

Walleye Technical Committee

North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society



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2006 Winter Meeting Minutes

Chair-elect Hanchin called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. December 3, 2006 at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Doubletree Hotel, Omaha, Nebraska and welcomed members to the business meeting. A total of twenty-four members were present. Chair-elect Hanchin asked for any additional agenda items and there were none. He then asked for an update on the Great Lakes Walleye Symposium and Brad Parsons of the NCD stated that there was no update.

Summer 2006 Meeting

Due to travel restrictions, the 2006 Summer Meeting scheduled to take place in Thunder Bay, Ontario was canceled. This led to discussion of a location for the Summer 2007 Meeting.

Summer 2007 Meeting

The focus of the summer meeting is to get representation from all states. The geographic center of the committee would be in Wisconsin, and discussion was invited on whether to choose a permanent location for the meeting or continue to have the current chair choose the location. Brad Parsons stated that in the by-laws it is set up so that the meeting is held in Canada and the United States alternating years, and that the Chair is to be elected from members of each country every other year. In order to change this procedure we would need to change our by-laws. It can become difficult for each country to obtain out-of-country travel authorization, but if possible we should make the attempt to include all members. Michael Sullivan suggested that we establish two permanent locations for the meeting to alternate between, one in Canada and one in the United States. Some discussion followed as to whether the permanent United States location should be in Dubuque, Iowa, or somewhere in either Minnesota or Wisconsin. Chair-elect Hanchin said that Chair Reed had offered to set up the meeting in either Minnesota or Wisconsin, and Chair-elect Hanchin further stated that he didn't feel it was necessary to have the meeting in his home state of Michigan. After discussion, the summer meeting was set for July 24 through 26 in Cloquet, MN. A formal announcement will come out later in the winter.

WTC Website

Our website was set up through Southern Illinois University according to Ron Brooks, and at this point it is completely down. Justin Chiotti has made changes to the NCD website, and it was suggested that we post on this if possible. Brad Parsons stated that we pay for the website through the NCD and we may put whatever we need to on that site. Chair-elect Hanchin would like to begin using the NCD site, and Ron affirmed that this would be a good idea, since his involvement with walleye has decreased over the past few years. Chair-elect Hanchin asked for suggestions of things to put on the site, such as current officers, state representatives, or other information. An email will be sent to the state reps not present at today's meeting for their suggestions as well.

There was some discussion about whether or not the state reps should post a searchable gray-literature bibliography. Other states have posted these on their websites but it would be important to include only those papers pertaining to walleye. There was discussion about the format of the postings, and whether or not .pdf files could be used if the actual files were too large. Hanchin will draft an example for Michigan DNR publications and will make a request to reps for their respective lists.

Student Involvement

It had been previously approved that summer meeting registration cost would be set at half price for presenting students. Discussion was initiated regarding a travel stipend to the Midwest meetings for students presenting papers dealing with walleye. It was suggested that the WTC donate \$100.00 in a matching fund if the student's state chapter will match this. This brought up the matter of how the student would obtain this match, and whether it would be the responsibility of the student to acquire this for him or herself. Tim Banek mentioned that it would be difficult to enter into agreements with all states involved about matching funds, and wondered why we wouldn't give the funds regardless of a match with the states. It was suggested that the student would ask the state chapter for assistance and then the WTC would get involved. Brad Parsons stated that the Joan Duffy Travel Award is an example of money available to students for travel. We could set up our award so that the student would be the impetus or the WTC Chair could contact the state chapters to make sure they can match the award. We could send reminders to members about when it is available or send information to student subunits and faculty representatives to remind students that it is available. Casey Schoenebeck stated that he would include this information in his emails or create a brochure that people could send during the Midwest's first call for papers. It was decided to ask for more discussion about this at the summer meeting, and consider making it a permanent award and giving it a name. Chair-elect Hanchin suggested that we ask for input early so that a vote could be made at the summer meeting. The Student Affairs Committee chair is appointed and could be given this responsibility.

Walleye symposium at 2007 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Madison WI

It was suggested that there be a walleye symposium held during the upcoming 2007 Midwest in Madison, Wisconsin. Tim Banek reported that approximately ten years ago or perhaps longer there was one held and a repeat may be timely. If anyone has any suggestions about including the symposium they should contact Brian Sloss at Steven's Point or Chairs Phil Moy and Joe Hennessey from Wisconsin.

