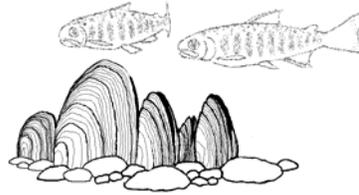


PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIVE FRESHWATER MUSSEL WORKGROUP



December 7, 2006

Minutes

Attendees were as follows: Al Smith, Kevin Aitkin, Molly Hallock, Christina Luzier, Tom Burke, Sarina Jepson (Xerces Society), Arden Thomas (University of Washington), Arline Fullerton (WALPA). Michelle Steg, Nancy Duncan and John Fleckenstein were on the conference line.

Purpose: This was a regularly scheduled meeting of the Workgroup.

2007 Symposium: The date for the symposium is April 17, 2007. It will be held at the Water Resources Center in Vancouver, WA. Rob drafted the pre-announcement. It was converted to an announcement/call for papers. It is being sent to AFS, NABS, the workgroup website, Malacological Society website, UNIO, and the master mussel contact list. The group decided to extend the deadline for responding to the announcement to February 15th, 2007. Abstracts are due March 15, 2007.

Financially we have secured funding for the administrative costs (\$300) from the Environmental Information Cooperative, break refreshments (\$300) from Clark County Solid Waste Division, and room rental through a partnership with the Water Resources Center. We still need the majority of the funding (\$3000) to cover speaker travel. We decided that each local speaker would receive a \$100 honorarium and each invited speaker would be reimbursed for travel up to a certain dollar amount to be determined by the amount of funds we can raise. Sponsorship request proposals were sent to regional USFWS, WDFW offices, local non-profits, county offices, and all members of the workgroup (to pass along to their respective employers).

The group decided that it would recruit 2-3 keynote speakers and several (up to 10) local speakers. There will be a session devoted to Bear Creek with approximately 5-6 local people presenting on this issue. Potential keynote speakers are Tom Watters and Karen Mock. Wendy is working with Molly to recruit the Bear Creek presenters.

Washington State Lake Protection Association WALPA: Arline Fullerton attended the meeting to talk about combining the 2008 Mussel Symposium with the annual WALPA meeting and sponsoring part of the mussel guide reprint. She brought questions that the WALPA board had and the workgroup answered them. Following are the questions in bold asked by the WALPA board and the answers dictated by Arline Fullerton.

WALPA questions for the Mussel group, Dec. 7, 2006; Answers By Arline Fullerton

Sally Abella (Past Pres):

I think we're looking at the June edition of Waterline for a freshwater mussel article, maybe about 50 words with a map of known distribution and a picture. Would Kevin Aiken be the author? If so, have you talked to him or did you want me to make contact?

Al Smith, Mussel Group Pres., said he would call you but in case he doesn't right away here are his contacts: Phone:503-628-7825,E-mail: mxasmith@pacifier.com. Al said that King County's web site was very good and that maybe something from the site should be used. In any event, I suggested that their symposium date in April and other details could be posted in the waterline along with web sites, etc.

Karl Mueller (Board member):

What is your idea of a desirable time-line for publication? Three months, six months, etc?

The Mussel Group reported that it paid \$5000.00 to someone to assist in writing and illustrating the Mussel field guide and then it cost about \$5000.00 more to have about 5000 copies printed. That is about \$1 a copy. They are not a 501c3 organization but are currently working with another organization to partner with them and the other organization would care for their funding matters.

Kevin said that someone else has offered to finance the next 5000 copies but WALPA could donate money for more copies from the same printing run if they choose. The publish date could be as soon as February 2007. I learned that the Mussel Group receives all their revenue from donations and are currently looking for help to finance their next symposium at Vancouver, WA in April, 07. In the past they have paid expenses for guest speakers, one even from Scotland. I have attended their symposiums and they are awesome.

