



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

MONTANA CHAPTER



To: Montana Chapter AFS Members
From: Leo Rosenthal, Secretary-Treasurer
RE: **Minutes from 2010 Annual Business Meeting (11 Feb 2010, Bozeman)**

Agenda

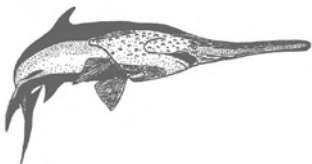
- I. Opening of meeting and call for quorum
- II. Introduction and opening comments
- III. Additions or Changes to Agenda
- IV. Read and Approve Minutes of 2009 business meeting
- V. Treasurer's report

- VI. Old Business
 - a. MCAFS Strategic Plan
 - b. MCAFS Website
 - c. Past-presidents responsible for officer candidates prior to annual meeting

- VII. National and Western Division AFS Officer Reports – Wayne Hubert and Leanne Roulson

- VIII. Committees and Subunits: Reports and Chair Status
 - a. Awards –Trevor Selch
 - b. Continuing Education –Matt Corsi
 - c. Past Presidents Committee –David Schmetterling, Carter Kruse
 - d. Historian – Paul Hamlin
 - e. Intermountain Journal of Science – David Stagliano
 - f. Resource Management Concerns Committee – John Syslo
 - g. Legislative/Lobbyist – Scott Bosse
 - h. Membership – Joan Louie
 - i. Newsletter – Amber Steed
 - j. Public Outreach – John Wachsmuth
 - k. Raffle – MSU Student Subunit
 - l. Species of Special Concern – Craig Barfoot, Bob Bramblett
 - m. University of Montana Student Subunit – Parker Bradley
 - n. Montana State University Student Subunit – Mike Duncan
 - o. Web Page/database – Adam Peterson
 - p. Climate Change – Robert Gresswell, Bruce Farling
 - q. Cutthroat Trout Restoration (Ad Hoc) – Brad Shepard

- IX. New Business
 - a. Species of Special Concern Co-Chair – Tyler Haddix
 - b. RAF Grants



1. Montana Natural Heritage Program - Western Pearlshell Mussel Translocation (\$2,000)
 2. Big Hole River Foundation – Brown Trout Movement Study (request \$2,500, recommend not funding)
 3. Fish, Wildlife & Parks – Lower Deer Creek Fish Barrier (request \$10,000, recommend funding \$5,000)
 4. Montana State University – Fish Swimming Performance Study (request \$10,000, recommend funding \$2,000 or more pending lifting research funding cap)
 5. RAF research funding limitation – consider removing
 - d. WDAFS Meeting Support
 1. Provide up to \$1,000 for student and professional travel to WDAFS
 - i. Priority to presenters.
 - ii. May be asked to conduct official MCAFS business.
 - e. Membership Survey
- X. Elections
- a. President-Elect
- XI. Open Floor
- XII. 2010 Summer Workshop
- XIII. Time and Location of 2011 Annual Meeting
- XIV. Adjourn

---- Minutes ----

- I. Opening of meeting and call for quorum
Chapter President Scott Barndt opened the meeting at 12:32. In total, 68 Parent Society members were present, making it a quorum.
- II. Introduction and opening comments-Scott introduced EXCOM, Wayne Hubert (Parent Society), and Leanne Roulson (WDAFS).
- III. Additions or Changes to Agenda-Scott asked for additions to the agenda. There were no changes requested.
- IV. Read and Approve Minutes of 2009 business meeting- A motion was made by Brad Shepard and seconded by Pat Byorth to approve the minutes from the 2009 Business Meeting. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.
- V. Treasurer's Report: Secretary-Treasurer Leo Rosenthal 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 \$80,855.80 and had increased by \$25,563.86 since the last business meeting. One RAF award for \$2,000 had been granted since the last meeting. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Brad Shepard and seconded by Buddy Drake. Discussion held: Chris Clancy suggested we diversify the amount of money we now have invested with PAX World Funds. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.
- VI. Old Business

- a. Strategic Plan – Carter mentioned that we need to get more information from the membership regarding our plan. A survey is being developed and will go out as an email to the membership. This survey will serve as a focus for the strategic plan.
- b. Website – We are working to merge the website with the membership database. This will allow members to access the database through the website, and will result in real-time updates to the database through meeting registration.
- c. Past-presidents responsible for finding officer candidates – We are still struggling to find candidates. Scott Barndt encouraged members to step up to the task.

