



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

MONTANA CHAPTER

To: Montana Chapter AFS Members
From: Travis Horton, Secretary/Treasurer
RE: **Minutes from 2005 Business Meeting (10 Feb 2005, Missoula)**

AGENDA

- I. Opening of Meeting and Call for Quorum
- II. Minutes of 2004 Business Meeting
- III. Treasurer's Report
- IV. Elections: President-Elect
- V. Committees and Ad-Hoc Committees: Reports and Chair Status
 - a. Awards
 - b. Continuing Education
 - c. Environmental Concerns
 - d. Past Presidents Committee
 - e. Historian
 - f. Intermountain Journal of Science
 - g. Land Management
 - h. Legislative/Lobbyist
 - i. Membership
 - j. Newsletter
 - k. Public Outreach
 - l. Raffle
 - m. Species of Special Concern
 - n. University of Montana Student Subunit
 - o. MSU Student Subunit
 - p. Web Page
 - q. Westslope Cutthroat Steering Committee Representative
 - r. Whirling Disease
 - s. Wally McClure Scholarship Sub-Committee
 - t. Yellowstone Task Force Technical Committee Representative
- VI. New Business
 - a. Hutton program update and student sponsorship
 - b. RAF Applications
 - c. 2006 Western Division Update
 - d. Election Results
 - e. Procedure Manual Changes
- VII. Open Floor
- VIII. Location/Topic of 2005 Summer Workshop



- IX. Time and Location of 2006 Annual Meeting
- X. Adjourn

---- Minutes ----

- I. Opening of Meeting. President Clint Muhlfeld opened the meeting at 5:00 pm on Thursday 10 February, 2005 in Missoula, Montana. At least 50 national members were present, making a quorum.
- II. Minutes of the 2005 Business Meeting: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the 2004 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 this time last year. The chapter's overall financial assets were about \$55,902 as of 1 February 2005. The chapter's assets have decreased approximately \$3,537.04, compared to January 2004. This decrease is somewhat misleading since the chapter had already paid \$8,000 to the Doubletree Inn for 2005 meeting cost. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Elections: President-Elect: Past-president Steve Leathe called for nominations for President-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer from the floor. Eileen Ryce nominated Leanne Roulsen and Buddy Drake nominated Scott Bosse for President elect. Matt Jaeger was nominated for secretary/treasurer. The three accepted the nominations. Steve Leathe thanked each candidate for running, background was given for each candidate, and a vote took place on paper. Leanne Roulsen and Matt Jaeger were elected and will start their terms in September 2005. Several new committee chairs were introduced. The MSU and UM student subunits are considering taking over the raffle committee. Among other things, the subunits would be effective at getting donations due the number of individuals that would solicit.
- V. Committee and Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:
 - a. Awards: No report.
 - b. Continuing Education: David Schmetterling reviewed the ANS continuing education course that occurred on Tuesday. Eileen Ryce did an excellent job with the program. The ANS workshop was accredited through Bethesda and a few individuals signed up to receive credit for the workshop. David is looking for continuing education workshop ideas for the meeting next year. Clint Muhlfeld thanked David for his work.
 - c. Environmental Concerns: Kiza Gates, Brian Bellgraph will co-chair the environmental concerns committee. The co-chairs requested that ExCom keep them posted on any issues. ****AI get a copy of the Procedures Manual to Brian and Kiza.**
 - d. Past Presidents Committee: At the committee caucus the group discussed the upcoming 2006 Western Division meeting in Bozeman. Steve solicited help with the meeting.
 - e. Historian: Paul Hamlin indicated that he received a request for information from the archives during the past year. He worked on scanning some slides and storing them electronically. Paul indicated that Pat Clancey had taken some good pictures at last years meeting and requested pictures from this years meeting. Any other historical items were welcome. Paul is working on archiving all of the past newsletters. Paul is on the mailing list for the Montana Historical

