



**DATE:** March 28, 2012

**TO:** ORAFS Executive Committee

**FROM:** Michele Weaver and Garth Wyatt, Secretary/Treasurer

**SUBJECT:** Minutes for ORAFS Executive Committee Meeting, March 22, 2012  
from 0800-1000

**Conference Call Information:** 1-866-680-0168 Participant code: 113025

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**Present:** President - Colleen Fagan, Past President - Demian Ebert, Secretary/Treasurer - Michele Weaver, Secretary/Treasurer Elect – Garth Wyatt, President Elect - Jeff Yanke, External Director - Shivonne Nesbit, Student Subunit Liaisons - Michelle Scanlan and Megan McKim, Internal Director - Jason Kent.

**Absent:** Vice President - Bill Brignon,

0800 ITEM 1: Review

1. Introductions, life, and work updates
2. ExCom Contact List Update -
3. Approve Previous Minutes: February 09, 2012 - Colleen asked if all had reviewed and asked for discussion, there was none, minutes were approved, Michele will send to Kara for posting to the website.
4. Review Today's Agenda -
5. Action Items from February 09, 2012:
  - a. Distribute January 12, 2012 minutes to ExCom for approval – Michele asked for an e-mail vote to approve the minutes, they were approved and posted to the website.
  - b. Solicit ExCom input on Chapter of the Year Application – Colleen sent an e-mail asking for input, the majority voted in favor of submitting an application.
  - c. Forward request for Copper-Salmon Wilderness support letter to Freshwater Habitat and Natural Production committees – Colleen – This action item should read “Elk River Emphasis Area, not Copper Salmon Wilderness”. We already have a letter of support for the Copper Salmon Wilderness area. Colleen sent this request to Ian Reid and heard back from him that he would pass the request to the Freshwater Habitat Committee for its review.

- d. Seek input from Dave Ward on WDAFS Grant Application – Colleen talked with Dave and decided that with the amount of time available, the amount of work needed to complete the Chapter of the Year Application, and the number of grant applications already submitted, we should not pursue a grant at this time.
- e. E-mail requesting ExCom support for Klamath Letter – Demian - done
- f. Cover letter and white papers to ExCom for review and approval to be read into record – Jeremiah – we haven't received anything for review from Jeremiah – Shivonne recalled that the bills that were relevant were read into the record.
- g. E-mail to ExCom for vote on opening a money market account – Michele - done
- h. Discuss options with FWS for ORAFS compensation for assisting with NWFCC – Colleen talked with Doug Olson and will discuss this under old business

0810 ITEM 2: President's Report

- 1. WDAFS – Update – The annual meeting is in Jackson and will begin next week (March 26-29). Agenda items for the March 25 business meeting include what to do with profits from the annual meeting. The plan being proposed right now is to put \$12,000 into a student travel fund, \$8,000 into a fund to help people travel to the 2014 WDAFS meeting in Mexico, and place \$5,000 back into CD's for cash reserves. Grant applications will also be discussed. There are 7 applications for a total of \$13,000 to evaluate and \$2000 in grants to be distributed. A WDAFS Klamath Dam Removal letter of support will be put to ExCom vote.
- 2. Old Business -- requests and issues.
  - a. MOU with FWS for NWFCC Assistance – Colleen talked with Doug Olson to see if there was a way to get any compensation for our assistance; the reply was that it is not possible from the NWFCC. We talked about other types of compensation such as trade show space and one free registration. Michele estimated the time involved and suggested we facilitate the account and also add Doug as a signer on the account to help with the transactions.
  - b. Elk River Emphasis Area Letter (was Copper-Salmon Wilderness Letter Request) –Shivonne will be giving an update with her External Director update.
  - c. Chapter of the Year Application – Demian and Colleen put the application together and ExCom provided comments. We were told it was a close call, but we came in a close second to WA/BC.
  - d. WDAFS Grants Application (Website Updating) – we didn't submit an application.
  - e. Website Updating –ongoing, Colleen will have more information at the spring retreat.
- 3. New Business – requests and issues

