

**Minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Chapter  
American Fisheries Society  
March 3, 2016  
FFA Leadership Training Center, Haines City, Florida**

President Jennifer Rehage called the meeting to order at 1915 hours and established a quorum.

Past-presidents of the Florida Chapter in attendance were acknowledged: Wes Porak, Mike Murphy, Bob Wattendorf, Kathy Guindon, Chuck Cichra, Eric Nagid, Kerry Flaherty-Walia, Travis Tuten, and Chris Bradshaw.

Southern Division Past-presidents: None were in attendance.

Wes Porak gave an update on Southern Division business, and talked about the Southern Division meetings, workshops, and committees. Wes also talked about the importance and benefits of becoming a member of AFS.

Kevin Johnson asked and received approval of the 2015 business meeting minutes and presented the 2015 Treasurer's Report. We ended the year with \$46,592.97 in total assets.

Kevin Johnson gave an update on the Rottmann Scholarship Fund via an email from Larry Connor. The fund had assets of \$27,816.54 on December 31, 2015, a decrease of \$2,572.41 from December 31, 2014. Since inception the Fund has had an 8.47 % 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.

Jennifer Rehage introduced Jeff Hill as the nominee for President-elect.

### **Committee Reports**

Florida Chapter Awards – Eric Nagid gave a brief summary of the career of Rich Cailteux what he meant too many in the Chapter as friend and mentor. Mike Murphy was then named the 6th 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 Mike with the award, and Mike made a few comments.

Newsletter - Chris Wiley thanked the authors who contributed in the past year. Chris also said he is leaving Florida for a new job, so the chapter will need a new Shellcracker editor, he encouraged students or young professionals to consider being the new newsletter editor. In order to increase participation with submissions to the Shellcracker, Jennifer Rehage suggested shorter professional and student research highlights or profiles.

Website – Eric Sawyers was not able to attend, but Jennifer Rehage said the updated website looks great and if you have pictures to send them to Eric to display on our chapter’s website.

Raffle – Andy Strickland thanked everyone who brought items for the raffle and acknowledged and said that Alan Collins is the one responsible for the success of the raffle. Andy also talked about how fun the raffle is, and that it is a great way to raise money for student travel grants to our chapter meetings and that the raffle is a great way to kick the night off.

Membership – Kevin Johnson gave an update on membership via an email from Larry Connor. Membership increased by ten members last year to 204. Forty seven members are students and 149 are also members of the parent society. The number of members paying their dues through the Society increased from 112 in 2014 to 130 in 2015.

Student Scholarships and Awards – Chuck Cichra said that eighteen student travel grants were awarded this year. We only had enough money to fund 17 travel grants this year based on the amount of funds raised from last year’s raffle, but that the ExCom decided to use general chapter revenue to fund the eighteenth travel grant. Students receiving awards represented Florida International University, Louisiana State University, University of Miami, University of South Florida, and the University of Florida. Chuck then gave the history of the Rottman scholarship and summarized the recipient applications. Gregory Hill of Florida International University received the M.S. Rottman award, and Amanda Croteau, of the University of Florida, received the PhD Rottman award. Each was presented with a certificate and a \$500 check.

### **Student Subunit Report**

Chelsey Crandall said that the student blog “Reefs to Rivers” is still going strong and that they have had 21k views. They also have a Facebook page. These outlets serve as good connections for students at different university in the state. The Subunit has an email list serve set up for student members. Florida Chapter Student Subunit members also met at the 2015 Portland meeting. Chelsey said the Subunit would also like to use part of the raffle proceeds to fund student travel grants for the annual Southern Division meeting. Chelsey also promoted fundraising for the student social at the 2017 meeting in Tampa. Incoming Subunit officers are: John Hargrove – President, Emily Gipson – Vice President, Amanda Croteau – Secretary/Treasurer, and University Liaison – Natalie Simon.

### **Old Business**

Travis Tuten and Kerry Flaherty-Walia gave a PowerPoint presentation update about the hosting of the AFS 2017 Annual Meeting. Highlights of their presentation included information about: the June 2015 and November 2015 site visits to Tampa by AFS staff; the January 2016 conference call between AFS staff and FLAFS committee chairs; the 2017 venues and contracts that are already in place for the meeting including the Tampa

Convention Center, Tampa Marriott Waterside, Lowry Park Zoo, The Florida Aquarium, and potentially the Tampa Bay History Center; the 2017 AFS Help and Contracted Services that are already in place for the meeting; the 2017 Meeting Website; the responsibilities of FLAFS host chapter at the 2016 Kansas City Meeting; the logo poster for the 2017 meeting is finished and available to take and pass out to others or post at your work place; and the current action items for hosting the 2017 meeting with a priority on sponsorship. Kathy Guindon then gave an update on sponsorship/fundraising, and asked for more people to join this committee to help out with fundraising for the 2017 meeting. She sent around a sign-up sheet for anyone willing to help. Chuck Cichra asked about the raffle at the national meeting. Chuck Cichra said that if a fundraising raffle is held at the 2017 meeting, it is his understating that raffle proceeds would be split 50/50 between the host chapter and AFS Parent.

### **Installation of New Officers**

Jennifer Rehage announced Jeff Hill as the new President-elect and that Kevin Johnson is remaining the Secretary/Treasurer for at least another year. She then turned the meeting over to Andy Strickland as the new President. Andy gave Jennifer a plaque to thank her for her service as President. He also gave a plaque to Chelsey Crandall in thanks for her term as Student Subunit President.

### **New business**

Andy Strickland gave information about the AFS Incredible Skinner Challenge proposal that the Florida Chapter contribute \$500 to the Skinner Memorial Fund. Eric Nagid moved to contribute \$500 to the Skinner Memorial Fund, Chris Bradshaw seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Andy then brought up the idea of having the 2017 Florida Chapter Business Meeting at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Tampa. Discussion ensued about whether we would have our Chapter Business Meeting sometime in the spring of 2017 at a predetermined location or at the 2017 Meeting in Tampa. Kerry Flaherty-Walia moved that we hold the 2017 Florida Chapter Business Meeting at the 2017 Meeting in Tampa, Chris Bradshaw seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Kevin Johnson brought up the question of how the Chapter should collect dues for 2017 since we are hosting the 2017 Annual Meeting in Tampa since we normally collect the majority of the Chapter dues at our Chapter's Annual Meeting in the spring. Discussion ensued and it was suggested that the Chapter us all means to collect 2017 Chapter dues including online through our Chapter's website and at the 2017 Annual Meeting registration booths. Bob Heagey moved that we collect 2017 Chapter dues at the AFS 2017 Annual Meeting in Tampa, Chris Bradshaw seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Chuck Cichra asked about the Chapter's raffle at the AFS 2017 Annual Meeting in Tampa. Discussion ensued about whether we would have our normal Chapter's raffle in

addition to the Annual Meeting raffle. Andy Strickland moved that we have one big raffle at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Tampa, Bob Heagey seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Andy Strickland moved to adjourn the business meeting and Chris Bradshaw seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2020.