

**Minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Chapter  
American Fisheries Society  
February 18, 2015  
4-H Camp Ocala, Altoona, Florida**

President Chris Bradshaw called the meeting to order at 1920 hours and established a quorum.

Past-presidents of the Florida Chapter in attendance were acknowledged: Wes Porak, Larry Connor, Kathy Guindon, Mike Allen, Chuck Cichra, Eric Nagid and Travis Tuten.

Southern Division Past-presidents in attendance were acknowledged: Mike Allen and Larry Connor.

Wes Porak gave an update on Southern Division business.

Cheree Steward asked and received approval of the 2014 business meeting minutes and presented the 2014 Treasurer's Report. We ended the year with \$41,546.40 in total assets.

Larry Connor gave an update on the Rottmann Scholarship Fund. The fund had assets of \$30,388.95 on December 31, 2014, an increase of \$1,117.57 from December 31, 2013. Since inception the Fund has had a 9.15 % annual rate of return, and Larry did not recommend any changes to the Rottmann Scholarship at this time, though it is growing toward increasing the scholarships in the future.

Travis Tuten introduced John Galvez and Andy Strickland as the nominees for President-elect. Both gave brief personal statement and proposed symposium topics. Kevin Johnson was introduced as the candidate for Secretary/Treasurer. Ballots were passed out and a vote was taken.

### **Committee Reports**

Newsletter - Chris Wiley thanked the authors who contributed in the past year and encouraged others to contribute articles about planned or evolving research.

Website – Eric Sawyers displayed the home page of the new website and requested feedback on appearance and functionality, as well as more pictures of members at work in the field. He said he is investigating better ways to connect payment to registration for our annual meetings. He has also been asked to upgrade the student subunit website and he plans to start that soon.

Raffle – Andy Strickland thanked everyone who brought items for the raffle and said that we had about \$5000 worth of items. He recognized those who donated to our meeting happen including: Yeti, First Magnitude Brewing Company, and various universities and government agencies. He reminded everyone that all raffle proceeds go to fund student travel grants for the Chapter meeting.

Membership – Larry Connor said that our membership increased by seven members last year to 194. Forty seven members are students and 131 are also members of the parent society. The highest Chapter membership on record was 260. Larry postulates that economics and travel restrictions have kept people from the annual meeting, and that is when many renew their Chapter membership. He sent a renewal reminder out via the Chapter listserve and is hoping the response will keep membership from dropping after this year's lightly attended meeting.

Student Scholarships and Awards – Chuck Cichra said that eleven student travel grants were awarded this year – compared to 15 last year. One of the students awarded a grant was unable to attend at the last minute. We had enough money to fund 21 travel grants this year, but only eleven students applied. Students receiving awards represented Florida International University, Nova Southeastern University and the University of Florida. Chuck then gave the history of the Rottman scholarship and summarized the recipient applications. Emily Olson of the University of Florida received the M.S. Rottman award, and Chelsey Crandall, also of the University of Florida, received the PhD Rottman award. Each was presented with a certificate and a \$500 check.

Florida Chapter Awards – Eric Nagid gave a brief summary of the career of Rich Cailteux what he meant to many in the Chapter as friend and mentor. Larry Connor was then named the 5<sup>th</sup> recipient of the Rich Cailteux award and was asked to step to the podium. He received a standing ovation. Eric read the nomination and presented Larry with the award, and Larry made a few comments.

### **Student Subunit Report**

Ross Boucek said that the student blog is still going strong and new people are contributing. The student paper on largemouth bass should be ready to submit for publication in March. The student subunit won the AFS Best Student Chapter award in 2014 and Ross thanked everyone who helped make that happen. Incoming Subunit officers are: Chelsey Crandall –President, Greg Hill – Vice President and John Hargrove – Secretary/Treasurer. A new position of University Liaison has been added to the board in an effort to get students from more universities. Carrie Schuman was elected to that position. Because Ross was not able to attend the AFS meeting last summer to receive the Best Student Chapter award, Chelsey Crandall received it in his place. She presented the award to Ross and thanked him for all he did to help the Subunit receive it.

### **Old Business**

AFS 2017 Annual meeting – Travis said that the Wildlife Society has changed their mind about a joint meeting in 2017, though they might be interested in the future when they can be involved in the planning from the beginning. Meeting leadership has met with AFS by phone and discussed a meeting theme. AFS is still interested in finding another society partner, so Travis asked anyone with ideas to let him know. AFS is planning a

site visit for June, and the meeting leaders will meet again with AFS leadership at the national meeting in Portland.

Kathy Guindon (fundraising chair) said the fundraising goal for the end of 2015 is \$100,000. She sent around a sign-up sheet for anyone willing to help. Solicitation letters, donation forms and non-profit information are all available for anyone interested in soliciting donations. Only cash is being solicited at this point. Kathy said that if a business is interested in contributing anything other than cash, the solicitor should let them know that such would be appreciated closer to meeting time and they should be contacted again then.

Chuck Cichra asked about the raffle at the national meeting. Discussion ensued about whether we would have our normal annual chapter meeting in February 2017 and have our raffle then, or hold our own raffle, in addition to a national raffle, at the national meeting. Travis said that the last few national meetings have not had a raffle, so we could do our own and only have to do one. AFS gets a percentage of the proceeds from a raffle at the national meeting.

Travis encouraged everyone to sign up for meeting planning committees.

Chapter history – Chris Bradshaw said that not much has happened with this since the last meeting, and he recommitted to getting it done.

### **Installation of New Officers**

Travis Tuten announced Andy Strickland as the new President-elect, and Kevin Johnson as the new Secretary/Treasurer. He then turned the meeting over to Jennifer Rehage as the new President. Jennifer gave Chris Bradshaw a plaque to thank him for his service as President. She also gave a plaque to Ross Boucek in thanks for his two terms as Student Subunit President.

### **New business**

We need to find a new meeting location, as the Ocala 4H camp will close at the end of this year. Chris Bradshaw will collect suggestions and make phone calls in the next week. Eric Nagid suggested that a site selection committee be formed, but Chris said he wanted to keep it to three people (Chris, Eric and Mike Allen) to get a decision quickly.

Larry Connor said that he has a complete set of Transactions and one of NAJFM, both from 1974-2014 if anyone wants them. Contact Larry if interested.

Eric Nagid moved to adjourn the meeting and Bob Heagey seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2045.