Society. Paul indicated that he had not pursued a fire-proof file cabinet during the past year. Buddy Drake moved to have the chapter purchase a scanner for Paul to use. The motion was seconded, there was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- f. Intermountain Journal of Science (IJS): No Report.
- g. Land Management: No report.
- h. Legislative/Lobby committee: Pat Byorth gave an update on the current legislative session. MCAFS hired a legislative intern to help track bills of interest. Pat has developed a list of bills of interest, and asked that people wanting to receive updates sign up on a list that was at the registration desk. Pat mentioned the need for people to give testimony on various bills. Pat reviewed some of the current bills of interest. The bills that Pat reviewed were: a bill to fund improvements (\$100k) on an irrigation project, several bills dealt with instream flows, a bill allowing FWP to own water rights, a bill regarding Ft. Peck water level management, watershed protection bills, Coalbed methane related bills, and a bill regarding fish production at the new Ft. Peck hatchery. Pat also reviewed the legislative process and indicated that the transmittal date was quickly approaching (28 Feb). After that date, bills will die if they have not passed one of the houses.
- i. Membership: Dan Downing indicated that over 275 people attended the meeting. Most pre-registered for the meeting which was an improvement. Dan had not received any information from the parent society on who had paid dues through Bethesda. Dan introduced Clint Sestrich as the new chair of the membership committee.
- j. Newsletter: Amy Rief is the new newsletter editor.
- k. Public Outreach: John Wachsmuth reported that four people attended the committee caucus. Several topics were discussed at the caucus including a website addressing ANS issues and how the outreach committee can be utilized.
- l. Raffle: Brent Mabbott indicated that around \$1,800 had been received to date, and asked for members to buy more tickets. Brent was commended for his work on the Raffle Committee. Kate Walker reviewed the idea of having the student subunits take over the raffle committee. More discussion will take place on this proposal at future ExCom meetings.
- m. Species of Special Concern: The SSC committee is working on a poster of SSC fish in Montana. The committee reviewed a RAF request during the past year. Some of the status papers need to be updated. Several people offered help to update status papers and write new status reviews for some of the species. A status review paper was recently completed for the torrent sculpin. The committee drafted several letters this year on various SSC issues. Bob reviewed the new listing procedure for species of special concern. Lake trout were put through the new listing process, and the results will be posted on the website. Bryce Maxwell gave a presentation about the listing procedure after the AFS process at the committee caucus. Wade Fredenberg discussed an idea to conduct a survey of professionals regarding bull trout recovery/listing. More to come later on this issue.
- n. University of Montana Student Subunit: Dawson Dunning introduced John Syslo as the new president of the UM student subunit, and reviewed the subunit's mission. The subunit volunteered on several cleanup projects in the Missoula area. The subunit also helped with bull trout redd counts. The subunit has meetings every two weeks. The subunit hopes to get involved with some long-term projects. Finally, the subunit thanked the chapter for its support to students.
- o. MSU Student Subunit: Andy Dux reviewed the subunit's activities over the past year. He indicated that initially graduate students dominated the membership, but recently undergraduate students have been getting involved. Thirty-seven individuals attended their last meeting. The subunit was able to bring 8 undergraduate students to the meeting. Andy reviewed the subunit's fund raising activities during the past year, which included: running the raffle at the recent Wild

Trout Symposium, selling books, and their calendar. The subunit will have around \$2,500 if all of the calendars sell. Andy reviewed the various field activities that the subunit was involved in during the past year including: redd counts, Canyon Ferry perch habitat, guest speakers, a fish and wildlife banquet, the Jason Project, and creating a website. The subunit will have elections soon.

