

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING

Report on the November 18, 1994 Business Meeting of the Desert Fishes Council

Executive Secretary Phil Pister called the business meeting to order at 3:30 PM, and reiterated the Council's delight over recent passage of S. 21, the California Desert Protection Act, which has created the greatest degree of protection over public land since enactment of the Alaska Lands Act. Death Valley is now a national park, and other areas of the California desert have received added protection. The Council gratefully acknowledged the efforts of retiring Death Valley National Park Superintendent Ed Rothfuss in gaining approval of S. 21. Superintendent Rothfuss keynoted the symposium with a very interesting discussion of some of the highlights of the final hours in Congress of S. 21, which came very close to being shelved for yet another year. Considering the outcome of the November 8 election, passage of similar legislation in the foreseeable future seems highly unlikely.

Phil noted with pleasure a summary of attendance data for this symposium. Represented at this event were 29 North American universities; 15 offices of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; 5 offices of the U.S. Forest Service; 2 offices of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; 2 national parks; representatives of the fish and wildlife agencies of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah; New York, Dallas, Chicago, and Columbus (OH) aquaria; Smithsonian Institution; Navajo Nation; Las Vegas Valley and Washington County (UT) water districts; and 5 private consulting firms. Total attendance at the symposium was approximately 250.

Letters of regret of inability to attend this meeting were received from Jack and Cindy Williams, Alice and Tony Echelle, and Nancy Norton and Gary Meffe. The recent death of Beula Edmiston, long-time supporter of Desert Fishes Council and desert fish and aquatic habitat conservation in general, was sadly announced.

Discussion of financial status and dues structure was the next item of old business. The Executive Secretary noted that reserves are being depleted. At the current rate, DFC would entirely deplete its reserves before the end of the century. After considerable discussion, the motion was made, accepted, and unanimously approved by the Council to raise dues by \$10 for members and \$5 for student members. This results in student dues increasing to \$10, regular membership to \$25, and sustaining membership to \$35. During the discussion it was also suggested that since dues are generally paid by individuals, while registration fees are usually paid by agencies and institutions of members, that increases in registration fees for meetings would have less impact on most members than would a dues increase. Meeting registration costs will continue to be determined by local hosts and will be set to cover all meeting-related expenses. As in the past, all proceeds from meetings remaining after payment of expenses will revert to the general fund of the Council.

The Secretary then called for items of new business. Nadine Kanim presented a proposal from the Program Committee suggesting that the concept of Area Coordinators again be implemented within the Council, as was done during the first decade of the Council's existence. Discussion ensued and the Council members present voted to accept the proposal. Area coordinators will maintain a general protective overview of their areas and report to the Chair any matters that, in his/her judgment, should receive input from the Council. For instance, this might include comments concerning species listings, or environmental documents for projects within a given Area.

A major function of Area Coordinators will be to coordinate and prepare the report for his/her area at the annual meeting, both oral at the meeting and written for the Proceedings. This will essentially replace the usual agency report portion of the meeting, which is normally held on the first morning of the symposium. The membership felt that the quality and organization of this section of the annual meeting would be substantially improved by such a measure, and it was agreed to try this approach for a couple of years before making any permanent changes. An advantage of the "Area" approach will be a more cohesive and interesting agency session that fosters intra- and interagency coordination. The various "Areas" would be defined as Upper Colorado, Lower Colorado, Northeastern mainland Mexico, Northwestern mainland Mexico, Baja California, Southeastern Oregon, Lahontan, Death Valley, Bonneville, Interbasin (including White River), Northern California, Southern California, State of Texas, State of New Mexico.

