



BIONews

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SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE PROFESSIONAL BIOLOGIST

Have you ever found yourself fuming after reading a misleading newspaper or magazine article on a biological subject where you have considerable professional experience and working knowledge? Do you sometimes feel that your work environment or overriding policies do not allow you to fulfill your ethical responsibilities as a professional biologist? I know for myself I have experienced both of these situations, and at times feel pretty frustrated. As a regional director for the APBBC for the last 2 years, I have broached these subjects with members at informal and formal meetings around the province, and I have heard similar, equally frustrated responses. These and related examples lead me to ask what we can do about these kinds of situations. Certainly letters can be drafted and sent but the effect is often minimal. I know as well that many of our members are compromised in reacting to ineffective policies or other conflicting situations by their employment situation, be it government, industry or consultant.

Over the last two years these issues have led me to ask the question – *What are my social responsibilities as a professional biologist?* The constitution of the APBBC lends some clarity to this situation where it states;

16 (a)(i) Relations with the public

The professional Biologist who becomes aware of any undertaking that is profoundly detrimental to the sound management and conservation of biological resources will accept responsibility to advise a responsible party; if after reasonable effort no remedy is achieved, and the issue warrants, s/he will inform his Association in writing of the particulars.

Vagueness around the definitions of ‘profoundly detrimental’, ‘responsible party’, and ‘reasonable effort’ notwithstanding (these are explained further in notes for the code), it seems clear that as members of the APBBC we are ethically bound to act on important issues that concern us, and to ‘inform our association’ whenever we feel that the biological values are jeopardized. It is also clear that this seldom happens, probably because of our complicating employment situations.

If we cannot effectively speak out ourselves, as individual biologists, is it possible that our association can speak out for us? Our code of ethics asks us to contact our association if we have an ethical issue to air and we have not received satisfaction within our organizations, but what happens then? The fact is that the APBBC does not have a concrete policy for acting on such matters,

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

and this is what I would like to remedy, with your input. I think we need to define a policy(ies) for acting on behalf of our members, so that we can fulfill our social responsibility as professional biologists. I would like to use this article to start a dialogue with our members, the professional biologists of British Columbia.

It goes without saying that having a professional association act on social issues is fraught with potential danger, and most professional associations have a very restricted policy for advocacy, for good reason. The largest problem is that biological issues are inherently complicated and often involve considerable professional interpretation. Contentious issues can pit one group of members against another and I think we can all imagine examples of this kind of issue. Certainly if we are to advocate a position on any issue we would need a very substantial consensus on the part of our members. Where this substantial (how 'substantial?') consensus is achieved (by mail ballot or at the AGM?), we could possibly advocate a position, and there are many options once we make that decision. We may find we can only advocate soft issues such as improved biological education in public schools, or general issues around federal endangered species legislation. There will clearly be other very important biological issues where we will never reach consensus, and it will be impossible to advocate a particular policy. In these cases it has been suggested that our role is not one of advocacy, but to sponsor a conference where the issues on all sides are aired so that further clarity of the issues can potentially be achieved. I'm sure you will have many other suggestions.

I am very interested in receiving your input on the social responsibilities of professional biologists, and on what you feel we should or shouldn't be doing. I would like to have a dialogue about these issues with interested members over the winter. We plan to devote our spring issue of BioLine to this issue, and to have a policy in place to vote on for the AGM in May 2001. I will try and summarize our discussions from over the winter in the BioLine publication. If you would like to contribute to the upcoming BioLine issue on the social responsibility of biologists please contact **Andy MacKinnon** at andy.mackinnon@gems1.gov.bc.ca If you would like to comment on any of the ideas put forward in this article, please contact our **APBBC BioChat** at www.apbbc.bc.ca I will respond to any opinions or ideas put forward on BioChat. I sincerely urge you to contact me on these matters and I look forward to receiving your input through BioChat.

Donald McLennan, RPBio.
Director



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Nomination Committee is seeking candidates to stand for election to the Board of Directors for the 2001–2003 term. **Of the five members whose terms expire this year, four have indicated their willingness to serve another term. Andy MacKinnon has decided not to run for re-election.**

Richard Crozier, Nelson – Regional Director
Lindsay Jones, Port Alberni – Director At Large
Maureen Ketcheson, Nelson – Regional Director
Donald MacLennan, Smithers – Regional Director

Further nominations are invited from the membership-at-large.

