

Instream Flow Council
Biennial Governing Council Meeting Minutes
May 3-4, 2010
Mesa, Arizona

Note: **Decisions** are highlighted in red. **Action items** are highlighted in blue.

1. Call to order (Pete Aarrestad)

President Aarrestad called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. local time.

a. Determination of Quorum and Notification of Proxies

Dennis Riecke reported that 20 IFC members were present and there were 12 proxies received, which were deemed to be in order.

b. Approval of Agenda

Pete Aarrestad added a recognition/awards item to #6. Pete recommended removing agenda items 6b (Book 3 discussion); 6c (IIFPI discussion); and 6f (Strategic Plan discussion).

Revised agenda was adopted by consensus.

2. Approval of the 2008 Governing Council meeting minutes (Dennis Riecke)

Dennis Riecke stated that the 2008 IFC Governing Council Minutes had been sent out by Email and revised.

Cindy Robertson motioned to approve the 2008 Governing Council Meeting Minutes. Eric Nagid seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously approved.

3. Report of the Secretary (Dennis Riecke)

Dennis Riecke reported that in 2010 the IFC had 57 members (43 Governing Council and 14 General Council members) compared to 55 members (45 Governing Council and 10 General Council members) in 2009. In 2010, 38 states and 5 Canadian provinces were Governing Council members. In 2009, 40 and 5 Canadian provinces were Governing Council members.

4. Report of the Treasurer (John Kauffman)

John Kauffman distributed a handout containing financial information. He reported that the checking account balance was \$222,600.51. We have \$45,000 in Certificates of Deposit. The profit on the 2010 meeting raffle was \$313.93. We spent \$43,257.00 more than income in 2009.

John stated that he will send out a revised handout because he found an error on it.

5. IFC Priorities and Accomplishments - 2008-2010 - and the Challenges Ahead (Pete Aarrestad)

Pete Aarrestad sent his report out by Email this morning. The IFC did 3 major projects at once: Book 3, IIFPI (International Instream Flow Program Initiative), and FLOW 2008. We worked on revising

the Strategic Plan, and started planning for FLOW 2011. Pete recognized the following Executive Committee members for their work and service over the 2008-2010 period: Chris Goudreau (President-Elect), Hal Beecher (Past President), John Kauffman (Treasurer), Dennis Riecke (Secretary), Terra Hegy (Region 1 Director), Del Lobb (Region 2 Director), Eric Nagid (Region 3 Director), Todd Richards (Region 4 Director), Andrew Paul (Region 5 Director), Tom Annear (Director-At-Large), and Christopher Estes (Director-At-Large).

6. Members Helping IFC Help Members - Teams

6a. Finance (Chris Goudreau)

Pete Aarrestad reported that in 2009, he created a Finance Committee comprised of the President (Pete Aarrestad), President-Elect (Chris Goudreau), Treasurer (John Kauffman), Christopher Estes (Director-At-Large) and Kathleen Williams (Executive Director), who was a nonvoting member. They are credited with composing the first official budget for 2010 and 2011, by project, and a budget narrative.

6b. Flow 2011 (Peter Aarrestad)

Pete Aarrestad reported that the Executive Committee approved a FLOW 2011 Conference in Nashville, TN, from May 1-5, 2011. Kimberly Elkin and Dave McKinney will be the local hosts. FLOW 2011 will have a Valuation theme and be similar in format to FLOW 2008. There was a planning meeting scheduled for later that night and Pete asked members to come to that meeting to help plan FLOW 2011.

6c. Peer Review (Andrew Paul)

Andrew Paul reported that the IFC had received a few requests in the last couple of years for peer reviews. The Peer Review Committee consisted of Hal Beecher, Rick Jacobson, Andrew Paul, and Adam Kaeser. [They composed a draft policy and sent it to the Executive Committee on Saturday night. The Executive Committee will review it and report back.](#)

An IFC member must request the review, which is more than a request for information. An example is an evaluation of an agency program. We must have IFC members who volunteer to do the review before we can agree to do them. The Committee discussed charging for reviews and recommended not to charge for them but to accept donations for them.

Dennis Riecke reported that a peer review was done for New Hampshire in 2010.

[Peter Aarrestad asked Chris Goudreau if he would send the Peer Review Policy out to the Governing Council members after the Executive Committee had reviewed it. Chris Goudreau replied that he would do this.](#)

The group discussed charging for reviews and the difference between “informal” and “formal reviews”.

