Draft ExCom Notes

2 December 2014

Phone Conference Call Meeting

Attendees: Pat Saffel, Robert Al-Chokhachy, Dave Moser and Bruce Roberts

1. **Intake/Pallid discussion:**

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Defenders of Wildlife are litigating the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), USFWS and Corp of Engineers (COE) for not following ESA Section 7 Consultation procedures for the modification of the Intake Diversion. The two groups are asking the MTAFS to join as co-plaintiffs with their lawsuit. They are looking for a Montana based representative. Scott Bosse (American Rivers) and Pat Byorth (Montana Trout Unlimited) have approached MTAFS ExCom asking that the Chapter join their lawsuit. Co-litigants claim that the plaintiffs NEPA was insufficient, failed to complete proper Section 7 consultation, and modified the Biological Opinion (BiOp) to eliminate biological based success criteria without public comment. The second BiOp includes only hydrologic success criteria such as velocity. MFWP and DNRC are both on record as supporting the preferred alternative. Others in attendance included: Pat Byorth, Mike Backes and Steve Dalbey.MTAFS ExCom will decide soon how to proceed, and appoint a committee to work on this lawsuit.

**A.I. Pat Saffel is going to contact other WDAFS leaders for guidance on entering into a lawsuit.**

1. **Review regular business agenda**
   * 1. **Additions necessary?**

Adam Strainer, president of the Great Plains Fishery Workers Association, asked Dave if the MTAFS would be open to receiving money they have, to put it towards one of the MTAFS mutual funds (with the appropriate acknowledgements).

1. **Review and approval of last ExCom Meeting Minutes.**

Pat motioned that we approve the September 2014 ExCom minutes. Dave seconded. The notes were unanimously approved.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Because of the lack of financial activities since the September ExCom meeting, Bruce did not give a formal report. He did take a second to give a verbal report.

1. **Old Business**
   * 1. **Undergraduate registration fees**

The ExCom agreed to cap the number of undergraduates allowed to assist with the meeting in lieu of paying registration fees. It was also agreed that graduate students would not be eligible for such a fee waiver.

**A.I. ExCom needs to agree upon a capped number after talking with Scott Opitz, volunteer coordinator.**

**A.I. This needs to be communicated through the January Outlet and directly to both student sub-units.**

* + 1. **Local vs. national chapter membership**

The ExCom is still batting around ideas about how to improve the percentage of Montana Affiliate members that pay their annual membership dues. These ideas include: rolling in this fee into the overall meeting registration fees; better communications, etc. Nothing definitive has been approved. Any changes to the current direction need to be approved by the membership at our annual business meeting. The current fee structure was approved by the membership over a decade ago.

* + 1. **Cutthroat trout taxonomy workshop funding**

The WDAFS is asking that each chapter help fund a taxonomy workshop that will be held in conjunction with the WDFAS/NAFS annual meeting in Portland, OR this fall. Our contribution would be used to pay for travel for experts attending the workshop. The workshop is designed to help clear up the genetic structuring and classification of current inland cutthroat trout sub-species.

* + 1. **Blackfoot and Bitterroot TMDLs**

The ExCom has not heard back from Leanne Roulson regarding these two TMDL’s. There is nothing new to report.

* + 1. **Legislative session**

Pat Byorth and Mark Aagenes will follow all the legislative bills and report back to the membership if letters need to be written in support or against such bills. Sending a letter does not constitute official lobbying. The MTAFS will not be hiring an official lobbyist this legislative session.

1. **New Business**
   * 1. **Membership communication**
        1. **Awards nomination solicitations**

Adam Sepulvada recently sent out a call for nominees. This will be followed up by an announcement in the January Outlet. If the ground based call for nominees fails to produce a quality list, the ExCom will step in with a list of suggested nominees.

* + - 1. **RAF notification, money available**

Bruce gave a short verbal run down on how our two mutual funds have been performing. The ExCom unanimously agreed that we need to get this money to the ground rather than sitting on it. Bruce motioned that we cap our RAF this year at $10,000. Robert seconded this motion. It was unanimously approved.

* + - 1. **Use of Outlet/website**

The call for Outlet articles just came out from Beth Gardner with a late-December deadline. Beth is looking to be replaced as the Outlet editor.

Leslie Nyce should include a piece on the Con Ed class.

We need to go out with a call for officers and committee chairs including: President-elect, Secretary-Treasurer, Outlet editor, and historian.

* + 1. **WD/National call updates**

The WDAFS anticipates getting requests to support student travel to the Portland WDAFS/NAFS meeting to be held in September 2015.

A correspondence has been going around asking Chapters and Sub-units to join the National AFS with their management of mutual funds and web-pages.

* + 1. **WDAFS ’17 update**
    2. **Student colloquium request for funds**

The ExCom recently got a letter from the WDAFS students requesting funding to help defray travel costs to the Student Colloquium being hosted by the Utah State University Student Sub-unit at Bear Lake, Utah this winter.

* + 1. **Legislative session plans**
    2. **2015 meeting planning update**

Dave has not finalized the theme for the 2015 annual meeting, but he is strongly looking at a theme like “Width and Breadth of Fisheries Management and Research.”

Bruce and Dave will be getting together with the Best Western Heritage Inn in mid-December to finalize plans to come up with a meeting registration fee. **A.I. Bruce, needs to finalize the con ed and annual meeting registration fees.**

* + 1. **Follow up on Intake/Pallid discussion?**

Nothing

* + 1. **Other items?**

The ExCom agreed to deposit any funds that Great Plains Fishery Workers Association can give MTAFS into the Wally McClure Scholarship fund. In the future, when folks talk about this scholarship, we need to acknowledge the Great Plains Fishery Field Workers.

It was motioned that we keep the undergraduate and graduate Wally McClure scholarship at $750 and $1,250, respectively. Dave seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

**7. Open Floor/Discussion**

Bruce motion to adjourn meeting at 4:14 pm. Pat seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.