Beth Cullen (Pres elect):

Here's what I'd tell them about the 2008 conference -

- 1) It is going to be held somewhere on the west side of the state (since we've been to Spokane, Portland, 2007 in Chelan).**
- 2) We won't know the exact location until later when we have a new president-elect**
- 3) We do a two-day weekday conference**

Other than that - details have to be determined. My questions re: the conference would be to get at exactly what they want. Do they want to be a part of the WALPA conference? Or do they just want to have a separate conference while WALPA is having their's and be able to migrate between the two sessions? Also, what kind of monetary help do they want?

The point here is we really need to know what their vision is so we can meld it with ours. Both groups need to be able to maximize the

potential.

2007 conference: The Mussel Group is interested in presenting at WALPA's Lake Chelan conference. The board members were all interested in the fact that WALPA was now partnering with both Oregon and Idaho. I suggested they wait until after their symposium in April to come up with 2 or 3 good presentations. Al Smith said he would be up for being part of a "stump the expert" session. I heard a report from Arden Thomas, a U of W student doing research with mussels on Bear Creek in King Co. (Sally, I am sure you are familiar with this project) and she could be a good presenter.

2008 conference: Kevin stated how wonderful it was having two conferences going at the same time and location this last October in Portland. He suggested that as a possibility for 2008. The board members said that Wendy Walsh would probably be open to a tour of her acreage if our 2008 conference ends up close by.

Vision: The mussel group said that because they were so limited by funding (none) that they wanted to be sure that all moneys and efforts were focused for a good return in the form of research and public outreach.

Arline Fullerton (Board member):

I want to know your plans to get this new information into the educational system such as: colleges, science teachers in public schools, link to published pamphlet for home schooling groups, etc.

Al said that during the initial formation of the mussel group they had listed public outreach as one of their major goals but it fell by the wayside because of lack of interest. Arline almost got volunteered for the job.

Christina sent 30 mussel posters to Arline/WALPA.

Arden Thomas, University of Washington Grad Student: Arden spoke about the research she is conducting on Bear Creek. She is addressing the acute mussel die-off occurring in Bear Creek. Bob Brenner did a mark/recapture study of mussels in Bear Creek and found that 95-97% of the recaptured ones were dead. Arden has caged mussels in three locations, above and below Paradise Lake and in Cottage Lake Creek. She will be doing a histological study on gonadal tissues and assays to determine RNA production to ascertain the toxic agent or disease causing the mortality. There is cryptophyte, a toxic algae, in Paradise Lake which has historically caused mussel deaths. In fish it causes a disruption in the gills and increases the fish's susceptibility to other toxins.

Arden will also be repeating mussel surveys conducted by WA Department of Transportation.

Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Mussel Surveys: The overall goal is to restore mussel populations on the refuge but they did not know if any mussel species were present. Al and Molly helped conduct mussel surveys in October. They, along with refuge biologist Marie

Fernandez, and Tom Kollach from the Nature Conservancy surveyed 5 streams on or near the refuge. Mussels were found only in Bear River. We were treated to a slideshow of the trip.

Marie and the refuge staff also wanted to learn about the process of reintroducing mussels if necessary. Lee Hastie advised that it would probably take decades to repopulate.

Some students are going to conduct more surveys next summer.

Oregon Field Guide: We watched the Oregon Field Guide segment on mussels that was taped in June 2006 and broadcast in October. Al and Jason Dunham starred in the segment which was shot on Steamboat Creek, a tributary of the Umpqua River, and at the OSU Marine Science Center in Newport, OR. The segment focused on aging and growth of mussels. I think Al and Jason were robbed at the Golden Globes!

Xerces Affiliation: The MOU is being modified to include several documents. Each event or publication will have its own agreement. Al will send out the modified version for comments. We hope to have the agreement in place in time for the symposium in April so that we can collect a registration fee.

Shell collection in Washington: An amendment was made to the Unclassified Freshwater Invertebrate and Fish WAC (220-56-129). Each person can now collect up to 5 pounds of relic shells per day. This amendment is effective 1-1-07.

Field Guides: We have about 500 guides left in various locations. We are unsure as to how many Wendy and WaterTenders has. There are approximately 1000 mussel posters left. We are going to start the process of reprinting the guide when the Xerces affiliation is in place and we have secured funding for the reprint.

Next Meeting: March 6, 2007 in Seattle, WA.