

CCFFR Business Meeting Minutes

The 61st Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research Halifax-Marriott-Harbourfront-Hotel January 4, 2008

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The business meeting for the 61st Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research (CCFFR) was called to order by President Dr. John Casselman with the aid of a rolled up meeting agenda. The plastic “fish comb” was missed dearly. The proposed agenda was tabled and a motion to approve was passed (John Junn / John Lark).

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2007

Draft minutes of the 2007 CCFFR meeting, prepared by Andrew Cooper, were presented. These had been made available on the website prior to the business meeting. A few minor amendments were noted and incorporated, and a motion to approve the minutes with these amendments was passed (John Post / Michael Fox).

III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr. Casselman expressed how he appreciated being President of this conference and how when an occasion presents itself, one should accept the task as it does not happen many times in a career. He stated that it was a great pleasure for him to acknowledge all the efforts of the organizing committee and volunteers for this year’s CCFFR. Special thanks were extended to both Dr. Paul Bentzen as local arrangements Chair for a very well organized venue and Dr. Mark Ridgway as program Chair for a “stellar” science program. Drs. Bentzen and Ridgway both “stepped up for their professional family”. Their hard work has once again made the CCFFR a stunning success. The sponsors to be thanked for their financial support were:

- Blackwell Publishing
- Canadian Aquatic Resources Section of the American Fisheries Society (CARS)
- American Fisheries Society, Northeast Division
- American Fisheries Society, North Central Division
- Department of Oceanography, Dalhousie University
- Fisheries and Oceans
- Bedford Institute of Oceanography
- Lotek Wireless
- Simrad Kongsberg Mesotech

- Vemco, a division of Amirix
- University of Northern British Columbia, Quesnel River Research Centre
- Advanced Telemetry System (ATS)

President Casselman noted that many of these sponsors have supported the CCFFR for several years and their continued contributions and the contributions from new agencies have been vital to the success of this meeting and student travel. Dr. Chris Taggart of the Department of Oceanography at Dalhousie University was thanked by the President for his continued management of the CCFFR website. It has been a vital contribution to the CCFFR organization.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Julie Deault has taken the duties of secretary-treasurer for the CCFFR during the 2007 year. For this transition year, Andrew Cooper provided the 2006/2007 year financial information (Montreal's meeting) and presented the 2006/2007 financial report.

Participation was again good with 407 registrations. CCFFR: 135 regular + 121 students. SCL: 64 regulars + 87 students.

The balance forward for the 2006/2007 fiscal year was \$27,380.65. The 2007 60th edition of the CCFFR conference held in Montreal generated \$64,149.61 in revenues. Expenditures were \$76,812.85. The carry over balance to the 2007/2008 fiscal year is \$14,717.41. See the Treasurer's Report – CCFFR 2006/07 for details.

The financial objectives for any post meeting surpluses have been to commit 6 to 8K to the CRTF and to leave a minimum of 5K to direct to security deposits and insurance for the next meeting. It has been important for the local arrangements chair to budget a meeting that is self-sufficient based on a moderate level of participation. This conservative approach along with donations from sponsors has allowed the meeting to operate successfully with a modest surplus for subsequent years.

Mark Hanson moved to approve the financial report, Don Jackson seconded.

V. CLEMENS-RIGLER TRAVEL FUND

Howard Powles worked hard again at fundraising for the CRTF. He was not at the conference this year but provided his report (table attached) which was read by John Casselman and Julie Deault. Howard acknowledged the AFS Northeast Division, the SCL, DFO and the CCFFR (including past Local Arrangements Chairs for fundraising which has allowed significant CCFFR contribution) for their contributions to the fund.

He also acknowledged Rob Mackereth, Hélène Cyr and Julie Deault who formed the Selection Committee; Dave Stanley, former President of CARS, Kim Hyatt, Acting

President of CARS and Peter Amiro, Treasurer of CARS, who run the fund and cut the cheques; Andrew Cooper and Julie Deault who were/are the CCFFR Secretaries-Treasurers.

Special thanks went to CARS and Peter Amiro for their continued support and assistance with the Clemens-Rigler Fund.

A total of \$14,313.50 was raised for the CRTF this year, and there was a carry over from last year of \$3638.34, for a total of \$17,951.84 (see budget attached). 55 awards for a total of \$18,950.00 were granted. 54 awards were accepted 'in theory' by students. 43 awards were claimed for a total of \$18,050. There was a \$98.16 deficit at the end of this year's exercise.

SCL contributed \$2000 to the CRTF and also provided a one time \$4000 donation (received in February 2008) to cover a potential deficit if all students had claimed their awards, and for next year CRTF allocation. Including the 4000\$ from SCL, there is a carry over of 3,901.84 for the 2009 CRTF award allocation.