VII. National and Western Division AFS Officer Reports

- a. Wayne Hubert (Parent Society) – Wayne greeted the membership, and commented on the impressive attendance at MT Chapter meetings. He noted that the MT Chapter should be proud of the attendance, professionalism, and quality of work being done in our state. Wayne gave some information regarding his role as president of the Parent Society, and mentioned that this year's meeting in Pittsburg should be a great meeting. The National Chapter is in pretty good shape financially. The budget is depressed a bit, but they have not had to tap reserves. There is some concern regarding the retention of young professionals. Wayne also mentioned that the Parent Society is developing a strategic plan for 2010-2014. Items include: Ways to increase interaction with National for state chapters, developing virtual attendance for meetings, and online access to journals. He also mentioned some exciting things happening at the policy level including the Pebble Mine in Alaska and a policy statement regarding climate change.
- b. Leanne Roulson (WDAFS) – Leanne gave an update on what WDAFS has been up to. Items included the Pebble Mine resolution, an update on the WDAFS meeting in Salt Lake (4/19/2010), and praise for the activities of new student subunits.

VIII. Committees and Subunits: Reports and Chair Status

- a. Awards – Trevor Selch. No report.
- b. Continuing Education – Matt Corsi – Scott Barndt commended Matt on a great continuing education session this year. Matt Corsi thanked Mike Mitchell and Bob Bramblett for leading the two workshops. In total, we had 48 people attend the Structured Decision Making and 32 attend the prairie fish ID. Matt asked the membership for any ideas and comments regarding future workshops.
- c. Past-presidents committee – Carter Kruse noted that not much activity has occurred this past year.
- d. Historian – Paul Hamlin – Paul asked the membership for any old AFS documents people might have and asked for someone to memorialize meetings through photos. He also made a request for any photos from past meetings people might have.
- e. Intermountain Journal of Science (Ad Hoc) – David Stagliano – David has been putting together the 2009 issue. Last year there were three aquatic related submissions, and David encouraged the membership to submit their work.
- f. Resource Management Concerns Committee – John Syslo – John mentioned that there were two items the committee commented on (1. DEQ – Lower/Middle Blackfoot River, 2. DEQ 303 list) and two that they chose not to submit comments on (1. Canyon Ferry management plan, 2. DEQ – upper Clark Fork River). John also mentioned that he will be passing the chair position to Steve Ranney.
- g. Legislative/Lobbyist – Scott Bosse – Scott mentioned that since we started doing this we have saved money by testifying ourselves instead of hiring a lobbyist. There were two important legislative items this past year including stream access, and walleye being included as a native fish species in MT.

- h. Membership – Joan Louie – Joan introduced herself, and asked members to send her an email with current information if things have gotten outdated. She is also working on the potential for a listserv.
- i. Newsletter – Amber Steed – Amber mentioned the possibility of a multi-annual edition of the newsletter. She encouraged the membership to submit things for future newsletters.
- j. Public Outreach – John Wachsmuth – No report.
- k. Raffle – Mike Duncan – Mike mentioned that last year’s joint meeting resulted in \$1700-1800. Donations were a bit tougher to find this year, and they spent about \$600 on other items. Mike mentioned that Ryan Lamb had done the bulk of the work this year. He also noted that Ted Sedell will be the president next year and has committed to running the raffle again.
- l. Species of Special Concern – Thanks were given to Bob Bramblett for his work on this committee. Bob mentioned that he will step down and be replaced by Tyler Haddix. Craig Barfoot gave an update on SOC matters. Status updates were done for Arctic grayling and sturgeon chub. He also mentioned that we need to look into the formal process for ranking on species such as northern redbelly dace, Iowa darter, pygmy whitefish, deepwater sculpin, and burbot.
- m. University of Montana Student Subunit – Parker Bradley – The UM subunit has been involved with the Clark Fork River cleanup, assisted with the annual Forester’s Ball, and went on a camping/fishing trip to Clayton Lake (one of the lakes being treated as part of the South Fork Flathead Westslope Cutthroat Restoration project). Additionally, they have had seminars from local biologists, Trout Unlimited, and the Clark Fork Coalition. They currently have about 15 members, and had 5 attend the 2010 MCAFS meeting in Bozeman.
- n. Montana State University Student Subunit – Mike Duncan – Mike gave an update on their activities. They have gone on several field trips including a Madison River bank stabilization project, and a student colloquium in Colorado, and are trying to organize a job fair. They are still trying to find ways to increase undergraduate involvement. Mike also mentioned that they are helping get aquarium tanks from the FFF museum to the Bozeman Children’s museum and the White Sulphur museum for fish displays.
- o. Web page/Database – Adam Petersen – Adam mentioned that anyone who has job announcements should send them to him to be put on the website. Adam has gotten the website up to the point where it is now, and noted that John Syslo will share duties with Adam in the future. Scott Barndt introduced the idea of a technology committee for future issues related to the website and database.
- p. Climate Change – Robert Gresswell, Bruce Farling – No Report.
- q. Cutthroat Trout Restoration (Ad Hoc) – Brad Shepard – No Report.