Nominations from the membership-at-large must be in writing and supported by the name, address and phone number of at least two RPBios who are members in good standing of the APBBC. Nominations must be received no later than March 10, 2001 by:

Linda Michaluk, RPBio.
Chair, Nomination Committee
Association of Professional Biologists of BC
#205 – 733 Johnson Street
Victoria, BC
V8W 3C7

Email: apbbc@apbbc.bc.ca

**Please Give This Important Matter
Your Immediate Attention!**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY 3 AND 4 AT DUNSMUIR LODGE (NORTH SAANICH)

The 21st AGM of the APBBC will be held on May 3 and 4 at Dunsmuir Lodge (North Saanich). Mark this date on your calendars, and plan to attend what promises to be an interesting meeting (May 3) and field trip (May 4).

SUMMARY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

OCTOBER 20-21, 2000 – NELSON, B.C.

Present: Mel Kotyk (President), Joyce Boon, Ed Britton, Rick Crozier, Lindsay Jones, Maureen Ketcheson, Carol Lamont, Don McLennan, Bill Schouwenburg, Linda Stordeur, Linda Michaluk, Pat McLellan

This year the Board traveled to Nelson to combine a regular meeting with the Kootenay regional meeting held on the weekend of October 20/21. The regional meeting was well attended considering the great fall weather, and the topic of forest certification generated much discussion over the two days.

During the regular Board meeting the legislative initiative was reviewed and while government activity regarding the proposal is not moving ahead, **Linda Michaluk** will be following up with MELP executive with a view to leaving the legislative proposal in a complete package and confirm understandings regarding any further action.

While the legislative proposal does not appear to be proceeding, a number of other initiatives are underway including:

- Involvement of RPBios in the appropriate use of corrugated metal pipes in fish streams (MOF directive).
- Qualified Professionals include RPBios in the *Fish Protection Act*.
- Qualified Professionals also include RPBios in organic matter recycling.

In addition the Association has been asked to become involved in the Professional Reliance Action Team (PRAT) – an initiative of RPFs on performance based legislation. Currently the Board, through the Executive Director, is examining the proposed Terms of Reference for this group.

Joyce Boon gave a very thorough report on continuing professional development (CPD) work which has been completed by **Joyce, Ed Britton** and **Rick Crozier**. CPD is viewed by the Board as a membership service and a necessary step towards professional competency assurance. The Continuing Education committee and the Board will continue to develop guidelines on CPD for presentation to the membership, possibly at the next AGM.

In addition to the Nelson regional meeting, 32 biologists (RPBios and BITs) attended a regional meeting held in Smithers on October 13, 2000. Discussion included risk statements attached to documents being reviewed by RPBios, professional reliance, and auditing.

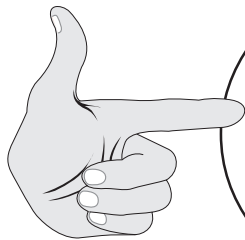
In consideration of the extremely high academic achievement of the applicants for the APB scholarship, the Board decided to make two awards of \$1000.00 each.

Membership in the APB stands at 1175 as of October 2000 and 45% of members live outside Lower mainland and SE Vancouver Island. Discussion arose about the need to realign regional boundaries to reflect this.

Finally, **Bill Schouwenburg** restated his intention to step down from the Board of Examiners and noted that a replacement for Chair needs to be selected from the current Board of Examiners – **Derek Ellis, John Patterson, Dave Barrett, Ian Hatter**.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 5th in Victoria.

Lindsay Jones, RPBio.
Secretary



2001 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Deadline for payment of this year's dues is February 28th, 2001. Members will be, or may already have received their dues notices. On this year's form we ask that you check your address and email information; also included is a new form for information to be used in the upcoming membership directory.

SUMMARY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DECEMBER 5, 2000 – VICTORIA, B.C.

Mel Kotyk advised that the Streamside Directives of the *Fish Protection Act* had gone forward to Cabinet for approval without the inclusion of “Qualified Professionals” from the definition. Mel also advised that David Johns, Deputy Minister of the Land Use Co-ordination Office, supports passage of the *Biologists Act*.

