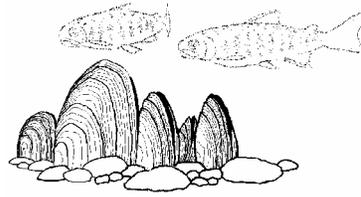


Pacific Northwest Native Freshwater Mussel Workgroup



May 4, 2005
Minutes

Attendees were as follows: Kevin Aitkin, Jen Stone, Molly Hallock, Brent Vadopalas, Nancy Duncan, John Fleckenstein, Kathy Thornburg, Dick Schaetzel*, Wendy Walsh, Al Smith, Christina Luzier, Bob Brenner*, and Jeff Adams. Jeanette Howard, Cynthia Tait, and Michelle Steg were on the conference line. *Indicates invited guest.

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

Field Guide: Al Smith reviewed the status of the Field Guide. BioDRAWiversity was selected as the contractor because of his previous field guide work in Connecticut and Maine. The Workgroup decided that Al would be the point of contact with the contractor (Ethan Nedeau) and would serve as the final editor. Al has supplied Ethan with both grey and peer-reviewed literature and photographs. The text was reviewed by many reviewers including Jayne Brim Box, Kevin Cummings, Art Bogan, outreach folks, and other members of the Workgroup. Al collated the edits and passed them along to Ethan. The layout of the book was reviewed separately and we are very close to being print-ready (May 6).

Jeanette mentioned that Jayne thought that Ethan did not accept many of her suggestions. Many statements in the text were made without regard to science. There were many problems with content. Jayne and Jeanette feel like the document is not representing sound science. Specific examples were given: identifying species of Anodonta is impossible to do based on shell morphology, there is no mention of soft parts in species ID. Jeanette feels that the guide is going to do more damage than good in the end. Al replied that they used the AFS published material (Turgeon et al), as Jayne had suggested doing early on in the formation of the Workgroup, and that Jayne had said it would be the most conservative approach to take. Al also reminded the group that this book was never intended to be a scientific publication—more directed at the public. Jeanette accepted that the field guide would be printed relatively as-is, but wanted to let the group know that the Tribe (Umatilla) had reservations about it.

Nancy wanted to know what the risk of publishing the guide is. Jeanette replied that a little bit of knowledge goes far and that we will be perpetuating the myth of taxonomy—that you can ID species based on shell morphology. Kevin stated that we've covered this issue on page 19 of the guide where we discussed our reservations about IDing Anodontids and Kevin asked if there was anything better than Turgeon et al. Jeanette agreed that there wasn't at this point in time. Al said that Jayne said the board that created Turgeon et al were top-notch scientists and were very conservative in their approach. Jeannetted conceded. Nancy suggested adding a sentence to each Anodonta section reminding people of the importance of collecting voucher specimens.

Jeanette asked if the photographs used were the type specimens that Jayne had. Al stated that Jayne only sent a few of the type specimen photographs. Al wrestled with whether he should use the 2 that he did see, and decided that they were very similar to the pix that Ethan took, and decided to use Ethan's. Al said he preferred to use shells that were collected in the west for the photographs. Kevin asked if we should add a sentence on page 19 about the soft tissue and genetic methods of species ID.

Jeanette repeated her concern that Jayne's comments were not used. Al disagreed and said many of her comments were used. Al suggested that Jeanette summarize her concerns. She replied that she didn't want to perpetuate myths and said she would go through the text and point out inconsistencies. She will provide some language for Al to consider.

Wendy suggested that we need to say in the text that this is the first attempt at a field guide and is representative of the information that currently exists, and future editions will include the most recent science.

Nancy suggested clarifying what the intended purpose of the field guide is in the Introduction.

Jeanette mentioned that the sizes used to describe Margaritifera were wrong and that the habitat information is problematic as well. Jeanette wanted to know the sources of the information presented. Al listed a few sources and mentioned that the 8.75 was probably an artifact of converting between English and metric units.

Wendy suggested that the goal of the guide was to get information out to the public and that we don't know everything there is to know about freshwater mussels. John wanted to make sure that everything in the guide was accurate.

Al asked Jeanette if the Tribe had any concerns over other parts of the guide, and Jeanette said that the cultural information was fine.

