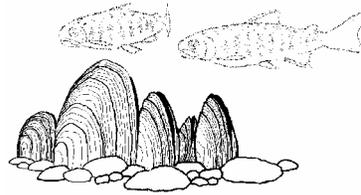


Pacific Northwest Native Freshwater Mussel Workgroup



August 23, 2004

Minutes

Attendees were as follows: Jen Stone, Al Smith, Nancy Duncan, Micah Wait, Rob Plotnikoff, Brent Vadopalas*, Kathy Thornburg*, Cynthia Tait*, Kelly Toy*, Molly Hallock, Kevin Aitkin, Dick Schaetzel, Michelle Steg, Dick Dewey, Robyn Draheim, and Tom Burke*. *indicates on conference call.

Al Smith opened the meeting by initiating introductions from attendees and asking for additions or changes to the agenda. Discussions on Cynthia Tait's BLM database and Rob Plotnikoff's modifications to the Critical Needs and Uncertainties were added to the agenda.

Mussel Field Guide: Jen Stone updated the Workgroup as to the status of the Mussel Field Guide. Funding has been obtained from the Water Tenders (5k) and the Western Washington US Fish and Wildlife Service (5k). The Service is working with the Water Tenders on a Cooperative Agreement that will combine the funds and expedite the process. BioDRAWiversity has been selected as the contractor, as this company produced both field guides for Maine and Connecticut. This Field Guide will be a product of the Workgroup, sponsored by Water Tenders and the Service and it is up to the Workgroup members to ensure correct content and scope. The timeline for completion is March 2005. Copyright of the photos/drawings of BioDRAWiversity will remain with the contractor, however we will be free to reprint the Field Guide at no additional charge. Currently, we are anticipating 8k copies, though this may be reduced if we decide to print on a waterproof paper. Al Smith will be the point person from the Workgroup to work with the contractor. He will request help from other Workgroup members as needed (deadline for information will be November 2004). Jen Stone and Kevin Aitkin will handle the financial aspect/Cooperative Agreement parts of the project. The Field Guide will be similar to the Connecticut guide and will include our seven native species, the zebra mussel, the Asian clam, and a color-variant of *Margaritifera* (10 all together). Each species will have a shell shot (Terry Frest volunteered specimens) and hopefully an underwater photo. All photos must be 300 dpi or slides to be useful. The group discussed the relevance of including habitat related pictures for each species and the consensus was that habitat was too variable to be useful, though a general photo could be used with a more descriptive narrative under each species. The group discussed the usefulness of range maps to describe species distribution. The overall consensus was that data is not available at this detail for most states. The group decided that the geographic scope of this field guide should be the Pacific Northwest, with distribution information reported in the narrative. If more detailed distribution information is available, it can be included (WA, OR, ID). 3rd or 4th field HUCs might be useful in this application. Terry Frest should be contacted to see if he would be interested in describing distribution. The group discussed whether Al Smith's key should be included, and the overall

consensus was that it should (with an ID/collection disclaimer and review by a taxonomist). Additional content: the value of archeological sites (including a photo of a midden), pictures of glochidia, warnings about killing mussels/disturbing habitat, and management concerns. Regarding distributing the field guide: each member will be given a bundle to disperse to people and agencies. Others requesting the field guide will have to send a pre-paid label to a point-person (yet designated). The .pdf will remain on the Workgroup's webpage, with additional information detailing where they can pick-up a hard copy.

2005 Symposium: Jen Stone updated the group as to the status of the Symposium. Funding has been obtained from the Western Washington US Fish and Wildlife Service (5k), Columbia River US Fish and Wildlife Service (\$2500), and Plum Creek Timber (\$500). Water Tenders will provide administrative support for co-sponsorship. Molly and Kevin have been locating potential meeting sites and have so far identified the Point Defiance Zoo and Evergreen State College as possibilities. Micah mentioned that REI might be another alternative if the first two fall through. The Workgroup decided that the end of June 2005 (on a high tide day Tuesday-Thursday) would be the preferred date with early April as backup. Kevin will work with the zoo to determine logistics. The Workgroup discussed potential topics for mini-workshops. The following list was generated:

