

Business Meeting Minutes of 36th Annual Meeting of Desert Fishes Council, Tucson Arizona, 10-14 November 2004

President Jim Brooks called the business meeting of the 36th annual meeting of the Desert Fishes Council, held at the Doubletree Inn at Reid Park in Tucson, Arizona, to order at 1700 hrs on 12 November 2004.

Old Business

The first order of business was a request for changes or additions to the meeting agenda; none was offered.

The next order of business was review and approval of the minutes of the 35th annual meeting of the Desert Fishes Council, held at Death Valley National Park, California. No change to minutes of 35th annual business meeting was offered. Clark Hubbs moved that minutes be accepted as presented to membership. Harold Tyus seconded motion. There was no discussion and minutes were accepted by unanimous voice vote.

Executive Secretary Phil Pister reported that DFC accounts (money market and checking) currently held about \$80,000. A precise figure would not be available until all income and costs associated with 36th annual meeting were reconciled. Nonetheless, the financial health of DFC was hale and hearty. Pister reported that DFC had acted as funding conduit (at no cost to DFC) for 3 projects that complemented the mission of DFC during 2004. Suggestions were offered by membership on possible use of funds. These included development of educational programs for children, public outreach efforts similar to that of the North American Native Fishes Association, a “seed” grant program, and development of a teacher’s guide for aquatic education. Steve Ross urged that use of DFC funds for projects should not erode or diminish current financial well-being of DFC. Members were urged to post their suggestions on the DFC list server bulletin board. Depending upon postings, Excomm may appoint an ad hoc committee to review ideas and make recommendations to membership.

Membership Secretary Marlis Douglas (in absentia) reported that DFC currently had 226 members, including 63 new members. Membership reports for 2003 and 2004 were provided by Douglas (Attachments 1 and 2)

Proceedings Editor Dean Hendrickson reported that Proceedings of previous meetings (34th and 35th) were nearly finished and hard and electronic (html and pdf) copies would soon be available to members. Hendrickson noted that editing and translation to Spanish of poorly written abstracts slowed publication process and urged those submitting abstracts to carefully review abstracts for grammar and clarity prior to submission. He also pointed out that there are detailed instructions to abstract authors on the website that are often not followed. Overall quality of the Proceedings would be greatly improved by authors paying attention to these instructions, and the workload of the Proceedings Editor and Translation Committee would be diminished.

Program Secretary Stewart Reid reported that all presenters at 36th annual meeting had paid their dues and registration on time, per DFC rules.

Member-at-Large Tony Echelle reported that during his tenure he was impressed with work and accomplishments of Excomm.

Student Awards Chair Eric Gustafson thanked his committee of Marty Brittan and Matt Andersen for their efforts. Gustafson commended the quality of student presentations and related that selection of best student papers was difficult. Eleven student presentations, given in one session, were made at the 36th annual meeting. The Robert R. Miller and Frances H. Miller Award for Best Paper by a Latin American Student was presented to Norman Mercado-Silva of the University of Wisconsin – Madison for his paper “Long Term Trends in the Fish Assemblage of the Laja River, Guanajuato, Mexico; an Example of the Decline of Fish Communities in Central Mexico”. The Carl L. Hubbs Award for Best Student Paper was presented to Lindsey Lyons of Southern Oregon University, for her paper “Temporal and Spatial Variation in Larval Pupfish Abundance and Associated Microhabitat Variables in Devils Hole, Nevada”.

Areas Coordinator Nadine Kanim reported that the 2002 Species Status Tracking report would be in the 2003 Proceedings. An electronic database is in development by Pete Rissler and Tom Skyles and when completed will be available on the DFC website. Kanim urged membership to review the species tracking report and provide updates and corrections. Area coordinators were thanked for their efforts. Kanim provided an update on individuals serving as area coordinators: Stewart Reid will continue as Oregon area coordinator, Steve Parmenter will continue for California, Eric Miskow will replace Anita Shaul and Cynthia Martinez as Nevada area coordinator, Matthew Andersen will continue for the Bonneville area, Kevin Christopherson will replace Tim Modde as upper Colorado River basin coordinator, Kara Hilwig replaced Sally Stefferud as lower Colorado River basin coordinator, Hilary Watts replace Jim Brooks as upper/middle Rio Grande coordinator, Gary Garrett will continue as Texas area coordinator, Gorgonio Ruiz-Campos will replace Alejandro Varela-Romero as northwest Mexico coordinator, and Salvador Contreras-Balderas will continue as coordinator for northeast Mexico and Mexico (national). President Brooks announced that Kanim was retiring as Areas Coordinator, after 10 arduous years, and thanked her for her considerable contributions during her tenure.