2010 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Minnesota

Twenty years ago in 1990 there was a walleye stocking symposium conducted at the Midwest. Is there any interest in repeating this symposium to see how things have changed? Michael Sullivan reported that there is a large study being done on the ecological function of walleye in Ontario that may be ready for presentation by this date, and reminded that the 2009 Midwest will be held in Chicago. Other topics may be suggested as well.

Walleye Synopsis Update

Chair-elect Hanchin read an email submitted by Dr. Robert Summerfelt which reported his interest in updating and publishing this synopsis as a book. He identified three people who have volunteered to be on the steering committee as Alan Johnson, steering committee chair, and Donna Hanen Muhm and Chris Clouse as committee members. A managing editor needs to be located that can devote full time to the project. In the past, funding was located but there was no managing editor identified. The American Fisheries Society would publish the volume for a small fee. Tim Banek reported that it had also been discussed to put the synopsis on the internet but it was never decided to do this. Most members agreed that it would be best if a book was produced that could be sold. Chair-elect Hanchin stated that he would contact some people who may be interested in becoming the managing editor. Brad Parsons suggested that we ask for help from the Fish Management Section, including Dave Willis, Wayne Hubert, and Mike Quist. Mike Sullivan offered his services as an author, and Brad Parsons offered to provide guidelines. Chair-elect Hanchin stated that there was a document showing possible authors that he would try to locate, which probably included people who had recently retired. It was suggested that we contact Beth Beard with Fisheries Magazine and place an ad stating that we were looking to fill this position. Alan Johnson stated that he considered \$50,000 to \$60,000 adequate compensation for this project. It was discussed that the ad should not list the potential salary since there is no guarantee of funding participation. It would be highly desirable to have someone in place by the summer meeting, but funding commitments from states will need to be secured by then as well. All members are asked to think of possible authors and to express their interest in being on the steering committee. Also, statewide reps should contact their states to ask for a definite dollar amount commitment.

Collaborative Research Projects

Casey Schoenebeck stated that there is an ongoing large scale project on yellow perch to provide information about mortality, recruitment, and other parameters. He would like to request additional information on aging, sex ratios, or any other information available and then they will model data across the range of yellow perch. He asks that data be sent directly to him, and that he has already received a great deal of information. He will start working it up this winter, prefers that it be in an Excel spreadsheet, but will work with everyone using what they have. He asks that if you use codes in your data that you include an explanation of what they mean. He would like information on inland lakes only (no Great Lakes), and that you please identify whether scales or otoliths were used as aging structures. He will still take scale data and will accept already back-calculated data as well.

Dan Isermann is looking for other people who are interested in estimating exploitation based on the proportion of marked fish that are observed in a creel survey. This method is unaffected by non-reporting and can be used with any variety of marks on the fish. He is interested in collaborating to essentially increase the sample size for a more rigorous analysis. In South Dakota, this system was attempted and it worked fairly well. Others reported that voluntary tag returns are not effective since the reward did not seem to entice anglers to return the tag (they would prefer to keep the tag as a trophy). If you are using the creel method to estimate exploitation, please contact Dan. Dan is scheduled to speak at this Midwest on Tuesday afternoon. He brought this topic up regarding walleye at the last summer meeting but is now interested in data from any species.

Financial Report

Donna Hanen Muhm presented the financial report as follows:

Beginning Balance as of June 30, 2005	\$10,054.05
July 2005 Summer Meeting expenses	\$1,321.10
September 2005 Summer Meeting Income	\$935.30
2005 Interest Income	\$129.17
Ending Balance, December 31, 2005	\$9,797.43
2006 Interest Income	\$276.31
Ending Balance as of October 31, 2006	\$10,073.74

Chair-elect Hanchin would like suggestions regarding ways to spend this money.

Introduction of 2007 chair and Chair-elect

The new Chair as of the end of this meeting is Patrick Hanchin, Michigan. Currently there are no candidates for Chair-elect. If anyone is interested in becoming chair-elect or knows someone who would be, please contact Patrick. If we have several good candidates we could ask them to consider serving in upcoming years so that we would have chairs lined up into the future. If the committee decides to go with a permanent meeting location, a person could be assigned to set up the summer meeting. This would free up the Chair to do other duties.

Technical Discussions

Chair Hanchin opened the floor to discussions of a technical nature. Chris Mammoliti (Kansas) would be interested in receiving data on sauger, including research, future research, or newly-finished research for this watershed. He would also be interested in reintroductions and habitat work. It was suggested that there was a sauger symposium at Lake Placid and that Brian Shonung would be a good reference for this. Also, the Ohio River Management team has data on sauger. Chris thanked the membership for their advice.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Hanen Muhm, WTC Secretary