- Mussel Techniques: aging, ID, non-lethal tissue sampling, preservation, glochidia ID, photo documentation, etc
- Sampling Design:
- Education and Outreach: how to engage the public and the agencies
- Management/Policy:

Jen Stone will expand this list to be more descriptive and will send it out to the entire list-serve for feedback. Once topics are clearly identified as being of interest, Jen Stone will work with other Workgroup Members to solicit teachers for each mini-workshop. The Workgroup discussed having a Keynote Speaker. Jen Stone noted that it would be nice to have an international perspective this time and mentioned inviting Lee Hastie (UK), who has been involved with developing successful monitoring programs in Europe. Rob Plotnikoff has also conversed favorably with Lee. Other people were mentioned, including David Strayer and Dick Neves, though these people would likely not be able to bring an international perspective to the meeting. This topic warrants further discussion.

This general schedule was proposed:

8:00-8:15	Introductions
8:15-9:15	Keynote Speaker
9:15-9:30	Break (room change)
9:30-11:30	Workshops
11:30-12:30	Lunch (on your own at the zoo) (room change)
12:30-2:30	Workshops
2:30-3:00	Poster Session (local work) (room change)
3:00-5:00	Workshops

The budget for the Symposium will be divided as such: up to 1k will be offered to workshop conveners for their travel, and additional funding will go towards honoraria (amount yet to be decided). \$500 has been reserved for room rental (if necessary) and \$200 for snacks/beverages. Additional funding will go towards materials needed for workshops and travel and honorarium for the keynote speaker. Kevin and Molly will be responsible for location logistics, and Jen, Molly, and Nancy will work on the mini-workshop details.

Chehalis River Field Trip Report: Kevin, Al, Molly, John Fleckenstein, Micah and David Mudd attended a mussel field trip on the Chehalis River. David Mudd, WDFW, has property that is tidally influenced with 10s of mussels out of water on minus tides during the summer low-flows. The substrate is loose sand/silt with very few rocks and was wet. There were no apparent signs of predation, mussels exhibited non-directed movement of up to 2m on occasion. Mussels were also found in the deeper water habitats, usually congregated into small beds of 5 mussels and slightly embedded. These were all *Margaritifera falcata*.

Portland State University Course: On August 12, Al Smith taught a course through Portland State University on freshwater mussels. Additionally, Cynthia Tait spoke on her archeological midden work. The course was attended by 27 people, all biologists, from a variety of natural resources, consulting companies and educational institutions. The course was divided between lecture and field work. The field trip took place on the Columbia Slough where the Multnomah County Drainage District was able to slightly lower the water. Three live species of *Anodonta* were located. Feedback was positive and Portland State mentioned the possibility of repeating the course in a year or so.

General Discussion/Additional Agenda Items: Jen Stone will set up a field trip to Astoria High School in the fall to look at their aquatic ecophysiology lab. Al Smith will be speaking at a general science class at Washington State University/Vancouver. Cynthia Tait described the Aquatic Resource Information Management System (ARIMS). BLM folks would like to start adding mussels to the database. They need a standardized sampling protocol for mussel surveys (on BLM land only). Nancy Duncan mentioned that the American Fisheries Society recently developed an official mussel monitoring protocol and she will try to find it and distribute it to the rest of the group. Al Smith asked the group if there had been any progress made to get Tom Watters to give a presentation/seminar at U. Washington and Kevin reported that there hadn't been. Rob Plotnikoff expanded the Critical Needs and Uncertainties document that was developed at the last meeting. Al Smith asked the Workgroup to review this document and be ready to discuss at the next meeting. Al Smith mentioned that Bill Hastie, an environmental educator, would be willing to help the Workgroup out on occasion (regarding outreach activities). Micah Wait gave an update on the caged-mussel study on Bear Creek. Benzoic acid and arsenic were found in high concentrations and this was correlated with development in the watershed. They are trying to figure out the next steps and would like members of the Workgroup to attend a meeting to this regard. Micah will send out an annual report of this study once it is completed.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for November 9th, 2004 (10-3) at the US Fish and Wildlife Service Columbia River Fisheries Program Office in Vancouver, WA.
Meeting Adjourned