

**Minutes from the 2009 OFWIM Business Meeting
Seattle, WA
16 September 2009**

- I. Call to Order
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Robin Carlson, OFWIM President.

- II. Determination of Quorum
 - a. There are 67 members in the database.
 - b. There are 23 attendees at the business meeting; quorum is met.

- III. Old Business
 - a. President's message (Robin Carlson)
 - i. Robin welcomed everyone to the meeting.
 - ii. She mentioned that all the committees have been particularly active this year. She highlighted the use of webinars and the portal for enhanced collaboration.
 - iii. Robin also pointed out that this is the first year that we have been able to offer meeting access to remote participants via WebEx and a phone bridge. We will be surveying the remote participants
 - iv. 2008 Business Meeting Minutes (Lisa Zolly)
 - 1. Motion: Viv Hutchison motioned to approve the 2008 minutes; Lila Borge-Wills seconded. The motion passed.
 - b. Officer reports (all reports are available in the conference binders and from the OFWIM public Website)
 - i. 2009 President's report (Robin Carlson)
 - ii. 2009 Secretary's report (Lisa Zolly)
 - iii. 2009 Treasurer's report (Kristin Rogers)
 - 1. Kristin reviewed the OFWIM finances for 2009. We are in the green for the 2009 meeting.
 - iv. Member at Large (Don Schrupp)
 - c. Committee reports
 - i. Membership & Outreach (Kristin Rogers)
 - 1. Highlights: 20 individual memberships and 11 organizational memberships in 2009.
 - 2. Awarded 6 travel grants of \$500 each for this meeting.
 - ii. Awards & Nominations (Beth Stys)
 - 1. Highlights: awarded 4 student scholarships this year
 - iii. Communications Committee (Viv Hutchison)
 - 1. Highlights: published 4 newsletters this year, with input from ExComm, committee chairs, and other meetings. Also published a pre-meeting issue with help from Robin.
 - iv. Conference Planning Committee (Jen Carlino)
 - 1. Highlights: planned this year's meeting, with special local help from Viv Hutchison. Everyone agreed that the Talaris Center was a great choice for the venue.
 - v. Training & Education Committee (Don Schrupp)

1. Highlights: Offered 7 Webinars this year; 2 were portal collaboration training, 3 on PAD-US, and 2 (co-presented with Data Standards) on Google Maps and ArcGIS Tools & Tricks.
- vi. Data Standards & Tech Trends Committee (Don Schrupp for Scott Anderson)
 1. Highlights: Active committee; 3 newsletter articles and development of a prototype for a data standards registry.
- vii. Vision & Goals – Ad-hoc (Mark Brunner)
 1. Highlights: Met twice and developed 3 prototyped vision statements, which are being reviewed by
- viii. Bylaws – Ad-hoc (Sabra Schwartz)
 1. Highlights: Proposed allowing online voting; proposed a new Student Membership category; proposed that the President be required to convene an ad-hoc bylaws committee every 5 years to review bylaws. Proposed changes were put out for review, commented on by 6 members, and then revised. The proposed changes are in the meeting minutes and voting will be announced at this meeting.

IV. Elections (Beth Stys)

- a. Slate of Candidates
 - i. President Elect: Mark Brunner (Missouri Dept. of Conservation), Keith Wethington (Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources)
 - ii. Member at Large: Yan Hong (Missouri Dept. of Conservation), Danny Lewis (Texas Parks and Wildlife)
- b. Beth announced the results of the election for new officers: Mark Brunner (President Elect) and Yan Hong (Member at Large)
- c. Bylaws changes were approved nearly unanimously, with one abstaining vote.

