

WSCFFI - February 5, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00 Conference Call

1. Call to order: Bill Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

2. Roll Call: Bill Wheeler, Robert Gerlach, Steve Jones, Larry Hartman, John Roskopf, Mike Clancy, Kuni Masuda, Larry Gibbs, Len Zickler, Jim Maus, Carl Johnson, Jack Whitney, Jim Athearn

3. Review of Minutes and Approval: There was one change to remove Larry Gibbs' name from the Lynnwood show list. Motion to approve as edited and seconded - all voted in favor to approve.

4. FFI Update: Len Zickler

a. Search process for new executive officer: The process began about two months ago and they have engaged the services of a company called Explorer. They have received interest from about a dozen candidates. Of those, five have been highlighted as outstanding, well-connected candidates. The Board of Directors have considered a three-year investment plan for the hiring of the new Executive Officer to give that individual a good opportunity to succeed. Their goal is to have the selection completed in time to announce it at the Expo in Bozeman in July.

b. 1000 Stewards Program: Len received a question about whether this program would pay for the new Executive Director and he said that is not true. All of the money for the investment plan for the Executive Director is already committed. The 1000 Stewards Program funds will specifically go for implementation of program delivery at the Club and Council level, as well as at the National meetings. These funds will be used for 1) conservation projects and conservation advocacy, 2) educational outreach programs (i.e., the Fly Tying Awards Program, the new Fly Casting Skills Awards Program or to assist clubs at the local level with their education programs) and 3) community - assisting clubs and council to reach out to attract more people and, hopefully, a more diverse population to FFI. He thinks the Clark/Skamania Club is going to commit to the program. Larry Gibbs added that the Alpine Fly Fishers are already participants in the 1000 Stewards Program. Len said that the Washington Council has always been a leader among councils on initiatives like this one in the past and he has been encouraged by positive comments from Board members and he encouraged the continued support from the Washington Council.

c. Acting CEO and President of FFI: Len said he would be stepping down in April to address some personal health issues. He said that he has enjoyed his tenure with the National

Council and is looking forward to coming back to the Washington Council to provide whatever assistance he can. Bill expressed appreciation for Len's efforts to help turn things around in the organization.

4. Officer Reports

a. VP West - Robert Gerlach: Nothing new to report.

b. VP East - Chet Allison: Not present.

c. Treasurer - John Roskopf: John Roskopf reported that he is in the process of completing FFI's annual financial report and he will be uploading it to FFI's web site in a couple days. He needs a current roster and Larry G said he could provide it. Since the last report in January, he has processed various routine receipts and expenses, including items for the upcoming fair. John added that he has converted the accounting to "paperless" statements.

d. Secretary - Jim Athearn: Nothing new to report.

e. VP Membership : Bill said the new Membership VP is Larry Gibbs. Larry reported that we had about 782 members at the end of the year and now we are at 773. We lost 21 and gained 11. He thinks most of the losses were from the youth program kids that did not renew. Steve sends out welcome emails to new members and, for any that don't go through, Larry sends out letters - 15 so far this month to people who didn't respond to Steve. Larry will monitor those to see if any come back as renewals. Steve pointed out that there are several dozen people in SW Washington who are FFI members in Oregon rather than Washington - probably because they went to the Oregon FFI show in Albany and signed up there. He thinks we should ask them to switch to the Washington Council when they renew membership. Carl said that, historically, membership was based on mailing address but individuals could request to be a member somewhere else.

Larry G mentioned that there was a false positive regarding memberships when you compare the International account with the Rocky Mountain account. There was an inflated count due to the Boise meeting and memberships that were sold for \$20.00. Overall, there was a 3.14% loss of members but the Washington loss was only 2.68%. Bill said there is also some confusion because on the summary sheet there is a highlighted row at the top that shows a total but it combines both memberships and clubs. Len will discuss this with Rhonda.

