



DATE: February 16, 2011

TO: ORAFS Executive Committee

FROM: Michele Weaver, Secretary/Treasurer

SUBJECT: Minutes for ORAFS Executive Committee Meeting, February 10, 2011
from 1500-1700

Conference Call Information: 1-866-203-6896 Passcode: 638-119-3603

Present: Michele Weaver, Jeremiah Osborne-Gowey, Demian Ebert, Shivonne Nesbit, Jason Kent (left 1552), Justin Huff, Colleen Fagan (left 1603), Rich Grost (joined late).

1500 ITEM 1: Review

1. Introductions, life, and work updates
2. Contact Information (ExCom and Chairs)- Demian's new office phone is 503-227-1042 ext. 22 and e-mail is demian.ebert@aecom.com
3. Approve Previous Minutes: Jan 13- approved, Michele will send to Kara to post on the webpage
4. Review Today's Agenda – Jason will give his update first so he can leave early.
5. Action Items from Jan 13:
 - a. Edits to handbook are in progress and due end of March (Rich-is on target)
 - b. Information on investment options at Umpqua Bank (Michele-received that information)
 - c. Mid-year chapter report (Demian – is done)
 - d. Forward updated congressional delegation contact list to ExCom (Jeremiah – is done)
 - e. SB472 fish hatcheries on the Rogue River – More details from Sue and forward to ExCom (Jeremiah – is done)
 - f. Call to membership for support of Scholarship Committee (Jason-is done)
 - g. Send student member list to Demian for excel file (Justin – done)
 - h. All are tasked with thinking about ideas for fall workshops - ongoing.

1515 ITEM 2: President's Report

1. National/WD AFS – Updates - Demian e-mailed the notes from the Governing Board meeting. Let him know if you have any questions.

The mid-year report to WDAFS was done last night. That report uses the National AFS action plan as a template and summarizes what we do in support of their goals. While the template was not a perfect fit, a number of ORAFS goals and what we do supports a number of the National AFS goals. Demian will send around a copy of the report to any who are interested.

2. Old Business -- requests and issues.
 - FOOW – we budgeted for 10 and have used 5.
 - Scholarships – all scholarships have been awarded and all have been notified. Demian may make a couple of phone calls to encourage the recipients to attend the meeting.
 - Awards – all have been awarded and all have been notified. They will also be contacted to encourage attendance to receive the award. We must strive for early applications and streamlined processing in the future so that scholarship and awards recipients can be alerted in time to plan for and register for the meeting prior to the early registration deadline. We started this year with deadlines of January 7 and expectations of 1-week processing. Delays were due to lack of award nominations and slowed scholarship processing (partly due to quirks in the new online process). Keys to future success are earlier solid deadlines, active solicitation and nominations by the committees, and rapid processing for ExCom approval and applicant notifications.
 - The STEP conference (poster display, giveaways, representative) – poster will be updated in time for this meeting. It will be saved as a PDF for all to be able to print out and use as needed. Donna Allard tracked down the electronic file from the last poster so we have a power point file to start with. The education and outreach committee should have a draft to review in the next week or two and definitely by the AM. Michele and Shivonne will attend the STEP conference. We will discuss donation options at the AM and investigate appropriate recruitment and informational handouts.
 - USFWS Salmon Maturity Workshop– All approved supporting this workshop by opening a checking account designated to the salmon maturity workshop and seeding it with \$100 of ORAFS money. Demian drafted a MOU. Michele and Jeremiah looked it over and found no problems. Demian will add language to make sure that ORAFS gets the \$100 back at the end of the event and send it to Doug Olson for signatures (note: Completed on Feb 15, 2010). Michele will open the account (note: completed).
3. New Business – requests and issues
 - Proceeding Sale
 - Gearhart Mtn Bull Trout – Scan and post for free download? - We only have 2-3 original copies left for the archive. While it probably cost \$10 to photocopy and send out in the 1990s when it was printed, we now have the capability to scan and post on the website as a free PDF download. ORAFS was not selling for revenue, but to get the information distributed to interested parties so we think that is a good idea to provide a

free download. Demian will send the PDF to Kara for posting on the website.