Julie Deault noted that the DFO equal contribution agreement would likely continue over the next few years, with the amount to remain the same at up to \$6000. The administrator of this money is the office of the Associate Deputy Minister of DFO Science Sector but more specifically within the Ecosystem Science Directorate. This is currently led by Director General Sylvain Paradis. It has been important to initiate the paper work for this contribution agreement well before the meeting and this year, it was initiated at the end of August. The contribution agreement requires signatures from the President of CARS, from the ADM of Science in DFO, and final approval by the Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The contribution was not received before the meeting but the required paperwork had been signed and the money should be provided shortly after the end of the meeting.

Peter Amiro gave cheques to 40 of the awardees during the conference, which greatly reduces the amount of work required to distribute the awards. It was greatly appreciated by the students as well.

President Casselman indicated that once again, the Clemens-Rigler Travel Fund was highly successful and thanked all involved.

The CRTF report (attached) was approved (Marco Rodriguez/Joe Rasmussen).

CRITERIA TO ALLOCATE CLEMENS-RIGLER TRAVEL FUND

John Post was mandated in 2007 to determine criteria to allocate the awards.

There are two main scenarios:

1. when the meeting is in a central location (Québec/Ontario) and many people can drive;

2. when the meeting is further away for many attendees so expensive flights are required.

Should the award be allocated to as many students as possible or to the ones who have the most expensive travel, since this is a prestigious award to note on a CV. Students living close to the meeting location should not be penalised and should receive an award.

It was noted that the allocation system should be kept simple and that no receipts need be submitted. Most people thought that the mechanism was fair.

Criteria used this year were the following:

- Awards ranged between 200 and 475\$
- Awards amounts were based on travelling distance and air travel fees.
- Repeat candidates were limited to maximum award of \$250 unless they were at Ph.D. level.
- Late applicants were limited to \$200.
- For a Halifax meeting, students travelling from BC, AB, SK and MB received up to \$475; students from NL received up to \$400; students from Ontario and Québec received up to \$325; and NB students received up to \$250.

It was suggested that the criteria should be reviewed and posted on the CCFR web site for the 2009 Ottawa conference.

VI. UPCOMING MEETINGS

a. Officers and Arrangements – 2009 (Ottawa, ON)

President: John Post (University of Calgary)
Local arrangements chair: John Lark (DFO)
Program chair: Marco Rodriguez (University of Quebec)
Secretary-Treasurer: Julie Deault (DFO)
Nominations chair for 2010: Sherrylnn Rowe (DFO)

Dates of the meeting were discussed. Daniel Boisclair mentioned that we “can’t possibly have the conference on the 2nd and 3rd”. Instead of Thursday night, the 2009 conference will start at night on the Friday January 9th to Sunday January 11th. John Lark has already booked the Westin Hotel and a deposit has been made.

The Program Chair, Marco Rodriguez, listed 13 themes that may be in the program, including:

- 1) Advances in modelling and statistical analysis of aquatic ecosystems
- 2) Effects of multiple stressors and their interactions on aquatic ecosystems
- 3) Growth at the individual and population scales: measurement, modelling, and implications for production and population dynamics

- 4) Impacts of climate change on the biodiversity of Canadian lakes, rivers, and oceans
- 5) Measurement and analysis of connectivity in aquatic ecosystems
- 6) Size-selective exploitation of freshwater and marine fish populations
- 7) W.B. (Bev) Scott and Ichthyology - a Celebration!

The business meeting attendees agreed with the proposed themes.

b. Officers and Arrangements – 2010 (Winnipeg, MN)

President: Daniel Heath (University of Windsor)
Local arrangements chair: Paul Blanchfield (DFO, Winnipeg)
Program chair: Darren Gillis (University of Manitoba)
Secretary-Treasurer: Julie Deault (DFO)
Nominations chair for 2011: Grant Brown

A motion to accept the 2010 officers was accepted (John Gunn / Mark Ridgway).

c. Venue 2011

There was much discussion on the location of the 2011 venue.

It was proposed to host the venue in the north of Canada: Iqualuit? Yellowknife? Is there a facility big enough to host such a big event? Enough hotel rooms? Would need a local organiser. Would need to raise funds ahead of time to cover logistic costs. A northern location was deemed impractical at this time but this will require reconsideration and further discussions.

Since 2010 will be in the west end of the country (yes, Winnipeg is considered to be west even if it is fairly central), the 2011 venue should be in a central location. A few cities were proposed. Québec city would be a beautiful location, but would need to have local support for the organisation. For London, no one from the area was present at the business meeting. For Sudbury, it is difficult to travel there in the winter and there are no easy flights. For Trois-Rivière, there were questions about if there was a facility big enough to host the event and questions on travelling logistics, such as busing from Montréal to Trois-Rivière. Mississauga/Toronto was discussed after Nick Collins suggested that this could be a possible location.

The 3 options seriously considered were Trois-Rivière, London and Mississauga (UTM).

After some discussion, Mississauga was proposed with the caveat that other possibilities will be considered. (Mark Hanson / Marie-Ève Bédard)

After the business meeting, e-mails were exchanged between Collins and Casselman to confirm the proposed location of the 2011 venue as Mississauga-Toronto, with more details to follow. Gary Sprules and others would also be involved. Hélène Cyr also agreed with the 2011 venue.

