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PRESIDENTS CORNER

This newsletter has always been filled with water quality section news solicited from a small, active group from within the section made up of past presidents and officers. This is often the same group who attend the annual meeting and show up for our annual business meetings.

It has always been the task of the President of the Section to facilitate communication among members of the Section. The two ways that we have done this in the past have been Quick Communiques and the Newsletter. Sometimes response to the Quick Communiques are good, and sometimes not. The Newsletter, from my perspective, because it only comes out twice a year, always seems dated from the moment it is sent out (or posted).

Now we have something new. For those of you who haven't been there, take the time to visit our website. It is easy to get there through the AFS main page by clicking on the "Divisions-Chapters-Sections" button (look right under the

Rainbow Trout). While you are there - the AFS mainpage has a new look too. Take the time to look at the website and let us know what you think. Our opportunities are only limited by our own time and interest. As you visit the website, and think about what the Section can do with it, think about this newsletter. Is it necessary? There was a time when the newsletter was THE form of communication for the Section. The Web offers us the opportunity for more and better communication between our members. Think about every column in this newsletter as a webpage, with an opportunity for feedback with a hotlink.

I started thinking about this as I created this issue. I am sitting here, pecking out these characters in WORD (the fancy newsletter software the previous editor used got the better of me), and then converting them to a PDF, which then will be posted on our website so that



you can download it and then, probably, read it online. At least that would be my preference – we must do some small things to help conserve resources, and every sheet of paper counts in my book.

As a start, you will see a couple of things missing from this newsletter that used to be here: our mission statement (its on the web), and look soon for a Links page that will bring you info of upcoming meetings of interest.

Get yea to the web and vote for a semi-annual newsletter or a website that is updated whenever there is something new or interesting. Either way, the webpage will be there. Making the Newsletter all electronic will give us more time to provide more services. Either way you vote, consider volunteering to do some of the work. As the website evolves there will be more work than we can handle linking all of our interests together.

AFS WATER QUALITY SECTION CONSIDERS EPA'S AMMONIA CRITERIA

A little while ago, an officer of our section saw a draft letter that the North American Benthological Society was drafting to the Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Water asking him to reconsider the ammonia criteria.

Rather than go into details here regarding the WQS role in this, I am directing you to the website – here find out information regarding the issue and a request for your comments.

www.fisheries.org/units/wqs/index.htm

ECONOMIC GROWTH

The next step is on the horizon for the economic growth issue. The Resource Policy Committee (RPC) is the AFS committee responsible for preparing and maintaining policy statements. See our last newsletter for info. Not much has changed in the substance of the statement. The Governing Board will vote in March on if the Policy Statement will move forward for a vote by the membership.

Water Quality Section Solicitation for President-Elect Nominations

Ask not what your section can do for you...

You don't have to be a neocon to push for a regime change, all you have to do is send an email to our president-elect, Gregg Lomnicky, and your hat is in the ring. You can nominate yourself (who better?) Don't be shy – we need your help.



Deadlines for contributed papers and posters have passed and the symposium deadlines are fast approaching for the annual meeting in San Francisco. For those organizing symposia the deadlines are as follows (also, please see www.fisheries.org/sf for updated information).

It's a busy year for Water Quality Section sponsored symposia - there are three that I know of presently being proposed -

Bob Hughes and Paul Seelbach are organizing a symposium entitled Understanding ecological condition of surface waters: approaches and assessments.

Paul Angermeier, along with Bob Hughes, is organizing one called Building better science and management: the advantages of integration.

I am organizing a symposium on Endocrine Disrupting Compounds with Alan Kolock (President of the AFS Fish Physiology Section).

Chuck Coutant, Frank Borsuk, Erik Emery, and others are organizing a symposium on temperature criteria.



EPA launches survey of the nation's flowing waters.

EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, along with the states, tribes, and river basin commissions, is launching a two year study of all of the nation's waters in 2007. They are still working out the details, but the target population is all flowing waters greater than first order on a 1:100,000 scale map.