- Searun Cutthroat Trout – Now out of print - Demian doesn't have a copy; does anybody know where there may be one both for archiving and for scanning to provide another free PDF download? Demian will send an e-mail to Doug Young and Bob Hughes to see if we can find the original file and when we find a copy we will post to website as a free PDF download.
- Conservation Leaders Mtg Feb 28th, 1300-1500 Tualatin River NWR – Demian and Jeremiah will attend.
- Seattle 2011: Cleve Steward – planning committee for National AFS in Seattle wants to send a representative to our meeting and have a tradeshow booth to provide information and solicit attendance. They want us to waive the registration fee. We suggest a trade, one ORAFS registration and tradeshow booth in trade for one AFS registration at the meeting in Seattle. Recommended that they use the existing Fish Out of Water Waiver request to document need for reduced registration fee. Shivonne will follow up with National and coordinate with Rich.

1530 ITEM 3: ExCom updates

1. Internal Director – arrangements, historian, awards, scholarships – The scholarships recipients have been selected.

There was at least one nomination for each award. One nominee didn't receive an award, and there were no nominations for the broken oar. In the past there has been some arm twisting and last minute scrambling at the meeting to give the broken oar away. We can do that again this year, or just leave that one un-awarded.

The River House needed the details for the breaks and a rough estimate of the numbers in by Saturday to do a food order. Everything is going well with the Riverhouse and planning. Lodging is not sold out yet, but we have exceeded our required room block.

The plaques for the award winners are in; the plaques for the scholarship winners are not in yet. The place in Corvallis has the templates for the awards; we just give them the names. Justin will pick up the plaques and bring them to the meeting. We are not sure where all the legacy plaques live, Jason will ask Rich and Justin will ask around OSU to see if we can locate the legacy plaques.

Signs and Banners committee. The Riverhouse has electronic signboards outside of each room. Jason will provide them with the schedule of talks and they will get them on the computers.

It's 1552 and Jason has left the conference call.

2. External Director's Update

Jeremiah met with Sue Marshall about 2-weeks ago and talked with the legislative committee. They discussed the hot list of topics and prioritized the potential bills to get involved with. Jeremiah would like feedback from ExCom about the prioritized list as to if we want to change the order of prioritization or any other input by the end of Sat, Feb 12. There was three of the legislative committee present and it was a good meeting. Hiram expressed interest in remaining active, but stepping down as the committee chair. Jeremiah would like to pick up that position.

Here is a link where you can subscribe to receive updates and track bills you are interested in (<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORLEG/subscriber/new>)

ODFW sent a list of bills they are tracking and Jeremiah suggested meeting to talk about any common interest and to continue to maintain a working relationship with ODFW. **Jeremiah will set up a meeting with the ODFW legislative/policy people to discuss common interest.**

In response to HB 2632 it is suggested that ORAFS craft a white paper about the definition of hatchery fish in relation to wild (non-hatchery) fish. The bill will go to the floor at some point and there is concern about the definition of a “hatchery fish”. It would be beneficial to have a white paper to help clarify that definition. **Hiram and Jeremiah will put together a draft and spearhead the white paper.**

Felt sole ban – if we weigh in it will be on the science behind felt soles as vectors in distributing aquatic invasive species. The bill currently has some support, but not from the fishing community. The Native Fish Society has sent a letter in support of the felt sole ban (see Attachment A at the end of these minutes).

KBRA – A member requested that ORAFS weigh in on the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement. The answer to how was by a white paper on the effects of Dam Removal on Salmon and Steelhead recovery. **Jeremiah will find out more about what is being requested.**

Jeremiah has requested feedback from ExCom by Wed, February 16th on the bills/issues we would like to weigh in on.

