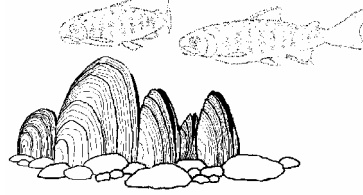


Pacific Northwest Native Freshwater Mussel Workgroup



January 21, 2004

Minutes

Attendees were as follows: Jen Stone, Al Smith, Kevin Aitkin, and Jayne Brim Box, all on conference call.

Purpose: The purpose of this conference call was to discuss logistics of the 2004 Symposium with the members of the Workgroup most active in the planning process. This meeting precedes a conference call with the entire Workgroup, scheduled for February 3, 2004.

Location change: Jen informed the attendees that conference room reservations fell through for both the Department of Ecology building and the Fish and Wildlife Service building in Lacey, WA. The purpose of having the Symposium in Lacey was to 1. move the Symposium around to reach managers in different areas, and 2. accommodate the Workgroup members, many of which live or work in this area. Jen has contacted the Vancouver Water Resources Building (where the previous Symposium was held) and has reserved the conference room. There is some confusion as to what would happen if the reservation were to be cancelled, in the event that another facility was located near Lacey. The attendees decided that we would stick with the Vancouver Water Resources Building unless other members of the Workgroup vehemently opposed this change of venue during the February 3rd conference call.

Funding for guest speakers: Jayne offered to fund Karen Mock. Catherine, Art, and Tom still need to be funded, at 1000k per person. At a previous meeting the Workgroup decided that we wouldn't seek funding to support travel of Workgroup members. Kevin and Jen have been working with the Fish and Wildlife Service to find money, but they haven't received the regional budget yet, and a decision on this request will be deferred until a budget is in hand. Jayne will know by January 22nd if it is possible for her group to support another speaker. This issue needs to be discussed with the rest of the Workgroup and we need to determine a "drop dead date" (i.e. a date when we will tell the presenters that we couldn't find the money to pay for their travel, and concurrently readjust the agenda). Before February 3rd and after January 22nd Jen will send out another request to the Workgroup members to find money to support the guest speakers. She will also confirm with Washington Trout's accountant if it is still acceptable for them to receive money and cut checks, as the Workgroup cannot.

Guest speaker topics: Tom Watters is the current president of FMCS and will help tie us to that group, and vice-versa. He will introduce the audience to freshwater mussels in general. This will include their general biology, the parasite connection, and reasons for their decline (habitat loss, commercial clamming, zebra mussels, etc.). It will conclude with a brief video montage of parasite-fish interactions - lures, conglutinates, etc. Art Bogan will talk about the taxonomy and distribution of freshwater mussels and the understanding of generic level relations based on DNA done in collaboration with several people here in the US and Europe. He has information on the subfamily Anodontinae, the world-wide picture and the Margaritiferidae, a world wide phylogeny, and will discuss the hot spots of diversity. This may also cover the problems of extinction and the causes leading to the decline. Additionally he will also plan on addressing some of the problems of shell shape and sculpture convergence between areas such as Asia and the SE US. Catherine Gatenby will focus on the feeding ecology, feeding physiology, and captive care of mussels, as well as the diets of mussels. Karen Mock will talk about mussel genetics. Terry will be asked to talk about conservation trends of mussels in the west. Jayne will tie everything together towards the end of the Symposium.

Format of symposium: The symposium will consist of seminar-type presentations made by the guest speakers, presentations from local biologists, and plenty of time for questions. Jen will send out a mock-agenda for review before the February 3rd meeting to see how everything will fit. Currently, we are planning to allow Art, Tom, and Catherine 45 minutes with 15 minutes for questions, Jayne Terry, and Karen 25 minutes with 5 minutes for questions, and the local biologists 15 minutes with 5 minutes for questions.

Field trips: Kevin wanted to provide the guest speakers with an opportunity to see west coast mussels. He also wanted to show Catherine the facilities at Quilcene. Additionally, there is a site on the Chehalis River that Jayne was interested in viewing (tidal Margaritifera beds). Kevin will look into the field trips and report back to the group.

After-symposium social: The audience, Workgroup members, and guest speakers will be invited to a social event at local restaurant. Jen will coordinate this event.

Flyer: The question about when to send out the Symposium Announcement Flyer was raised. We decided to wait until after the February 3rd conference call. That would allow 2 months notice, which would accommodate many people's scheduling requirements. Kevin will work on posting the information on the Unio list-serve and Jen will focus on the Portland State University list-serve.

Theme: We decided to go with the theme that Al produced: "Sharing information on the neglected Northwest freshwater mussel by local researchers and renowned mussel scientists." This will also be discussed at the February 3rd conference call.

Meeting Adjourned