



**DATE:** March 28, 2011

**TO:** ORAFS Executive Committee

**FROM:** Michele Weaver, Secretary-Treasurer

**SUBJECT:** MINUTES for ORAFS Executive Committee Meeting, March 10, 2011  
from 1500-1700

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

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Present: Demian Ebert, Colleen Fagan, Michele Weaver, Jeremiah Osborne-Gowey, Shivonne Nesbit, Jason Kent, Rich Grost.

1500 ITEM 1: Review

1. Introductions, life, and work updates
2. Contact Information (ExCom and Chairs)
3. Approve Previous Minutes: Feb 10 – approved with no additional edits; Michele will send them to Kara to post on the website.
4. Review Today's Agenda – we will add a poster discussion.
5. Action Items from Feb 10 (w/o annual meeting items):
  - a. Handbook e-mail asking ExCom to update/revise their individual position descriptions (Rich) - done
  - b. Jan minutes to website (Michele) - done
  - c. ORAFS promo items for STEP conf. (Shivonne/Michele) done
  - d. Salmon workshop (add \$100 to MOA, Sign; Demian) and Open checking account (Michele) - done
  - e. Gearhart Mtn Bull trout proceedings to Kara (Demian) - done
  - f. Find searun cutthroat proceedings (Demian) - done
  - g. ODFW mtg re legislative issues (Jeremiah) - done
  - h. White-paper re hatchery (Jeremiah) – see External Director update
  - i. Follow-up regarding KBRA/KHSA request (Jeremiah)
  - j. Request assistance from membership re investments (Demian) – asked at the annual meeting in Bend, so far no response.
  - k. All are tasked with thinking about ideas for fall workshops. - ongoing

1510 ITEM 2: President's Report

1. National/WD AFS – Updates - the bylaws approval request will be sent to WDAFS to discuss at their upcoming conference call.
3. Old Business -- requests and issues.

- The STEP conference (poster display, giveaways) – the draft poster has been e-mailed to all. Please provide edits/comments/feedback by March 16<sup>th</sup>. Demian can print the poster. Michele ordered some recycled/biodegradable ink pens with the ORAFS logo to promote ORAFS at meetings and tradeshows.
  - USFWS Salmon Maturity Workshop – the checking account is open and ready for business.
  - Conservation Leaders Mtg Feb 28<sup>th</sup> – This meeting was held at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. See notes inserted at the end of these minutes. There was a request for a recap of the State of the Beaver conference. Dewaine Jackson of ODFW conducted a pilot study to determine the benefits from beavers. His findings indicate that it is very dependent on the situation whether or not beaver relocation will work and whether beaver activity is helpful. Right now there is not a need for ORAFS to present to this group, but we feel our presence is warranted. The next meeting is in May.
4. New Business – requests and issues
- Rapid Response and OpEd approval process – there was much discussion on this topic pertaining to the recent Op-Ed piece on Snake River recovery submitted to the Oregonian. The ongoing challenge is to provide credible, objective, and accurate information that the Chapter supports fast enough to be newsworthy, yet written well enough to get published. We have guidelines in the handbook which were followed in this case – note ExCom approval, though always desirable, is not required in certain cases. Although the draft was written and reviewed by many committee members and most of ExCom, the Pres and Past-pres made final edits deemed necessary for clarity and objectivity. Although a group effort like this carries some weight. In many cases it may be better and certainly faster to send individual letters rather than an ORAFS group letter. The guidelines for these efforts will be reviewed as part of the Handbook revision at the retreat. Spring Retreat DATES (late April/early May) – Demian will send a doodle poll to get a Friday/Saturday that works for everybody – or at least the date that works best for most.

1520 ITEM 3: ExCom updates

1. Past-President

- Handbook Revision Status – Updates due from ExCom 3/15, Rich will collate with a goal to provide a draft revision to ExCom by Mar 31 (or at least before retreat).
- Outstanding Chapter Application – we can cut and paste and modify our previous application but must use the new form. We need to differentiate ourselves from the WA/BC chapter. If ORAFS wins the chapter of the year at the WDAFS level, we get forwarded to National. We will start with the mid-year report info and add the poster, the white paper update, and other materials Jeremiah has put together to our application. Rich will

send out the draft application by the end of the month for review and revision.