Cuatrociénegas Meeting Arrangements Chair Hendrickson presented the membership an overview of Cuatrociénegas, local facilities, and travel options for this meeting.

President Brooks announced that nominations for Membership Chair, Area Coordinator, and Member-at-Large had been received. Marlis Douglas (appointed by Excomm to fill unanticipated vacancy) and Heidi Blasius (nominated by Peter Reinthal) were nominated for Membership Chair. Kara Hilwig (nominated by Nadine Kanim) and Kathy Boyer (nominated by Phil Pister) were nominated for Areas Coordinator, and Chuck Minckley was nominated by Stephanie Coleman for Member-at-Large. Each nominator provided a brief introduction and affirmation for their respective candidates. Paper ballots were provided to membership and collected by Excomm.

Tucson Meeting Arrangements Chair Scott Bonar thanked all who helped him with arrangements for 36th annual meeting in Tucson. Those recognized for their contributions were Dean Hendrickson, Stewart Reid, Tony Robinson, Peter Reinthal, Scott Gurtin, Jeff Simms, Steve

Norris, Peter Rissler, Chuck Minckley, Paul Barrett, Phil Pister, Rob Bettaso, Alison Iles, Andy Schultz, and Heidi Blasius. President Brooks thanked Bonar for his efforts and complimented him for a most successful and enjoyable meeting.

One resolution, regarding use of piscicides in New Mexico, was submitted and posted on website with abstracts for consideration by membership. David Propst, resolution submitter, provided brief background on recent decision by the New Mexico State Game Commission to ban use of piscicides by New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for native fish restoration efforts. This ban has essentially halted recovery efforts for Gila trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout, thereby making possible downlisting of Gila trout problematic and increasing chances that Rio Grande cutthroat trout might be federally listed. A motion was made, and seconded, to accept the resolution. Steve Platania offered several editorial corrections to the resolution. Matt Andersen asked if resolution could be expanded to other states. Propst replied that the specific issue, at this time, applies only to New Mexico. Several members expressed opinion that other states should be appraised of resolution. Membership decided that including International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies among resolution recipients would ensure other states are aware of resolution. Membership suggested that “undesirable” be used instead of “nonnative” fishes and that species restoration efforts include non-salmonid examples. The resolution was revised accordingly and will be transmitted to recipients via form transmittal letter signed by President Brooks. The membership approved the following resolution by voice vote, without dissent.

Whereas the Desert Fishes Council (<http://www.desertfishes.org>) is an international organization numbering in excess of 250 agency, university, and private research and management scientists and resource specialists and other individuals concerned with the long-term integrity of North America’s desert ecosystems, and

Whereas the expertise of its members collectively reflects many years of education and experience working in the fields of aquatic ecosystem research, conservation and management, and

Whereas New Mexico’s aquatic ecosystems support a diverse and rich native fish fauna that contributes immeasurably to the state’s biological heritage; and

Whereas many of New Mexico’s native fish species that utilize these habitats are imperiled by habitat modification and predation, competition, and hybridization with undesirable fish species; and

Whereas without continuing and concerted efforts to control and diminish factors that threaten native New Mexico fishes, many will continue to decline in status; and

Whereas elimination or control of undesirable fish species is a primary means by which security of several imperiled native fish species may be enhanced; and

Whereas the piscicides antimycin A and rotenone are proven environmentally safe, effective, and efficient means to control or eliminate undesirable fishes; and

Whereas each of these piscicides has been a critical tool in successful restoration and contributed to the recovery of several rare fish species throughout the United States, including greenback cutthroat trout, Apache trout, California golden trout, Leon Springs pupfish, Gila chub and Gila topminnow; and

Whereas prohibition of use of piscicides for elimination of noxious undesirable fish species by the New Mexico State Game Commission will seriously impede, if not halt, recovery and conservation of rare native fish species in New Mexico, particularly Gila trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout; now therefore be it

Resolved that the Desert Fishes Council, by majority vote of the membership assembled at its thirty-sixth annual business meeting on November 12, 2004 in Tucson, Arizona, urges the New Mexico State Game Commission to reverse its decision to ban use of the piscicides antimycin A and rotenone in native fish conservation and management.