Folks who have been involved with these national surveys might remember the WSA- Wadeable Streams Assessment (<http://www.epa.gov/owow/streamsurvey/>) of 2005. State agencies, tribes, and EPA surveyed wadeable streams (1'st through 3'rd order) throughout the lower 48. A bit of a disappointment for the fisheads amongst us, we surveyed the nation's waters without surveying the fish in those waters. Macroinvertebrates were the biological assemblage of choice for that survey.

This time around it looks like we will be monitoring fish. And an entirely new strata of the resource - the enormous creeks, big streams, tiny rivers, big rivers, large rivers, very large river, and yeah, great rivers (do I need to capitalize that?) It's all well and good to advocate sampling fish for a national program in all the flowing waters of the the lower 48 - its quite another to pull it off. In short, we've got our work cut out for us - get in touch if you have any thoughts or want to be involved.

Water Quality Section

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See President (above)
Interested? Call me.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER
OF THE AFS WATER QUALITY SECTION
FOR 2005-2006**

JOHN W. MELDRIM

Membership. As of the end of July 2006, based on records maintained by the Parent Society, the American Fisheries Society Water Quality Section (WQS) had 43 fewer members than at the end of July 2005. (This may not be accurate because there is a discrepancy in the numbers reported for December 2005, with fewer members at the end of December than at the end of July 2005.) As of July 31, 2006, WQS reportedly had 226 members, as compared to 269 members on July 31, 2005; 262 members on July 31, 2004; 275 members on July 31, 2003, 302 members on July 31, 2002; and 317 members on July 31, 2001. At the end of 2005, WQS reportedly had 265 members, a decrease of four members from the level on July 31 of that year. Because the total membership at the end of December cannot be less than in July, there is an error in the membership count as determined by the AFS home office. The discrepancy likely arose in the change in the membership database that took place late last year and early in 2006. Membership renewals for 2006 are still being received, and, based on the experience in previous years, the 2006 WQS membership will increase beyond the July 31 level by year's end. Whether the 2006 membership numbers can be reconciled with those for 2005 is unknown.

Financial Status. The following WQS treasury report is for the 2005-2006 fiscal year (August 1, 2005 - July 31, 2006). The Wachovia Bank checkbook balance on August 1, 2005 was \$1,176.09, with an additional \$1,016.54 in the Wachovia Bank savings account and \$9,950.79 (1,297.365 shares at \$7.67 per share) in Delaware Investments American Government Bond Fund (a mutual fund that "seeks high current income consistent with safety of principal by investing primarily in debt obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities"), totaling \$12,143.42 in the WQS treasury. Because continually rising interest rates during 2005 were causing the value of the Delaware Investments American Government Bond Fund to erode (especially following the October 2005 meeting of the Federal Reserve Board), the WQS Executive Committee decided that this Fund was no longer a good investment, and to move the money in that investment into Certificates of Deposit. Therefore, on November 3, 2005, all our (1,310.011) shares of the Fund were sold (at \$7.47 per share), resulting in \$9,785.78 cash. Including a cash dividend of \$11.83 paid at the time of the sale, we received a total of \$9,797.61. Additionally, in November 2005, we changed banks from Wachovia Bank to US Bank. The Wachovia savings account was closed, and the funds (\$416.96) transferred to the Wachovia checking account.

At the time of the change in banks, we had \$11, 188.93 in the Wachovia checking account, which was distributed as follows: \$1,500 to a new US Bank checking account; \$1,688.93 to a new US Bank savings account; \$4,000 to a 7-month Certificate of Deposit paying 3.75% at US Bank; and \$4,000 to a 10-month Certificate of Deposit paying 4.00% at US Bank. As of July 31, 2006, the US Bank checkbook balance forward was \$474.05, and the US Bank savings account balance was \$2,390.49. Including the two \$4,000 Certificates of Deposit (with interest paid on the 7-month Certificate of Deposit), the total in the WQS treasury as of July 31, 2006 was \$10,950.95. This is \$1,192.47 less than the July 31, 2005 balance of \$12,143.42.

