

**Minutes of the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Chapter  
American Fisheries Society  
April 12, 2018  
FFA Leadership Training Center, Haines City, Florida**

President Jeff Hill called the meeting to order at 1910 hours and Kevin Johnson established a quorum.

Past-presidents of the Florida Chapter in attendance were acknowledged: Andy Strickland, Wes Porak, Chuck Cichra, Eric Nagid, and Rich McBride.

Past-presidents of the Southern Division in attendance were acknowledged: Wes Porak.

There were no additions or revisions to the agenda for the 38th Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society Business Meeting, and Jeff Hill asked for and received approval of the agenda.

Wes Porak gave an update on Southern Division business, and talked at length about the 2018 Southern Division meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico that still took place despite the recent hurricanes. Wes talked about how successful the meeting was and how good the presentations were at the meeting even with lower than normal attendance, and that a benefit of the lower attendance was that attendees to really got to know each other. Wes also mentioned that a highlight of the meeting for him and especially Kim Bonvechio (Southern Division Secretary/Treasurer & Florida Chapter member) was the trash pick-up at the estuary program service day which made plastic pollution really hit home. Wes also talked about the importance and benefits of becoming a member of AFS. Wes stated the 2019 Southern Division meeting will be in Galveston, Texas. Wes then talked about the great support and partnership the Florida Chapter and the Southern Division had in making the 2017 Tampa Annual Meeting such a success, and how the Southern Division made a healthy profit from helping with the Tampa meeting and that money raised will be used for supporting student travel. Wes then finished up by talking about the benefits of becoming an AFS member, in particular the benefits for student and young-professional members, and that AFS is actively involved in national politics by defending science and promoting sound scientific policies in Washington D.C.

Secretary/Treasurer Kevin Johnson asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the 37th (2017) Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society was they appeared in the Shellcracker newsletter, the motion was then seconded and passed.

Kevin Johnson then presented the 2017 Treasurer's Report. The chapter ended the year with \$37,793 in total assets, a \$5,912 loss from the beginning of the year. Chapter expenses put toward the hosting of the Tampa meeting accounted for much of this loss. However, Kevin stated that the chapter will more than make up for this loss with our Tampa meeting profit of \$47,191 that will be applied to the 2018 budget year. Kevin also gave an update on the Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship Fund via an email from

Larry Connor. The Fund had assets of \$32,491 as of 31 December 2017, representing a \$1,491.80 increase from the 31 December 2016 assets of \$30,999.

Past-President Andy Strickland then facilitated elections for chapter President-Elect. Candidates Chelsey Crandall and Bob Heagey each gave a brief bio about themselves and their vision as chapter president, and then ballots were cast.

### **Committee Reports**

Membership – Kevin Johnson gave an update on membership via an email from Larry Connor. Since the Chapter did not hold its regular spring annual meeting, the ExCom directed me to carry over all 2016 members for 2017. This was done since members that pay their dues at the Chapter annual meeting might not be attending the annual meeting in Tampa. The Florida Chapter ended the year with 309 members including those carried over. The Chapter's paid 2017 membership, was 212 with 97 members carried over from 2016. The Chapter's membership included 59 student members and 203 Society members. The student membership represents an increase of nine members from 2016. There were 142 society members in 2016. However, the increase to 203 society members in 2017 is likely an artifact of holding our annual meeting at the Society's annual meeting and probably does not represent any real change in the Chapter's membership statistics.

Newsletter – Kevin Johnson said that Jessica Feltz, the Shellcracker newsletter editor, moved to take a job in Arkansas, so the chapter is looking for a new editor.

Website – Kevin Johnson stated that Eric Sawyers, who was not able to attend the business meeting, is doing a great job maintaining the chapter's website.

Raffle – Andy Strickland talked about the success of the raffle/silent auction that he and Alan Collins ran at the Tampa meeting and the profit we made for chapter student travel. Andy then talked about how he and Alan are retiring from running the chapter's raffle committee, and how great it was to work with Alan and that Alan is really the one responsible for the success of the raffle every year. Andy also talked about how fun the raffle was to run for all those years and that it was a rewarding experience, and that whoever takes over running the raffle will also find it to be a rewarding experience. Jeff then acknowledged Andy and Alan for the great job they did for many years running the chapter's raffle committee.

Student Scholarships and Awards – Chuck Cichra reminded everyone that proceeds from the previous year's raffle funds student travel grants for this year's chapter meeting. Chuck then said that twenty-two student travel grants were awarded this year. Chuck then thanked the ExCom for using general chapter revenue to make up the difference to fund all 22 travel grants. Students receiving travel grant awards were then acknowledged, and represented Jacksonville University, University of North Florida, Florida International University, Florida State University, Florida Atlantic University, University of South Florida, and the University of Florida. Chuck then gave the history of the Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship and summarized the recipient applications. Meaghan

Faletti, of the University of South Florida, received the M.S. Rottmann award, and Shane Ramee, of the University of Florida, received the PhD Rottmann award. Each was presented with a certificate and a \$1,000 check.