Resolution Recipients

Bill Richardson, Governor
State of New Mexico
State Capitol
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Guy Riordan, Chairman
New Mexico State Game
Commission
9514 Kandace Dr. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114

Alfredo Montoya, Vice-Chairman
New Mexico State Game
Commission
San Juan Pueblo, NM 87566

Tom Arvas
7905 Spain NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

David Henderson
P.O. Box 9314
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Jennifer Atchley-Montoya
4010 Oleta Dr., Apt. A
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Peter Pino
026 Chamisa Dr.
Zia Pueblo, NM 87053-3304

Leo Sims, II
P.O. Box 2630
Hobbs, NM 88241-2630

Dr. Bruce Thompson, Director
New Mexico Department of Game
and Fish
P.O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504

International Association of Fish
and Wildlife Agencies
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 725
Washington, DC 20001

Arizona Game and Fish Department Assistant Director Bruce Taubert, after complimenting student presenters, addressed the membership on issues regarding the resolution (and associated transmittal letter) passed by DFC at its 35th annual meeting concerning native fish management in Arizona and sent to Arizona Governor Napolitano. Although the “message” of the resolution was appropriate, the negative style of the initial transmittal letter was not likely to elicit a positive response, in Taubert’s opinion. Taubert explained that Arizona Game and Fish Department receives funding for its activities from several sources and has a broad array of constituents to which it is responsible. In his perspective, Taubert believed Arizona Game and Fish Department devotes considerable effort to native fish conservation, but that these efforts have to be accomplished within the agency’s diverse, and often conflicting, responsibilities for all its constituents. The DFC membership was reminded that AZGF is only one of many agencies having a responsibility for management and conservation of native fishes in Arizona. For DFC to influence Arizona Game and Fish Department, as well as the State Game Commission, Taubert urged DFC to become a constituent of AZGF by attending State Game Commission meetings and promoting the interests of native fishes. Taubert also encouraged DFC members to volunteer with AZGF on various native fish restoration efforts. President Brooks asked Taubert if AZGF’s “Twelve-step” project review process enabled potentially affected permittees to “veto” proposed projects. Taubert responded that for a project to proceed AZGF believes it is necessary that a potentially affected permittee be a willing partner. Taubert

was then asked by Stewart Reid how DFC might introduce itself to State Game Commission and was advised that a presentation by Executive Secretary Pister might be appropriate.

New Business

President Brooks provided a brief review of the informal meeting held on Wednesday evening (10 November 2004) to discuss future direction and role of DFC. Much of informal meeting involved discussion of events surrounding controversy of resolution (and transmittal letter) to Arizona Governor. In the end, the general thinking of those in attendance was that several processes within DFC should be more structured to avoid contretemps, but that DFC should generally function as it has in past. One outcome of that meeting was that Peter Unmack would solicit ideas from DFC members on how resolutions might be handled in the future and would report that information to membership.

At its May 2004 meeting, the Excomm reviewed the constitution of DFC and recommended changes that would improve clarity and clearly define several ambiguous points. An electronic copy of the suggested changes was made to the membership prior to the 10 November 2004 meeting. The Constitution and Bylaws were displayed for membership at business meeting and comments/suggestions solicited. Steve Platania provided several editorial suggestions (e.g., spelling and grammatical corrections). The DFC "Mission Statement" was inserted in the preamble to DFC Constitution. Hendrickson made changes to the Constitution and Bylaws as they were discussed and approved by voice vote. [The final revised document](#) will be reviewed by Excomm, and published on the website and in the 2004 Proceedings.

Peter Unmack reported to membership that his informal "survey" of membership indicated a desire for creation of a Resolutions Committee to act as a "clearinghouse" for resolutions and between-meeting actions on issues. As presented by Unmack, a Resolutions Committee could handle all non-controversial matters, but pass on to Excomm those that need further review/discussion. The Excomm, after obtaining appropriate background information, would present any resolutions to membership for consideration. If the issue demanded timely action, the Excomm could request discussion via listserver and act by sending a letter from the Executive Committee (i.e. not a resolution, which requires membership vote), or, the resolution could be presented to membership at annual meeting. Walt Courtenay was suggested as a possible chair for proposed Resolutions Committee, and area coordinators as members. Questions were posed by membership regarding the need for a formal Resolutions Committee (i.e., changing Bylaws). After some discussion, Lloyd Findley noted that Excomm had power to create ad hoc committees and that that approach might be better than changing Bylaws. Findley's suggestion was accepted and Walt Courtenay was asked to serve as Chair of ad hoc Resolutions Committee.

At its May 2004 meeting, the Excomm drafted standard formats for resolutions and transmittal letters. These formats were presented to membership for discussion and suggestions. A motion was made, and seconded, to accept recommended changes of Excomm. The motion passed by voice vote without dissent. The policy is as follows:

Resolutions

Instructions for authors:

Resolutions must further the mission of the DFC and must be submitted via the same mechanism as are abstracts for presentations, and by the same deadline date.