The announcement was made by W.L. Minckley that the basin of Cuatrociénegas had been declared a Biosphere Reserve only about two weeks prior to the meeting. Salvador Contreras confirmed this fact, and briefly outlined a cooperative agreement that has been in development between the DFC and the municipality of Cuatrociénegas. The Council unanimously approved this memorandum of cooperation between the DFC and the municipality of Cuatrociénegas, forming an advisory council to assist with development of plans and coordination with scientists. The mayor, Susana Moncada, had already signed the agreement. As soon as the original is obtained from Cuatrociénegas, appropriate signatures of the DFC Executive Committee will be added to finalize the agreement. In support of this agreement, and the municipality's continued efforts toward conservation, the following resolution was passed by the Council:

RESOLUTION 94-1 - RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF THE CUATROCIÉNEGAS BASIN, COAHUILA, MEXICO

WHEREAS The Cuatrociénegas basin, Coahuila, Mexico, has long been recognized as a remarkably unique and valuable center of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity in the Chihuahuan Desert Region and for that matter the Western Hemisphere; and

WHEREAS preservation of its diverse habitats and biota has been a goal of conservationists for more than three decades; and

WHEREAS a substantial portion of the area was set aside by the Mexican Government this month, November 1994, as a Protected Area; and

WHEREAS the final efforts which succeeded in this endeavour by the residents of Cuatrociénegas through their local citizens and government, the latter under the leadership of Senora Susana Moncada de León, Presidente Municipal, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Desert Fishes Council, an international organization numbering in excess of 500 university and agency research scientists and resource specialists, private conservations, and other individuals concerned with the long-term integrity of North America's desert ecosystems, assembled at its Twenty-sixth Annual Symposium on November 18, 1994 in Death Valley National Park, Furnace Creek, California, unanimously and joyously commends and congratulates Señora Moncada de León and her associates in Cuatrociénegas for their fortitude, determination, and accomplishments in this major step in conservation, the Governor of Coahuila for his encouragement and support, and past-President of Mexico, Lic. Carlos Salinas de Gortari, his advisors and staff, for their foresight in setting aside this irreplaceable basin for future generations. Be it further

RESOLVED that the Desert Fishes Council by this resolution reaffirms assurances of any assistance that can be provided collectively or by its individual members to help to ensure maintenance of the diverse, functional ecosystems of Cuatrociénegas in perpetuity. Be it further

RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded with the Desert Fishes Council's best wishes to Señora Moncada de Leon, past-President of México c. Lic. Carlos Salinas de Gortari, President of México c. Lic. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León, and other officials in Cuatrociénegas, the state capital in Saltillo, Coahuila, federal offices in Mexico City. and to other parties as appropriate.

PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE ATTEST

Edwin P. Pister
Executive Secretary

RESOLUCIÓN 94-1 - RELATIVA A LA PROTECCIÓN DE LA CUENCA DE CUATROCIÉNEGAS, COAHUILA, MÉXICO

CONSIDERANDO que la cuenca de Cuatrociénegas, Coahuila, México, ha sido ampliamente reconocida como un centro remarcadamente único y valuable de biodeiversidad acuática y terrestre en la Región del Deseierto Chihuahuense y por esto el hemisferio Oeste; y

CONSIDERANDO que la preservación de su diversidad de habitats y biota ha sido una meta de conservacionistas por mas de tres décadas; y

CONSIDERANDO que una parte sustancial del area fue protegida recientemente por el gobierno federal de México en forma de declaración del area como Area Protegido; y

CONSIDERANDO que el empeño final del proceso de obtener esta declaración fue por los residentes de Cuatrociénegas a traves de ciudadanos locales y el gobierno, este último bajo el liderazgo de la Señora Susana Moncada de León, Presidente Municipal, por lo tanto ha

RESUELTO que el Consejo de los Peces del Desierto, una organización internacional cuyo número excede a las 500 científicos trabajando en universidades y agencias de gobiernos y conservacionistas privados y otros individuos comprometidos con la integridad a largo plazo de los ecosistemas desérticos de Norte América, reunidos en su Veinteseis Simposio Anual en noviembre 18 1994 en el Parque Nacional del Valle de la Muerte, Furnace Creek, California, unánimemente y jubilosamente recomienda y felicita a la Señora Moncada de León y a sus asociados en Cuatrociénegas por su fortaleza, determinación y cumplimiento en este importante paso de en la conservación, el Gobernador de Coahuila por su fomento y apoyo, y al ex-Presidente de México c. Lic. Carlos Salinas de Gortari, a sus asesores y equipo de trabajo, por su previsión en considerar esta irremplazable cuenca para futuras generaciones. Además ha