- Discussions are ongoing with the Foresters, Engineers, Agrologists, MELP, MOF and segments of the NGO community regarding a framework for professional reliance.
- The Ethics Committee is undertaking a comparison of the APBBC Code of Ethics and the BC Government Code of Conduct to ascertain, in general terms, whether a member who is also a government employee would be placed in a conflict situation by virtue of being bound by both Codes. A report setting out the findings will be made to the Board of Directors and the membership. The Ethics Committee is also continuing their investigation into the structure and feasibility of an Ethics Exam.
- The public members of the Discipline Committee, Mr. Bob Gerath and Ms. Marlene Russo, were re-appointed.
- Regional Involvement representatives reported that the Nelson and Smithers Regional meetings were successful in raising the local profile of the APBBC and providing a forum for regional members to meet with the Board of Directors.
- The Board of Directors is continuing to examine whether the APBBC has a role in advocacy, and if so, what that role would be. The Spring issue of BioLine will be devoted to the advocacy issue, as will time at the Annual General Meeting.
- Guidelines for “Continuing Professional Development” were circulated for discussion, and Ed Britton and Joyce Boon will write an article for BioNews. Prior to the Board making any decisions of a Continuing Professional Development Program, extensive consultation with the membership will have to take place. Further discussion on this subject will take place at the AGM.
- Guidelines are to be developed for the APB scholarship.
- The date and location of the AGM have been tentatively established – May 3 and 4, in Victoria at Dunsmuir Lodge.

Linda Michaluk, RPBio.
Executive Director

APBBC SCHOLARSHIP 2000

In consideration of the extremely high standard of academic achievement by both applicants for the scholarship, the Board decided to award \$1,000.00 each to Solveig Adair of Terrace, daughter of Norma Kerby and Adrienne Boon of Kelowna, daughter of Joyce Boon. We wish them continued success in their future careers.

BRITISH COLUMBIA NEST RECORD SCHEME

The nesting season has arrived – Rock Doves are already on eggs and Great Horned Owls are courting! Last year hundreds of naturalists submitted over 8,200 cards for nests and broods they noticed while travelling around the province. We are again inviting naturalists to join us in recording information on breeding birds in B. C.

The BCNRS is now the largest and most heavily used nest record scheme in North America. Over the past two decades it has been the major source of breeding information for the four-volume set of *Birds of British Columbia* and will continue to provide new information on the distribution and biology of birds locally and provincially.

We have 46 Years of continuous fieldwork – an amazing record considering the scheme is operated by committed volunteers. If you want to participate in this worthwhile endeavour please contact the address below for nest cards and an instruction booklet. We can also send you a copy of our 2000 nesting season report.

B.C. Nest Record Scheme
P.O. Box 6218, Station C, Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5
(250) 477-0465

Patrons: Hon. John A. Fraser, P.C., O.C., O.B.C., Q.C.
Robert Bateman, Artist and Naturalist



Mark Nyboff

2001 FOCUS ON CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

by Joyce Boon, RPBio

The Board of Directors would like to make this the year we concentrate on directly meeting the needs of the members. We realize that many of our members would like help in maintaining competency and keeping up with the many new developments occurring in the field of biology.

As an association that is seeking right to practice, we must ensure that the expectations we have for and the responsibilities we require of our members are consistent with those of other professional associations. Continuing professional development (CDP) is an important aspect of these expectations.

There are many ways in which to define and approach CDP. One way is to think of CPD as having two components: Continuing professional education and competency assurance.

Continuing Professional Education (CPE): Continuing professional education provides members with opportunities to remain current and to learn about new developments, theories, legislation and practices.

Competency Assurance (CA): Competency assurance is assessed by the association in three areas. We have the Board of Examiners who scrutinize each application for membership and ensure that the person is qualified, experienced and able to analyze and present data. The discipline procedure is available to deal with members who don't maintain the standards of professionalism. The Ethics committee has a comprehensive set of guidelines which are available to members, and are available to help members with questions of ethical behavior within the profession. We plan to add another component to competency assurance – an ethics exam that would be administered to all new members before acceptance for membership, and will also be administered to present members over a period of time.