V. New Business

- a. Robin officially turned over the meeting to Jen Carlino, the incoming President.
- b. Jen thanked Robin and said that she looks forward to leading the organization during the next year.
- c. Jen presented Robin with a gift from the ExComm in appreciation for her outstanding service as President.
- d. Jen announced that next year's conference will be held in southwest Kentucky at Lake Barkley State Park, hosted by the Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources. The 2011 conference will be hosted in Missouri by Missouri Dept. of Conservation members; the 2012 conference will be hosted in Texas by Texas Parks & Wildlife members.
- e. OFWIM Web site: Lisa has offered to continue in the capacity of OFWIM Webmaster.

VI. Awards (Beth Stys)

- a. The committee was very pleased to award four scholarships this year to this year's OFWIM meeting to graduate students from Alaska, Virginia, Massachusetts and New Mexico. They are presenting later in the conference.
- b. The Web-based Technical Applications Award was given to AAJ Technologies for their online permitting system for the state of Florida.
- c. The best poster award was given to Jeff Cowen.
- d. Service awards were given to Robin Carlson (outgoing President) and Don Schrupp (outgoing Member at Large) for their service this year.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Mark Brunner moved to adjourn the meeting; Sabra Schwartz seconded.
- b. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Lisa Zolly, OFWIM Secretary

2009 President's Report

Robin Carlson

With heartfelt thanks to all of our members, 2009 was a year of great success and achievement for OFWIM. We were able to significantly expand a number of efforts that were initiated in recent years, including:

- Offering webinar training sessions for our members throughout the year;
- Greatly expanding the use of the OFWIM Portal;
- Continuing to broaden our outreach efforts, especially to students;
- Making great strides in developing a vision statement for the organization;
- Conducting a thorough review of the OFWIM Bylaws;
- Re-establishing contacts with the American Fisheries Society (AFS) Information and Technology Section and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Science and Research Committee; and
- Developing what promises to be a fun and informative annual meeting in Seattle, and making available for the first time a Remote Access option for participants who are unable to travel this year.

None of this could have been accomplished without the exemplary teamwork of the Executive Committee. President-Elect Jen Carlino managed the myriad details for the 2009 conference with dedication and skill. Secretary Lisa Zolly took detailed minutes for all of our conference calls and published them in record time. Lisa is also to be commended for putting heroic effort into updating and organizing the OFWIM website. Treasurer Kristin Rogers took charge of our finances and was always ready with answers about where our budget stood. Member-At-Large Don Schrupp and Past President Sabra Schwartz provided crucial guidance and support to the committee based on insights gained in their years of service to OFWIM.

The Training and Education Committee, with the leadership of Don Schrupp, offered four training sessions via webinar for OFWIM members this year. Thanks also go to USGS NBII for providing WebEx technology for the sessions. These training sessions were thought-provoking and well attended, and it will be exciting to see what new topics are presented in 2010!

2009 has seen a dramatic increase in the use of the OFWIM Portal, supported by USGS NBII. The portal was used heavily this year for communication within and between committees.

Thanks to the extraordinary outreach efforts of the Elections, Nominations, and Awards Committee, led by Beth Stys, and the Membership and Outreach Committee, led by Kristin Rogers, we had a record number of highly qualified students apply for the Student Scholarship Award. We were able to offer the award to four students, which made it possible to have a student paper session at the 2009 conference; a first for OFWIM!

Our two ad-hoc committees this year made great strides in making sure that OFWIM has a vision for the future and a set of bylaws that support it. The Vision and Goals Committee, with the leadership of Mark Brunner, developed a set of candidate vision statements for the OFWIM membership to consider at the annual meeting. The Bylaws Committee, led by Sabra Schwartz, thoroughly reviewed the

bylaws and made many recommendations to update the document to reflect new technology and current organizational practices. These recommendations were proposed to the membership for a vote.

Our Newsletter Editor, Viv Hutchison, published four well-designed and information-packed newsletters over the course of the year. These newsletters kept the membership up to date on upcoming events, including training sessions and the annual meeting, and also provided a forum for members to explore topics of interest in more detail. The Data Standards and Technology Trends Committee, led by Scott Anderson, conducted a discussion of biological data warehouses in the newsletter and on the portal, and will continue the debate in a special session at the annual meeting.