f. VPs Conservation - Jack Whitney: There are a couple issues in the Legislature, including one with bills in both the Senate and House to eliminate all gill netting on the Columbia River, and another one to eliminate most of the suction dredging. There is a letter out on the suction dredging with 53 organizations that have signed on. Jim Athearn said that the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club wrote a letter last year supporting new regulations as well as rule making for Washington Fish and Wildlife Department (WDFW). Washington does not currently regulate suction dredging while all of the surrounding states do. (Clarification: Addendum There are regulations on suction dredging in Washington State. This bill addresses the fact that the current Washington State regulations do not prohibit dredging in areas where endangered species act and in areas designated for gene pool preservation. This would prohibit dredging in these areas.) This means that people who don't like the restrictions elsewhere are coming into the State of Washington at will. Jack said that the WDFW's Gold and Fish pamphlet regulates how they have to conduct their activities and when it is prohibited, but there is no licensing or reporting requirements. Jim said there is currently no monitoring and there are about 2000 of these people out there dredging and there is a need for regulatory oversight. Carl described this as one recreational group fighting recreational group and WDFW should have the authority to close streams. Steve said he has been involved in the process for the past year with the Clark/Skamania club in the WDFW working group to amend the rules on this. While there is going to be a hydrologic permit process imposed on the miners, there is nothing in the changes that WDFW is pursuing that would prohibit this activity in any critical habitat or gene bank river. Therefore, any stream identified as critical habitat for listed species would still be open to mining. The two bills would eliminate these waters from suction dredging but it only focuses on those streams. Jim added that the teeth in both of the bills falls back on the Clean Water Act and that in itself has limitations. The State of Washington also has the Shoreline Management Act that includes shoreline master programs and regulates what they call 'significant commercial operations' of which suction dredging qualifies simply based on the investment they have in equipment. So there is another whole set of controls that could be imposed based on the existing state legislation that is not included. There was a little more discussion regarding the diverse nature of the groups supporting the legislation, including several Audubon Society chapters, and how that could help influence the lawmakers to address the issues. Steve made a motion to support the Washington Council getting behind the House and Senate bills to remove motorized suction dredges from critical habitat rivers in Washington State. There were several seconds. The motion passed with 7 votes in favor and 3 abstentions. Len asked that we reach out to David Petersen at National with the results of our vote and they will work quickly to take address our position.

The gill net issue was deferred. Jack will provide information regarding this to everyone before the next discussion.

g. VP Communications - Steve Jones: Steve reported that everything in the media plan for January was accomplished. The newsletter focused on casting and the next ones will focus on the upcoming Fair in Ellensburg. He received about 30 minutes of video from Gary Borger to use in putting together content for both newsletters and social media sites. Last month we discussed creating an Instagram account with a contest where people could post photos of their fish and the response has been really good - over 100 people submitted photos. The winner was announced today on our Facebook page - a woman named Kia Halvorsen. Steve said we have had over 200 posts on our Instagram account, including quite a few commercial people. The Facebook site is working as well with very good viewership last month.

Next actions, in addition to the newsletter content, is to get Instagram, Facebook and the website and constant contact all working together and talking about the May event plus including a membership recruitment. Steve asked for \$300 to start buying a utility on Facebook that allows you to boost our message to other people who aren't finding your page but who share our interest (i.e., fly fishing, trout, steelhead, etc.). He thinks \$20/week for about ten weeks will give us good traction. There was a motion and second to support Steve's request for \$300 - all voted in favor. Steve encouraged everyone to look at the sites to learn what is going on.

h. VP Education - Larry Hartman: Nothing new - Larry wasn't on the call at this time.

5. Old Business

a. Rod raffles - Larry Gibbs: So far, 16 Board members have purchased tickets which will result in Larry donating \$500 in May. Overall we have sold 56% of the rod raffle tickets and 70% of the reel only tickets so far and he expects everything to sell out by May.

b. Lynnwood Show:

1. Attendees: Bill, Don, Larry H, Robert, Carl, Steve and Robert. Overlake will take care of the kids' tying.

2. Set up: Bill, Len and Carl and Steve if needed.

3. Odds and ends: Len said the booth will arrive in a big box and everything is pretty simple to set up. Booth layout was discussed. Carl has the applications, brochures, strong box and flies for memberships.

c. Fair - Bill Wheeler:

1. RegOnline Deadlines: Jim M plans to have everything up and ready for the Lynnwood show. Robert said the casting part is ready and just waiting for final approval from Don, Bill and Carl. The two topics for continuing education are Gary Borger for 2 hours and demystifying lines by Bill. Jim M said, if he gets the times, costs and a blurb on what we are going to do, he will be all set. That will include workshops and continuing education. Last year we charged \$45 for the workshop classes and \$20 for private classes and Bob suggested we bump private to \$25. The Gary Borger classes will be \$75. Bill will call Gary to get a bio write-up. Carl added that, based on past experience, it is best to get bio information and class descriptions from the participants to avoid misunderstandings.

