



DATE: November 15, 2010
TO: ORAFS Executive Committee
FROM: Michele Weaver, Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: MINUTES for ORAFS Executive Committee Meeting, Nov 11, 2010
from 1500-1638

Conference Call Information: 1-877-393-3856 Passcode: 495-819

Present: Michele, Rich, Demian, Colleen, Shivonne, Justin

1500 ITEM 1: Review

1. Introductions, life, and work updates
2. Contact Information (ExCom and Chairs) New ORAFS Email addresses (verify function) - Kara made e-mail address for all ExCom members and updated the contact information on the webpage. All ExCom will log-in and either check regularly or forward their mail to an account of their choice.
3. Approve Previous Minutes: Oct 8-9 – there were no additional changes voiced, minutes were approved. Michele will send to Kara for website upload.
4. Review Today's Agenda – there were a few additions and they have been added to the agenda below.
5. Piscatorial Press schedule – content deadline 12/15

1515 ITEM 2: President's Report

1. National/WD AFS – Updates – if anybody wants more details on any updates or additional information, contact Demian. WD is looking for help with their investments committee. WD is fundraising for the national meeting in Seattle, our \$1000 donation will go toward their goal.
2. Old business -- requests and issues
 - State of the Beaver Conf – we donated \$500 to sponsor the conference
 - OR Conservation Leaders Mtg 10-18 – Demian was present. Some of the discussions topics included a proposed birdseed tax, wolves in Oregon, ODFW budget, removing sodium sulfide from egg cures in the bait industry, and hazing predatory birds. We think our presence at these meetings is worthwhile. Demian cannot make it to the December meeting; he will ask Jeremiah if he can go.
 - OWEB conference, Pendleton, November 15-17

- Rich and Colleen are attending to operate an ORAFS display for education and recruiting outreach, and gathering materials
 - Poster Board – we don't have a print out of the poster or the file to print one from. It is probably too late at this point to try to make another one. – Demian will look through the storage boxes for banners or other displays.
 - Other materials – Demian will look through the storage boxes for any symposium or other materials we can display or give away.
 - STEP Conference – we donated \$500 to sponsor the conference, with it we can have a table space to display our poster and one complementary registration to use or give away. We will have a new/updated poster printed out by this conference, which is scheduled for March 26-27.
4. New business – requests and issues
- Online Scholarship Application (See page 3 for cost estimate) – we need some clarification on exactly what the cost estimate includes (it seems like some of the cost for creating an online scholarship application may be already built into the annual meeting abstract costs). Will need more information on this, but progress is being made.
 - Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force (See page 4 for summary) – we support Barry's participation and will offer any support (position papers, signatures) if needed. Barry will keep the committees up to date with information as it becomes available. Recommendations are scheduled to be finalized in the middle of December.
 - USFWS Registration Request – we got a request from Shirley Donnally from the USFWS to use our 123signup account for a conference they are hosting in May 2011. Michele will be in the field traveling most of the month of May and will likely not be available to run a registration for them. Michele does have time however to provide help and guidance to USFWS for them to set up their own 123signup account and registration. Demian will communicate our availability with Shirley.
 - Hardship Request – it was agreed that this is a good idea and we would like to try it this year. There was some discussion as to if there should be a \$25 charge (similar to students) or not. There was also some discussion about limiting the number of requests we would consider. Rich will make some edits to the language and send around for review/edits.
 - Other?

1530 ITEM 3: ExCom updates

1. Past-president –recruiting for ExCom – recruitment is under way with one candidate in place (VP-Bill Brignon).
2. President-elect
 - Brief Annual Meeting Planning update – will talk Monday
 - AM Planning Call 11/15 at 10:00 – Call in information? – use 1-877-393-3856, Passcode 495-819
3. Vice president – bylaws, resolutions, student issues

- Student Subunit structure review – status – covered by Justin Huff
- Handbook Revision Status – working on this.
- Bylaw revision – Rich proposed revisions relating to officer terms, electronic voting, and the removal of officers which are in review by ExCom with several other suggestions underway. There was a reminder to make the bylaws clear and concise so they can be passed by membership.