Our hope is that the addition of the ethics exam will ensure that our members understand and maintain high ethical standards in terms of professional integrity and quality of practice. Continuing professional education and competency assurance overlap because if one is practicing ethically, then one is keeping current within their discipline.

In our efforts to expand member services, we will be working to help our members in both continuing education and competency assurance.

New Developments

- 1 **Updated Web Page for the APB:** In the near future, you will find a new style of web page for the APB. Included in this will be a link to a web page on continuing education. We are in the process of gathering information from as many sources as possible to help you find opportunities for your continuing study and learning. We want to list all of the universities, university colleges, colleges, institutions and programs that we can find out about. We also would like to let you know about opportunities available through other professional associations and through private organizations. If you have some information to offer, please let us know ASAP!
- 2 **Posting of upcoming events on BioChat or an Education Page:** We have been posting to BioChat as we receive news about conferences, courses and other learning opportunities. We hope to have other members help us out with this task. The sooner we get the information available, the better it will be for our members in terms of planning.

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- 3 Feature page in BioNews, Education Events:** This will list upcoming events and contact numbers. We realize that some of our members don't have easy access to the Internet and we don't want to miss anyone. You will find the first "Education Events" feature page in this issue of BioNews.
- 4 Continuing professional education guidelines:** Some of our members have expressed concern about what qualifies as CPD. We want to assure that everyone understands the breadth of activity that is considered a part of this continuing education initiative. You, as a professional, know what you need in your work. It might be that you need some computer training. "This isn't biology," one of our members commented. However, if you need education of any kind to help you do a better job, then it qualifies. Continuing education is often classified into two categories. The first is a general professional category, the second is a professional biology category. We need our members to be doing both aspects of continuing education.
- 5 CPE Log:** We will be distributing a continuing professional education log to help you keep track of your activities. It is our goal to work toward a reporting system for our members, like that used by other professional associations, which will allow the APB to assure the public to whom we are responsible that our members do remain current in their knowledge and up-to-date in their practice. This is not meant to be an onerous task. Recent research has demonstrated that most of our members already engage in continuing education activities that qualify, but that they lose track of over the year. In the future, we would like to be able to have those logs submitted to the association with the annual membership renewals. The purpose of this is to see what types of activities our members are engaging in, and to be able to provide proof to any interested party that our members do in fact maintain currency. This is a long-term goal, however, and we would welcome input from our members about how best to handle this.
- 6 Discussion at the AGM:** We hope to have a focus session on CPD at the AGM this year. We need your input and support on our initiatives. We would like you to tell us what is workable and what you need to help you maintain currency and up-date your skills. Please try to attend, or if you would like to make comments to be mentioned at the AGM, please let us know ahead of time so that we can include your views. After all, the intent of our efforts is to promote the influence of biology by enhancing the professional profile of the biologist.

NEW CHALLENGE PROCESS FOR RIC WILDLIFE SPECIES INVENTORY COURSE

A message from Rick Thomas, Extensions and Training Coordinator, Resources Inventory Branch

Any biologist who collects data for the provincial government via contracts such as through FRBC to assess the presence or abundance of wildlife species is required to be certified in the course, Introduction to Wildlife Species Inventory, by April, 2001. A process is now in place for biologists who wish to gain certification by challenging this course.

To be eligible to challenge, a biologist must provide objective proof of his/her ability to apply the principles of survey design in a field-based wildlife inventory. This can be accomplished by either:

1. proving his/her status as a Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio) in the Association of Professional Biologists of BC, or
2. submitting the citation for a graduate thesis or a peer-reviewed, published journal article with the applicant as first author, that demonstrates a knowledge of survey design for the purpose of detecting the presence of, or enumerating, a species of wildlife.

Once an applicant's eligibility to challenge is confirmed, s/he may successfully complete a written exam (for a \$125.00) to prove competence. Applicants whose eligibility cannot be confirmed must take the two-day course through Forestry Continuing Studies Network (<http://www.fcsn.bc.ca/home.htm>) to gain certification.