- p. Web Page: No report.
- q. Westslope Cutthroat Steering Committee: Buddy Drake indicated that no formal meetings have occurred, but one will happen in the near future.
- r. Whirling Disease Committee: Bob Gresswell indicated that \$500,000 was given out last year for various research projects. Amy Rose is working to develop a website for outreach purposes.
- s. Wally McClure Scholarship sub-committee. Clint reviewed the background for the scholarship and the financial planning for the scholarship. This subcommittee will be housed under the Awards committee. The scholarship was widely advertised, but only a few applications were received. Discussions occurred regarding adjustments for inflation and receiving donations to the fund. Pat Byorth asked about limiting applicants for the scholarship to those individuals working on or benefiting native species. Clint indicated that the issue would be revisited in the near future. Andy Dux was introduced as the 2005 winner of the Wally McClure Scholarship Award.
- t. 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. Cindy Williams reviewed the Hutton Program. She indicated that the applications are now being reviewed outside of Bethesda. Last year 65 students were funded. The U.S. Forest Service has been the main contributor, but due to financial problems may not be able to support as many students this year. The students are paid approximately \$3,000 during the summer and overhead costs add an additional \$2,000, bringing the total to \$5,000 per student. The program is generally short on mentors and money. Cindy made a motion for the MCAFS to fund a student this year if the \$2,000 overhead money could be waived. A request was made to keep the money in Montana. Bob Wiltshire questioned the premise of money requests during the business meeting. He thought that money requests at the meeting had been restricted in the past. Pat Byorth called for a vote. More discussion took place regarding the procedures of funding requests during a business meeting. A vote took place and the motion passed.
- b. RAF Applications. The recent RAF applications were reviewed.
- c. 2006 Western Division meeting update. Planning for the meeting was reviewed and a request was made for help with the meeting. Brad Shepard reviewed some of the ideas that came out of the Past Presidents Committee meeting. A possible title was introduced "Cowboys to collaboration, fish management in the west. Discussions took place regarding entertainment, float trips and fishing trips. Bob Hughes suggested that issues for the meeting should be broad to span several western states.
- d. Election Results: Leanne Rouslen is the new Pres-elect, and Matt Jaeger is the new Secretary/Treasurer.
- e. Procedure Manual Changes: Clint Muhlfeld reviewed some of the problems that the chapter has had in the past related to committees. There is a loop of language between the bylaws and the procedures manual that makes forming standing committees difficult. The committees are listed in the bylaws, and a change of the bylaws requires a 2/3-approval vote from the membership and

a review by the parent society. The procedure manual indicates that ExCom has the ability to create and eliminate committees as needed. Therefore, the list of committees in the bylaws makes the process of creating and eliminating committees difficult. Currently the raffle and web page adhoc committees need to be upgraded to standing committees. This has not happened due to the language in the bylaws. Brad Shepard asked if the ExCom had discussed this issue with Bethesda. He indicated that if Bethesda agreed then he thought it was a good idea. A motion was made by the membership to remove the list of committees from the bylaws, the motion was seconded, a recommendation was made to contact a constitutional consultant in Bethesda, and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Open Floor

- a. Vicki Watson, an aquatic ecologist from U of M, invited the membership to attend a symposium about the Clark Fork in April. Secondly, Vicki discussed a recent survey of USFWS biologists. The survey indicated that the employees were directed not to respond to the survey or to change their answers. In general, there was reportedly a lot of fear of retaliation. In addition, the responses indicated that many cases existed where employees were pressured to change decisions and scientific conclusions for political reasons. Vicki urged AFS to show support for the employees and to write a letter addressing the issue. Clint and Vickie will draft a letter.
- b. Steve Kem suggested that the MCAFS could benefit from a system for time management during presentations. He has seen timers that display yellow lights when the speaker's time is running out and a red light when no time remains. It was mutually agreed that the chapter should purchase some equipment.
- c. Concurrent sessions. The issue was addressed of concurrent sessions (at least for part of the meeting) at future meetings if the attendance remains over 250. This would also help accommodate more presentations. This year several people were not allowed to give presentations due to time limitations.
- d. Bob Hughes suggested that the chapter should hold an evening poster session. Refreshments could be provided in the area of the posters. Poster authors would be on hand to answer questions. Brian Bellgraph suggested an award for the best poster.
- e. Bob Wiltshire asked the procedures manual be consulted regarding requests for money during the business meeting.
- f. Bob Gresswell indicated that the Western Division would have an announcement for scholarships out soon. He encouraged all of the MT students to apply.

VIII. Location/Topic of 2005 Summer Workshop: A tour of the Cherry Creek Westslope cutthroat trout recovery area will be investigated.

IX. Time and Location of 2006 Annual Meeting: The 2006 annual meeting will be held in Bozeman, MT during May 2006. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Western Division annual meeting.

X. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 18:00.