The Executive Committee began to develop new ties to AFS and AFWA. The AFS Information Technology Section was very helpful in publicizing the 2009 OFWIM Conference, and is planning to provide both trainers and trainees to OFWIM webinars in upcoming years. After the discontinuation of the AFWA Technology and Data Utilization Committee, coordination between OFWIM and AFWA stalled. Contact was re-established this year with the AFWA Science and Research Committee, whose members are also interested in further exploring training and networking opportunities with OFWIM.

Finally, the Meeting Planning Committee, lead by Jen Carlino, did an amazing job of organizing our Seattle conference this year, finding great speakers, developing a varied and engaging program, and planning an exciting field trip. In keeping with the conference theme “Doing More with Less: Leveraging Resources and Technology Through Partnerships,” the committee added an important new option for participants whose budgets do not allow them to travel this year: Remote Conference Attendance makes use of WebEx technology to provide access to conference slide shows, talks, and discussions in real time.

This year’s active committee participation has created a lot of momentum that will carry us into another productive year in 2010!

Secretary's Report for 2009
Lisa Zolly

- I. Recorded the minutes of monthly Executive Committee (ExComm) meetings
 - A. Distributed minutes to ExComm members
 - B. Posted an archival copy in the OFWIM portal community.

- II. Maintained the OFWIM membership database
 - A. Entered new members
 - B. Recorded membership renewals and expiration dates
 - C. Ran reports to create email distribution list & facilitate development of membership map

- III. Maintained OFWIM portal community in the My.nbii.gov portal
 - A. Facilitated training of OFWIM members on the portal
 - B. Created portal projects for OFWIM committees and special events
 - C. Managed other content and updates to the portal community
 - D. Managed membership access to the portal community

- IV. Managed the OFWIM public Web site
 - A. Conducted a major code and content clean-up of the public site
 - B. Posted new and revised content
 - 1. Conference information
 - 2. Committee goals
 - 3. Newsletters
 - 4. Other material as requested

- V. Liaison between the Executive Committee and the Communications Committee
 - A. Conveyed requests to Communications Committee Chair regarding
 - 1. Newsletter content
 - 2. Notices to members via the email distribution list

Treasurer's Report 2009 Business Meeting Kristin Rogers

Jan 2008-Dec 2008

Category	Amount	Comment
Initial Balance (1/1/2008)	39,144.55	\$33,623.42 (Checking) + \$5,521.13 (Savings)
INCOME		
	16,009.23	
Interest (Checking & Money Market)	29.98	\$14.26 (Checking) + \$15.72 (Savings)
2008 Conference Registration Payments	12,425.25	
2008 OFWIM T-shirt Sales	6.00	Sold 1; Original cost was \$15, lowered price in to get rid of remainder
2008 Conference Raffle	405.00	Tickets were sold at: 1 for \$1, 6 for \$5
2008 Field Trip	400.00	21 people participated; waived fee for Andrew Whittle, grant recipient
2008 Individual Membership Dues	600.00	24 memberships
2008 Organizational Membership Dues	1,500.00	15 memberships
2009 Individual Membership Dues	200.00	8 memberships
2009 Organizational Membership Dues	400.00	4 memberships
2008 Donations collected for the Zia Pueblo Scholarship Fund	43.00	
EXPENSES		
	(25,466.56)	
2007 Conference Payment	(4,006.50)	Total bill from NCTC
2008 Conference Payment	(12,343.41)	Only includes payments to the Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel
2008 Conference Field Trip Expenses	(400.29)	121.80 (UNM's van) + 139.68 (car rental) + 17.49 (gas) + 121.32 (lunch)
2008 Conference Miscellaneous Expenses	(25.00)	Tips to hotel bellboys for assistance in moving items
2008 Conference T-shirts	(97.00)	Reimbursement to R. Carlson for 9 Conf. T-shirts raffled or given away
2008 Student Travel Grants	(644.36)	One recipient
2008 Professional Travel Grants	(2,700.00)	Reflects payments made to 5 recipients; 1 deposited in 2009
2008 AFWA Membership Dues	(250.00)	
2009 Conference Deposit	(5,000.00)	Deposit for Talaris Conference Center in Seattle
Year End Balance (12/31/2008)	29,687.22	\$24,150.37 (Checking) + \$5,536.85 (Savings)