All resolutions must begin with the following two "whereas" statements:

Whereas the Desert Fishes Council (<http://www.desertfishes.org>) is an international organization numbering in excess of 250 professional members including agency, university, and private research and management scientists and resource specialists and other individuals concerned with the long-term integrity of North America's desert ecosystems, and

Whereas the expertise of its members collectively reflects considerable decades of education and active experience working in the fields of aquatic ecosystem research, conservation and management, and

followed by the resolution's specific text (additional "whereas" statements explaining the particular situation of interest, etc.),

followed by this "Resolved" paragraph:

Resolved that the Desert Fishes Council, by majority vote of the membership assembled at its XXth annual business meeting on November XX, 20XX in XXXXCity, State,(action statement asking recipients to do something, etc., possibly with additional

"and, be it further

Resolved" paragraphs)....

and finally, a list of all persons to whom the letter is proposed to be sent must follow with complete mailing addresses for all.

Council action:

Resolutions will be acted upon as per the Council's Constitution and bylaws, and may be edited by the membership. If approved by the membership, the approved version of the resolution will be promptly transmitted by the President to all recipients under a standardized cover letter that contains only the following text in the body of the letter following a standard salutation:

At its annual business meeting on XX November 20XX, held in conjunction with its XXth annual conference in XXXXXXXXXXXXX, the general membership of the Desert Fishes Council voted to approve and transmit the attached resolution to you and other recipients listed in the body of the resolution. We appreciate your consideration of its content.

Sincerely,

President

Desert Fishes Council

(no address or other affiliation necessary since will be printed on DFC letterhead)

Hendrickson presented a request to DFC for provision of financial support for “field station” at Cuatrociénegas. The field station provides accommodations and basic equipment for visiting scientists and students at an annual cost of about \$US 14,000. Usage over the five years that Hendrickson and colleagues have been renting the house has been great, with many students starting projects and many new collaborations facilitated through contacts made via usage of the facility. To date, Hendrickson has obtained financial support for facility from other sources, but for upcoming year anticipates a shortfall of \$US 6,293. The request is for one year; Hendrickson anticipates obtaining funding from other sources for support of the facility in subsequent years. Steve Ross commented that before considering any request to use DFC funds, DFC might wish to establish general guidelines regarding how its funds will be used, and establish mechanisms by which funds would be replaced. There some discussion, but members suggested that the specific request being discussed was clearly within the scope of DFC’s mission and important to act now. A motion was made, and seconded, to provide funding (\$US 6,293) for one year to support establishment of the Cuatrociénegas field station. The motion carried, by voice vote, without dissent.

President Brooks advised the membership that ballots for Area Coordinator, Membership Chair, and Member-at-Large would be tallied by Excomm and results announced on 12 November 2004. President Brooks adjourned the business meeting of the 36th Annual Meeting of the Desert Fishes Council at 1930 hrs on 11 November 2004.

On 12 November 2004, President Brooks announced that Kara Hilwig was elected Areas Coordinator, Heidi Blasius Membership Chair, and Chuck Minckley Member-at-Large.

Following the meeting, Executive Secretary Pister provided an accounting of DFC finances as of 31 October 2004 (Attachment 3).

ATTACHMENT 1

DFC MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND FEES:

COM (Complimentary)	N/A
DOM (Domestic)	\$25
FAM (Family)	\$35
LIF (Life)	\$625

<u>STU (Student)</u>	<u>\$15</u>
<u>SUS (Sustaining)</u>	<u>\$35</u>

17 members paid dues twice during FY03; each of these payments is counted individually (i.e., two different payments)

DFC DUES PAID IN FY2003 BY MEMBER CATEGORY

Category	N	Total \$	Extra \$	Dues only
COM	N/A			
DOM	157	\$4,100	\$175	\$3,925
FAM	15	\$625	\$100	\$525
LIFE	2	\$1,250	\$0	\$1,250
STU	40	\$650	\$50	\$600
SUS	25	\$925	\$50	\$875
	239	\$7,550	\$375	\$7,175

Legend: N is the number of payments for a category; Total \$ = total amount of money members paid (some paid membership fees and included a donation to the DFC travel fund within their payment); Extra \$ = amount of extra money that was paid; Dues only = amount of money that was paid for membership dues only. The last two columns are a break-up of Total \$ column.