Income during the 2005 - 2006 fiscal year was \$1,843.84 (compared to \$2,318.15 in the 2004 - 2005 fiscal year and \$2,331.84 in the 2003 - 2004 fiscal year). Of this, \$1,638.00 came from membership dues (compared to \$1,953.00 in the 2004 - 2005 fiscal year). The additional 2005 - 2006 income consisted of \$1.80 in interest on the savings accounts, \$108.63 in dividends from the Delaware American Government Bond Fund, and \$86.41 in interest from the 7-month Certificate of Deposit. The savings accounts had interest rates of between 0.12 % and 0.20%, and the 30-day yield for the Delaware American Government Bond Fund was 3.07%. As previously noted, the interest rate on the 7-month Certificate of Deposit was 3.75%, and on the 10-month Certificate of Deposit maturing in September 2006 will be 4.00%.

Total expenses during the fiscal year were \$2,765.68 (compared to \$2,649.98 last fiscal year), of which \$2000.00 was for book publication sponsorships; \$89.95 was for purchase of software for our web site; \$450.00 was for expenses related to the 2005 WQS Business Meeting in Anchorage; \$125.00 was for the WQS poster awards; \$65.73 was for office operating expenses; and \$35.00 was for our Past-President award plaque.

Concluding Remarks. As of July 31, 2006, WQS had 43 fewer members than on the same date in 2005. The magnitude of this loss is questionable because the change in the AFS membership database in late 2005-early 2006 appears to have deleted members. Nonetheless, the loss in membership is a concern.

At the end of the 2005 - 2006 fiscal year the WQS treasury had a net decrease of about \$1,200 from the previous year. The decrease is larger than previous years, but is mostly the result of the loss in income from decreased membership, the decrease in value in our bond fund investment, and a level of spending based on previous years' income. However, this is a non-profit organization, and the

decrease can be accommodated. Further, for the foreseeable future, WQS remains financially sound and we are meeting the objectives of the Section. Of the \$2,765 we spent last year, \$2,000 went for book sponsorships. That means that over 70% of our expenses were for “collecting and assembling information for publication and distributing the results to Society members and the public” (Objective Number 3 of our Mission Statement). Special WQS project costs (such as book sponsorships) are budgeted to be met by our investments (such as the bond fund and now the Certificates of Deposit). We used those funds and still have a healthy treasury to support our projects.

Although we had a paper loss of \$153.18 on the bond fund during the 2005-2006 fiscal year (the difference between the value of the fund on August 1, 2005, \$9,950.79, and its value at the time of sale on November 3, 2005, \$9,797.61) as a result of falling share prices, we actually made \$2,289.54 on the investment (the difference between our purchase price of \$7,508.07 in December 1998, and the selling price, \$9,797.61). Because this fund was a Class C Fund and we had held it for longer than five years, there were no transaction or commission costs for the purchase or sale of the Fund. Had we held this investment, we would have had a much larger paper loss as shares continued to fall in price during the fiscal year. Thus, the move from the bond fund to certificates of deposit was prudent. Nonetheless, the WQS Finance Committee continues to watch the economic situation for adverse conditions that may affect the value of our investments, and will take appropriate action should the situation warrant.

DRAFT
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY WATER QUALITY SECTION
MINUTES OF 2006 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

John W. Meldrim, Secretary-Treasurer

The Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society Water Quality Section (AFS/WQS) took place in Terrace Room 3 of the Lake Placid Hilton Resort, Lake Placid, New York on September 12, 2006, beginning at 12:00 pm. President Lou Reynolds presided. A lunch was provided for those in attendance.

Call to Order

President Reynolds called the meeting to order. Having determined that a quorum (10 members) was present, he provided copies of the Meeting Agenda, the Minutes of the 2005 Annual Meeting, the 2005-2006 Secretary-Treasurer's Report and the proposed 2006-2007 budget to the attendees.

Approval of Minutes

President Reynolds requested an approval of the Minutes of the 2004 AFS/WQS Business Meeting. The Draft Minutes had been published in the 2004 Fall AFS/WQS Newsletter, and copies of those Minutes were available for review. There were no additions or corrections. Gregg Lomnicky moved for acceptance of the 2004 AFS/WQS Business Minutes as printed in the Newsletter; seconded by Bob Hughes; passed unanimously.