Jan 2009-Aug 2009

Category	Amount	Comment
Initial Balance (1/1/2009)	29,687.22	\$24,150.37 (Checking) + \$5,536.85 (Savings)
INCOME		
	5,512.79	
Interest (Checking & Money Market)	11.04	\$2.34 (Checking) + \$8.70 (Savings)
2009 Conference Registration Payments	4,751.75	Only includes payments received and deposited
2009 Individual Membership Dues	225.00	9 memberships
2009 Organizational Membership Dues	400.00	4 memberships
2010 Individual Membership Dues	125.00	5 memberships
EXPENSES		
	(1,769.48)	
2007 Professional Travel Grant	(300.00)	Replaced lost check for 2007 professional travel grant, Kirk Keller
2008 Zia Pueblo T-shirt logo	(250.00)	Donation to Zia Pueblo for 2008 conference t-shirt logo
2008 Refund Registration Overpayment	(15.00)	Reimbursement to Inigo SanGil, member registration pricing
2008 Professional Travel Grants	(550.00)	Last travel grant payment from 2008, Michael Bialousz
2009 Conference Mugs	(654.48)	65 mugs with OFWIM Logo
Year End Balance (8/31/2009)	33,430.53	\$14,122.67 (Checking) + \$19,307.86 (Savings)

OFWIM Member At Large Don Schrupp

Position Description:

According to the (current) Bylaws:

Section 13. The Member At Large serves as advisor to the Executive Committee and coordinates special projects at the direction of the President or Executive Committee. The Member At Large also serves as Vice Chair of the Data Standards Committee.

For OFWIM Year October 2008 – September 2009 Activities:

Participated in a number of Executive Committee Conference Calls:

(for some of these, where simultaneous Internet connectivity and web access was desired, I joined in on the conference calls from the offices of fellow OFWIM Executive Committee member Jennifer Carlino (OFWIM President Elect) at the USGS/Denver Federal Center. Other times the OFWIM President (Robin Carlson) would 'patch me in' via her phone system).

February 10, 2009

March 10, 2009

April 07, 2009

May 12, 2009

June 16, 2009

July 14, 2009

August 11, 2009

(August 31, 2009)

(September 08, 2009)

Prepared 'Member At Large' Position Activities Summary for 2009, at the request of the OFWIM President (Robin Carlson).

Served (as per the Bylaws) as Vice Chair of the Data Standards Committee (Scott Anderson was the Chair for the Data Standards Committee).

At the request of the OFWIM President (Robin Carlson), provided assistance to OFWIM Secretary (Lisa Zolly) to a limited extent in support of the OFWIM web site. Prepared a directory (folder) listing of the current 'root' web directory structure, and contributed a 'map' portraying the OFWIM 2008-2009 membership distribution.

Bylaws Committee 2009 Report (ad hoc committee)

Chair: Sabra Schwartz (sschwartz@azgfd.gov)

Vice-chair: vacant

Members: Robin Carlson (rcarlson@dfg.ca.gov), Julie Prior-Magee (jpmagee@nmsu.edu), and Becky Gwynn (Becky.Gwynn@dgif.virginia.gov)

The committee had several phone meetings to review the bylaws. Part of the reason for reviewing the bylaws was to update current technology issues, especially as it relates to voting. We also made changes to the costs of membership and added a student membership category. Language was added regarding membership benefits, such as webinars and reduced conference registrations. The committee distributed the bylaw changes to the membership for comment. Each suggested change had a comment box to explain the proposed change. The feedback from the members was then discussed and additional changes made. The bylaws were then posted to the OFWIM web portal and web site and a vote was requested to accept the changes. The committee was an ad hoc committee that has now been disbanded.