The 2011 CCFR/SCL conference will be held in the Toronto area. More to follow, including the dates, which have not yet been decided but depend upon specific venue.

In continued discussions, it became obvious that Moncton might be interested in holding the 2012 meeting. Up for discussions...

VI. REPORT FROM THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC SCIENCES

Donald Jackson reported on the CJFAS. In 2006 there were 653 manuscripts submitted to the Journal, with a rejection rate of 70%. In 2007, 605 manuscripts were submitted with a rejection rate of 65.5%.

There are changes in the publication rules. The older issues of the Journal have been scanned and are now available on the web site. The format used is “.xml” which is easier and faster to use. The time for acceptance and publication of papers has increased.

There is now pressure to come up with full cost recovery of the Journals. There is a push from Public Works: they do not want to pay so it has to go back to NCR Press. University, Government Agency and a few big libraries would have access for free; other users would have to pay, so this would have a big impact on citation rates, among other things. Most agreed that a letter should be written to push to maintain free access in order to get the papers read and to maintain the citation rates. President Casselman is willing to work with Don Jackson to draft a letter.

A motion was proposed by John Post to write a letter to Public Works, seconded by Marco Rodriguez.

The letter should be sent to Ottawa (recipient to be determined) and posted two weeks later on the CCFR website.

SCL executive also agreed to write a letter.

President John Casselman thanked Don Jackson for all his efforts and indicated that a special thanks should be extended to Holly Foster, now in Texas, for her efforts with the journal.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Rob Peters Award:

Following discussions of the previous year on the appropriate manner to award the Rob Peters award, the SCL executive had proposals on how the award could be given, and clarifications on who was eligible to receive the award.

The SCL website information was out of date and the award was to be given to the “best paper in aquatic science” and not limited to limnological science, so all attendees, not only SCL attendees, would be eligible. A member of the CCFR could be integrated in the selection committee.

There was considerable discussion, but it was agreed that the “Peters talk” could be highlighted in the Conference program in order to augment the recognition of the student who won the award. The plaque could be given at the talk. Presenting the plaque at the banquet was suggested but the idea considered inappropriate as people would not be paying attention during the meal and this would not be respectful to the recipient.

Daniel Boisclair reminded the membership of the discussions and vote that had occurred during the 2007 CCFR business meeting on presentation of the Peters Award, indicating that CCFR had not agreed to provide a representative to adjudicate the award or to nominate CCFR students and that the only discussion was when and how the award would be presented. Discussion continued, reinforcing that the Peters Award could be highlighted in the conference program and SCL could give the plaque when the student presents their talk.

As a point of clarification, Norman Yan from SCL was present and commented on the award and its presentation. He proposed that:

- SCL present the Peters Award at the SCL business meeting
- Candidate eligibility would be corrected and clarified on the web site
- SCL will revisit how they choose the recipient*

(*Note that this is an SCL process and they are in charge of establishing criteria for selection of awardees.)

It was moved by Eric Parkinson, seconded by Mark Hanson, and approved that this proposal be accepted.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

President Casselman asked for a motion to adjourn the 2008 business meeting of CCFR, passed (Mark Hanson, Sherrylynn Rowe).

Clemens-Rigler Travel Fund – 2008 Meetings

Status Report as of January 2, 2008

Donors:

CCFFR	6,000.00
SCL	2,000.00 (Hélène Cyr and Rolf)
DFO	6,000.00 (Andrew Cooper and Julie Deault)
Surplus in CRTF – CARS	3,638.34 (Peter Amiro revised December 2007)
AFS Northeast Division	313.50 (Scott Decker, President)
Total	17951.84

Awards

55 awards for a total of \$18,950.00

By provinces:

BC	3	AB	7	SK	1
MB	2	ON	22	QC	7
NB	5	NL	7	USA	1

From SCL: 13

From CCFFR: 42

Issues

Non-collection of awards has been occurring in the past, thus the fairly large surplus from previous years.

People to thank

- ❑ The donors, as above (including past Local Arrangements Chairs for fund-raising which has allowed a significant CCFFR contribution)
- ❑ Rob Mackereth, Hélène Cyr, Julie Deault – Selection Committee
- ❑ Acting President Kim Hyatt, former President Dave Stanley and Treasurer Peter Amiro of Canadian Aquatic Resources Section of American Fisheries Society – who run the fund and cut the cheques
- ❑ Andrew Cooper, Julie Deault – CCFFR Secretaries-Treasurers
- ❑ Hope this isn't leaving anyone out – have a great meeting, wish I was there!

Howard Powles
CRTF Coordinator

AWARDS (From Peter Amiro)

Number of awards claimed:	43
Total:	\$18,050
Mean per student:	\$419.77
Minimum:	\$200
Maximum:	\$475