Florida Chapter Awards – Eric Nagid gave a brief summary of the career of Rich Cailteux and the history of the Rich Cailteux Award, which is meant to recognize individuals for their career contributions to the fisheries profession and the Florida Chapter. Dr. Chuck Cichra was then named the 7<sup>th</sup> recipient of the Rich Cailteux Award and he received a standing ovation. Eric then read the Chuck's nomination letter and presented Chuck with the award. Chuck then thanked everyone for the nomination.

### **Student Subunit Report**

Amanda Croteau talked about the Subunit using their money, and proceeds from the Sheepshead Shuffle, to fund student travel to Southern Division and Annual Meetings. Amanda said that two students were funded to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting in Atlantic City, but that no students have applied for Subunit travel grants to Southern Division meetings. Amanda then promoted Subunit fundraising efforts, which included the 2018 Sheepshead Shuffle, Chapter logo buffs, and Amazon Smile. Amanda also talked about students writing for the Subunit blog and Facebook account, and thanked the Subunit and Crandall's for this year's meeting workshop. Amanda then announced the incoming Subunit officers: Natalie Simon (UF) – President, Allison Durland Donahou (UF) – Vice President, Beth Bowers (FAU) – Secretary/Treasurer, and University Liaison – Lauren Kircher (FAU). Amanda was then presented with a plaque for her service as Subunit President.

### **Old Business**

Jeff Hill reminded everyone that a motion passed at the previous year's business meeting that increased the Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship award amount from \$500 to \$1,000 per the two students, and that chapter needed to have a discussion as to how to fund this increase. Jeff then reminded everyone that the Rottmann Scholarships are funded with annual profits from the scholarship's mutual fund, and also stated that the amount of principal in the mutual fund would have to double to support this increase in the award amount to allow for a double in annual profits. It was stated that a double in mutual fund principal could be accomplished with chapter profits from the Tampa meeting. It was then recommended that an Ad Hoc committee be formed to address what to do with Tampa Meeting profits and Rottmann funding issues. A discussion ensued with Chuck Cichra and Jeff Greenspan about the current amount of money in the Rottmann mutual fund, how much money would actually need to be added to the mutual fund to account for the award increase, and different strategies for accomplishing an increase in the mutual fund's principal. Wes Porak then asked about the concept of this Ad Hoc committee, in which Jeff Hill gave his impression of the committee's duties. Jeff Hill then asked for and received motion for the creation of this Ad Hoc committee, which was seconded and passed.

## **Installation of New Officers**

Andy Strickland announced Bob Heagey as the new President-elect and that Kevin Johnson is staying on as Secretary/Treasurer for one more year. Jeff Hill then turned the meeting over to Nick Trippel as the new President. Nick then gave Jeff a plaque and thanked him for his service as chapter President.

## **New business**

Nick Trippel said the chapter had received a proposal to sponsor Catfish 2020 – The 3rd International Catfish Symposium and that he felt a sponsorship \$500 would be appropriate. Wes Porak moved to contribute \$500 to the Catfish 2020 meeting, which was seconded and passed.

Jeff Hill then informed the chapter that he, with approval from the ExCom, had written a letter on behalf of the Florida Chapter AFS, to State of Florida congressional representatives in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Nick Trippel then asked the business meeting attendees if holding next year's chapter annual meeting in April was a good idea. Andy Strickland asked about April timing of the chapter annual meeting for students. Discussion ensued, and most attendees felt that holding next year's chapter annual meeting in April was appropriate.

Andy Strickland spoke about finding a new chairperson and members for the Raffle Committee. Andy and Alan Colling both again stated that they are ready to move on from hosting the raffle, but that they will help transition the new raffle chairperson and committee next year. A sign-up sheet for the new raffle committee was placed in the back of the business meeting for anyone wanting to volunteer.

Nick Trippel then spoke about the idea of having a Florida Chapter event outside of our annual meeting to give back to the community and to increase relevancy of Chapter members. Discussion ensued where Andy Strickland brought up the idea of a river/stream clean-up and Brandon Thompson brought up the idea of a family fishing event. Wes Porak raised the idea of creating an Ad Hoc committee to come up with and lead a chapter project. A sign-up sheet for the chapter's Project Committee was placed in the back of the business meeting for anyone wanting to volunteer.

Nick Trippel motioned to adjourn the business meeting. The motion was seconded and passed at 2037.