Submitted by Sabra Schwartz, Committee Chair

Communications Committee Annual Report: 2009

Chair: Viv Hutchison

Vice-Chair: Lisa Zolly

The Communications Committee is responsible for creating newsletters (3-4 per year) for distribution to the OFWIM community. This year, 4 newsletters were produced. Each newsletter contained information of interest to the OFWIM membership. Contributions were made from the Committee Chairs, the Executive Committee, and the OFWIM community.

January: The Post-Conference issue covered the 2008 meeting in Albuquerque, NM and published the first of a hotly debated article.

March: This issue emphasized the Seattle Conference theme, presented the Call for Papers, published a response to the previous issue's article, and contained Committee Reports.

June: The June newsletter covered some of the Seattle conference details for planning purposes, and introduced travel grants and student scholarship opportunities.

August: The Pre-Conference issue focused largely on the Seattle conference. Additionally, an article from the Technology Trends Committee, and Committee reports for the year were included.

Voting Issue: One special issue was developed for the officer voting; thanks goes to Robin Carlson for developing it.

In addition to newsletters, the Communications Committee is responsible for sending out periodic email to the membership, and helping to coordinate special events such as webinars and use of the portal. This year there were 5 webinars to coordinate using WebEx, organized by the Training and Education Committee. Many emails were sent out to the membership at the request of the ExCom and the Committee Chairs.

Thanks to Lisa Zolly for her help in maintaining the membership database, a critical item to keeping OFWIM informed!

Submitted by Viv Hutchison, Committee Chair

Conference Planning Committee

Annual Report 2008-2009

Chair: Jennifer Carlino
Vice-chair: Vivian Hutchison
Members: Robin Carlson, Jean Freeney, Yan Hong, Julie Prior-Magee, Lila Wills

Accomplishments

1. Communication
 - a. The meeting planning committee held regularly scheduled conference calls for a total of eight calls.
 - b. All recommendations made by the committee were reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee.
2. Conference Theme and Agenda
 - a. The committee selected a theme for the 2009 Conference: Doing More With Less: Leveraging Resources and Technology Through Partnerships.
 - b. The committee also developed the suggested presentation topics that were listed on the Call for Papers.
 - c. The committee developed, reviewed and updated the conference agenda, proceedings, and all related conference program materials.
3. Conference Speakers
 - a. The committee suggested and invited the following speakers:
 - i. Welcome to Washington –Viv Hutchison
 - ii. Keynote Address – Cy Smith
 - iii. Banquet Speaker – Sue Rooney (special thanks to Bruce Schmidt)
 - b. The committee also helped to find additional speakers to fill important sessions at the conference.
4. Banquet
 - a. Early in the year, the committee created a list of potential banquet locations in the Seattle area and ultimately selected the Space Needle.
 - b. The committee selected the menu items for the banquet and developed transportation information for the venue.
5. Field Trip
 - a. Early in the year, the committee created a list of potential field trips.
 - b. The committee investigated the logistics and costs for each of the trips and with the local assistance of Viv Hutchison, the USGS Marrowstone Field Station and Olympic National Park field trip destination was finalized.
 - c. The committee finalized scientific presentations and transportation details for the trip.
6. General Logistics
 - a. The committee organized printing of the conference program and badges.
 - b. The committee finalized the menus, including the Hacker's Ball and the banquet.
 - c. Finally, the committee organized the room set-up, sound system, computer/projector, internet connections, and sundries such as power cords and tape.

