Assembly of SGEPL Executive Committee
Conference Call (10/28/03)

In attendance: Jay Rasmussen, Ralph Rayburn, Jim Falk, Brian Miller, and Bill DuPaul

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jay Rasmussen at 11 a.m. (EST)

SGA Meeting – November 3 – 6, 2003

Topics to be covered by J. Rasmussen in his Extension update to the SGA:

(1) Assembly meeting in Jekyll Island, GA (April 25-28, 2004). K. Gates, M, Spranger,and B. DuPaul plan to meet at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel in November to plan on-site logistics for the spring meeting. A program planning committee has been formed, comprised of B. DuPaul, M. Spranger, K. Gates, P. Olin, J. Schwartz, and M. Liffmann (other individuals may also be identified at a later date). Topics and agenda items will begin to "take shape" in late November and early December and will be shared with the Assembly for input.

(2) Beltway Brown Bag Seminars – R. Rayburn is planning to meet with NSGO office staff in mid-November to begin formal planning for this series of seminars the Assembly will be organizing to bring the concept of extension and outreach to targeted agencies in the Washington, DC area (see 7/23/03 and 9/30/03 Assembly minutes for further information on this subject).

(3) Outreach Growth Report – The report is being distributed as a "white paper" by Oregon Sea Grant and should be available shortly. The report will complement other Sea Grant growth documents to be prepared by the SGA.

(4) Complement SGA for supporting our National Superior Outreach Programming Award and for their efforts to lobby Congress to fund the Fisheries Extension Enhancement (FEE) program.

Sea Grant/ NMFS Meeting

Everything is set for the joint SG/NMFS meeting on November 5 in Seattle (in conjunction with the SGA meeting). B. DuPaul will represent the Assembly and provide an overview of SG Extension efforts related to fisheries. A handout is being prepared by Emory Anderson for distribution highlighting the FEE efforts that have been underway nationally by Sea Grant. B. DuPaul (Scallop Dredging Project) and R. Rayburn (Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Summit) will provide case studies on these two efforts where Sea Grant has taken a strong leadership role (see 9/30/03 Assembly minutes for further information on this subject).

Assembly Elections 2003 – Nominating Committee Report

J. Falk updated the EXCOMM on the Assembly Nominating Committee's deliberations in fielding a slate of candidates to be considered for the two vacant officer's positions on the EXCOMM. He noted that an e-mail memo would be distributed to the Assembly later in the day (Tuesday, October 28th) identifying the candidates and spelling out other details of the upcoming election. One thing that "came to light" this year as the nominating committee was deliberating is the need to tighten up our Assembly by-laws to describe who is eligible to serve as an elected officer in our Assembly. A few states have more than one representative sitting on the Assembly and "fine-tuning" the by-laws would make the process of identifying eligible candidates much easier.

Assembly By-Laws Review Subcommittee

The EXCOMM decided that reviewing our Assembly by-laws would take place at our business meeting in Jekyll Island (they have not been modified since March, 2001) to insure they accurately depict the operation of the Assembly. J. Falk agreed to lead this effort with assistance from R. Rayburn. We also plan to identify a couple of other individuals either before, or at, our business meeting to serve on this subcommittee to suggest recommendations for modifying/amending our by-laws before we leave Jekyll Island.

National Sea Grant Academy

B. Miller discussed his assignment to follow-up on the idea of the National Sea Grant Academy that was presented by M. Spranger at our Sea Grant Week business meeting (see 4/27/03 and 7/23/03 Assembly minutes for further information on this subject). Brian discussed the concept further with J. Murray and everyone agreed the concept was a good one. There was some concern about the cost of the program. Jim indicated the NSGO might be able to commit $5,000 -$10,000 to support the effort, but a good portion of travel funds for agents/specialists would need to come from the state programs. Also, the commitment of time outlined in Mike's earlier proposal was thought to be too excessive (2 weeks in DC). It was thought that if this could be reduced to 4-5 days with additional skills training that agents/specialists might need presented in their respective states, costs could be kept under control. Brian plans to get in touch with Mike and share the discussions has had with J. Murray and the EXCOMM and see if he can modify his original proposal to still make it work.

With no further business the conference call was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. (EST).

If you have any issues you would like the Executive Committee to discuss or explore, on your behalf, contact any member of the committee (See e-mail addresses and phone numbers below).

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B. Miller – bmiller@fnr.purdue.edu (765-494-3573)
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Submitted by: James M. Falk, ASGEPL Secretary/Treasurer 11/10/03