- a. "This is AFS" Power Point Presentation – Colleen forwarded the presentation to all and asked for input. The presentation can be downloaded from the Parent Society website. Megan thought it would be good to have on hand for students and faculty to reference. Colleen will draft an e-mail to send to membership through the list serve.
- b. Copyright permission for our Code of Ethics – Colleen received a letter from the (Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions Illinois Institute of Technology.) requesting permission for them to include our code of ethics and have a link to our home page in their online collection. Our code is on our website, it supplements the Parent Society's code. We see no issue with granting this request. Colleen will send permission.
- c. Fish Culture Committee Funding of NWFCC Request. – Ryan Couture submitted a request asking for a \$500 donation to help sponsor an evening social. We agree that providing the funds fits with our objectives, but we don't want it attached to a "social" or "drinking" activity. We are a professional organization and want to help support professional activities that are in line with our goals and missions. Demian moved to support the NWFCC with \$500, Colleen asked for those in favor to respond, and also asked if any were opposed. There were none opposed, the motion passed. Michele will submit \$500 to the NWFCC not specifically tied to any particular event. ExCom discussed that proposals are currently funded on a first come first served basis. ExCom will discuss proposal submitting and funding timing at the May spring retreat.
- d. ODFW/OSU Otolith Workshop Funding Request – Ben Clements and David Noakes asked for funding to support a workshop to be held in May or June at the hatchery research center. They are requesting \$2,000 to help fund the workshop. The purpose of this workshop is to instruct and share information about otolith research. They committed to writing a report, organizing a symposium for the 2013 meeting, and writing a white paper. The space is limited to 50 people and spaces will be filled by invitation only. They will save a spot for an ORAFS representative. They have a budget of \$8,000 (\$6,000 for speakers, \$800 for meals and accommodations for speakers, and, \$1,200 for administrative services). In addition attendees will be asked to pay \$200 per person registration to cover lodging. They are asking for \$3,000 from WDAFS, \$2,000 from ORAFS, and the remainder from a combination of BPA, ODFW, and OSU. We discussed the exclusivity and budget and compared it to the other meetings we support. We discussed the potential benefit to our membership. Demian made a motion to deny the requested proposition as written on the basis that the budget is unreasonable and it will be too exclusive to benefit our broader membership. There were none opposed. We would be willing to consider a modified request if they want to submit one. Shivonne will follow up with Dr. Noakes.
- e. Scientific Peer Review of NMFS Southern Oregon-Northern California Coastal Coho Recovery Plan – Bob Hughes requested that ORAFS conduct a scientific peer review of the SONCC review plan. Colleen let

- Bob Hughes know we would view it. Comments are due to ExCom April 20. Shivonne will provide an update in the External Directors report.
- f. FY 2011-2012 Budget Status – Colleen asked for an update on what we have spent so far. Michele updated the spreadsheet and will send it to Colleen. There are some line items that have not been spent. Michele recommended that ExCom consider using unspent funds to support ExCom or members attending WDAFS or the National Meeting in Minnesota. **Funding additional ExCom travel to Minnesota will be discussed at the spring retreat.**
  - g. E-mail Survey of Annual Meeting – We discussed providing an on-line survey to get additional responses for the annual meeting evaluation. We could potentially get a much better return with an on-line survey and grab a wider representation of the total membership. We will treat this year’s results as a pilot year. Jeff is unavailable to get this done in the next couple of weeks, but **Demian offered to take a look and see what he can do.**
  - h. Planning for May Spring Retreat – Colleen asked us all to e-mail her as we think about items for the spring retreat agenda.

0840 ITEM 3: ExCom updates

1. Past-President

- a. Membership “Committee” Update – nothing new to report
- b. PP – articles are due to Allison today, look for a draft in early April to review.
- c. Oregon Conservation Leaders’ Meeting Update & Next Date – Demian attended the meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> and sent notes via e-mail (attached at the end of these minutes). He has nothing additional to add. The next meeting will be in June or July. Demian thinks that while they could budget their time a little better for stakeholder updates, this meeting is worth ORAFS attending.
- d. Klamath Letter Update - We sent our letter to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, WDAFS, and the Cal/Neva Chapter. The Cal/Neva chapter voted unanimously to support our letter and WDAFS is working on a letter of support of their own. On March 6, Colleen and Demian talked with the Parent Society Bioengineering Section and they agreed to support the letter via e-mail which was submitted to the Parent Society shortly after the conference call. On March 12, the Parent Society wrote a letter to Secretary Salazar supporting dam removal. The letter submitted by the Parent Society is essentially the Oregon Chapter letter with and updated introduction and a couple of minor edits suggested by the Bioengineering Section. The bottom line is our efforts in drafting the Klamath letter resulted in multiple letters of endorsement of Klamath River dam removal.

2. External Director’s Update -

- a. Committee Updates – Annual work plans requested of the committees at the ORAFS annual meeting are in development and some are in review. **Shivonne gave a deadline of spring retreat and will bring draft work plans for ExCom to review.** The external committee chairs have a conference

call scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>. All of the external committee chairs provided content for the Spring Piscatorial Press. The request sent by Jeremiah to the Legislative, Freshwater Habitat and Natural production committees for review of the Oregon Water Resources Department Integrated Resources Strategy document did not receive any responses or feedback from any of the committees. We did not provide enough time for the committees to mobilize and provide comments indicating the need to be more strategic and timely with requests that we send to the external committees.