Submitted by Jennifer Carlino, Committee Chair

Data Standards & Technology Trends Committee Report 2008-2009

Chair: Scott Anderson

Vice-Chair: Don Schrupp

Members: Michael Barbour, Jean Freaney, Bill Herrington, Yan Hong, Don Katnik, Danny Lewis, Elizabeth Martín, Andrea Ostroff, Lisa Zolly

This year, the Data Standards/Technology Trends Committee has several accomplishments to report. In our effort to update the OFWIM community on trends in technology, members of the committee have written 3 articles for the newsletter and hosted a webinar in conjunction with the Education committee. In addition, committee members finalized a categorization scheme for data standards, and developed a draft website allowing anyone to view and search for biological data standards. The website will also allow users to log in and submit data standards for posting on the website.

In the next year, we hope to further develop the website for wider distribution, and promote submission of any and all data standards that pertain to the biological sciences. If you have a chance, please check out the [website](http://ofwimds.appspot.com) (<http://ofwimds.appspot.com>), and send any comments to Scott Anderson (scott.anderson@ncwildlife.org).

Accomplishments

Newsletter Articles

- Wildlife Agencies Overrun by “Anti”Biotics – Don Katnik
- Response: Wildlife Agencies Overrun by “Anti”Biotics – Scott Anderson
- Google App Engine: A Foray into Cloud Computing – Scott Anderson

Co-hosted Webinar with Training & Education Committee

- ArcGIS Tips and Tricks – Aug. 11 2-3:30pm

Biological Data Standards website (<http://ofwimds.appspot.com>)

Submitted by Scott Anderson, Committee Chair

2008-2009 Elections, Nominations and Awards Committee Final Report

Chair: Beth Stys

Vice-Chair: Robin Carlson

Members: Viv Hutchison, Andrea Ostroff, Lila Wills

The Elections, Nominations, and Awards Committee is responsible for developing and implementing various awards and recognition programs for OFWIM, and for developing a slate of candidates for the annual elections. Included in this work is implementation of the student scholarship application, in which university students studying in wildlife biology fields can attend an OFWIM conference to gain experience in the professional world.

Accomplishments:

Student Scholarship: The ENA Committee continued to develop a comprehensive list of contacts for distribution of the student scholarship announcement. An initial mail-out (email) was sent in April, with reminders sent out in May and June. The additional distribution resulted in 4 applications—a high return rate in comparison to previous years (tied with last year). The ENA Committee reviewed all 4 applications and determined that all 4 met the criteria and provided good regional representation (Alaska, Virginia, Massachusetts, and New Mexico). All 4 students were awarded \$1,000 travel scholarships. The Scholarship funds will be used to cover all travel related expenses in association with their attendance at the 2009 OFWIM annual conference. Scholarship funds will be disbursed as reimbursement. Conference registration fees were waived for all student scholarship winners.

This year's recipients were:

- 1) Michael Calkins, New Mexico State University
- 2) Tye Deweber, Virginia Tech
- 3) Grant Humphries, University of Alaska
- 4) Brad Timm, University of Massachusetts

For the first time, the 2009 OFWIM Annual Conference will have a session dedicated to student presentations. All 4 scholarship recipients will be giving a presentation during the conference (as part of the requirement for receiving the award).

New Officers: The committee formed a slate of nominees for the 2 positions open on the ExCom in 2010, (Member-at-Large and President Elect) and oversaw online and paper voting.

Conference Awards: The 2009 Award category was slightly modified from previous years. The ENA Committee announced via the web page, newsletter and emails the “Web Based Technical Application” award. This Award recognizes excellence in the development and deployment of a fish and wildlife information-related technical application on the Web. This year, preference was given to those projects that were collaborative in nature—keeping the award in-line with the conference theme. Two applications were received. Several members of the ENA and Data Standards committee evaluated and scored the applications.

Best Poster and Best Presentation Awards: The ENA Committee arranged for volunteers to judge presentations and posters during the conference. Score sheets were prepared and distributed to

the volunteers. All score sheets were collected and tallied. The plaque for the best poster was prepared on-site and awarded during the meeting.

Plaques: Service Awards plaques were arranged and presented by the Committee.

Web Page: Updated information on ENA Committee Goals and Objectives was posted to the Web Site.