2. President-Elect
  - Annual Meeting Summary – Colleen sent thank you letters to both Don Chapman and Tony Fast.
3. Vice president
  - Bylaw Revision – this is in the approval process at Western Division.
  - Officer Transitions - looks like we will stay in our positions until September. By the time it goes through the official process it should be past the May 1 date we are suggesting to change the term dates to.
4. External Director's Update
  - Improving Committee Involvement – some of our committees have a chairperson and that is all, others have some members. We need a way to increase our membership participation in committees for information sharing and networking. We would like to have a listserve of known expertise so we can call on them when needed. We would like to have good membership activity. It was suggested that the word “committee” leads members away but if we were to somehow make it known that it was something we are passionate about that would increase participation. This discussion was tabled for now and will be added to the agenda for the spring retreat.
  - Salmon Recovery OpEd – the piece has not been published yet, but Jeremiah is working with the Oregonian to keep it alive. *Post-meeting update - The Oregon AFS Chapter's opinion piece made it to the Oregonian on The Stump and received top billing, next to Representatives Doc Hastings' and Peter DeFazio's salmon plan piece (they reiterate the claim that the "best available science" was used). Here is the link: ([http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2011/03/saving\\_columbia\\_river\\_salmon\\_g.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2011/03/saving_columbia_river_salmon_g.html))*
  - ODFW/ORAFS Legislative Meeting Update – Demian and Jeremiah got together with Kurt Meltcher, Sue Marshall, and Charlie Corrarino and talked over some of the common legislative issues. ODFW suggested that we concentrate on three issues, the fish entrainment, heavy metals and toxicity, and the invasive species bills. ODFW doesn't officially take a position and suggested white papers (especially regarding the aquatic invasive species issues) from ORAFS would be helpful.
  - White-paper update – Dropped the "hatchery/wild" definition paper due to a de-emphasis of legislation. Current potential papers include heavy metals, entrainment, plastics, stream flow, and invasive species. It was again stressed that when ORAFS provides white papers they should speak to the science behind the issues rather than addressing specific legislation.
  - ODFW Conservation Leaders Mtg Update – see notes attached below.
5. Secretary-Treasurer – minutes and money
  - Recent income and expenses – there was quite a bit of activity due to the annual meeting last month. A quick summary at this time indicates that the OR chapter annual meeting provided about \$25,000 income.

- Overall financial / investment status – Shaun closed the Wells Fargo account so all of our funds are at Umpqua bank now. Michele is currently the only signer on the account. She will initiate the paperwork to add Demian as a signer. Michele would like some help with investigating investment options. She will e-mail Bruce McIntosh, Mary Buckman, and Jason regarding some investment committee options.
6. Internal Director
- Annual Meeting Expenses (including review of personal expenses by ExCom for critical people) –Rich suggested that we support our ExCom for their contributions to the Annual Meeting when their employers will not. Before all agree to this reimbursement of personal expenses, they want to know how much that will be. Michele and Jeremiah will send an Expense Claim to Demian for review.
  - Resources for Historian – Jason will be talking to Don soon.
  - Perpetual Plaques – they have been found! Justin will be happy to send the plaques to R3 to get them updated. The winners of the Carl Bond scholarship have been 2009 Matt, 2010 Brooke, and 2011 Whit.
  - 2013 Annual Meeting Location – we had some discussion about having a meeting in Portland. The earliest the Western Division will be back in Portland would be 2016. We also talked about moving the Bend meeting to March instead of February. When we were talking to the Riverhouse, they mentioned that we would not have the same buying power later because they are busier in March and wouldn't be able to give us the same low prices they are able to in February. Jason will explore some options for an alternate to the Eugene/Bend rotation.
7. Student Representative - not present to report
- Student Subunit structure review – status

1650 ITEM 4: Fall Workshop(s) – nothing to update at this time

1. Science and Policy, Fall 2011
2. Others? (renewable energy development impacts, riparian connections, etc)

1700 ITEM 5: Upcoming ORAFS meetings

1. ExCom calls every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 1500-1700 hrs – next meeting will be April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Piscatorial Press Deadline for Content 3/15 – here is your early warning to get your annual meeting summaries prepared – Allison will email specific assignments soon

1644 – Meeting is adjourned.

Notes from the Conservation Leaders Meeting:  
ODFW Conservation Leaders meeting:

Julie Schneider, Jill Hanson Hartline, etc.

Update on bills that ODFW is tracking. New natural resource policy manager for Gov. Kitz (Richard Whitman). Budget ODFW has a hearing end of March and early April.