Colleen is out, its 1603

3. Secretary-Treasurer – minutes and money

- Recent income and expenses – right now we are getting income from meeting registrations, we have not had much for expenses this month. That will change during and after the annual meeting.
- Overall financial / investment status – Michele is looking for input on what to do with some of our holdings. Would like to see an investments committee discussion on where/how to invest some of the ORAFS funds.

Demian will send a note out the membership to see if any are interested in providing input. We will also have a break out session at the AM.

- AM Registration 357 regular, 10 one-day
4. Student Representative
 - Student Subunit structure review – status - the OSU Fish and Wildlife club is meeting next Thursday (2/17/2011) to work on restructuring the subunit. They will also be getting a funding proposal together from the fundraising chair to request help for their spring break trip to Yellowstone. Justin is helping to get all the student volunteers organized for the AM.
 5. Past-President – not present to report, sent e-mail update.
 - Handbook Revision Status – Rich will send an e-mail asking ExCom to update/revise their individual position descriptions. He will send out further instructions with more detail in the near future.
 6. President-Elect – not present to report
 - Brief Annual Meeting Planning update
 - AM Planning Call 2/16 at 1500
 7. Vice president
 - Bylaw revision - Bylaw proposal went out to membership for comments – there have been no responses yet. A question regarding the ability to approve part of the bylaw revisions at the AM business meeting came up. Shivonne will ask Ira for clarification if we can approve part of the revision or is it all or nothing.

1630 ITEM 4: Fall Workshop(s)

1. 1. Science and Policy, Fall 2011 – Sue Marshall and Jeremiah are drafting a questionnaire to pass around to legislators and staff to get feedback on the topics they would like to see and help structure the workshop. Jeremiah will send it to ExCom for additional feedback once he and Sue have a completed draft
2. Others? (renewable energy development impacts, riparian connections, etc)-ongoing.
3. Demian had an idea for an Adaptive Management symposium that may work as a workshop.

1700 ITEM 5: Upcoming ORAFS meetings

1. ExCom calls every 2nd Thursday 1500-1700 hrs
2. Annual Meeting Planning Call, Wednesday February 16, 1500-1630
3. Annual Meeting Preparation Work Session – February 19-20

Other discussion:

Name badges – will need to send to printer no later than Tuesday the 15th. Michele will work on editing the template with the current feedback and send around an edited version for a vote-off.

There was inquiry about having the candidate statements/ballots in the program, or available at the AM for people to look at. Demian will ask Colleen

1627 – Meeting adjourned.

Attachment A:

NATIVE FISH CONSERVATION POLICY And FISH HATCHERY MANAGEMENT POLICY

These two policies are administrative rules and were established under authority of ORS 496.012 and 496.138 and implemented under ORS 496.171, 496.172, 496.176, 496.182, 496.430, 496.435, 496.445, 496.450, and 496.455

Policy components for the “Native Fish Conservation Policy” are defined under OAR 635-007-0502 through 635-007-0506.

Policy components for the “Fish Hatchery Management Policy” are defined under OAR 635-007-0542 through 635-007-0548.

Together these two policies define through administrative rule what a fish hatchery is, and how, when, and where salmon hatchery operations can take place in Oregon, and give definitions to the terminologies associated with fish hatcheries.

The “Fish Hatchery Management Policy” applies to all Department hatchery operations and programs including Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) fish propagation projects (OAR 635-009-0090 through 635-0090-0240) and Cooperative Salmon Hatchery Programs (OAR 635-009-0400 through 635-009-0455).

Proposed Amendment #1.

Define hatchery produced fish in Oregon Revised Statutes as: “A fish that is reared from native stocks in an artificial environment and that is provided food for it’s survival.”

This change would allow ODFW, STEP, and other groups concerned with declining Coho populations to get back to the business of raising fish and enhancing Coho populations.