Standing Committees

Finance and Audit: John Meldrim discussed the 2005-2006 Secretary-Treasurer's Report, which had been distributed at the beginning of the meeting. On July 31,

2006, AFS/WQS had 226 members and \$10,950.95 in the treasury. The annual financial audit of the AFS/WQS treasury records was conducted by President-Elect Gregg Lomnicky and Past-President Bob Gray prior to the meeting. Bob Gray reported that all records were correct and in order. Frank Borsuk moved for acceptance of the Secretary-Treasurer's Report and the Audit Committee Report; seconded by Thom Whittier; passed unanimously.

Introduction of Attendees

Before proceeding, President Reynolds asked those present to introduce themselves. Of the 16 attendees, six were AFS/WQS Past-Presidents: Chuck Coutant, Larry Brown, Bob Gray, Bob Hughes, Barb Knuth, and Gina Lampman.

Report on Midyear Meeting and Annual Governing Board Meeting

President Reynolds stated that of the numerous topics discussed at the Governing Board meetings, several were of particular importance to the Section. First, AFS is working to correct the database problems that have been plaguing all the AFS Sections and Divisions. The subunits have been unable to determine an accurate count of their respective memberships because of database problems. Correcting these problems is the highest priority of AFS Executive Director, Gus Rassam, and the problems are to be corrected within two months. AFS is also updating and improving its website, where AFS/WQS will be posting its webpage. Finally, the motion by the AFS Resource Policy Committee (RPC) to proceed with a draft position statement on economic growth was passed by the Governing Board. The draft statement is to be prepared by the AFS/WQS, AFS Socioeconomic Section, and RPC by the 2007 mid-year Governing Board meeting (in Atlanta). If passed to proceed, the position statement would be voted on by the general membership at the 2007 Annual AFS Meeting in San Francisco.

Other Reports

AFS/WQS Poster Awards. In an effort to give AFS/WQS higher visibility within the Society, this is the fourth year the Section will present an award for the Best Student Poster and the Best Non-Student Poster addressing water quality and aquatic habitat concerns consistent with the mission of the Section. Past-President Gina Lampman reported that because the AFS/WQS Business Meeting was occurring prior to the time the posters would be displayed, the posters had not yet been judged. However, all the posters had been screened and the list of posters to be evaluated had been prepared. Gina noted that some members had volunteered to judge, but the number was insufficient. Therefore, all attendees at the meeting were given a list of posters and judging forms, and were requested to judge the posters on that list. Certificates and checks for \$100 will be awarded for each of the winning posters when the judges reach their decisions.

Quick Communiques. President Reynolds reported that he had sent six Quick Communiques in the past year, including two job opportunities. However, because of distribution problems resulting from the AFS database problems, he plans to stop listing the job announcements in the Quick Communiques and put them on the website.

AFS/WQS Newsletter. Newsletter Editor and President-Elect Gregg Lomnický noted that the Newsletter had experienced the same distribution problem as that of the Quick Communiques. He was unable to send Newsletters to all the members because of the AFS database problems, and stated he hoped to put the Newsletter on the AFS/WQS webpage. One problem he noted with the electronic Newsletter was the difficulty some members may have in downloading it. Gregg has cut out most of the photos to reduce the size of the file. He noted that when the Newsletter is posted on the website, the photos can be placed in that edition. Gregg distributed copies of the latest Newsletter to the

meeting attendees. That issue had not yet been sent to the AFS/WQS membership because of the database problems. He requested that any topical information that could go into the Newsletter be sent to him.

AFS/WQS Sponsored Publications. Past-President Bob Hughes reported that the latest AFS/WQS-sponsored book, *Landscape Influences on Stream Habitats and Biological Assemblages*, derived from the 2004 AFS/WQS symposium of that title, was now published and available for purchase from the Parent Society. Lou Reynolds commented that the USEPA had purchased 40 copies of the book for distribution at their meetings. Bob further reported that two other recent AFS/WQS-sponsored books, *Historical Changes in Large River Fish Assemblages of North America*, and *The Effects of Urbanization on Stream Ecosystems*, derived from AFS/WQS symposia, had also been published and were available from the Parent Society. Gregg Lomnicky provided copies of all three books for examination by the meeting attendees.

Old Business

Water Quality Section Brochure. Frank Borsuk reported on the progress of the AFS/WQS trifold brochure. He handed out copies of the latest draft of the brochure and requested comments. Comments can go to Frank or to Lou Reynolds. When the comments are in, Frank will edit the brochure and color copies for use by the Section will be printed.

