian
 - e. Intermountain Journal of Science.
 - f. Land Management/ Environmental Concerns
 - g. Legislative/ Lobbyist
 - h. Membership
 - i. Newsletter
 - j. Public Outreach
 - k. Raffle
 - l. Species of Special Concern
 - m. University of Montana Student Subunit
 - n. Montana State University Student Subunit
 - o. Web Page
 - p. Westslope Cutthroat Steering Committee Representative
 - q. Whirling Disease
- VII. New Business
 - a. Update on Bylaws
 - b. RAF Applications
 - c. Meeting Hosting
 - d. Announcement of Best Student Paper Award
- VIII. Open Floor
- IX. 2006 Summer Workshop
- X. Time and Location of 2007 Annual Meeting
- XI. Adjourn



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- I. Opening of Meeting and Call for Quorum: Chapter President Kate Walker opened the meeting at 5:00 pm on 18 May 2006 in Bozeman, Montana. At least 30 Parent Society members were present, making a quorum.
- II. Introduction and Remarks: Kate Walker introduced Chris Kohler (President, Parent Society AFS) and Joe Margraph (President, Western Division AFS) who were not present. When Joe Margraph arrived he commended MCAFS for their efforts in organizing and hosting the 2006 Western Division Meeting. Joe Margraph also recognized the extraordinary efforts of the Montana State University Student Subunit and announced that they won the 2006 Western Division Outstanding Student Subunit Award. Bob Hughes also thanked the Chapter on behalf of the Western Division for their efforts in organizing and hosting the meeting.
- III. Minutes of 2005 Business Meeting: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the 2005 Business Meeting. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Treasurer's Report: Secretary-Treasurer Matt Jaeger presented the Chapter's current assets and liabilities relative to those at the time of last year's business meeting. The Chapter's total assets were \$55,769.62 and had increased by \$16.93 since the last business meeting. Three RAF awards totaling \$5,475 had been granted since the last meeting. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made and seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.
- V. Elections: President-Elect: David Schmetterling, Eileen Ryce, and Scott Bosse were nominated for President-Elect. Only David Schmetterling was present and he accepted the nomination. A vote took place on paper. David Schmetterling was elected and will start his term in September 2006. David briefly introduced himself.
- VI. Committees and Ad-Hoc Committees: Reports and Chair Status
 - a. Awards:
 - i. Wally McClure Scholarship Sub-Committee:

Announcement of Recipient: Windy Davis was awarded the 2006 Wally McClure Scholarship. Windy thanked the Chapter and the selection committee. Kate Walker read a brief report prepared by Sub-Committee chair Darin Watschke. The Sub-Committee will pursue fundraising options to offer a second award to undergraduate students and seeks to refine the application questions.
 - b. Continuing Education: Committee Chair David Schmetterling reported that all presenters did an excellent job and there were over 100 attendees at this year's workshops. A new chair is needed for this committee and Lisa Eby was mentioned as a possible replacement.
 - c. Past Presidents: No report
 - d. Historian: No report.
 - e. Intermountain Journal of Science: No report.

- f. Land Management/ Environmental Concerns: Leslie Bahn volunteered to chair this committee. Previous co-chair Brian Bellgraph reported the Committee's activity during the past year. Comment letters regarding the Ruby River TMDL, Mike Horse Dam removal, a Montana Wildlife Federation article, the Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forest Plan, the Rocky Mountain Ranger District Travel Management Draft EIS, and the Helena National Forest Travel Plan were sent. Additionally, letters were sent to FWP, USFS, DEQ, and DNRC biologists requesting that the Committee be added to their mailing lists. The Committee will be renamed the Resource Management Concerns Committee to better reflect their duties.
- g. Legislative/ Lobbyist: No report. Leanne Roulson will replace Pat Byorth as Committee Chair.
- h. Membership: No report. There was a brief discussion regarding current membership size. About 150 MCAFS members registered for the meeting.
- i. Newsletter: No report.
- j. Public Outreach: Outreach Chair John Wachsmuth reported the primary outreach project for the upcoming year will be to produce a Montana AFS Chapter Tee Shirt for fundraising for the Chapter. The topic of the shirt will be Montana's Species of Special Concern. Samples or different ideas will be presented at the February 2007 Annual Meeting.
- k. Raffle: Windy Davis reported that the raffle is currently in the black and will be profitable for the student subunits. The subunits will continue to chair this committee and organize the raffle.
- l. Species of Special Concern: Committee Co-chair Bob Bramblett reported that the status paper for torrent sculpin was reviewed and posted. Status papers have now been prepared for all Species of Special Concern except spoonhead sculpin. However, considerable time has passed since many were written and the Committee will review all papers to determine whether updates are warranted. The web page was modified to reflect and clarify the new peer-review process and Naturereserve model. Bryce Maxell will update the Heritage Program list. There was some discussion of the bull trout survey; Bob Hughes and Wade Fredenberg asked that any interested parties contact them. Bob Bramblett and Greg Hoffman will continue as Committee Co-chairs.
- m. University of Montana Student Subunit: No report
- n. Montana State University Student Subunit: Past-president Brian Bellgraph announced the following new officers: President Kiza Gates, Vice President Leslie Bahn, Secretary Ben Savelli, Treasurer Leo Rosenthal. The previous year's activities included walleye netting and yellow perch habitat enhancement on Canyon Ferry Reservoir, pallid sturgeon tagging at the Bozeman Fish Technology Center, brown trout redd counting on Thompson Creek, teaching an aquatic macroinvertebrate bio-assessment course to 200 Bozeman area 7th graders, hosting, in coordination with the MSU Wildlife Society, a field techniques day to expose undergraduate fish and wildlife students to different forms of field-work, working with the Gallatin Local Water Quality District on a restoration project for Mandeville Creek, coordinating and hosting the MSU Ecology Department Fish and Wildlife Forum BBQ, raffle, and award ceremony with the MSU Wildlife Society, and providing registration scholarships for undergraduates to encourage attendance of the MC/WD AFS meeting. Fundraising activities included coordinating and soliciting for the WD raffle/auction as well as the MSU Fish and Wildlife Forum raffle, designing and selling MSU Subunit t-shirts and sweatshirts, and designing and selling WD