For more information, contact Rick Thomas at 250-356-0246, or rick.thomas@gems4.gov.bc.ca

The complete IWSI Challenge Process document can also be viewed on the RIC Training Website at http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/rictraining_courses.htm#BIODIVERSITY



EDUCATION EVENTS

ED BRITTON, RPBIO

This is a new feature that we hope to become a regular part of BioNews. "Education Events" will list in brief various learning opportunities of interest to biologists. Please help us by notifying the BioNews Editor, (Ed Britton, britton@connected.bc.ca, or, (250) 923-9763). You may also post events on the BioChat web page, available through the APBBC web page, and I will retrieve the notice and print it here.

*We are looking for someone who can maintain the "Education Events" feature.
If you can help, please contact Ed Britton (britton@connected.bc.ca)*

The listings are chronological. For more detailed information, refer to the contact and information sites, or check out BioChat.

How to Farm the Seas Conference II: the Science, Economics and Politics of Aquaculture on the West Coast

February 15–17, 2001
Sheraton Vancouver Hotel, Vancouver, B.C.
Sponsored by the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies and the Canadian Aquaculture Institute.
For information: www.aims.ca/Events

Wildlife Chemical Immobilization

February 27–March 2, 2001
Best Western Wayside Inn, Revelstoke, B.C.
Contact: Columbia Mountain Institute, Box 2568 Revelstoke, B.C. VOE 2S0
Phone (250) 837-9311
cmi@revelstoke.net; www.cmiae.org

Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology Meeting

March 28–30, 2001
Harbour Towers Hotel, Victoria, B.C.
Contact: Elke Wind, ewc@telus.net
Phone (604) 732-7954; www.eou.edu/snrb

Fifth Annual Roads, Rails and Environment Workshop

March 13–14, 2001; Revelstoke, B.C.
Contact: Columbia Mountain Institute, Box 2568 Revelstoke, B.C. VOE 2S0
Phone (250) 837-9311; cmi@revelstoke.net
www.cmiae.org

Multi-Sectoral Collaboration in Fisheries

April 8–11, 2001; Coast Harbourside Hotel Victoria, B.C.; North Pacific International Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Contact: Gary Birch, (250) 365-4596
Gary.Birch@bchydro.bc.ca

2001 Interior Forest Site Rehabilitation Workshop: Dynamic Solutions for Changing Times

April 10–11, 2001; Best Western Towne Lodge and Conference Center, Kamloops B.C.; Contact: Tom Rankin, RPF FCSN Region Manager
Email: Tom.Rankin@fcsn.bc.ca
Tel: 250-573-3092, Fax: 250-573-2882
To register – Mail: Forestry Continuing Studies Network, 2665 East Mall Vancouver, BC V6T 1W5 ax: 604-222-1730
Tel: Vancouver area: 604-222-1740
Toll free within BC: 1-877-222-9993
Inquires: 604-222-9157
Email: Inquire@fcsn.bc.ca

International Conference on Restoring Nutrients to Salmonid Ecosystems

April 24–26, 2001; Eugene Hilton, Eugene, Oregon. Sponsored by the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Contact: www.gpafs.org/confnutr Proposals and general questions to: Richard Grost, PO Box 128 Idleyld Park, OR 97447, (541) 496-4580 rgrost@compuserve.com

Small Stream Riparian Workshop

May, 2001, Hosted by University of British Columbia and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Contact: Nicholas Winfield (604) 666-8343; winfield@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

7th Canadian Workshop on Harmful Marine Algae

May 23–25, 2001; Pacific Biological Station Nanaimo, B.C. Contact: Ian Whyte phone: 250-756-7007; fax: 250-756-7053 email: whytei@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

A Fisheries Odyssey: the Journey of Science and Education Continues – 2001 Annual Meeting of the Western Division (American Fisheries Society)

August 29–23, 2001; Phoenix Arizona; To register: Pam Sponhltz
Tel: (602)789-3898; reg2001@gf.state.as.us
Conference info at <http://www.fisheries.org>

Science Symposium/Old Growth Forests

October 15–19, 2001; Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
Contact: Bruce Pendrel, Natural Resources Canada, Forestry Centre
P.O. Box 4000, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5P7
(506) 452-3505; oldgrowth@nrcan.gc.ca

Watershed Restoration Workshop

November 13–15, 2001. Eugene, Oregon; Sponsored by the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Contact: Richard Grost, (541) 496-4580
rgrost@compuserve.com
www.osu.orst.edu/groups/orafs/wrw

Other

B.C. Institute of Technology offers a selection of part time courses. For information see: www.renewres.bcit.bc.ca

ETHICS EPIC

To encourage members to review their Code of Ethics the Board of Directors has decided to re-publish Ethics Epic which was written by W.J. (Bill) Schouwenburg for publishing in 1993 and 1994 editions of BioNews.