Chris Goudreau noted that the discussion on these items began 8 years ago and stated that the Executive Committee would polish up the Peer Review Policy and send it to the Governing Council members for review.

7. Report of the Executive Director (Kathleen Williams)

Kathleen Williams stated that she was previously the IFC member from Montana. She provided a short history of her work experience. She stated that as IFC Executive Director she has a varied role to help the IFC and its officers work efficiently (e.g., obtaining grant funding, nonprofit organizational development) and to foster cross project communication. Work plans and budgets are critical to plan what we do. Kathleen stated that she is a contract Executive Director who works on a half time basis under an annual contract with IFC.

8. New Business

8a. Proposed By-Law Changes (Pete Aarrestad)

8ai. Proposal # 1 - Voting procedures

Dennis Riecke explained the rationale for the proposed change. Chris Goudreau explained how the dues payment deadlines affect voting for officers at the Biennial Business meetings. The proposed changes would allow voting to be concluded before the Biennial Meeting so officer candidates could be notified of the election results to make travel plans accordingly.

Christopher Estes motioned to adopt the voting procedures Bylaw Change. Scott Smith seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously approved. No proxy votes opposed this Bylaw change.

8aii. Proposal # 2 – Finances

Chris Goudreau stated that the Bylaw Section 8 proposal specifies the Finance Committee and its duties. Proposed changes to Section 13 take this language out of the Bylaws and put it in a Financial Policy to give us flexibility and allow us to operate more like other organizations. Currently the entire Governing Council membership must approve the budget. The current Bylaws state that our budget runs from Biennial Meeting to Biennial Meeting which is not necessarily 24 months. This proposal states that the budget will be approved by the Executive Committee and will be on a calendar year basis.

Cindy Robertson mentioned that in Bylaw Section 6 on page 3, it states “Administer a biennial budget”. She suggested it be changed to “Administer an annual budget”. Kathleen Williams suggested “Administer a budget”.

Rod Wentworth motioned to accept the Finance Bylaw change with the revision suggested by Kathleen. Cindy Robertson seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously approved. No proxy votes opposed adoption.

8aiii. Proposal # 3 - General Council membership

Pete Aarrestad stated that this proposal came from Hal Beecher and Terra Hegy in Washington, which has two agencies that share instream flow responsibilities. It was drafted with appropriate safeguards. Pete supports this proposal. An IFC Governing Council member could invite another agency with Public Trust responsibilities for instream flow to become an IFC General Council member. It's an annual invitation and the Executive

Committee could vote to “disinvite them.” Pete stated that the Executive Committee discussed the proposal but had no recommendation on it. It would affect an unknown number of states, but each state would still only have one Governing Council vote.

Discussion ensued as to whether or not members would be able to freely express themselves at IFC meetings if there were representatives from the water permitting agency in their state in attendance at IFC meetings.

Peter Aarrestad stated that if the Governing Council member from a state fails to pay their annual dues the General Council member from that state could not become the Governing Council member because by failing to pay dues the Governing Council member loses the right to sponsor them for IFC membership (as a General Council member).

The group discussed the importance of dialogue and trusting the judgment of the IFC Governing Council members. Andrew Paul pointed out that water management agencies share the same goal as fish and wildlife agencies. Paul LaRiviere stated that our discussion is about individuals and not agencies. It’s a small step to influence and change people in a positive direction. The safeguards are clear (i.e., we can vote them out). Some of these individuals have a lot to offer. Bob Metcalfe said this proposal would benefit Ontario. Andrew Paul said it would benefit Alberta.

Chris Goudreau stated that we should add the word “annual” to section 3 to make it clear that this is an annual invitation.

Chris Goudreau motioned that the General Membership Bylaw Proposal be adopted with the addition of “annual” to section 3. Christopher Estes seconded the motion.

There was a hand count of votes:

In favor – 13 votes in person

In favor – 8 by proxy

In favor total = 21

In opposition – 7 votes in person

In opposition – 4 by proxy

In opposition total = 11

Abstaining votes – 1

Chris Goudreau pointed out that the Bylaws state “Amendments must receive a majority vote of the Governing Council Quorum”, not a 2/3 majority.

General Membership Bylaw Change was approved.

Christopher Estes requested that the all IFC members be informed of this change. Peter Aarrestad stated that this will be done by Email.