RESUELTO que el Consejo de los Peces del Desierto por esta resolución reafirma seguridad de cualquier asistencia que pueda ser proporcionada colectivamente o por sus miembros individualmente para ayudar a asegurar el mantenimiento de la diversidad y funcionalidad de los ecosistemas de Cuatrociénegas en perpetuidad. Además, ha

RESUELTO que copias de esta resolución sean dirigidas junto con los mejores deseos del Consejo de los Peces del Desierto a la Señora Moncada de León, al ex-Presidente de la República de México c. Lic. Carlos Salinas de Gortari, al Presidente c. Lic. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León, a los ejecutivos de gobierno en la ciudad de Cuatrociénegas apropiados e interesados, a la capital del Estado de Coahuila, Saltillo, a los ejecutivos de agencias federales en la ciudad de México, y a otras partes.

APROBADA SIN DISENCIÓN VOTO ATESTIGAR

Edwin P. Pister
Secretario Ejecutivo

Minckley also asked permission of the Council to draft and send another resolution, on behalf of the Council, commending and thanking Sr. Pepe Lugo, for many years of collaboration with various scientists carrying out research in Cuatro Ciénegas. The motion was made by R.R. Miller to allow Minckley to draft this resolution on behalf of the Council, and to have it mailed to appropriate local, state and federal government offices in México. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. The resolution subsequently drafted by Dr. Minckley follows:

RESOLUTION 94-2 - A COMMENDATION FOR JOSE ("PEPE") LUGO GUAJARDO RELATIVE TO HIS INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE TO RESEARCHERS IN THE VALLEY OF CUATROCIENEGAS DE CARRANZA, COAHUILA, MEXICO

Field research is difficult without local assistance, and far less so if local contacts are sympathetic of intentions, knowledgeable of local geography, resources and potentials, and philosophically attuned to the research itself. Sr. José ("Pep• ") Lugo, lifelong resident of Cuatro Ciénegas de Carranza, Coahuila, México, has all these attributes and more relative to biological and other research and researchers in his valley.

Before biologists came to Cuatro Ciénegas, Pepe Lugo already knew of its resources and uniqueness. As soon as they came he gave all that he could to support them in studies of the valley he loves. He and his wife Catalina, now deceased, provided all they could, asking little or nothing but friendship in return. Many attendees of the Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Desert Fishes Council, and others not in attendance, owe him deep personal and scientific debts of gratitude for fond memories of the basin, its habitats and biota, and our successes.

Pepe Lugo is a strong and important advocate of species, habitat, and ecosystem preservation. He worries for the Coahuila box turtle (*Terrapene coahuila*), mojarra (*Cichlasoma* spp.), and the local form of robalo (largemouth bass; *Micropterus salmoides* ssp.). He is deeply concerned of habitat changes he and others observed, such as drying of Río Cañon and decline in levels of some springs. His interpretation of changes based on long-term, practical knowledge of the valley and its environs serves conservation well.

The Desert Fishes Council therefore wishes to emphasize its gratitude and admiration for this man:

WHEREAS A great number of past and present members of the Desert Fishes Council has visited the Valley of Cuatro Ciénegas, depending upon and benefitting from Sr. José Lugo's assistance and enjoying his company; and

WHEREAS his guiding, repair of equipment or arrangements for its repair, cooking, sampling, provision of housing and transportation, translations, support of students, cajoling, consulting, and helping with innumerable others of the things absolutely required resulted in research projects succeeding and researchers surviving and prospering in the process; and

WHEREAS in doing so he contributed far more than he and many others realize to the success of November 1994 when major parts of the Valley were set aside by President of México, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Desert Fishes Council, an International Organization numbering in excess of 500 university and agency research scientists and resource specialists, private conservationists, and other individuals concerned with the long-term integrity of North America's desert ecosystems, assembled at its Twenty-sixth Annual Symposium in November 1994 in Death Valley National Park, Furnace Creek, California, unanimously acknowledges the immeasurable contributions of Sr. José Lugo Guajardo to biological research and to the well-being of researchers over almost four decades. Without the assistance of this single individual, understanding of the importance of the Cuatro Ciénegas Valley to science and its conservation for humankind might well not have been achieved.

RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded with the Desert Fishes Council's best wishes to la Alcaldesa del Municipio de Cuatro Ciénegas, Señora Moncada de León, and to other officials in Cuatro Ciénegas, the Governor of Coahuila and other officials in the State Capital in Saltillo, past-President of México c. Lic. Carlos Salinas de Gortari, and President of México c. Lic. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León and other officials in Mexico City, and to other parties as appropriate.

PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE ATTEST

Edwin P. Pister
Executive Secretary

RESOLUCIÓN 94-2 - COMENDACION DEL CONSEJO DE LOS PECES DEL DESIERTO AL SR. JOSE ("PEPE") LUGO GUARJARDO RELATIVO A SU INVALIDOSA ASISTENCIA PRESTADA A INVESTIGADORES EN LA CUENCA DE CUATROCIENEGAS DE CARRANZA, COAHUILA, MEXICO

RESUELTO que la investigación en el campo es difícil sin ayuda local, y mucho menos difícil si los ciudadanos sean interesados, conocen la geografía local, los recursos y potenciales, y están de acuerdo con las investigaciones. Sr. José ("Pepe") Lugo Guajardo, nacido en Cuatrociénegas de Carranza, Coahuila, México, tiene todos estos atributos y más relativo a la investigación e investigadores en los alrededores del Valle de Cuatro Ciénegas.

Mucho antes de que llegaron los biólogos al valle, José Lugo conoció sus recursos y su naturaleza única. Tan pronto que llegaron los biólogos, él les prestó todo su apoyo en estudios del valle que ama. Él y su esposa, Señora Catalina Díaz de León de Lugo, ahora fallecida, proveyeron todo que pudieron, pidiendo poco o nada fuera de amistad en cambio. Muchos miembros del Desert Fishes Council le deben deudas personales y científicas por sus queridas memorias de la cuenca, sus hábitats y biota y el éxito de los nosotros mismos.

José Lugo llegó a ser un vocal fuerte de las especies, su hábitat, y para la conservación de la ecosistema. Preocupó por las tortugas de bisagra de Coahuila (*Terrapene coahuila*), mojarra (*Cichlasoma* spp.) y la forma local de robalo (largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides* ssp.). Inquietó también por los cambios de hábitats que él y otros vieron, como la desecación del Río Cañon y la declinación de los ojos de agua. Su intrepación de cambios basada en conocimiento práctico sobre largo plazo ha servida muy bien para la conservación.

Por lo tanto, El Consejo de los Peces del Desierto, quiere enfatizar su gratitud y admiración para este hombre, para los razones siguientes:

CONSIDERANDO que un gran numero de miembros pasados y actuales del Consejo de los Peces del Desierto ha visitado el Valle de Cuatrociénegas, dependiendo en la asistencia de José Lugo, y disfrutando de su compañía, y

CONSIDERANDO que su servicio como guia, reparación de equipo o asistencia con arreglos, cocina, muestreo de la biota, provisión de alojamiento y transporte, traducciones, apoyo de estudiantes, consultas, y ayuda con otros asuntos innumerables, produjo el exito de proyectos y la sobrevivencia y prosperidad de los investigadores, y

CONSIDERANDO que por hacer todo esto, contribuyó mucho mas que dan cuenta él mismo y muchos otros, al éxito de 1994 cuando terrenos sustanciales e importantes del Valle fueron declarados como Area Protegido, por lo tanto, ha

RESUELTO que el Consejo de los Peces del Desierto, una organización internacional con mas de 500 miembros, todos científicos de universidades y agencias gubernatales, conservacionistas privadas, y otros individuos preocupados con la integridad sobre largo plazo de los ecosistemas desérticos, en asamblea en su vigesimosesto simposio anual en el Parque Nacional del Valle de la Muerte (Death Valley), Furnace Creek, California, unanimamente reconoce las contribuciones inmensurables del Señor José “Pepe” Lugo a la investigación científica y el bienestar de investigadores durante casi cuatro décadas. Y ademas ha