- Symposia t-shirts. The MSU student subunit received well-deserved accolades from the Membership for their efforts in meeting planning and hosting an excellent social.
- o. Web Page: No report.
 - p. Westslope Cutthroat Steering Committee Representative: No report.
 - q. Whirling Disease: Bob Wiltshire questioned whether a whirling disease committee is needed and still active. Brad Shepard provided an overview of this committee's history and evolving role, which suggested it is now the MCAFS representative to the Wild Trout Initiative and is misnamed. It was suggested that this committee be renamed to better reflect its current role. No resolution occurred. Bob Greswell chaired this committee last year.

VII. New Business

- a. Update on Bylaws: Bylaws were amended last year primarily to facilitate the change and creation of committees. Clint Muhlfeld took the lead on this issue. The amended bylaws were accepted by the Parent Society and will be updated accordingly in the MCAFS Procedures Manual.
- b. RAF Applications: The only outstanding RAF proposal that required membership vote was a \$5,000 request from the National Parks Conservation Association. Kate Walker gave an overview of the project proposal. Bob Wiltshire noted that it was unclear what RAF funds would be used for; it appeared that funds would be used primarily for a salary. Wade Fredenberg provided additional background on the project and noted that it was a grassroots-type effort and funds would be allocated towards water quality and aquatic invertebrate monitoring in addition to salary. Discussion of resource development in the Flathead Valley and Montana in general and how the Chapter should respond to long-term "environmental issue" (as opposed to strictly fish-centric) RAF requests ensued. Tom McMahon requested a review of the Chapter's assets, which was provided by Matt Jaeger. It was estimated that the checking account balance would be \$15,000 to \$20,000 following the meeting and the trust fund balance was \$41,522; adequate assets existed to fund the request. Bob Wiltshire made a motion to fund the request at \$2,000. The motion was not seconded. Pat Byorth made a motion to fund the request at \$5,000 and Dave Schmetterling seconded the motion. It was then moved and seconded that the resolution be amended by requesting that MCAFS funds be spent only activities that directly benefited bull and cutthroat trout, including invertebrate monitoring, that MCAFS funds be used to leverage matching federal funds, and that the Chapter receive a report detailing how MCAFS funds were spent. The amendment was voted on and passed by a count of 25 in favor and 6 opposed. Pat Byorth's amended resolution to fund the RAF at \$5,000 was then voted on and passed by a simple majority.
- c. Meeting Hosting: Kate Walker and Leanne Roulson discussed burden of meeting organization and detailed the idea of establishing a Meeting Committee whose charge would be planning and organizing the annual meeting. Discussion of the benefits and drawbacks of establishing a formal meeting committee ensued. Tom McMahon made a motion that an ad hoc Meeting Committee (EXCOM plus at least 3 others) be created. Windy Davis seconded the motion. Bob Wiltshire argued against the motion because of the difficulty of filling the Committee given the low number of members present, although he was supportive of idea. The motion was voted on and failed. It was informally determined that EXCOM will create a Meeting Committee and establish a meeting-specific procedures manual (Bob Hughes noted that the Oregon Chapter has already authored a similar document that could be used as a reference).

It was also noted that the Meeting Committee should include a designated Meeting Photographer.

- d. Announcement of Best Student Paper Award: Travis Horton announced that Brian Bellgraph won the Best Student Paper Award.
- VIII. Open Floor: Leanne Roulson thanked the meeting committee and acknowledged the outstanding efforts of Travis Horton (Technology Coordinator), Amber Steed (Volunteer Coordinator), and Ginger Gillian (folder design, water bottles, pint glasses). Joe Margraph noted that workshops on “combat” Robert’s Rules of Order are offered at most annual meetings of the Parent Society and encouraged attendance. It was discussed whether all papers presented at the meeting should be made available in their entirety on CD or the Chapter web page but, because of large file size, it was suggested that folks just contact authors for more information.
- IX. 2006 Summer Workshop: Sue volunteered to discuss and tour the Saint Mary’s Canal and other Bureau of Reclamation projects. Bob Wiltshire noted that there was too short a timeline to organize a successful workshop this summer and suggested we skip this year and begin planning the 2007 summer workshop. The Membership informally agreed.
- X. Time and Location of 2007 Annual Meeting: David Schmetterling stated that the next MCAFS annual meeting will occur in February and likely be held in either Fairmont or Chico. Some discussion of whether presentations should be divided into concurrent sessions based on their degree of completeness occurred; Brad Shepard suggested that “final results” and “preliminary findings” sessions be established. David Schmetterling argued that no incomplete studies should be presented. No resolution occurred.
- XI. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm. Revelry ensued.