- b. Freshwater Habitat Committee: Ian Reid sent an e-mail to his committee asking for feedback on writing a letter of support for the Elk River Emphasis Area. Ian received a positive response from the committee and Bob Nichols is taking the lead drafting a letter of support. **This letter will be provided for ExCom review by our next conference call.**

The request from Bob Hughes to consider reviewing the NMFS Southern Oregon-Northern California Coastal Coho Recovery Plan was forwarded to the Freshwater Habitat and Natural Production Committees. Both committees have agreed to review the draft Recovery Plan with an April 10<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Ian provided meeting notes from the Freshwater Habitat committee meetings so let Shivonne know if you want a copy.

Marine Habitat and Ecology Committee workplan is in progress.

Education and Outreach committee – Karen drafted the work plan and sent to her committee for review. Karen also provided the Fish Culture committee with the ORAFS poster for display at the NWFCC conference

The Legislative committee is drafting a work plan.

The Natural Production committee has a workplan is in progress.

Fish Culture Committee: Ryan Couture drafted a work plan and sent to his committee for review. Ryan edited the ORAFS chapter poster provided by Karen Hans for display at the NWFCC. Ryan also provided a grant request (detailed in the New Business Section Above).

Overall, there is a great deal of momentum and forward movement in the external committees. It appears that holding committee meetings following appropriate technical sessions at the annual meeting along with specific direction for committees provided by ExCom members has resulted in a revitalization of our committees.

### 3. President-Elect

- a. 2012-2013 Work Plan and Budget – Jeff will get an idea of what he wants to do next year with the work plan and budget and ExCom will review and comment at the spring retreat. Jeff asked for initial ideas and two items

that came to mind was to send an additional person to the Parent Society meeting in Minnesota in August and budget some funds to get our website updated.

4. Vice President – not able to attend
5. Secretary-Treasurer – minutes and money
  - a. Invoicing Annual Meeting Donors – Michele has invoiced OSU, ODFW, the Forrest Service, and Nez Perce. There should be no outstanding bills this year.
  - b. Recent income and expenses – There has been a substantial amount of income and expenses associated with the annual meeting. Based on preliminary numbers it looks like we made a profit of approximately \$30,000 this year. Registrations, especially workshop registrations, were up from last year along with an outstanding job of \$6,000 profit from the raffle and auction.
  - c. Overall financial/investment status – No changes here.
  - d. Opening Money Market Account - Michele opened a Money Market account last month with a balance of \$100,000. We will start earning a small amount of interest on this money and it remains available for use without restrictions should we need to access it.
  - e. Investment Committee Update – the committee has taken a break from communication with planning the annual meeting taking up too much time, but will start moving forward again soon.
6. Internal Director
  - a. Hilton Food Response – Jason provided a copy of the email that the Hilton sent back following our complaints about the food at the annual meetings (Attached). The essence of this message was that the steak orders ran over the predicted number and the kitchen scrambled to fill the extra. The seafood was fresh, not frozen, and the banquet dinner was “odd” because there were no starches on the plates. The Captains (the staff monitoring the outgoing food) reports were positive. Jason is not sure how the Hilton got the idea that we didn’t want any starches with our meals, **he will talk to Cody**. All the meals were not of a high quality this year. The Hilton offered complementary food at the poster social in 2014 and suggested we come down for a food tasting before making our meal choices next time. When we schedule our fall retreat we can have the food tasting on the agenda. We could also make a trip down there to taste test the food right before the meeting. We feel the response and offer of \$2,600 of complementary food for the Poster Social was a reasonable concession and appropriate. We see no reason to not go there next time.
7. Student Representative
  - a. Student Subunit Update – Spring break trip is next week. Volunteer opportunities are scheduled. Students will help to improve native fish passage at Ash Meadows National Park. They will go to Devils Hole and speak with biologists about their conservation plan for desert pup-fish. There is also an OHRC weekend coming up where students will learn skills such as PIT tagging and electrofishing. The subunit is working on

finalizing the spring calendar. Colleen reiterated congratulations for receiving the Western Division subunit of the year award.

0955 ITEM 4: Fall and Spring Workshop(s) – 2012 and Beyond

1. Estimating Natural Origin Returns – Spring 2013
2. Salmon in the City II – Fall 2012 or 2013
3. Others (Science and Policy, Renewable Energy Development, Riparian Connections)

There was no discussion of upcoming workshops

1000 ITEM 5: Upcoming ORAFS meetings

1. ExCom calls every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 1500-1700 hrs
2. Next Call – April 12, 2012
3. Spring Retreat – May 11-13, 2012 in Hood River – house is secured for retreat.

