

Desert Fishes Council
Annual Business Meeting Minutes
Ventura, California
November 16, 2007

Meeting Chair, Nathan Allan, President

Minutes recorded by Jim Brooks, Past President

Approximately 65 members in attendance.

Opening comments by Carl Benz - Desert Division, Assistant Field Supervisor, Ventura Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes and appreciates the good work that DFC does for conservation of aquatic ecosystems in the arid lands of the southwest US and Mexico.

1. Honorary recognition of Dr. Clark and Cathy Hubbs

A Lifetime Service Award was presented by Nathan Allan. The membership responded with an exuberant standing ovation.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual Business Meeting

Motion S. Bonar, 2nd P. Reinthal, unanimous approval.

3. Old Business of the Council

a. Centro de Investigación Científica de Cuatrociénegas (CICC) - Dean Hendrickson

Future of Research Station – relocating to better place next month. Looking for funding. DFC committed at 2005 meeting to support research station as long as necessary – commitment is decreasing as income is being generated by guests. Corporate sponsorship suggested (Liu). Hendrickson responded with “Funny you should mention that” and explained that he had had contact with CEMEX, a large Mexican international company, in hopes they might support the CICC. Cristina Vélez, CICC manager, described the new place as having great potential (fully furnished), meeting facilities are great, potential to buy for \$100K – reasonable price. Future looks good.

b. Conservation Fund Development (Stewart Reid)

Funds lined up with Vanguard, a little over \$70K, intent is to have 1 page application format, intent is not to supplement other budgets, something finite/definable/doable, decision by 31 Jan., up to \$1500 or spread out to smaller grants, could be for travel, requirement to include presentation at annual mtg. of DFC, interest earnings applied to grant fund-not primary fund so we continue to earn. Earlier this year we got the first “patron” membership from Dallas Aquarium.

4. Executive Secretary Report (Phil Pister)

a. Financial Report

Keeping a minimal amount of operating funds in general Bishop account just under \$400, most in Vanguard money market account (about \$10,000 as general fund), costs \$600 per year for CPA for all DFC business – produces IRS-satisfactory report. Donations go to four different funds according to donor's wishes.

5. Membership Secretary Report (Heidi Blasius)

Currently DFC has 182 paid members. This is a decrease from previous years. Have 32 new members this year. Please provide updated contact information to Heidi if it changes.

David Koran asked about having DFC added to the list of charities for donation through the Combined Federal Campaign to facilitate additional donation of funds,

Note: This was later investigated and it seems it would cost more money in administrative costs to apply for CFC recognition than we would likely collect through donations (Nathan Allan).

6. Proceedings Editor Report (Dean Hendrickson)

2 years archived – tracking tables issues are delaying processing. Will publish 3 vols. of proceedings this coming year. Tracking tables format will be transferred to database format. Requested that authors put some time and effort into editing their abstracts. As decided at a previous meeting, Proceedings will now be published only electronically, with hard copy available through Lulu.com at cost plus shipping.

7. Program Secretary Report (Stewart Reid)

Reminder to ensure abstract accuracy and editing to fit proceedings format.

8. Areas Coordinator Report (Kara Hilwig)

Kara Hilwig is resigning. Kathryn Boyer has been appointed by the ExComm to serve the rest of the term (1 year), with the charge of creating a spreadsheet to house the tracking tables. Area Coordinators have met to discuss a new approach to maintaining species data that can be more accessible to users. The likely format will be Excel. Area coordinators note they continue to be challenged by the ability to get annual information from membership to include in their respective Area Reports.

9. Member-At-Large Report (Dave Ward)

Council correspondence in 2007

Letter to Arizona Game and Fish Commission thanking for change in policy. Translocations formerly needed concurrence from landowners but this was changed to let things go forward without that concurrence.

Proposed pipeline from NE Nevada to Las Vegas for growth. Need for input from membership to develop DFC response/comment. Need members familiar with issues to contribute scientific information (Deacon and associates will for sure). Project is chopped up so difficult to comment upon, nevertheless DFC will comment.

Need membership to approach Ward with issues.

10. Election of Officers (Nathan Allan)

Executive Secretary - Phil renominated by the ExComm.

Floor open for nominations – none, Phil reappointed

President - Stewart Reid nominated, no other nominations prior to meeting, other nominations here at business meeting? K. Boyer nominates Pam Sponholtz, Kara 2nd, Pam declined nomination, Eric closed nominations. Stewart is elected president.

Proceedings Editor, Dean Hendrickson renominated by the ExComm.

Floor open for nominations – none, nominations closed. Dean reappointed.

Program Secretary (to replace Stewart Reid, just elected President)

Chris Hoagstrom nominated by the ExComm. K. Boyer nominated Pam Sponholtz and seconded, Pam accepted. No other nominations. Nominations closed and seconded. Nathan provided a brief bio of Hoagstrom; Boyer provided one for Sponholtz. Paper ballots were distributed to all.

Results: Pam Sponholtz was elected by a vote of 29-26

2008 Executive Committee:

Stewart Reid, President	Nathan Allan, Past President
Phil Pister, Executive Secretary	Dean Hendrickson, Proceedings Editor
Pam Sponholtz, Program Chair	Kathryn Boyer, Areas Coordinator
Heidi Blasius, Membership Secretary	David Ward, Member at Large

9. Chairperson of the Student Awards Committee Report (Eric Gustafson)

Peter Reinthal and Chris Hoagstrom were thanked for serving on the Awards Committee. Eric encouraged students to participate. No Miller award candidates this year. Intent is to award at business meeting in the future. A point scoring system will be extended to student abstracts in future – be accurate.

10. Local Committee for 2008 meeting (Dean Hendrickson/Cristina Vélez)

- a. Cuatrociénegas, Coahuila, México, November 12-16, 2008, 40th Anniversary!

Travel no problem. Will most likely have a van pool from Austin & San Antonio again.

- b. Future meeting locations: 2009 – Death Valley; 2010 – Moab, Utah

11. Resolutions of the Council (none received prior to submission deadline)

12. Other Business of the Council

- a. Desert Fish Habitat Partnership – DFC Role

What is role of DFC? Need a DFHP administrative coordinator to bring it together. Need a banker for future funding. DFC is a possibility, but would be a big change for DFC. Nothing decided yet.

Chris Cantrell – asked DFC for representation (Nathan/Heidi), need diverse partners, DFC rep on Steering Committee and Executive Steering Committee.

Boyer – suggested DFC provide information about the partnership on the DFC website.

Sjoberg – need more diverse people involved to make this work.

b. Website Help for <http://desertfishes.org>

Need help, busy website, need somebody to manage/improve, needs overhaul, what about contracting? What do we want/what do you want? Dean officially resigned 2 yrs ago, now he's in maintenance mode, not adequately dealing with 'issues' (errors). Have volunteer (Brian Kesner, works for Paul Marsh), but need web designer.

15. Meeting Adjourned.