Wendy commented on the picture on the front of the guide, feeling that it didn't represent the Pacific Northwest, rather it represented the Pacific Northeast. She suggested using a picture of Bear Creek on the front cover instead. Kevin reminded the Workgroup that the 2 pictures on the front cover were connected, Margaritifera observed in the John Day River, and the bluffs are of the John Day river. Al reminded the Workgroup that this habitat represented more of the PNW (east), and that the thin sliver west of the Cascades was very small. Nancy compromised with Wendy and suggested using a photo within the guide that better represents the smaller wooded streams where Margaritifera are commonly found west of the Cascades. Christina and Jen will look at the photos they have of Cedar Creek and forward them on to Ethan. Jeanette also had a few comments about the photos and would send them along to Al.

Wendy commented about the introduction to the field guide and thinks the intro is too negative and confusing. Nancy, Kevin, and Molly stated that they liked the intro, thinking that it made a great connection to salmonids. Wendy suggested that it was very poor writing and Jeanette agreed. Al stated that the intro will not be changed, and Wendy will continue speaking with Ethan over email.

Al is going on vacation and will be leaving any unresolved issues with Jen. Dick said he would look around for printers for the field guide to see if we could get the printing done for cheaper, and Jen will provide him the details. The guide needs to be print ready by May 6.

2005 Symposium: Speakers: Jen and Christina are taking care of Mark Hove. He had made his travel reservations and is planning his course. Al is taking care of David Smith, who co-authored the sampling guide (AFS pub), and Al is not aware of his travel arrangements. Nancy

is taking care of Kurt Welke and Jeanette. Kurt's travel plans have been made. Rob will update the group on the status of Lee Hastie. All speakers are budgeted for up to 1k\$ travel. They will be staying at the Ramada Inn, 3 nights covered, and 3 days per diem covered. All other costs will be on their own. Wendy will get in touch about touring Lee Hastie around Seattle and Bear Creek. Conveners (Jen, Nancy, Al) are responsible for asking their teachers what will be needed for their course (i.e., microscopes, powerpoint projectors, etc). Those that can are encouraged to bring their own (teachers and conveners). Molly will make sure that screens are available in each of the rooms.

Molly is responsible for arrangements. We have 1 lecture hall, 3 break out rooms, and one lounge for the poster session. Molly will make sure we have adequate signage. She will also coordinate the set up of the aquarium (possibly getting it ready the night before). Kevin said he will make sure we are provided with a map of Evergreen that has the building on it. Jen/Christina will send out a final email to registrants with an agenda, map, and expectations attached. Molly has confirmed that at least one cafeteria will be open. Molly needs a letter from the Water Tenders confirming that WDFW will be reimbursed.

John is responsible for the poster session. He has five abstracts so far. Oregon AFS is providing us with the poster boards. Molly will check to see if we can get tables near the poster boards for brochures, handouts, etc. Poster boards will be brought from Vancouver to the meeting by Christina.

Jen has been monitoring the budget and all looks fine. She requested that each convener tell her exactly how much of the travel budget each teacher will be using. Any extra money left over will be put towards printing the field guide. Additionally, coffee breaks (425\$) might go towards printing as well.

Christina will be responsible for registration the day of the Workgroup. Jen has devised a plan to separate people into 3 groups. So far we have 72 registrants with a maximum allowable of 90 (30 per group) + Workgroup members. Wendy has volunteered to help out at the registration desk. Participants will be encouraged to print out the agenda and directions and bring it along with them.

Jen pulled together a draft agenda/program for review. She needs to change font sizes around and add WDFW as a sponsor. She will also update the Workgroup composition section. John will provide information for the poster session (preferably abstracts). Jen asks that each convener get a short bio (in the third person...1 paragraph) and a course description from each teacher to include in the program. Another announcement will be sent out on Friday by Jen (to the mussel listserve).

Bob Brenner's presentation: Bob Brenner, invited guest from King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, gave a presentation on his mussel findings in three creeks in the Seattle area.

New Membership: The Workgroup agreed to invite Jacquie Lee onto the Workgroup, as long as she can commit time to the endeavor.

Chehalis Field Trip: Had been scheduled for May, but looks unlikely. Could be associated with a post-meeting trip instead.

Powerpoint Presentation: Jen and Rob have created a general powerpoint presentation that goes briefly into mussel biology and over the Workgroup. She will put this on the webpage and asks Workgroup members to send comments her way.

Databases: Al has received a request to use a PSMFC database to house some mussel related information. Al would like to form a subgroup of Workgroup members that are interested in this issue to investigate this database, or others, as being a database that the Workgroup can recommend using for freshwater mussels. Jeff and Nancy agreed to check into it. Bruce Schmidt is the contact.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Workgroup was set for August 30th in Lacey, WA at the USFWS building.

Meeting Adjourned