Conference Calls: 5 total (April, May, June, July, and August)

Submitted by Beth Stys, Committee Chair

OFWIM Membership and Outreach Committee 2008-2009 Business Meeting Report

Chair: Kristin Rogers

Vice-Chair: Lisa Zolly

Members: Robin Carlson, Yan Hong, Julie Prior-Magee, Keith Wethington, Lila Borge Wills

Goal 1: Maintain/Increase memberships for 2009.

Accomplishments: Individual and Organizational memberships were slightly lower this year than the average membership for the past five years. The committee plans to begin a nationwide membership drive this fall to increase membership in 2010.

Year	5-yr avg.	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
# of Individual Memberships	18	17	21	17	12	24
# of Organizational Memberships	13	10	15	16	13	11

Thanks go to Lisa Zolly for maintaining the OFWIM membership database

Goal 2: Reactivate the OFWIM Regional Contacts

Accomplishments: The following OFWIM members volunteered to serve as regional contacts for their respective regions: Julie Prior-Magee (West Region), Yan Hong (Midwest Region), Keith Wethington (Southeast Region), and Lila Borge-Wills (Northeast Region). These folks all worked hard to distribute the meeting announcement, call for papers, and professional travel grant information to contacts within their region in order to boost attendance at this year's conference and interest in the organization in general.

Goal 3: Award travel grants to assist current and retired professionals attending the 2009 OFWIM Conference.

Accomplishment: Funding for up to seven travel grants was available this year. Six travel grant applications were submitted to the committee; all of the applicants were qualified and were awarded grants. The recipients came from a wide range of states. All are presenting a paper or poster at the conference. See the list of grant recipients below.

Name	State	Presentation	Name	State	Presentation
Borge Wills, Lila	VA	Poster	Hines, Megan	WI	Poster
Carlson, Robin	CA	Oral	Schrupp, Donald	CO	Oral
Fleming, Julie	MO	Oral	Stys, Beth	FL	Oral

Other highlights:

Thanks to Robin Carlson for her outreach efforts at the 2009 Annual Conference of the American Fisheries Society, held in Nashville, TN in September. Our OFWIM poster was on display at the conference and Robin handed out OFWIM brochures and flyers highlighting the 2010 OFWIM Annual Meeting at Lake Barkley State Resort Park, in Cadiz, KY, a short hour and a half drive from Nashville, TN

Opportunities like this always help generate interest in OFWIM, so please let the Executive Committee know if you have a similar event where you'd like to help promote OFWIM.

Submitted by Kristin Rogers, Committee Chair

Training and Education Committee 2008-2009 Report

Chair: Don Schrupp

Co-Chair: Sabra Schwartz

Members: Lila Borge Wills, Mark Brunner, Robert Deitner, Aliya Ercelawn, Donald Katnik, Keith Wethington

The OFWIM Training and Education Committee (TEC) began its work in earnest in February 2009 with a Kickoff Discussion of ideas for its '2009 Goals and Objectives' (starting with review and modification of the previous year's goals and objectives), leading to a posting of the committee's revised 'Goals and Objectives' in March of 2009.

A main focus of the Training and Education Committee for 2009 was to investigate the potential of Internet-based training for the OFWIM community. The webinars to follow were facilitated by Lisa Zolly and Jennifer Carlino (USGS/NBII). Various TEC members took turns hosting these webinars.

Several initial webinars were first provided by Lisa Zolly and Cassandra Harrison on the use of the USGS/NBII Portal (an overview) for TEC members, the OFWIM Executive Committee and other OFWIM Committee members that chose to participate.

In early Spring the OFWIM TEC collaborated with the PAD-US Design Project through Larry Orman (GreenInfo.org) to provide a series of three webinars on the Protected Areas Database of the United States 'Design Project' efforts to develop a consistent nationwide geospatial database on protected areas (www.protectedlands.net). Webinars were conducted on March 24th, March 31st and April 16th of 2009, with varied numbers of OFWIM members participating from across the United States.