RESUELTO que copias de esta resolución sean dirigidas junto con los mejores deseos del Consejo de los Peces del Desierto al Señor José “Pepe” Lugo Guajardo, a la Señora Moncada de León, al ex-Presidente de la República de México c. Lic. Carlos Salinas de Gortari, al Presidente c. Lic. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León, a los ejecutivos de gobierno en la ciudad de Cuatrociénegas apropiados e interesados, a la capital del Estado de Coahuila, Saltillo, a los ejecutivos de agencias federales en la ciudad de México, y a otras partes.

APROBADA SIN DISENCIÓN VOTO ATESTIGAR

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Clark Hubbs asked that the Council officially voice its support of a resolution of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists to the State of Texas and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This ASIH resolution (published in Copeia 1994(4):1106) supports federal listing, as endangered or threatened, of current candidate species, *Trogloglanis pattersoni* and *Satan eurystomus*, blind catfishes known only from deep wells in the Edwards Aquifer underlying the city of San Antonio, Texas, as well as two endemic salamanders and numerous invertebrates from the same aquifer. The motion was made by R.R. Miller to accept this motion, seconded by W.L. Minckley, and approved unanimously by the Council.

The motion was made by the Program Committee to replace the Agency reports with Area Reports. Nadine Kanim outlined a system of Areas, based primarily on hydrographic regions. She had spoken with many individuals and had volunteer coordinators for each area. Coordinators would seek input to their reports from all individuals and agencies doing work in the area and would present at the meeting a 15-minute summary covering all contributions received. A more comprehensive report could be submitted for publication in the Proceedings. It is anticipated tha all contributors would be included as co-authors of the report. After some discussion, the motion was made and seconded to accept this proposal, and it was passed with a single dissenting vote by the membership. Nadine will contact all who volunteered to coordinate area reports, and a list of those persons with telephone and other contacts will be provided to the membership in the first call for papers in the spring of '95. Members will then provide contributions to their appropriate coordinators who will then provide an abstract to the editor of the proceedings by the normal deadline.

Dean Hendrickson reminded members of the Dec. 31 deadline for receipt of full papers for publication in Proceedings of the Desert Fishes Council, and of the request for contributions to the DFC's World Wide Web pages which were demonstrated as a poster (see abstract). Mike Baltzly was acknowledged as the prinicipal programmer who contributed significant time toward completion of the project Web pages. Contributions of additional fish photos and associated text or related files (documents, data sets, etc.) were solicited.

It was announced that Paul Marsh had accepted an invitation from the Executive Committee to become the Membership Secretary. Paul will begin after this meeting managing the membership list and dues accounting. A copy of the membership directory will be placed on the WWW server as soon as the data have been updated and proofed.

An offer from members based in Reno, Nevada, to host the next annual meeting of the Council, was quickly accepted by the membership. Paul Barrett will be the local committee chairperson. An invitation from the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, to meet in 1996 in La Paz, Baja California, was also accepted, with Francisco Reynoso serving as the local committee chairperson. Adhering to the practice of meeting every third year in Death Valley, the 1997 meeting will again be held at Furnace Creek.

Phil Pister announced that Dean Hendrickson would be assuming the position of Chair of the Desert Fishes Council, effective January 1, 1996.

The final item of business was presentation of the Best Student Paper Awards. Judges this year were Drs. Robert Edwards, Gary Garrett, Jim Johnson and Steve Platania. Sixteen students competed. The Carl L. Hubbs award for the overall best student paper was given to Robert Hines, for his paper "Influence of suspended sediments on larval razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) vulnerability to predation". Runner up in this competition was J.B. Ruppert for his paper "Effects of electrofishing fields on embryos and larvae of razorback suckers." The Frances H. Miller award for the best paper presented by a Mexican student was presented to Edmundo Teniente-Nivón for his paper "Archeoichthyological studies in México". Certificates were presented to both winners and the meeting adjourned.

The field trip to Ash Meadows, Devils Hole and other areas took place on Sunday morning, November 20.