Habitat conservation stamp proposed (up to \$50 fee). Can support the agency w/out having to purchase hunting/fishing tags. Includes parking. Passed out of committee and for floor vote. Seems to be lots of support.

Consolidation of state agencies (multiple). Maybe merging smaller agencies. Task force likely review for 2013 budget. Might move Marine Board into Dept. of Parks.

HB3013 relating to wolves. Relates to compensation bill. Tough economic climate so ODFW doesn't think it will go anywhere. Fair amount of support but not money for it. ODFW is where does the compensation program end if wolves are compensated for.

HB3109 relating to ecosystem services. Expands policies and state land board agencies. Requires consultation w/ renewable energy. May use sagebrush biomes as the test case. Cautiously moving that direction.

HB3121 Aquatic Invasive Species prevention permit. One of the legislators wasn't too happy about it. Bill would remove permit for non-motorized craft. ODFW thinks it's not a good idea since invasives come from variety of angles and good source of revenue. Revenue hasn't been realized to the point they expected (not yet, at least). Rick Boatner mentions another bill that will require mandatory stops. 2815 inspections. 200+ decontaminations (none for zebra/quagga mussels). Compliance rate on voluntary stops was ~28%. Licensing through marine board was

Requires FW commission to consult with SB811 is most significant one. Adds another co-equal goal. Balance local community sustainability with the rest of the process. Seems like it will gain some momentum but will have to see. ODFW is not in the business of economics.

SB583 Wolves can't be listed on State list. ODFW would still be implementing existing plan.

Warren Aney – Wild Bird Seed Conservation Act. HB3374. Committee bill. No scheduled hearing, yet. Still offering amendments. Endorsements from 30+ organizations and individuals. Pushback is from bird feed industry. Hunters pay for something they kill but we don't kill them so why tax us? Also that it'll be too expensive.

Measure 76 – two tracks. Amends current statutes to reflect language in Constitution (removes and places in statutes. Gov. budget reflects that. Process on hold since new, flawed bill introduced in December (SB342). More interesting side show is deal cut in advance of election between ballot measure proponents and individuals who were then-leaders of the delegation. Now an attempt to put new ballot measure for special May election that would amend M76 to do things a number of people agreed to. Would cap funds available and emergency clause. And technical fix in case in caused holes in general budget. But would amend budget to decrease OWEB funding and might open the door to dumping watershed councils. Impacts to loose are \$6-12million in funding. TNC signed on initially but is being vilified since they are saying they

didn't agree to that language as it's been interpreted. Politics seem to indicate that this is more about how lottery funds are dispersed.

Holly Michaels will be sending an email with bill letter of support for congressional delegation. Will send it to the group...

Matt Blakely-Smith and Bob Altman w/ Institute of Applied Ecology – Habitat Restoration for Western Meadowlarks. Awarded an Oregon150 grant from ODFW and OWEB. Goal to restore and conserve natural state symbols. Partnership w/ ODFW, USFWS, NRCS, private landowners. Allowed IAP to convert old farm fields back to meadowlark habitat. 37% decline in 40+ years (from breeding bird surveys). Using restoration of meadowlarks habitats benefits suite of prairie species (good umbrella species potential for grassland habitats). Meadowlarks require space, large areas dominated by herbaceous vegetation. Mean size was ~20 acres. Need adjacent territories. Dense seed plantings may be too dense but are successful at keeping weeds out. New strategy will be to provide less dense plantings and more bare ground patches as research indicates meadowlark nesting sites include it. Also include some more shrubs vs. knocking them back.

Esther Levy – The Wetland Conservancy. Beaver Creek State Natural Area conservation efforts current and future. 419 acre new park. 2010 Oregon State Park of the Year. Near Ona Beach State Park. Larger tracts of land are in the mix for purchase by NGOs and State that could, w/in 3-4 years, be about 2,000 acres of State Natural Area that includes wetland and upland w/ marbled murrelet and spotted owl habitats (big spruce and firs). State and TWC may work with nearby landowner/stables to create horse trails in reprod fir area and keep horses out of wetland areas and maybe even put in a new campground in the area (public but maybe on private lands).

Peter Moore – ODFW conservation strategy website and also on the Oregon150. Deadline to submit abstracts for the Conservation Strategy project. Deadline is March 21st.

May 16th or 23rd for next meeting. 23rd may be primary date for next meeting w/ focus on beaver.