Deleted:

4. Secretary-Treasurer – minutes and money – Michele will get some information on investment options at Umpqua bank.

- Recent income and expenses – income includes about \$1,300 profit from the Salmon in the City workshop and a \$1,000 matching funds donation from PacifiCorp via Rich. Expenses include three meeting sponsors, and the fall retreat.
- Overall financial / investment status – Umpqua bank has a balance of 104K, Wells Fargo has a balance of 84K, and our WD investments are around 8K. Shaun will close Wells Fargo accounts soon and transfer funds to Umpqua.
- Taxes – Shaun and Mary have a meeting scheduled to finalize taxes.

6. Internal Director – arrangements, historian, awards, scholarships – not present to report.

7. Student Representative -- Student Subunit update – the student sub-unit meets every other Tuesday. There are a handful of students that are meeting to review the student bylaws, they will be forwarded to Shivonne when done. The Fish and Wildlife Club is the de facto student subunit and they have had a weekend trip fishing for steelhead on the Umpqua (no catching occurred), they also have a tailgater planned for the game Saturday.

8. External Director’s Update – provided by Demian in Jeremiah’s absence.

- Committee updates – Talked with Sue about the involvement for the fall legislative workshop. We received some DEQ issue information from Sue, will filter as appropriate.
- Website updating, archiving, and maintenance – status? – There is a date set with Kara to update website.

Side-Note = Salmon in the City workshop review – the general consensus is that the workshop went really well. There was good interaction at the end, some PSU students were involved and made connections for potential involvement at the annual meeting in Bend. Mike Reed is working on making PDF versions of the presentations available. Salmon Safe agreed to acquire the wine for our annual meeting. Demian went to the Salmon Safe event after our workshop. One of the most interesting things learned was that a housing development built outside Salem was the first building approved as “Salmon Safe”. The development has streets with permeable pavement and a 0-net energy community center.

1630 ITEM 4: Fall Workshop(s)

1. Science and Policy for legislative staff
 - planning committee and schedule

- venue, budget
- 2. Others? (renewable energy development impacts, riparian connections, etc) –
All are tasked with thinking about ideas for fall workshops.

1700 ITEM 5: Upcoming ORAFS meetings

1. ExCom calls every 2nd Thursday 1500-1700 hrs
2. Annual Meeting Planning Call, Monday November 15, 1000-1200

All were reminded that the deadline for winter PP content is December 15 – get your information in early if possible.

If there are other workshops or events that we think should be on our website, e-mail the information to Demian.

Meeting adjourned at: 1638

Estimated cost for modifying the abstract submission web forms and developing the student scholarship application web site.

Work Description	# Hours	Rate	Subtotal
Modify the abstract submission forms, add a timer for stopping abstract change	3	60	180
Design student scholarship database	2	60	120
Develop student scholarship information submission web pages and programs	8	60	480
Web programs maintenance and troubleshooting	3	60	180
Database hosting fee for a year			450
Total			1410

Questions:

Line 1-Annual meeting

Line 4-database hosting fee include annual meeting too?

Are other elements included within other line-items of the budget.

Update submitted by Barry McPherson via e-mail on Oct 27, 2010 to Ebert, Fagan, Grost, and Osborne-Gowey:

I wanted you to know that NMFS has re-convened the Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force for review and possible revisions to the pinniped predation control program at Bonneville Dam. Just before the end of my term as Past Pres of ORAFS in 2007, I was asked by NMFS to be on the task force due to my “independence” as a retiree and my long history with pinniped-fishery issues (first while working for ODFW at Gold Beach in the late ‘70’s, I helped Tom Roffe a bit with his PhD study of pinniped predation on salmonids in the Rogue River). ORAFS ExCom approved my participation on the Task Force.