Currently, in both policy documents, Hatchery Produced Fish means: “*a fish incubated or reared under artificial conditions for at least a portion of its life.*” Basically, if you touch it, it’s defined as a hatchery fish.

This definition carries with it the stigma of a data base developed during a time when State run hatcheries were procuring brood stock from any handy source, with little or no regard for the genetic individuality of Coho populations in our river systems. Huge

numbers of fish were raised in concrete ponds, many were fed to full term smolts, and hatchery production was released into whatever river system was deemed to be in need of enhancement. (Over 110,000,000 Coho were released into Oregon rivers other than their river of origin since 1918)

These practices resulted in some hatchery fish unsuited for survival in the wild. Adult Coho hatchery returns were then in turn used as brood stock for subsequent hatchery production. Each generation of hatchery fish resulted in offspring with a further dilution of the gene pool, a diminished capacity for survival, and a higher degree of domestication. These hatchery fish returned at odd times and stray rates were high. The strays resulted in crosses with “wild fish” that further diluted the gene pool, produced more offspring with questionable genetic traits, and generated the current data base that some use to support the notion that all hatchery produced fish are detrimental to “wild fish” populations. This attitude towards hatchery Coho production has resulted in the curtailment of almost all Coho hatchery production in the State of Oregon and an almost complete closure of all recreational and commercial harvest of Coho in Oregon.

The “Native Fish Conservation Policy” now determines where hatchery brood stock can be captured and requires that offspring be released back to their stream of origin. These two requirements and ODFW oversight alleviate concerns over further genetic dilution of “wild” Coho populations.

A change in policy definition for hatchery fish to “*a fish that has been fed*” would open the door for the use of streamside hatch boxes and/or the direct planting of eyed eggs into the gravel of our Coho streams for the production of unfed fry and provide opportunity for the enhancement of natural Coho populations.

Proposed Amendment # 2.

An addition to current policy.

NATIVE FISH PROTECTION

- 1. Prohibit bag limits, size restrictions, closed seasons, and closed areas on all non-native fish species in States waters that are inhabited by anadromous fish.***
- 2. Prohibit State agencies from enhancing, protecting, or introducing populations of non-native fish in State’s waters.***
- 3. Prohibit implementation of habitat improvement projects designed specifically for the benefit of non-native fish species.***

POINTS IN SUPPORT OF THIS PROPOSAL

There is a cash reward system in place on the Columbia River system for the taking and destruction of native Northern Pike Minnows (squaw fish) to protect juvenile salmonids.

At the same time and in these same waters there are bag limits, size restrictions and closed areas in place that protect non-native Walleye, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and other non-native species that prey on and compete for habitat and food with juvenile salmonids.

Most river systems in Oregon have populations of native fish that are listed under State and or Federal Endangered Species Acts, or native fish species that are being considered for listing. Many of these river systems have populations of non-native invasive fish which prey on ESA listed native fish, compete with them for food and habitat, and are afforded some type of regulatory protection in the form of restricted bag limits, closed seasons, gear restrictions, or closed areas. By protecting these exotic invasive fish that are detrimental to the maintenance of ESA listed native populations, we are putting a larger responsibility on Farmers, Ranchers, Timber Operators, Commercial Fishermen, Power Producers, Urban Water Suppliers, City and County planners and the general taxpaying public for the recovery of the listed species.

It seems hypocritical to spend hundreds of millions of dollars every year to rebuild, recover, and protect native fish populations and at the same time protect, enhance, or conserve non-native fish species that prey on them and compete for the same habitat...

Many of us who depend on healthy fish runs for our living, and the general public that wants to eat a fish are going to be hungry until Oregon Coho populations reach harvestable levels. We are now 15 years into a State driven Coho recovery plan. That plan had as priorities: to avoid a federal listing and to return Coho to harvestable numbers. Oregon coastal Coho are now under ESA listing and we still have no public harvest. Isn't it time to try something different?

MERZ 09-02-08