Due to BioNews publishing deadlines the current ethics committee has not reviewed this installment. The current chair of the ethics committee, Rick Crozier, has made some minor editorial changes to Bill's original text and has added some references to the APBBC Code of Ethics in the "answer" section.

In future installments we will seek additional input into the answer section from the entire ethics committee. Suggested answers provided on page 10 of this issue are not considered to be comprehensive, so if you have some comments of your own, send them to BioNews or to our website chatline.

Any of the fictional people in this story with the fictional title "P.Bio." are professional biologists and readers can assume they have a Code of Ethics similar to that of our own Association. Bill emphasized that the scenarios and the agencies, companies and individuals are fictitious. Any resemblance to any person or company is strictly coincidental and unintentional.

If you have had some significant exposure to an ethical issue that might be suitable for this type of presentation, pass it on to the APBBC office. Your suggestions will be considered for future segments of Ethics Epic.

THE GREAT BIG DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Background

The Great Big Development Project is a combined hydro-electric, mining and port development project being proposed by the Equitable Development Corporation of Berne, Switzerland. The project is sited on the Paradise River on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

The Paradise River is a large drainage basin encompassing several lake-fed tributaries situated on a high plateau whose elevation is 300m above sea level. The tributaries form the Paradise River about 8km upstream from tidewater and almost immediately plunges over an escarpment falling some 250m in a single drop to the valley floor below. On reaching the ocean, the Paradise River forms a large estuary encompassing several square kilometers.

The lower Paradise River valley contains several dozen square kilometers of highly productive and intensively used agricultural lands producing a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. The upper Paradise River drainage, above the falls, is virgin coastal rainforest.

The Paradise River supports four species of salmon and contributes over a million fish annually to the commercial salmon fishery. There is a very significant recreational fishery in the headwater lakes. There are large isolated populations of grizzly bear and elk and these are the only such populations on Vancouver Island. The

estuary serves as a breeding area for large numbers of several species of waterfowl and is a winter staging area for threatened purple throated swan.

The Equitable Development Corporation has developed its own staff of engineers and economic professionals to oversee project development and the environmental impact studies required by both the federal and provincial governments. These people gained the bulk of their experience working on similar projects in South America. Equitable has already retained the service of a local consulting firm who will be responsible for all phases of the environmental impact assessments. This master contractor has retained several other consultants to conduct various elements of the studies.

The Equitable Development Corporation and their master consultant, Wet and Dry Inc., have recognized that the agencies from both levels of government responsible for the management of the various resources within the Paradise River basin have been subject to severe fiscal restraint for the past several years and are not as knowledgeable about the resources under their control as they should be. Since Equitable has been told they must be prepared to compensate for any resource losses incurred by their project, they have developed a keen interest in the studies which have been

under way for three years. These studies have reached the stage where their results are being incorporated into the final impact statement. To this stage, the regulatory agencies have been kept peripherally informed about the results of the studies since they were being conducted with the guidelines provided at the outset by those agencies. In part this was due in failure of the agencies and Wet and Dry Inc. to agree on the methodology for several of the studies as they were being developed. As a consequence, several of the agencies have undertaken their own studies to gather their own data for certain decision critical elements of the expected environmental review.

The Equitable Development Corporation has decided it will release its environmental impact studies at the same time as it formally applies for its operating license.

The following scenarios will depict some of the many situations that arose over the life of this project.

Scene 1

This is a meeting between the Director of the Environmental Impact Division for the Department of Fish and Ducks and the senior assessment biologist for that division. They are discussing the letter that will be sent on behalf of the Department of Environment and Land

Use concerning the request by the Equitable Development Corporation for guidance on the conduct of environmental impact studies for the Great Big Development Project on Vancouver Island. The Director is Bob Bird, P.Bio. and the biologist is Willie Wontee, P.Bio.

