

Walleye Technical Committee

North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society



Patrick Hanchin, Chair <mailto:hanchinp@michigan.gov>
Tim Haxton, Immediate past-chair <mailto:tim.haxton@mnr.gov.on.ca>
Donna Hanen Muhm, Secretary <mailto:Donna.Muhm@dnr.state.ia.us>



2007 Summer Meeting Minutes

(University of Minnesota's Cloquet Forestry Center, July 24th – 26th, 2007)

Chair Patrick Hanchin called the business meeting to order at 8:15 A.M. Thursday, July 26, 2007. A request for additions to the agenda was made, and none were added. Minutes from the 2006 winter meeting were approved as sent to members and posted on the website. Some members requested that the Walleye Synopsis discussion take place first to accommodate travel schedules.

Walleye Synopsis

Patrick Hanchin gave a summary of the Walleye Synopsis to date. An update to Colby et al. (1979) has been discussed since the late 1990's. OMNR personnel did considerable work collecting information for an update through the 1990's, and Terry Marshall (ON) has these binders. The WTC has discussed several formats for an update (web-based, PDF, searchable database, book) in the past.

Nick Baccante reminded the committee of the idea to publish the Synopsis as somewhat of a searchable database, since researchers are really looking for the basic numbers/estimates when doing literature reviews. The start-up work would be the most difficult, but since it would be updated by users, it would be easier after that. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of this approach. Some benefits are: foregoing the task of crafting language for a book, ease of data access, having a 'living' document, and the ability to answer broad geographic questions. Some disadvantages are: database management and quality control, no sales and thus perhaps no AFS support, having to go back to funding agencies for approval.

Tim Banek reminded the group that the decision was made to move forward with a book (2005 summer meeting). This decision was also confirmed at the 2006 winter meeting where Hanchin said that he would move forward with that format. A basic outline from the old synopsis has been adopted and potential authors have been recently (2007) slated for various chapters. We decided at the 2006 winter meeting to obtain a portion of the funds so that we could talk about compensation as we sought an editor.

Hanchin handed out a summary of the budget for the Synopsis. The request to publish the Synopsis as an AFS book was approved. AFS estimated a production cost of \$30,000, of which the WTC was asked to contribute up to \$15,000. This cost would be in addition to our cost for overseeing the production of a manuscript. Formal requests for funds were sent to: AFS Chapters (12) within the North Central Division (NCD), AFS Chapters (19) outside the NCD where walleyes/sauger populations exist, States (44) that have significant walleye/sauger populations, Fisheries Management Section of the AFS, North Central Division of the AFS, Fish Culture Section of the AFS, Canadian Provinces (2), In-Fisherman, Linder Media Productions, USFWS Management Assistance Branch. To date, \$19,250 has been committed to the project (including the WTC commitment).

Various levels of compensation have been discussed in the past. We decided that \$20,000-30,000 would be adequate to enter into contract negotiations with potential editors. People agreed that additional funding would be easy to obtain once the project was up and running. We also agreed that a good contract design would be to have compensation tied to the achievement of benchmarks that would be determined by the steering committee and editor. Steve Gilbert mentioned that the CTC may have finished a similar project recently for bluegill, and we may gain insight from contacting them.

The request for \$5,000 from the Fisheries Management Section resulted in much discussion among that group. Members of the FMS suggested that profits from the book could be shared if the FMS contributed that much. The WTC decided that profits will not be shared among contributors and that the FMS will have to make their final decision with that in mind.

Given our current finances (approximately \$10,000), the WTC agreed to contribute \$5,000 towards the initial phase of the Synopsis. Several in attendance (Steve Gilbert, Brian Borkholder) agreed to assist in seeking more funds in the future from their respective organizations, or from different private organizations.

Hanchin reported that he received some interest in the editor position from a few retired fisheries professionals as well as some people currently working full time. An advertisement for the position will be in the July or August issue of Fisheries. We agreed that the steering committee will work with potential candidates and try to have a decision by the winter meeting.

Website

Justin Chiotti is our website coordinator and has been working on the website since the winter meeting. He is now set up to make changes on his own so we do not have to go through anyone in NCD. Suggestions for new items on the website should be sent to the WTC chair and Justin.

State/Provincial/Tribal Gray Literature

A list of gray literature by State/Province/Tribe was suggested at the winter 2006 meeting. A request was sent to representatives and Michigan and North Dakota examples are on the website. This resource will only be as good as people make/update it. People are encouraged to look at the examples on the website and to send their respective lists to Justin Chiotti.

Student involvement in WTC

Hanchin reported that both ½ price registration for students attending the summer meeting of the WTC and the \$100 travel stipend to Midwest F&WC were approved at the 2005 winter meeting. Announcements for these will coincide with 1st call for papers for each. Changes regarding these have been made in the WTC operations manual, and changes to the bylaws are not necessary. It was decided to name the travel award to the Midwest F&WC the “Sander” award.

2010 Midwest F&WC (MN) Symposium

In 1990, there was a walleye stocking symposium, and we discussed whether there was interest in repeating this 20 years later to see how things have changed. It appears there were a few States nearing the end of long-term stocking studies, and several people mentioned an interest in this type of symposium. Ultimately, someone will have to sponsor and organize the symposium the year leading up to the meeting. Melissa Drake and Jeff Reed may be organizing the Fisheries portion of the Midwest F&WC that year.

Financial report

We did not have a detailed financial report, but the account held \$10,074 in October of 2006. We have not spent anything since then, and would have accrued some interest. The summer meeting will likely break even.

Thanks to past chairs

Hanchin presented certificates of appreciation to Mike Sullivan and Jeff Reed for acting as chairs in 2004 and 2005.

Nominations for Chair-elect

Hanchin reminded the committee that we did not select a Chair-elect at the winter meeting, so we are off track again. The WTC has never had a chair from OH, IN, or KS and it would be great to close that gap. Anyone with nominations should contact Patrick Hanchin.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Hanchin, Walleye Technical Committee Chair