Mike asked if there is going to be any kind of a youth program this year besides CeCe (PE teacher at Easton High School). She brought 7 kids last year and may bring up to 14 this year. Bill said the youth program would only be she does with the kids she brings. Mike also asked about our Council sponsoring the youth program in Bozeman this year. We did this last year in Boise and it amounted getting our name listed as sponsors and we bought lunches for the kids (about \$200). Carl made a motion to approve up to \$500 for the youth program. This was seconded and the vote was unanimous. Mike also said that they gave fly rods last year to the kids that didn't have one (three) and it would be nice if we could do that again this year. He thinks there are enough left over from last year to do it again.

Mike also asked for a small budget for binders the kids can put their information from the Fishing Academy in to take home. Bill said he would personally cover this.

2. Tyers: Deferred

3. Gary Borger: See 1 above.

4. Schedule: Deferred

5. Casting: Deferred

6. Donations: Kuni has sent donation packets to everybody and now he would like everyone to also send them out to people they know to try a more personal approach than just a mass mailing that has not been productive in the past. He can provide paper copies to anyone that needs them. Bill received a bamboo rod donation from the Overlake Club.

7. Volunteers needed:

- Catering: Deferred

- Casting: Deferred

- Brochure: Bill said that Chet and Joann are going to spend the next 6 weeks or so in California so he has withdrawn from doing the brochure. Carl said he could do it if nobody else steps forward and Steve said he could help.

- Door “Guards”: Bill said it would be nice to have a good estimate of how many people are coming and Carl added that the only way to get a good count is to have someone at the door with some way to account for everyone who comes in - stamp, wrist band, etc. He has had a problem getting volunteers to do that for the last few years. Steve thought we could ask for zip codes from everyone which would give a head count plus an indication where they are from. Bill asked if everyone could go back to their clubs and solicit volunteers or maybe try our social media outlet. Steve thought there may be people from the Headwaters TU Chapter who would volunteer. Jack suggested a drawing so everyone who comes in gets a ticket to put in a box but there still needs to be someone monitoring the door. Bob suggested that we should have an arm/wrist band for everyone. Carl said that we don't have any bands right now so, if we want to do that, we need to get them ordered. Mike volunteered to coordinate staffing the door along with Steve.

- Raffles etc.: Deferred

8. Vendors: Larry G said he has 8 vendor applications in hand right now. Nine others have told him that they are going to be sending applications in, four have said that they aren't sure at this time and eight have said they aren't going to attend. He and Larry H are still making calls to people they haven't heard from.

Larry G needs to have the floor plans ready for Chet by 1 March and there is a big difference if he needs to set aside space for a beer garden. Bill said we can't do the beer garden.

We have received three one-day guided fishing trips for our live auction: Wooly Bugger Fly Company on Washington's Yak River, Clark Fork Trout on the Clark Fork River and Michael T. Williams on Oregon's McKenzie River.

Larry H has also called several potential vendors and he is getting feedback that the vendors don't have a lot of confidence that Ellensburg is a viable venue.

Len suggested a couple other possible vendors - Doug at Sincognito (clothing) and New Canoe from Bellingham.

9. Boost Facebook Posts: Deferred

10. Beer/wine Garden: See 8 above.

d. Suggestion for Board Vacancies: Deferred

e. Suggestions for Awards: Bill asked everyone to think about nominations for awards to be given out in Ellensburg. Carl encouraged everyone to read the award criteria that is on our web page.

f. Board Meeting Format: Written comments if you can't attend.

6. New Business

a. Tom Logan update: Deferred

Adjourn: 8:50 pm