DFC DUES PAID IN FY2003 LISTED BY PAYMENT TYPE

Category	Paytype	N	Total \$	Extra \$	Dues only
COM	N/A	3	N/A		N/A
DOM	Cash	104	2,680	80	2,600
	Paypal	48	1,245	45	1,200
	Phil	5	175	50	125
FAM	Cash	12	520	100	420
	Paypal	3	105	0	105
LIF	Cash	2	1,250	0	1,250
	Paypal	0	0	0	0
STU	Cash	14	245	35	210
	Paypal	25	390	15	375
	Phil	1	15	0	15
SUS	Cash	13	505	50	455
	Paypal	12	420	0	420
		239	\$7,550	\$375	\$7,175

Legend: Most columns as above: table lists also how payment was received. Cash = payment was received by Jerry Stefferud (presumably as check) and deposited into Wells Fargo Bank account; PayPal = payment was received via paypal (not sure if all or some of these payments were directly transferred in the main DFC account Phil maintains); Phil = probably indicates that payment was directly sent to Phil (rather than Jerry Stefferud).

Funds transferred from Wells Fargo Account to First National Bank Account

19 Feb 04	Check	\$1,400.75
19 Feb 04	Cash	\$5.00
19 feb 04	check	\$590.00
	Total	\$1,995.75

ATTACHMENT 2

DFC MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND FEES:

COM	NA
DOM	\$25
FAM	\$35
LIF	\$625
STU	\$15
SUS	\$35

DFC DUES PAID IN FY04 (up to 8 Nov 04) BY MEMBER CATEGORY

Category	N	Dues \$	Extra \$	Total \$
COM	2	N/A		N/A
DOM	118	2,995	105	3,100
FAM	11	385	0	385
LIF	0	0	0	0
STU	31	465	50	515
SUS	12	420	60	480
	172	\$4,265	\$215	\$4,480

Legend: N is number of payments for a category; Dues \$ = amount of money that was paid for membership dues only. Extra \$ = amount of extra money that was paid (donations); Total \$ = total amount of money members paid (membership dues and donation). (DOM category – 118 x \$25 would be \$2,950; one check was made out for \$20 only, another member paid \$50; thus the difference)

NUMBER OF DFC MEMBERS (as of 8 Nov 04)

Category	Total 04	New 04	03 not 04
COM	2	1	3
DOM	133	40	77
FAM	16	1	2
LIF	25	0	NA
STU	31	18	22
SUS	19	3	11
	226	63	115

Legend: Total 04 is number of members in good standing for calendar year 2004 (i.e., dues paid for FY04). New 04 is number of members that joined DFC during calendar year 2004 (some might have been members in the past, but had not renewed dues since 2000 – if a member does not pay dues for 5 years, he/she is deleted from the membership database). 03 not 04 is number of members that paid dues during calendar year 2003, but have not yet renewed their membership for 2004 (some might intend to do this during the meeting in Tucson). Members of previous years that did not renew membership in subsequent years: 12 2002 members (not renewed in 2003 or 2004); 28 2001 members (members in 2001, but not renewed in 2002, 2003, or 2004).

ATTACHMENT 3

Desert Fishes Council Balance Sheet As of October 31, 2004

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Bank of America Checking	35,278.66
Capital Preservation (Minckley fund)	10,219.54
Morgan Stanley Asset Account	45,741.64
First National Bank, Ft. Collins (Memb.)	3, 826.40
PayPal (registration fees)	4,207.71
Total Checking/Savings	99,273.95

Total Current Assets 99, 273.95

TOTAL ASSETS 99,273.95

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Retained Earnings	75,362.15
Net Income	<u>23,911.80</u>

Total Equity 99,273.95

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 99,273.95

Prepared by Patricia Pontak, CPA. 11/06/04
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Desert Fishes Council
Profit & Loss
January through December 2004

PL	<u>Jan - Dec 04</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Banquet revenue	800.00
Book revenue	150.00
Contributions	730.65
Dividend income	
Capital Preservation	84.65
DW Liquid Asset Fund	381.73
Total Dividend income	<u>466.38</u>
Grant revenue	8,800.00
Interest Income	
B of A	23.73
Total Interest Income	<u>23.73</u>
Membership Dues	5,080.00
Minckly Memorial Fund	580.00
Proceedings revenue	30.00
Symposium Registration	
Income	27,605.00
Refunds	-290.00
Total Symposium Registration	<u>27,315.00</u>
Total Income	43,975.76
Expense	
Bank Service Charges	65.05
Donations	50.00
Office expense	54.71
Pay Pal fees	609.65
Postage and Delivery	170.20
Printing and Reproduction	494.35
Rent	2,506.00
Symposium expenses	16,178.80
Telephone	797.85
Translation	4,500.00
Travel & Ent	
Lodging	548.89
Travel	1,500.00
Total Travel & Ent	<u>2,048.89</u>
Total Expense	<u>27,475.50</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>16,500.26</u>
Net Income	<u><u>16,500.26</u></u>