The Task Force recommendations included a review of the control program after 3 years, and NMFS, as well as the Task Force, wanted continuity in membership. I’ve attached the final Task Force report from Nov. 2007 along with Appendix A, which lists the members. Rob Walton has replaced Patty Dornbusch as the NMFS Salmon Recovery Div. rep on the Task Force, and Joyce Casey has replace Bob Willis as the Corps’ rep.

I apologize for not contacting you sooner, but I accepted NMFS invitation to re-convene, and the Task Force just completed a 2-day meeting. Another 2-day meeting is scheduled for Nov 9-10, which is planned as the final meeting. Task Force recommendations to NMFS will go through a Task Force review process and be sent to NMFS before the end of 2010. Any changes in the authorization from NMFS to the states will go through a public review process early next year, I assume.

As I sat down in the meeting Monday, looked at my name placard on the table, and looked at the protocols, it finally struck me that I was still “representing” ORAFS and the protocols included “keeping your organization informed”. I’ve attached the agenda we worked through the past 2 days. We also got a tour of Bonneville Dam (I went on the Sunday tour, some others went on the tour today).

I can tell you that:

- --- Far fewer California sea lions (CSLs) have been removed than anticipated 3 years ago, so the effectiveness of removing CSLs has hardly been tested. Estimated predation rate has not changed much in either direction.
- --- The Task Force will almost certainly recommend liberalizing criteria for identifying “bad boy” CSLs that qualify for removal (transfer to interested zoos or lethal removal), and an increase in the number of traps to capture the CSLs that are on the “bad boy” list. Shooting CSLs from shore (not from boats) is authorized under very restrictive conditions, and may yet be implemented.
- --- Hazing efforts have not been very successful and the recommendation will be to scale them back, but not at ladder entrances.
- --- Smith-Root’s idea of a gigantic sonar-controlled electric fence to detect and shock pinnipeds while freely passing salmon, sturgeon, and other fish safely through the lower Columbia River has undergone tests that indicate significant problems with spring Chinook and they have abandoned the idea for now.

- --- Steller sea lion (SSLs) abundance in the dam area has increased substantially and they have begun catching and eating some salmon---and stealing salmon from CSLs. The SSLs still focus on sturgeon while CSLs focus on salmon. There is no provision in the Marine Mammal Protection Act for dealing with SSL predation on “fish species at risk”, while there is one specific to dealing with CSLs and salmon (but not CSLs and sturgeon or any other species). SSLs off OR/WA have been petitioned for ESA listing, and the process is in a very early stage with the outcome uncertain, but will likely end in no listing (eastern SSLs are actually on the increase off our coast, unlike the western SSLs in the Aleutian Islands that are already ESA listed).
- --- There may be a drop in the number of adult male CSLs in the CA/OR coast population in a few years due to high pup mortality down in CA (forage fish shortage), but this may be offset in OR by a northward shift in distribution of the animals that is going on now (more forage fish in ocean off OR). Female CSLs are showing up off N. CA and S. OR for the first time since records have been kept. Male CSLs hauling out on OR shores are at record levels. This shift could reverse quickly if forage fish abundance rebounds off CA.
- --- There is little hope of the prey choice of CSLs shifting from salmon back to Columbia River smelt since smelt are now ESA listed and unlikely to rebound for decades. It’s a similar story for lamprey (the Rogue River study showed a strong preference by pinnipeds for the fat and easy to catch lampreys, but now lamprey abundance is very low for other reasons).
- --- The Task Force is unanimous on the idea that every source of mortality on listed salmonids in the Columbia needs to be addressed. There’s no giving up on trying to reduce pinniped predation in this highly un-natural situation at Bonneville Dam. One of the points I’ve made is that, if government gives up on pinniped predation, others will back off on their efforts to reduce other mortality sources in the basin ---- and fishermen will take pinniped matters more into their own hands with more lead flying about the lower river. Some on the Task Force are pushing for MUCH higher levels of lethal removal of pinnipeds by government.

Barry McPherson
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