

CCRFFR Business Meeting Minutes

**The 63rd Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research
Winnipeg – Fort Gary Hotel – Selkirk Ballroom
17:00, January 8, 2010**

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The business meeting for the 63rd Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research (CCFFR) was called to order by President Daniel Heath. The proposed agenda was tabled and a motion to approve was passed (Mark Hanson / Rob McLaughlin).

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2009

Draft minutes of the 2009 Ottawa meeting, prepared by Julie Deault, were presented. These had been made available on the website prior to the business meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was passed (John Lark/Mark Hanson).

III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr. Heath acknowledged the work for this year's organizing committee and volunteers. Special thanks to the local arrangement team led by Paul Blanchfield. Special thanks to Lee Hrenchuk who did an amazing job at keeping track of registration and managing logistics. Thank you as well to Darren Gillis, program chair, and Paulette Penton, for a well conceived program involving a variety of interesting sessions and for the addition of SWS to this year's conference. Thank you as well to Rob Mackereth, Martha Guy, Howard Powles and Julie Deault for the selection of the CRTF awardees. Rob handles most of the work. Thank you to Kim Hyatt and Margot Stockwell for administrating the Clemens-Rigler account through CARS. Kim gave credit to Margot saying "she did all the work". Thank you to Sherrylynn Rowe who handled nominations... again. Thank you to Julie Deault for her work as secretary-treasurer and to John Lark for being the corporate memory of CCFFR. Finally, thank you to Chris Taggart for the up-keeping of the CCFFR website. The sponsors to be thanked for their financial support were:

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- American Fisheries Society (AFS)
- Canadian Aquatic Resources Section (CARS)
- Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research
- Golder Associates
- Manitoba Hydro
- University of Northern British Columbia - Quesnel River Research Centre
- North / South Consultants Inc.
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Vemco
- Experimental Lakes Area
- Lotek Wireless
- Province of Manitoba
- Leckie's – Lakefish Net and Twine

- NRC-CNRC Research Press
- Great Lakes Fishery Commission
- Lake Winnipeg Foundation
- Tall Grass Prairie
- Dalhousie University – Faculty of Science, Department of Oceanography
- University of Manitoba, Faculty of Science

The contribution of these sponsors is very important for success of this meeting and student travel.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Julie Deault presented the 2008/2009 financial report.

Participation was again good with 274 registrations:

- CCFR: 143 SCL: 60 SWS:3 Not identified to a group: 68;
- Registration fee: regular:167, students:107.

The balance forward for the 2008/2009 fiscal year was \$9,617.17. The 2009 62nd edition of the CCFR conference held in Ottawa generated \$51,188.21 from registrations and banquet tickets and \$3,215 from other sources in revenues. Expenditures were \$51,054.07 (\$5,000 came from the previous year's budget as a deposit for the Westin Hotel) for the conference itself plus \$5,000 for the CRTF contribution.

Meeting organizers should plan so that there will be \$11,000 in the bank after each meeting, \$6,000 for CRTF and \$5,000 for deposits and pre-meeting expenses for the following year.

There were also expenditures of \$1,080 for the liability insurance for 2010. Overall, expenditures for that fiscal year were of \$52,141.57. The carry over balance to the 2008/2009 fiscal year is \$11,901.51. See the Treasurer's Report – CCFR 2008/09 for details.

The financial objectives for any post meeting surpluses have been to commit \$6,000 to \$8,000 to the CRTF and to leave a minimum of \$5,000 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. Organizing the conference is an immense amount of work and we are thankful the volunteers who take on the work.

John Lark moved to approve the financial report, Daniel Boisclair seconded / unanimous.

V. CLEMENS-RIGLER TRAVEL FUND

Thanks to Rob Mackereth, Martha Guy and Julie Deault who formed the Selection Committee; Kim Hyatt, President of CARS, and Margot Stockwell, treasurer of CARS who keeps track of finance for CRTF and prepares the student award cheques.

A total of \$16,463 was raised for the CRTF in 2009 for the January 2010 meeting awards (see budget attached). 63 awards for a total of \$16,440 were granted. **61 awards were claimed for a total of \$16,105.**

CCFFR made a \$6,000 donation to CRTF. SCL made a \$2,000 donation. DFO (Ecosystem Science Directorate) contributed \$6,000 in matching funds. Julie Deault noted that the DFO equal contribution agreement would likely continue over the next years. DFO's donation matches up non-governmental donations up to \$6000. AFS North Central Division contributed \$500 USD. There also was a 1212.84 carry over. (Numbers provided by Howard Powles.)

Margot Stockwell distributed cheques to the awardees during the conference, which greatly reduces the amount of work required to distribute the awards.

President Heath thanked everyone involved.

Motion

A motion was proposed by Rob Mackereth and seconded by Kim Hyatt to remove the requirement that students have to be registered in a Canadian University to apply for CRTF.