Meeting adjourned at 0947

The following are the Conservation Leaders Meeting notes from the 3/5/12 meeting provided by Demian to ExCom via email on 3/16/12:

The meeting started with budget discussions by Ron Anglin (ODFW) that were not particularly rosy. The bottom line was that the upcoming budget would lead to not only cuts in staff but changes in how they manage people and resources. He wasn't much more specific. There will be a reduction in SWIG dollars, down from a high a few years ago of \$1.6 million to \$836k expected this year. All of this is allocated internally and none is available for external grants. This money funds about 16 conservation strategy/policy staff and is a 35% match to other federal funds. There was some concern expressed by the audience that money needed to be allocated to preserve the conservation policy staff positions at the level currently staffed at the minimum.

Habitat Conservation Stamp - They had 86 entries at the deadline. There will be a youth calendar coming as a result of all these entries. Judging has been completed by now and Sara Stack of North Bend's Western Meadowlark was selected. Photos are already online ([http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/2012\\_conservation\\_stamp\\_contest.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/2012_conservation_stamp_contest.asp)). They are targeting mail out in mid-June. The stamp is \$40 and includes a WMA parking pass (like you'd get with a duck stamp).

There was a presentation of the current work on the decision support network/system. They used Kansas as an example because the OR system is still being developed. The goal is to have the system live in 2013. They are starting data collection (by ODFW staff) using updated methods that should feed into this system. Essentially it's another web-based mapping tool that will let people see what resources are where and interface with similar systems in adjacent states. Sorry my notes are short, but I'm a little tired with everyone building another web-mapping tool instead of just figuring out how to post the data to existing tools.

Christine Mallette (ODFW) presented information about the white sturgeon conservation plan. The plan is available here: [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/lower\\_columbia\\_white\\_sturgeon\\_plan.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/lower_columbia_white_sturgeon_plan.asp). Bottom line is that they are recommending a harvest rate of 16%; a lower rate than over the previous three years. This is based on their population viability analysis and they believe this rate is sustainable. They are also predicting a large drop in adults in 2012 because of previously high harvest rates, hydropower operations, and predation. These last three, by the way, are also what they consider the key limiting factors for the population.



As usual there wasn't much time for updates from attendees and I had to run off to a conference call, but I was able to tell them that ORAFS had submitted a letter to Secretary of the Interior Salazar regarding Klamath River dam removal, that that letter had been supported by the Cal-Neva chapter, and that Western Division was considering their own letter. I also mentioned that the Parent Society may be considering a letter of their own.

I still think it's worth attending these meetings. If we ever have an issue we want to present to a group of conservation organizations, this would be a pretty good venue to reach their leadership all at the same time.

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From: Julie Saul  
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 10:59 AM  
To: Kent, Jason  
Subject: RE: Hilton feedback from ORAFS conference

Greetings Jason,

Thank you so much for the feedback and energy put into the communication. Honestly I am embarrassed that the food quality was below average and I apologize to you, the board and the organization. I have taken all of the comments (and photos) and shared them with our culinary team this week for feedback and suggestions on how we can overcome for the future.

Here are a few comments I received from our culinary staff (hopefully more to explain then anything):

- In regards to the photos, these are whole Flat Irons compared to what we served New York Steaks at the dinner. The count went over by 10 and the kitchen scrambled to make the extra.
- The Seafood was not frozen, it was fresh Alaskan Cod that arrived the day it was served.
- The Auction Dinner Menu itself was odd, as none of the entrée's had starches. This made the plate presentation somewhat challenging.
- The feedback on the Captain's Reports from the Lunch and the Dinner were positive.
- Suggest we do a tasting with the committee prior to the conference.

I would like to propose the Hilton set-up a full menu tasting prior to selecting the menus for the conference at a date that is convenient for the committee and then again (30) days prior to the conference to ensure we are all happy with the selection, portion, presentation, etc.

In addition, I would like to host the Poster Session and Social on Wednesday night of the conference (valued at \$2,600.00). This would be above and beyond the (7%) concession ratio that we discussed at the post conference meeting.

Please let me know if this is agreeable, or if there are any questions regarding the above information. I will then put together the contract for 2014.

Thank you again for the feedback, while not the outcome we were hoping for, I am thankful all other aspects of the conference were successful.

Thank you, Julie

JULIE SAUL I Director - Sales & Marketing