

**Minutes of the 39th Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Chapter
American Fisheries Society
April 4, 2019
FFA Leadership Training Center, Haines City, Florida**

President Nick Trippel called the meeting to order at 1915 hours and Kevin Johnson established a quorum.

Current officers, past-presidents, and committee chairs of the Florida Chapter were read and those in attendance were acknowledged: Nick Trippel, Bob Heagey, Kevin Johnson, Jeff Hill, Allison Durland Donahou, Beth Bowers, Lauren Kircher, Amanda Croteau, Chelsey Crandall, Eric Nagid, Chuck Cichra, Wes Porak, Mike Murphy, Kerry Flaherty, Travis Tuten, and Chris Bradshaw.

There were no additions or revisions to the agenda for the 39th Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society Business Meeting, and Nick Trippel asked for and received approval of the agenda.

Wes Porak gave an update on AFS and Southern Division AFS business and talked about that if you are a member of AFS (parent society) then you are automatically a member of your division, in our case the Southern Division. Wes talked about how successful the 2019 Southern Division meeting in Galveston, Texas was, and that attendance exceeded 550 people which is a very big meeting for the division. Wes highlighted the number of women in ExCom positions within AFS and the women's fisheries group started at the Tampa meeting, and that women's involvement and promoting diversity in AFS and in AFS leadership positions is a current priority for the society. Wes then mentioned the Southern Division listserv and how to get on that listserv. Wes stated the 2020 Southern Division meeting will be in Little Rock, Arkansas and that the Third International Catfish Symposium (Catfish 2020), will overlap with the Southern Division's annual meeting. Wes also stated that the Southern Division is partnering with AFS headquarters to host the 2021 AFS Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD. Wes then stated that the 2019 AFS Annual Meeting will be in Reno, NV and will be a joint meeting with the Wildlife Society. Wes then mentioned the priorities for the current AFS president, which includes gaps in professional development, improving upon AFS' already great publications, and promoting diversity within AFS and the fisheries profession. Wes then finished up by mentioning the benefits of becoming an AFS member, and then a video from AFS headquarters was played to elaborate on these benefits and other highlights of what AFS does and provides to its members.

Secretary/Treasurer Kevin Johnson asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the 38th (2018) Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Chapter American Fisheries Society as they appeared in the July 2018 Shellcracker newsletter, the motion was then seconded and passed.

Kevin Johnson then presented the 2018 Treasurer's Report. The chapter ended the year with \$83,727 in total assets, a \$45,934 gain from the beginning of the year. Income from

hosting the Tampa meeting accounted for most of this gain. Kevin also gave an update on the Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship Fund via an email from Larry Connor. The Fund had assets of \$29,507 as of 31 December 2018, representing a \$2,984 decrease from the 31 December 2017 assets of \$32,491.

Past-President Jeff Hill then facilitated elections for chapter President-Elect. Candidates Dan Nelson and Quenton Tuckett each gave a 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. The Florida Chapter ended the year with 214 members. This represented an increase of 2 members from 2017. Of the 2018 members, a total of 58 members paid their dues at the annual meeting, 147 through the society, 3 direct payments, 5 through PayPal on the chapter website, and 1 complementary membership. Larry did not include any comparisons to the 2017 membership since the Chapter hosted the American Fisheries Society's annual meeting in Tampa. Since the Chapter did not hold its regular spring annual meeting, the ExCom directed Larry to carry over all 2016 members for 2017. This changed the 2017 membership statistics and invalidated any comparisons with 2018. The Chapter's membership included 57 student members. Approximately 82% of the chapter members, 176, were also Society members. And, there were 84 paid attendees at the Chapter's 2018 annual meeting.

Newsletter – Kevin Johnson said that Scott Bisping, the Shellcracker newsletter editor, who was not able to attend the business meeting, is doing a great job and will stay on as editor for the next year.

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 and will continue to maintain the website into the foreseeable future.

Raffle – Amanda Croteau started by thanking the 34 business that donated items to the raffle and that all the items in the raffle/silent auction had a value of greater than three thousand dollars. Amanda then thanked everyone who helped gather and solicit items for the raffle including: Chelsey, Jeff, Beth, Lauren, Natalie, Allison, Kathy, Andy, Alan, and Chuck. Amanda then urged everyone to buy raffle tickets and bid on auction item to raise money for student travel to next year's chapter meeting.

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 and urged everyone to buy raffle tickets. Chuck then said that fifteen student travel grants were awarded this year. Chuck then stated that the ExCom may need to consider changes to how student travel grants are awarded in the future, because funding all students every year may not be sustainable since the costs of meals and lodging at our new venue are higher. Chuck then thanked the ExCom for using general chapter revenue to make up the

difference to fund all 15 travel grants this year. Students who received travel grant awards were then acknowledged, and represented Florida International 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. Marina Schwartz, of the University of Florida, received the M.S. Rottmann award, and Justin Lewis, 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. Richard “Ed” Matheson Jr. was then named the 8th recipient of the Rich Cailteux Award and he received a standing ovation. Eric then presented Ed with the award and read his nomination letter.