Bob: "I have just read your draft letter to the Department of Environment and Land Use and I'm not going to sign it without some significant changes. First, let me hear how you approached this assignment."

Willie: "Well, first I made a list of biological issues requiring critical decisions to make sure that these are identified and will be addressed by Equitable's consultants..."

Bob: "How come you didn't include any fish gut analyses on the Paradise River for this list?"

Willie: "Between us, the biologists on our staff have a combined experience total of sixty years in this business. Despite literally tons of data collected over the years, we could find no evidence that such information had ever been useful except in the case of estuarine usage evaluations, which is covered in our list. To continue, I then consulted with Dom Perignon (his engineering equivalent) and identified a number of hydrological, geomorphological and thermal issues that need to be addressed and incorporated into the letter. If they get on with the necessary work quickly, they could get results in about fifteen months. This information, in my professional opinion, will provide us with the information needed to arrive at a decision on the project. I have been very detailed in these items. Neither Dom nor I can justify any need for further information. To do so would make us ethically accountable to our professional peers."

Bob: "I don't give a damn what you think we can justify, and I don't care if it takes them five years to get the answers to questions we make them answer. The more we can drag the process out, the better off we are because of the delay, the better it is even if they get approval in the end. I want them to undertake an inventory of the stocks involved because if they do it we won't have to and that will provide savings in our budget. If they do the work, then I can divert some of our operational money into other areas. Maybe we can persuade them to take one of us along. That way we can kill two birds with one stone: we'll find out how honest they are and I'll be able to work in a free hunting trip. And I want them to do the gut work as well! Now get the hell out of here and don't give me any more of that professional opinion crap!"

Question: What ethical issues arise from this scenario?

Scene 2

A telephone conversation between Bob Bird and Alisa Shakelton-Davies, P.Bio, the Director of the Environmental Review Board for the Department of Environment and Land Use.

guidelines for the Great Big Development Project yesterday and I must admit I have some concerns about it..."

Bob: "And what might they be? Maybe I can clarify some of them for you."

Alisa: "Well, there is the matter of the fish stock monitoring that you requested. When I worked for Fish and Ducks, the fisheries management staff were responsible for that work as part of their mandate. I have a real problem with asking the proponent to do that work. There is also the matter of all that fish food work you want to include. My staff tell me that such information is seldom decision critical. Then there is the establishment of several more flow monitoring stations that you requested. It would take several weeks to establish those stations and the Water Branch engineers tell me the same information could be gained by extrapolations from the existing data base without installing any new monitoring stations. If that's the case, this is just an extra expense for Equitable and it would ensure that the information could not be put together for at least two years."

Bob: "Those recommendations came at the insistence of my senior biologist and engineer. It seems they feel their professional reputations could be challenged if these demands were not included in the requirements. Furthermore, Willie Wontee showed me some pretty convincing data collected in Idaho this summer that demonstrated fish were starving below the Hungry Cow dam when the flow regime was altered. I don't think it would be wise to accept any risk of missing something critical because we were concerned about the potential costs to Equitable. Imagine the kind of public pressure that could be applied against you if the word were to get out. I'd hate to see us on opposite sides of the fence if something important was overlooked and the public became aware of it. Besides, they have no shortage of money at Equitable anyway."

Alisa: "Well, perhaps you're right."

Question: What ethical issues arise from this conversation?

End of first installment



Mark Nyboff

ETHICS EPICS – THE GREAT BIG DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

SUGGESTED ANSWERS FOR INSTALLMENT 1

This column provides some suggested answers to the questions asked about installment one of "Ethics Epics" published on page 8 of this edition of BioNews. The suggested answers are offered for your consideration by the 1993 Ethics and Discipline Committee, and Rick Crozier, current chair of the Ethics Committee, and W.J. (Bill) Schouwenberg. We hope you have enjoyed reading about the Great Big Development Project and that you will follow subsequent installments. We encourage you to pull out your copy of the Association Bylaws or go to the website and check out section 16, the Code of Ethics, as it applies to this ethics epic.