The Training and Education Committee also set up and conducted webinars for July 2009 (Google Maps/Earth Applications; hosted by Mark Brunner) and August 2009 (Editing in ArcMap: Taking the Pain Out of Digitizing; co-hosted by Donald Katnik and Scott Anderson). The July webinar featured a behind-the-scenes look at the geospatially enabled internet applications of the Kentucky Department of Wildlife Resources (Keith Wethington), the USGS/NBII (Megan Hines) and the Pennsylvania Boat and Fish Commission (Michael Bialousz). Kudos to the three presenters for delivering thought-provoking discussions of their development efforts. For the August webinar, Don Katnik (Maine) and Scott Anderson (North Carolina) shared their time-saving discoveries regarding the use of ESRI's Geographical Information Systems in development of datasets for their wildlife resource agencies.

Aliya Ercelawn and Bob Deitner are each pursuing additional webinars that may be presented in the near future. Look for anticipated announcements on these possibilities.

TEC member Lila Borge Wills helped scope out the possibility of a 'Habitat Values' workshop for inclusion in the OFWIM 2009 Conference and Annual Meeting in Seattle. Schedule conflicts of the potential presenters, uncertainty in the level of OFWIM member interest in the topic, and pending travel restrictions ultimately precluded us from being able to offer such a workshop. But we do thank Lila for her efforts in investigating the possibility.

The TEC members contributed several articles to the OFWIM Newsletter during 2009.

All in all, the OFWIM Training and Education Committee conducted 6 (nearly monthly) conference calls (02/10/09; 03/04/09; 04/07/09; 05/12/09; 07/14/09; 08/06/09) in pursuing their goals and objectives for 2009. The TEC Chair also participated in semi-monthly briefings of TEC committee activities to the OFWIM Executive Committee. I thank all of our committee members for their interest and diligence in pursuing the committee activities this year. A special 'Thanks!' goes to Lisa Zolly for her support during our committee's exploration of the technological capabilities that could enable OFWIM to provide distance learning options to its membership. A number of documents have been posted to the OFWIM Community / Training and Education Committee 'Project' of the portal.

Submitted by Don Schrupp, Committee Chair

OFWIM Vision and Goal Committee 2008-2009 Report

Chair: Mark Brunner

Vice-Chair: Vacant

Members: Lila Borge-Wills, Daren Carlson, Robin Carlson, Becky Gwynn, Yan Hong, Dean Jue

The Ad Hoc Vision and Goals Committee of the Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) was tasked with formulating a Vision statement and identifying goals to achieve that vision.

An initial survey of the OFWIM membership was performed prior to the 2008 conference with preliminary results presented at the conference. The committee met in April, 2009, to go through those results in more detail. The outcome of that meeting was identification of key words and phrases that were felt to best represent the OFWIM vision. Committee members were then tasked to put together candidate vision statements to share with the other committee members for discussion at the next meeting.

The committee met again in August, 2009, to come up with candidate vision statements to present to the OFWIM membership. We were all reminded that a vision statement identifies the future or what the organization wants to be (or the role it wants to serve). After an excellent discussion the committee decided on four statements to present at the 2009 conference.

- To be a bridge between resource and technical disciplines in order to effectively apply technology to the information and data needs of natural resource management.
- To be a forum for sharing the best management practices for resource information handling so individual agencies and organizations can benefit from the lessons learned of the group.
- To promote partnering, collaboration, and best management practices on common information technology projects among natural resource agencies and organizations.

There was discussion about whether to have just one vision or several or have one with sub-statements broken out. We decided to present the statements for discussion and have them available at the Hackers Ball to solicit comments and suggestions with a decision to be made at the end of the conference.

The next phase for the committee will be to identify goals in the form of steps to take to achieve the OFWIM Vision. We plan getting input from the membership at the annual conference to start this process.

Submitted by Mark Brunner, Committee Chair