New Business

AFS/WQS 2005-2006 Budget. President Reynolds presented the proposed AFS/WQS budget for 2006-2007 (not considering any additional expenditures authorized at this meeting), comparing it to the budget for 2005 - 2006, and the actual income and expenses of the Section for 2004 - 2005 and for 2005 - 2006. Although the anticipated operating income in the proposed 2006 - 2006 budget was about \$360 higher than the actual income, the 2005 - 2006 actual operating

expenses were over \$900 less than anticipated in the 2005 – 2006 budget. Utilizing the actual 2004 – 2005 and 2005 – 2006 actual operating income and expenses, Lou proposed operating expenses for 2006 – 2007 about \$780 less than proposed for 2005 – 2006, based on an estimated operating income for 2006 – 2007 about \$150 less than anticipated in the 2005 – 2006 budget. He suggested one budget saving change would be to schedule the AFS/WQS Business Meeting in the afternoon instead of a lunch meeting. This change will be tried next year, if the schedule can be accommodated, so that the Business Meeting would follow an AFS/WQS-sponsored symposium and held in the same room as the symposium. Following discussion on the amounts allotted for other specific budget items, Bob Gray moved for acceptance of the proposed 2006 – 2007 budget. The motion was seconded by Thom Whittier, and was passed unanimously.

Poster Judging Issues. Past-President Gina Lampman stated that there was a need to improve the initial poster screening in the future. Bob Gray suggested that the poster presenters should state if they wished to be considered for the AFS/WQS award, and whether the poster was prepared by a student or by a fisheries professional. Following a discussion of various procedures needed for the screening, and problems associated with judging when not all posters were up at the same time, it was decided to work with Annual Meeting Program Chairs to ask presenters to request being considered for the AFS/WQS awards. The judging criteria are to be posted on the AFS/WQS webpage. Barb Knuth further suggested that Lou contact other AFS subunits to determine if they offered poster awards and, if so, what procedures they used.

AFS/WQS Web Site. President-Elect Gregg Lomnický stated that the AFS/WQS website is ready to go on-line. He noted that the AFS/WQS webpage had been sitting at AFS over six weeks waiting to be posted. Gregg stated that he would serve as web master, but would need to give up being the Newsletter Editor to do so. Therefore, AFS/WQS will need a new Newsletter Editor.

Water Quality Section Services. President Reynolds requested members to state the services they would like AFS/WQS to offer to members. Past-President Larry Brown commented that past membership surveys showed that Newsletters and a web page were a high priority. Lou noted that the webpage is coming and that when we get our website up, AFS/WQS should get new members. Lou asked for any and all ideas for membership services to be sent to him or any other AFS/WQS officer.

Upcoming Election of Section Officers. President Reynolds noted that an election of AFS/WQS officers will be held in 2007 and requested nominees for the offices of President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer. He commented that any member can be nominated (you could even nominate yourself), and asked that nominations be forwarded to any of the AFS/WQS officers.

AFS/WQS Symposia at the 2007 AFS Meeting in San Francisco. President Reynolds stated that AFS/WQS and the AFS Fish Physiology Section will be co-hosting a symposium on endocrine disruptors and aquatic life at the 2007 AFS Meeting. Eric Emery indicated that he would like to organize a symposium on temperature effects. Chuck Coutant offered to assist in that effort. Bob Hughes stated he would like to organize a symposium on Aqua EMAP. Larry Brown, Program Chair of the 2007 meeting, stated that symposium requests were due in January 2007. The 2007 AFS Meeting will be held September 2-6. Larry noted that although the hotel rates will be "good" (for San Francisco), the cost of meeting registration will be higher than that for the meeting in Lake Placid.

Other New Business. Past-President Bob Hughes stated that he will be starting a new electronic journal to enable state agencies to publish their results of studies. He is requesting editors for this journal. Interested members can contact Bob (hughes.bob@epa.gov) for details.

Adjournment

In response to a request from President Reynolds, Chuck Coutant moved for adjournment; seconded by Bob Gray. The motion passed unanimously.