Voting Procedures for the Society Name and Journal Title Change

In response to recommendations in the 2009 Strategic Plan, NABS leadership appointed a Name Evaluation Committee over a year ago to help the Society explore options for the SOCIETY NAME that 1) might be more recognizable by those outside our society and 2) better represent what the majority of our members do, and for the JOURNAL TITLE that might more accurately reflect journal content and scientific and geographic scope.

The process undertaken by the committee as well as the results of the two polls of the membership completed to date can be seen on the NABS web site (http://www.benthos.org/Society-Business/Revisiting-NABS-Name.aspx). The outcome of this process is a candidate name for the Society: Society for Freshwater Science and the Journal: Freshwater Sciences. At the 2011 Annual Meeting in Providence, RI, members will be asked to vote on 2 separate motions during the Business Lunch on Wednesday:

Members will vote for or against a motion to change the society name to "Society for Freshwater Science". If the motion does not pass by 2/3 majority, the society name will remain "North American Benthological Society".

Members will vote for or against a motion to change the journal title to "Freshwater Sciences". If the motion does not pass by 2/3 majority, journal title will continue to be "Journal of the North American Benthological Society".

To allow plenty of time for discussion, we will begin the annual Business Meeting on Monday night with a review and discussion of the society name/journal change issue.

We will formally open the Business Meeting on Monday night at 8:00 pm. The motions to change the name and title will be presented. The discussion period will begin with a very short presentation about the pros and cons of changing the Society name and journal title. An open-mike discussion on the motions will follow. To ensure that as many people as possible have an opportunity to express their opinions, speakers will be limited to no more than one minute for comments.

Following these discussions (~ 9:30 pm), the Business Meeting will be recessed until Wednesday’s lunchtime meeting. No votes will take place on Monday night; votes will occur during the Wednesday lunchtime Business Meeting.

At the beginning of Wednesday’s lunchtime Business Meeting the motion will be called and members will vote using paper ballots, which will be collected immediately. We will conduct the rest of the Business Meeting and results will be announced at the end of the Business Meeting.

To remind yourself of the steps that already have been taken in considering the society name and journal title please review the material on the NABS web page (http://www.benthos.org/Society-Business/Revisiting-NABS-Name.aspx).

To ensure that you are informed about the discussion and voting processes that will occur in Providence, please plan to attend both the Monday evening Business Meeting for discussion AND the Wednesday lunchtime Business Meeting when the voting will occur.