IX. New Business

- a. Species of Special Concern Co-Chair – Tyler Haddix is the new SOC co-chair.
- b. RAF Grants
 - 1. Montana Natural Heritage Program – A request was made for \$2,000 for a western pearlshell mussel translocation study in the Clearwater River drainage. Scott reviewed RAF criteria for the membership, and mentioned that EXCOM approved this request unanimously.
 - 2. Big Hole River Foundation – A request was made for \$2,500 for a brown trout movement study in the upper Big Hole River. This request did not receive support from the Species of Special Concern committee because they felt the study was too indirect to accomplish objectives. EXCOM did not recommend approval of this request. A motion was made by Carol Endicot to accept EXCOM’s recommendation of not funding for \$2,500. David Schmetterling seconded. With no further discussion the motion carried unanimously. EXCOM will follow up by asking for a request we could support with our criteria.

3. Fish ,Wildlife & Parks – Lower Deer Creek Fish Barrier – A request was made for \$10,000 to finish a design for the barrier. This request received support from the Species of Special Concern committee. EXCOM recommended funding for \$5,000 based on precedence for similar projects and overall benefits to the membership. Brad Shepard made a motion to accept EXCOM’s recommendation to approve funding for \$5,000. David Schmetterling seconded. Discussion held:

- Chris Guy – Seems like we have a lot of money and can afford to fund the whole thing
- Brad Shepard – Money comes in chunks not streams. We may not be so flush with money in the future.
- Scott Barndt – EXCOM had similar thoughts as Chris, but other projects such as the database work may eat up considerable funds
- Pat Clancy – Is there anything else to be gained besides benefits to cutthroat trout? Perhaps any new design ideas? Carol Endicot mentioned that designs are new and innovative.
- Jeremiah Wood – Benefits will greatly expand cutthroat habitat.
- Scott Bosse – Are RAF requests ongoing throughout the year? If so, where can we see how much is available?
- David Schmetterling – Will the project be implemented if we only fund for \$5,000? Carol mentioned that she would need to find additional non-federal matching funds.

With no further discussion a call to vote was made. With 34 in favor and 21 opposed, the motion carried by majority.

Bob Wiltshire recommended that EXCOM work with Carol to see about in-kind design services to be used as non-federal match.

4. Montana State University – A request was made for \$10,000 to conduct a fish swimming performance study. This was a research proposal, and received support from the Species of Special Concern committee. The procedures manual limits funding of research to \$2,000. EXCOM recommended that the project be funded for \$2,000 or more pending lifting the research funding cap. Brad Shepard made a motion to suspend the research funding limit. Buddy Drake seconded. Discussion held: Stan Vansickle asked if this will fill a hole in the literature. With no further discussion, a call to vote was made. With 48 in favor and 8 opposed, the motion carried by majority.

Brad Shepard made a motion to fund the project for \$5,000. Carter Kruse seconded.

Discussion held: Chris Guy asked why not fund for the full \$10,000. Brad asked to defeat his motion. With no further discussion, a call to vote was made. With 10 votes in favor and 27 opposed, the motion failed by majority.

Buddy Drake made a motion to fund the project for \$10,000. Brad Shepard seconded. With no further discussion a call to vote was made. With 39 votes in favor and 9 opposed, the motion carried by majority.

c. WDAFS support – From EXCOM minutes 2/8/2010. Scott mentioned that we have not received a request from WDAFS for support. It was discussed whether we should again mention support for travel to the meeting. The meeting is being held in Salt Lake City. There will be a good symposium on barriers. We should likely send someone for the business meeting.

d. Membership survey – No report.

X. Elections

a. President-elect – Craig Barfoot has announced he would run for office. Pat Clancy made a motion to accept Craig’s nomination. Buddy Drake seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

XI. Open Floor – no comments

XII. 2010 Summer Workshop – send ideas to Todd Koel.

XIII. Time and Location of 2011 Annual Meeting – Craig will let people know.

XIV. Adjourn – Brad Shepard made a motion to adjourn. Buddy Drake seconded. With no further discussion the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:00.