

MINUTES OF THE MAY 12, 1997 MEETING OF THE LCRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Present: Doug Facey (Board Chair, St. Michael's), Tom Manley (LCRC Exec. Director, Middlebury), H. Z. Liu (SUNY Plattsburgh), Anne Hampton (Castleton State), Bob Genter (Johnson State), Mary Watzin (UVM), Al McIntosh (UVM), Art Cohn (Lake Champlain Maritime Museum)

The LCRC Treasury has \$4193.54. No dues have been collected over the last two years. It was pointed out that there are only seven dues-paying entities (the seven member institutions), and that there have never been any dues-paying individual members or associate institutional members, even though there are provisions for these in the By-Laws. Perhaps as the LCRC gets moving again and can exhibit benefits to membership, we can try to attract more dues-paying members.

Board Officers Board needs new Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. In the past, Secretary/Treasurer has been the Executive Director - this makes it much easier for Executive Director to access funds when needed. Tom agreed to take on role of Treasurer for now. Doug indicated willingness to continue to take and report minutes. Castleton is the only institution yet to serve as Chair of the Board. Anne Hampton indicated that she would speak to Cynthia Moulton about the possibility of becoming Vice Chair (and therefore assuming role of Chair when Doug's term expires). Doug's term is actually over now, but he's willing to stay on as Chair into next winter or spring. That would give new Vice Chair a chance to get familiar with the LCRC Board. This triggered a discussion suggesting that roles of Board Officers might need to be rewritten in the By-Laws. Perhaps the Vice Chair could serve as Secretary, and the Executive Director could be designated as the Treasurer. Such a change in By-Laws would need further consideration, and a vote of at least 5 of the 7 institutions represented on the Board. We agreed that this action should not be taken at this time, but may consider it in the future.

Brief Announcements from the Chair: The Spring Student Symposium was held on April 15. Only three papers were presented (the lowest number ever). The symposium presents a good opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to get some experience discussing research, getting some feedback, and practicing for other presentations. Several ideas were

discussed to increase participation. These included (1) presenting all participants with certificates, (2) presenting an award to best undergrad paper and best grad paper, and (3) having the LCRC administer a small grants program for student research (perhaps up to \$200), and require that all recipients present at the symposium. All seem like good ideas for the future, although it was agreed that the paper competition should be made optional because some students might wish to participate but not be judged for the competition. In addition, participation might be increased by considering papers from students of member institutions which report on aquatic or watershed research from outside the basin. In addition, we need to more strongly encourage students in the social sciences to participate (social science research has never been excluded, but few social science papers have been given). A reminder that the USFWS hatchery in Pittsford, VT is seeking to forge partnerships with academic institutions. About half of the runways at Pittsford are no longer being used to raise salmon, and are therefore available for research projects (limitations are no toxics, no exotics). Contact Dave Tilton at USFWS Office in Essex Junction if interested (951-6313). Another reminder that the LCRC Website is open at "<http://dauntless.smcvt.edu/lcrc/>". Send comments and suggestions to Doug.

Report from Tom Manley, LCRC Executive Director Tom pointed out that this re-energizing of the LCRC after relative dormancy is a good time for opportunity, but that we need to focus on two or three major issues and not dilute our energies by attempting too much too soon. He then identified, and we discussed, three main issues that he wished to address in the near future. First, the overall concept of the LCRC in identifying research needs within the Basin. It is time to have another major meeting, similar to the one organized by Mary Watzin in December of 1991, to review research from the last several years and discuss future needs. Tom has approached some potential sources of funds to pay for the meeting, and things look pretty good. It would probably be a 2 1/2 to 3 day meeting (est. cost about \$30,000). Tom also has approached the American Geophysical Union (AGU) about funding a printed Proceedings of the conference, and the response has been good. Presenters would be required to submit good draft of manuscript prior to meeting, thus assuring a more rapid publication schedule. Given the time need to prepare, and the fact that some people may be asked to write overview sections in addition to research papers, we felt that this should be at least one year away (May of 1998). So, if you've got data ready for writing up, or if you will in the next few months, plan on contributing! Submitted papers will be peer reviewed. Student research

would be welcome as well. A committee will be formed to begin planning. Second major point - the role of the LCRC in directing research funds. The LCRC has been the recipient of some federal funding in the past, and we certainly hope that this will expand in the future. Therefore, the LCRC needs to put itself in a good position to pool potential resources and subsequently disperse funding to researchers based on their proposals. This also underscores the need for the LCRC to work more closely with state and federal agencies and see how the research interests of LCRC members can complement work done by state and federal researchers. It was agreed that state and federal research priorities should not unduly influence LCRC priorities. Nevertheless, the LCRC needs to interact more with other groups in the Basin. This should include not only state and federal personnel, but also groups such as the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, the Lake Champlain Committee, The Lake Champlain Basin Program, and others. Tom asked Al McIntosh to head a subcommittee to look into this role of the LCRC. Third major point - direct discussions among the Presidents of the LCRC institutions. The Presidents of the 7 institutions have never gotten together to discuss LCRC business. It was agreed that an effort would be made to bring them together - perhaps later this summer on the Melosira. Three issues would probably be brought up for discussion. (1) Ensuring some support for Executive Director from her/his home institution (perhaps release from a course, a stipend, or both). (2) Increase in dues to permit LCRC to do more (like fund student research, or provide travel funds for guest lecturers). LCRC might also consider the value of "in kind" services as a form of dues. In addition, perhaps there should be some sort of dues scale whereby institutions with a larger number of research faculty, and hence greater potential benefit from the LCRC, might pay more than smaller institutions. It was pointed out that most of the LCRC member institutions are primarily undergraduate teaching institutions. (3) Summer Cooperative Program - if done well, this could not only benefit students of LCRC institutions, but could also attract students from outside the region to come to the Champlain Valley for a summer. This could be a considerable benefit to our institutions, as our students could benefit from the expertise of our colleagues at other LCRC schools and other education and research facilities such as the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. There was some discussion regarding the role that distance learning might be able to play, as well as some consideration of expanding the cooperative concept beyond just summer programs. Doug agreed to attempt to lead this effort, and will plan on making a presentation to the Presidents when they can be brought together.

Other items Art Cohn of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum was present at the meeting and contributed to several discussions. The LCMM is a good example of an educational and research institution in the Basin that is not formally a part of the LCRC. LCRC By-Laws do include a provision for Associate Member institution. This has never been promoted, and the Board has not developed guidelines regarding the invitation or acceptance of Associate members. We should do this to get more institutions like the LCMM involved. Given the nature of many potential associate member institutions, it was suggested that the Board consider categories of Associate Membership, such as Research Associate, Educational Associate, and Governmental Associate. This is something that should be addressed in the future.