



International Association of Fish Inspectors

"an International Association of Seafood Professionals"

Executive Board Meeting

5th October Omni-Shoreham Hotel, Washington D.C., USA

Present: Chris Leftwich (Chair), John Emberley, Mike Dillon, Michael Young, Luisa Arthur, Roy Palmer, Tim Hansen, Olivier Hottlett,

Apologies: Pat McGuinness

Rapporteur: Simon Derrick

Minutes

1. WSC Morocco (2009).

Roy Palmer, as the organizer of the 2009 WSC held in Morocco, was asked to report on the accounts for the event. He then provided a detailed verbal report in which it was stated that income generated from the event had been used in subsequent IAFI related activities and that there were no further monies owing to IAFI from this event.

Due to personal reasons Roy felt unable to continue as a Board member and tendered his resignation. This was accepted by the Board

2. WSC Washington (2011)

John Connelly, President of NFI, sent a note to the board at which various issues were raised. The two main issues were:

- *Failure to get out an agreed programme for WSC at an early stage.* NFI felt that the delays in getting out the programme did not allow them sufficient time to be able to promote the event to a wider audience. He was concerned that things only started to become finalised after FAO had threatened to withdraw their support due to the lack of a programme.
- *Because of the lack of promotion, numbers were lower than expected and NFI had run the event at a loss which means that IAFI will not receive any financial income from this event.*

The Board accepted that this was valid criticism, but it was noted that despite the failings of IAFI, NFI themselves had failed to obtain any external sponsorship for the event, which in itself was a contributing factor to the losses.

NFI had said that they will send copies of accounts and data-bases to Chris Leftwich by second week of October. On receipt of documentation from NFI, Chris Leftwich agreed to correspond with John Connelly.

Mike Dillon, as president of IAFI, agreed during the WSC that IAFI would pay for such items as use of projector for workshops, additional microphones etc. The cost of these additions will be submitted to the IAFI treasurer for payment to Mike Dillon.

The Board agreed that based on current information that no further action is required



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3. Taking IAFI forward.

- a. WSC (2013): St Johns, Newfoundland: Learn lessons from this WSC.

The Board agreed with representatives of the Marine Institute, St Johns that IAFI requirements will be:

- A guaranteed \$25k up front fee
- \$50 per head membership fee

It was further agreed that there is a need to develop program early to avoid the problems encountered in Washington. In order to take this forward there is a need to establish a technical/steering committee that will include representatives of the Marine Institute and IAFI board to steer the program development. CL said he had already spoken to FAO and UNIDO for representation on the committee. JE suggested that Pat McGuinness and Vance McEachern should be the Canadian representatives. Chris Leftwich said he would approach a couple of other IAFI members to formulate the committee and would relay the information to the MI in St. John's.

It was agreed that all executive and at large board members receive copies of minutes from this weeks meeting with MI, St Johns.

- b. Review of Certification Standards:

Mike Dillon said there was a need to return to the original documents distributed at the Brussels meeting this year and to seek funding to establish a working group to take the proposals forward. One potential source of funding is Seafish in the UK, which Mike Dillon will follow this up.

- c. Review of proposals distributed by Roy Palmer earlier in the week.

- Seafood Professional was considered by the Board but was thought to be not viable for IAFI to undertake given the current financial position of IAFI.
- Gills: was also considered, but the Board does not wish to be involved at this stage but that if individual members wish to take this forward the Board would not have any objections.

It was felt that there is a need to focus on the core activities of IAFI given the current finances. It is necessary to be realistic as to what activities should be taken on given that all the IAFI members have full time commitments and only a limited amount of spare time to apply to such projects.

- d. There is a need to establish regular Board meetings to ensure progress is being made. It was suggested using a mechanism such as Skype on a quarterly basis with dates to be fixed in calendars. There is a need to improve the governance of IAFI and be much more transparent in all of its dealings. Chris Leftwich said he would want to see records of all IAFI meetings posted on to the website in the members only section.

- e. With the resignation of Roy Palmer, there are numerous issues that needed to be addressed regarding the on-line presence and image of IAFI web-site & LinkedIn accounts

Simon Derrick to investigate what can be done and update website to include WSC 2011 presentations etc.



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- f. With a vacancy on the executive board it was agreed that Jayne Gallagher be approached to replace Roy Palmer on the executive board.
- g. There is currently another vacancy on the board of directors and nominations shall be sought from the membership for a suitable candidate (preferable from Asia which is currently not well represented)
- h. Mike Dillon is to seek support of GIFHE management to take on the IAFI secretariat role.

There was no other business.