8aiv. Proposal # 4 – Formatting

Consensus was that the rationale and wording were fine but that the Governing Council members did not think a Bylaw Change was necessary to do this and this should be done by Executive Committee action.

8b. Adoption of policies prepared by the Executive Committee

8bi. Financial Policy

Chris Goudreau stated that the policy is a combination of extracts from the 2008 Bylaws and language found in the budget narrative. He pointed out for discussion the specific dollar amount of \$60,000 as a Board-Restricted Reserve under item #5 – “Budgeting and Fiscal Reporting”. The intent is to save some money to handle expenses if income stream dries up. This amount can be changed by the Executive Committee because it stated in the policy as a recommendation to the Executive Committee.

Tom Annear motioned to approve the Financial Policy. Kevin Mayes seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously approved.

8c. Review of existing policies

8ci. Dues Policy

The group discussed whether or not to raise dues. **The decision was to not take any action.**

8d. Facilitated discussion to provide input to IFC two-year work planning.

Kathleen Williams facilitated a session to address the question “What should IFC try to accomplish in the next two years?” She used the implementation plan adopted March 2010 as a framework for discussion.

Kathleen passed out postcards and asked members to write what they would like for the IFC to accomplish in the next 2 years. Some members read their postcards which were collected and the ideas were written on a flip chart. **Kathleen will summarize the input and send it to the Executive Committee for review.**

8e. Recognition/Awards (Pete Aarrestad)

Pete recognized John Kauffman for his service as Treasurer and Rod Wentworth for his work as chairman of the Strategic Planning Revision Committee. Pete presented Tom Annear with the President’s Golden Stream Award, which was a framed letter. Tom expressed his appreciation for the award.

8f. Election results, installation of officers (Pete Aarrestad)

Pete announced the results of the 2010 IFC Officer elections:

Todd Richards from Massachusetts was elected as President-Elect for 2010-2012

Andy Brummond from Montana was elected as Treasurer for 2010-2012

Dennis Riecke from Mississippi ran unopposed for Secretary and was elected to another 2 year term for 2010-2012.

Pete announced the new Regional Directors:

Region 1 – Dave Weedman, AZ

Region 2 – Jason Persinger, MO

Region 3 – Kevin Mayes, TX

Region 4 – Veronica Masson, RI
Region 5 – Kathryn Collet, NB (New Brunswick)
Two Directors-At-Large will be determined later.

Pete thanked Christopher Estes and Tom Annear for their many years as service as Directors-At-Large.

Pete announced that Chris Goudreau is our new IFC President. Pete passed the Presidential Gavel to Chris.

8g. New President's remarks (Chris Goudreau)

Chris expressed the IFC's appreciation to Pete Aarrestad for his work, dedication and service as President. Chris presented Pete with a plaque and a fly box with the IFC logo on it.

Chris thanked the outgoing Executive Committee members for their work, especially on those 3 hour conference calls. Chris thanked Kathleen Williams for all her hard work; Rod Wentworth for all the work he did as chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee; John Kauffman for his services as Treasurer and Dennis Riecke for his efforts as Secretary.

Chris stated that the IFC is not an infant any longer. We are maturing and we have a good mix of veterans and newcomers. He is looking forward to synergism and the challenges of not being afraid to debate things. Debate is good. We have challenges ahead--- financially. We have name recognition and awareness of IFC's work. We have plenty of items on the horizon and so there many opportunities to help with implementing the Strategic Plan and Flow 2011.

[Chris will send out an Email about the Director-At-Large positions. Let him know if you are interested in serving as such.](#)

Chris announced that the Regional meetings will be held in the afternoon and we will report on them tomorrow.

[Stand in Recess until 8:30 a.m. May 4. Chris Goudreau reconvened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. on May 4.]

9. Regional reports (Regional Directors)

9a. Region 1 (Dave Weedman)

Dave reported that nine states were represented at their meeting. Washington has had advances and setbacks. Washington has a pilot legislative program that allows local zoning ordinances to set aside state laws. The law encourages creative collaborative water management without some of the burden of existing water law. Oregon has had some instream flow activity and new storage reservoirs have been proposed. Alaska is trying to stop the "Manifest Destiny" train. Wyoming program is progressing. They filed their 100th flow application. New Mexico struggles with a lack of water and is poised for good nongovernmental organization activity spurring public dialogue. California has a lawsuit resulting in the need for the California Fish and Game to restart instream flow studies. They need funding to make recommendations to the state water commission. Idaho – FERC relicensing. Arizona is waiting on the outcomes from the Cherry Creek case, which was \$250,000 for 2D stream study. Dave Weedman is the new Regional Director. Mike Robertson from Wyoming is the new Regional Director-Elect.