Student Subunit Report

Allison Durland Donahou announced the incoming Subunit officers: Allison Durland Donahou (UF) – President, Beth Bowers (FAU) – Vice President, Lauren Kircher (FAU) – Secretary/Treasurer, and Grace Sowaske (UF) – University Liaison. Allison then talked about the travel grants that the subunit and the chapter awarded to students in 2018, which included one subunit travel grant and two chapter travel grants to the Atlantic City AFS annual meeting. Allison then reminded the chapter to support subunit fundraising efforts which include signing up for the 3rd annual Sheepshead Shuffle and the subunit’s Amazon Smile account, and buying FLAFS buffs and hats, and that proceeds from these efforts are used to fund student travel to Southern Division and Annual Meetings. Allison reminded students to apply for subunit travel grants, and that no students applied for subunit travel grants to the 2019 Southern Division meeting. Allison also talked about students writing for the Subunit blog and Facebook account, and that students or professional can write blogs.

Old Business

Nick Trippel acknowledged members of the Project/Service Ad Hoc Committee and that the committee came up with the idea of having statewide aquatic/waterbody cleanup events, and that several of these events were planned and already took place with great success even though these events were planned last-minute. Nick then showed pictures from the events that already took place. Nick then stated that this committee recommended making these cleanups annual events and that the committee recommended aligning these cleanups with International Coastal Cleanup Day which takes place on the third Saturday in September. Nick then asked the chapter for a motion to continue with these cleanup events in the future and to align them with International Coastal Cleanup Day, Wes Porak then raised the idea of having a competition for the event that picks up the most trash, the motion was then seconded and passed.

Eric Nagid then gave a report for the AFS 2017 Funds Ad Hoc Committee, which was formed to explore uses of the profit earned by the Florida Chapter AFS from hosting the 147th Annual Meeting in Tampa, profit estimated to be about \$33,000 and therefore available for FL Chapter projects, activities, or donations. Eric stated that many ideas for the use of these funds were discussed by the committee, but that for the sake of time, he reported on the top three recommendations, which included: (1) increase the amount of money in Rottmann scholarship fund by \$15,000 to maximize the gains generated by the fund and be more capable of withstanding the annual scholarship withdrawals totaling \$2,000, (2) send the winner of the FL Chapter AFS Best Student Paper to the AFS meeting of their choice and support all travel expenses with the stipulation of this support is that they are required to then compete at the AFS Best Student Presentation Symposium and acknowledge the FL Chapter for their travel support in hopes that other states may offer the same incentive and opportunity, and (3) a one-time donation in the amount of \$8,000 to be split evenly between each of the 3 youth conservations centers (FYCCN) in Florida and the University of Florida's Fishing for Success program and that donated funds may be used for any of the program's needs (e.g. supplies, field trip transportation, etc.), with the recommendation that each program acknowledge the Florida Chapter by displaying the Chapter's logo at regular events. Discussion ensued, and the question was asked if there was enough money to fund all three idea. That question was answered by Eric with a "Yes", which led Alexis Trotter to make a motion that all three ideas be funded, this motion was then seconded and passed.

Installation of New Officers

Nick Trippel announced Dan Nelson as the new President-Elect and that Chris Anderson will become the next Secretary/Treasurer. Nick then turned the meeting over to Bob Heagey as the new Chapter President. Bob then gave Nick a plaque and thanked him for his service as the outgoing Chapter President, and though not in attendance, Natalie Simon was acknowledged with a plaque for her service as the outgoing Subunit President.

New business

Kerry Flaherty-Walia went over the idea that had been raised by the ExCom and other members of the chapter about the potential formation of a Marketing & Membership Initiative Ad Hoc Committee. The goals of this committee would be to make sure website stays up to date and fresh, summarize symposia that have taken at prior chapter meetings, invest time in social media outlets and other forms of advertising to raise awareness of FLAFS and the fisheries profession, and lastly promote the FL Chapter AFS to universities, agencies, and private sector to increase membership, participation in our annual meeting, and sponsorship opportunities. Kerry then commented on the issues of having a continuing education workshop over lunch on the second day of the meeting, and that a workshop on the first half-day of our annual meeting may be a better idea. Allison Durland Donahou commented that the student subunit still wants to help and be a part of continuing education workshops. Eric Nagid commented that there needs to be more chapter involvement in marketing and membership initiatives and made a motion

that Kerry chair a newly created Marketing & Membership Initiative Ad Hoc Committee and create and chair a Continuing Education Ad Hoc Committee. Discussion ensued, and Bob Heagey said there should be signup sheets for anyone willing to chair these committees or for anyone wanting to be a part of these committees. Wes Porak agreed there should be signup sheets for these committees and a motion was made to form both ad hoc committees and their signup sheets, this motion was then seconded and passed.

A solicitation for a \$5,000 Florida Chapter sponsorship, from AFS headquarters, for the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program was tabled until next year given the money the chapter already earmarked earlier in the business meeting for the top three recommendations from the AFS 2017 Funds Ad Hoc Committee.

Kevin Johnson then stated that the 2020 FL Chapter Annual Meeting will again take place in April, here at the FFA Center and that 2020 meeting costs will likely be similar to this year's meeting for conference travel planning purposes. Kevin also commented on why registration and lodging costs increased for this year's meeting.

Bob Heagey then motioned to adjourn the business meeting. The motion was seconded and passed at 2040 hours.