Scene 1

1. Bob ignores and belittles the professional opinions of both his senior biologist and his senior engineer despite the fact he has not had any direct professional involvement in developing the assessment needs himself.
 - Code of Ethics section 16 (A) vi, "The Professional Biologist will keep informed of advances in his/her field of expertise, and will express an opinion on a biological subject only when that opinion is founded on a sound knowledge base"
 - Code of Ethics section 16 (B) vi, "The Professional Biologist will advise the employer or client of any adverse consequences to be expected if his/her professional judgement is overruled, and will advise of alternate courses of action"
 - Code of Ethics section 16 (C) v, "A Professional Biologist will take reasonable precautions not to injure the professional reputation of another person through malice or negligence"
2. Bob's delaying and extending tactics are not ethical.
 - Code of Ethics preamble... "A Professional Biologist recognizes that professional ethics are founded on integrity, competence, and a responsibility to provide sound management and conservation of biological resources.....In addition, a Professional Biologist must not engage in dishonourable or questionable conduct that reflects adversely on the integrity of the biological profession"
3. Bob cannot ethically demand the proponent do work unnecessary for this project because it will save the government money.
 - Same reference to Code of Ethics as summarized in answer #2
4. Bob cannot ethically have the proponent pay for a "hunting trip" under the guise of an extended joint field trip.
 - Code of Ethics section 16(B)ii, "The Professional Biologist will serve each employer or client professionally without prejudice or conflict of interest, and will not knowingly engage in illegal work or cooperate with those who are so engaged." Note that the explanatory notes for this section state that a conflict of interest arises when a member's

- personal or financial interest conflicts or appears to conflict with a member's professional responsibilities.
- This action is also in conflict with the Code of Ethics preamble section as was the case with answers #2 and #3.
- 5. Bob is acting unethically in placing the professional reputations of Willie and Dom at risk
 - Code of Ethics section 16 (C) v, "A Professional Biologist will take reasonable precautions not to injure the professional reputation of another person through malice or negligence."

Scene 2

1. Alisa knew she was right about the fishery officers doing fish counts, yet she abandoned her challenge of that point at Equitable's expense.
2. Alisa ignored the advice of her professional staff when they advised her that the fish stomach and hydrology work was unnecessary. She should have suggested the two staffers get together to resolve the issue.
3. Bob lied about the professional advice he received from his professional staff and he placed Willie's professional reputation at risk by identifying him as the person who had convincing new information.
 - If Alisa, after further discussion with Bob and after further attempts to seek a meeting between staff, is unsuccessful in resolving the differences she should pursue any dispute resolution mechanism that may be available between the two departments. If in the process she finds evidence of Bob's contravention of the Code of Ethics she should make a complaint to his professional association....Code of Ethics section 16 (C)vi, "Where the Professional Biologist becomes aware of a contravention by a member of this Code of Ethics, s/he will report it to the Association."
4. Bob planted the seeds of apprehension in Alisa's mind about her own judgement when he mentioned the public reaction that might occur if there was a public disagreement between the departments.
 - Once again Bob is in contravention of the Code of Ethics preamble, ".....a Professional Biologist must not engage in dishonourable or questionable conduct that reflects adversely on the integrity of the biological profession.

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Thanks to all applicants. However, we will only contact those invited for interviews.



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Looking Beyond the Trees: Visual Stewardship of the Working Forest

April 17–19, 2001 – Kamloops, BC

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT



In conjunction with the BC Ministry of Forests and an organizing committee representing industry, government and the consulting community, the Forestry Continuing Studies Network is pleased to circulate this first announcement regarding the above conference.

The committee is hard at work on the agenda, choosing from an extensive list of domestic and international speakers for such topics as visual stewardship, public perception, silvicultural systems, visual design, certification and the latest visualization technologies. We are developing the floor plan for the trade show and are inviting interested exhibitors to submit their names. We will also be allowing space for a poster session for those wishing to display projects of a research, technical or academic nature. Please submit this form to ensure you receive further information on these activities, and to receive the registration package as soon as it is available.

Through a mix of plenary and concurrent sessions, we intend to present practical solutions from field staff, innovative applications from leading edge researchers and practitioners, new technologies, and hear about key issues. While the primary focus is visual resource management in a forestry context, the interactions between urban, rural, and backcountry areas will generate discussion and examples of the role visual management practices play in these interface areas.

Conference Contact

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Mark Nyboff

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