Arguments in favour of the motion:

- *John E. Skinner Memorial Fund* - The fund provides monetary travel awards for deserving graduate students or exceptional undergraduate students to attend the American Fisheries Society (AFS) annual meeting. Any student who is active in fisheries or related aquatic disciplines is eligible to apply.
- *Fisheries Society of the British Isles (FSBI)* - The Travel Grant Scheme has no age limits, but is primarily aimed at young people embarking on a career in fish biology or fisheries science involved in the study of fin-fish. These travel grants are available on a competitive basis to FSBI members for travel related to the Society's objectives. These grant competitions are open to any member of the Society, regardless of their geographical location, and the current annual budget for travel grants is £20,000.
- Facilitate exchanges between Canada and the United States

Arguments against the motion:

- Giving grants to non-Canadian students would reduce the amount of money available to Canadian students. This would be a deterrent since Canada is a large country, and the cost of travel within Canada is therefore expensive.
- The overarching purpose of the CCFFR is to bring students into the Canadian Fisheries Community. This is the only Canadian fisheries conference. It allows Canadian students to give their first presentation to peers at a national conference.

After debate, there was a vote and the motion was unanimously rejected.

VI. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- a) Officers and Arrangements – 2011 (Toronto, Ontario) – (To be nominated by Sherrylynn Rowe)
 - President: Nick Mandrack (University of Toronto / DFO)
 - Local arrangements chair: Nick Collins (University of Toronto at Mississauga)
 - Program chair: Rob McLaughlin (University of Guelph)
 - Secretary-Treasurer: Julie Deault (DFO)
 - Nominations chair for 2012 meeting: Sherrylynn Rowe (DFO)

- b) Officers and Arrangements – 2012 (Moncton – Local Arrangements by Mark Hanson)
 - President: Marco Rodriguez (Université du Québec a Trois Rivières)
 - Local arrangements chair: Mark Hanson (DFO)
 - Program chair: Craig Purchase (Memorial University of Newfoundland)

- c) Venue 2013 (Central)
 - The 2013 conference will be held in Windsor. Local organizer chair will be Trevor Pitcher (University of Windsor).
 - Nomination Chair for 2013: Craig Blackie
 - A motion was made by John Lark and supported by Marco Rodriguez. Unanimous.

- d) Venue 2014 (West/North)
 - Yellowknife was proposed. Money would be required to finance the conference.
 - Also proposed: University of Northern British Columbia, Quesnel River Research Centre.

- e) Timing of conference
 - Again this year, there was a discussion about the timing of the conference. Some mentioned that they cannot attend because of teaching duties and that the last week of April / first week of May would work better.
 - An argument against that timeframe was that CSEE occurs the second week of May and it would be a mistake to move the meeting around that time. It would detract attendance from our small meeting to a bigger meeting. There would also be conflict with fieldwork in April / May.
 - Arguments to keep the current conference timeframe were that the cost of renting conference space is less expensive the first weekend of January and that it is easy for teachers to cancel classes during the first week of the session. It is also easier to obtain flights during this time.
 - Daniel Boisclair did a quick survey with people and there was a 50/50 response – half would keep it as is, half would modify the date. There was no agreement as to when the new timeframe would be. Modifying the date would create more conflicts overall and be more expensive.
 - It was concluded by President Heath that there is no interest in moving the date of the conference. **If someone wants to raise this proposal again, he will have to bring a motion with a detailed rationale of WHY and WHEN another date would be preferable.** Refer to business meeting minutes of previous years for similar discussions.

VII. GETTING NEW PEOPLE INVOLVED

- a) Replacement for Howard Powles (fundraising CRTF)
 - Many thanks to Howard Powles who has been in charge of CRTF fundraising for many years. Howard has requested that someone take over his duties. He can provide a list of various organizations that he was soliciting to the new fundraising person.
 - A motion was proposed by John Lark and seconded by Nick Mandrak that each year, the President of the CCFFR conference will contact potential sponsors and work with past Presidents to raise funds.

- Motion was adopted, unanimous.
- b) Replacement for Chris Taggart (CCFFR website)
 - Many thanks to Chris Taggart who has been in charge of CRTF website for many years. Chris has requested that someone take over his duties.
 - Action item:
 - Dan Heath said he would verify if Windsor University IT could maintain the website permanently.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Motion by Mark Hanson to form a formal society.
 - Mark Hanson proposed that a formal society be created. He considers it strange that CJAFS exists but there is no formal society for fisheries and aquatic sciences. He has been attending CCFFR since 1978 and considers that participation is stagnant, perhaps even declining. His opinion is that amongst DFO science employees, most are not aware of the existence of CCFFR, and if they are, they consider it to be an “old boys’ network”. By forming a society, there may be more disciplines (e.g. aquaculture) involved in the conference. A society would be more prestigious and attract more distinguished presenters.
 - Mark Hanson proposed that a formal society be formed for fisheries and aquatic sciences. No one seconded. Motion dismissed.
- b) Rigler and Stevenson’s lecturer
 - The Rigler and Stevenson’s lecturers are prestigious at the CCFFR conference. CCFFR should cover their conference registration fees.
 - A motion was made by Don Jackson and seconded by Jeff Hutchings that registration fees be waived for the Rigler and Stevenson’s lecturers. Adopted unanimously.
- c) Electronic formats accepted for presentations
 - A motion was proposed by Marco Rodriguez and seconded by Sean Rogers that the CCFFR website instructions pertaining presentation formats be modified to allow PDF versions. Adopted unanimously.
- d) Increasing exposure of CCFFR in the media and broader community
 - Lynda Corkum proposed to increase public awareness of limnological aquatic and fisheries science. It would be great to invite the media to the conference in order to get it covered in local media and raise awareness in the general population.
 - People thought it was a great idea but that it would be up to the local organizers to decide and to arrange.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Proposed by Jeff Hutchings, seconded by John Lark.