9b. Region 2 (Del Lobb)

Del reported the region had a conference call in February. Jason Persinger from Missouri is the new Regional Director. Ron Koth from South Dakota is the new Regional Director-Elect. The region wants the IFC website to be upgraded to a more interactive format with perhaps regional pages. Discussed having training videos on the web such as how to do a transect survey. They discussed locations for the 2012 Biennial Meeting, including Nebraska City, NE; Madison or LaCrosse, WI; Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN; along Lake Superior. Nebraska has had a federal aid project grant to fund instream flow work for 23 years.

9c. Region 3 (Eric Nagid)

Eric reported that the region had a meeting in Dec. 2009 at the Southern Instream Flow Network (SIFN) meeting. SIFN has been a good effort and they have drafted a research agenda. The IFC sent a letter in support of the SIFN research agenda. SIFN is doing a data sprint – collection of data and then mining of it. SIFN is also working on a regional river classification system. Eric encouraged other regions to consider forming an SIFN-type organization.

New Regional Director is Kevin Mayes from Texas. New Regional Director-Elect is Kerry Bledsoe from West Virginia. The ACF conference is coming up soon. South Carolina is working on FERC relicensing. Tennessee is doing 5 site-specific flow recommendations; working on educating legislators; discussed a “ditch bill” which allows consultants to determine whether or not a water body is a stream. Texas continues to work on instream flow standards; working with The Nature Conservancy on four Hill Country Rivers; two FERC relicensing projects. Mississippi got an “opportunities document” and a Public Trust Doctrine article published by the Sea Grant Law Center. Virginia is doing long term water supply planning. North Carolina is working to get a new regulated riparian legal framework passed. Louisiana is dealing with a new reservoir in Washington Parish for water supply and working with Texas on Toledo Bend relicensing.

9d. Region 4 (Todd Richards)

Todd reported that 4 members were present. Veronica Masson from Rhode Island is the new Regional Director. Mark Woythal from New York is the new Regional Director-Elect. Vermont is dealing with small hydro projects. They are trying to work as a region to get a State Wildlife Grant funds, Regional Conservation Needs (RCN) grant. There is a RCN grant for the Northeast for instream flow.

9e. Region 5 (Andrew Paul)

Andrew commented that he had met with Bob Metcalfe and they had a good discussion. They had a few conference calls this past year and are looking into an interactive web forum. Allen Locke is close to releasing the Alberta Desktop Method. Bob will release his Stream Assessment Method soon. They plan to have regular webex meetings. Kathryn Collett is the new Regional Director.

10. Adjourn (Chris Goudreau)

Chris Goudreau adjourned the meeting at 9:07 a.m.

Minutes recorded by D.Riecke – May 3-4, 2010

Minutes resent to membership prior to 2012 Biennial Meeting- September 5, 2012

Minutes approved by membership at 2012 Biennial Meeting – September 12, 2012

Attendance List

Governing Council Members

Christopher Estes (Alaska)
Dave Weedman (Arizona)
Robert Holmes (California)
Pete Aarrestad (Connecticut)
Eric Nagid (Florida)
Cindy Robertson (Idaho)
Melissa Kaintz (Louisiana)
Todd Richards (Massachusetts)
Ian Chisholm (Minnesota)
Dennis Riecke (Mississippi)
Del Lobb (Missouri)
Jason Persinger (Missouri)
Larry Hutchinson (Nebraska)
Gene Zuerlein (Nebraska)
Stephanie Carman (New Mexico)
Mark Wyothal (New York)
Chris Goudreau (North Carolina)
Tim Hardin (Oregon)
Ron Ahle (South Carolina)
Kimberly Elkin (Tennessee)
Kevin Mayes (Texas)
Rod Wentworth (Vermont)
Scott Smith (Virginia)
John Kohr (Washington)
Paul LaRiviere (Washington)
Martye Griffin (Wisconsin)
Tom Annear (Wyoming)
Mike Robertson (Wyoming)
Andrew Paul (Alberta)
Bob Metcalf (Ontario)

General Council Members

John Kauffman (Virginia)

IFC Executive Director

Kathleen Williams