

MINUTES OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF BENTHOLOGISTS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING  
24 APRIL 1997

Location: Reedy Creek Improvement District, Lake Buena Vista, Florida

Members Present: William M. Bartodziej, Treasurer; Michael Crikis, President; Douglas G. Strom, State Government Representative and Executive Committee Chair; Albert S. (Ford) Walton, President-Elect; Michael R. Milligan, Environmental Consulting Firm Representative; Marc Minno, Member at Large.

Doug Strom called the meeting to order at 1600h.

Doug called for approval of minutes from the previous F.A.B. Executive Committee Meeting held December 6, 1996 that were published in the January, 1997 Florida Benthological Newsletter. Mike Milligan moved for the approval as published and Phyllis Guthrie seconded the motion.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Bill Bartodziej, Treasurer, submitted and discussed the F.A.B. expense report for the period 1 January through 19 March. Treasurer's report was approved. Bill steps down from Treasurer due to new employment. He was thanked for his service and he will be greatly missed. A temporary Treasurer will fill in until elections are held at the annual meeting.

Marianne Whitehurst, Membership Chairman, handed out 2 versions of the present membership. One list included past, present, and members not currently up-to-date on dues. This list totaled 172 members. The second list included only those current on dues and some "honorary" members. This list totaled 92 members. Marianne asked for opinions on these lists and any suggestions for changes. Doug Strom suggested listing last names first, dating these lists, and adding e-mail addresses.

Mike Milligan's term as Award of Excellence Committee Chairman is up; however, he agreed to continue to fill the chair. He asked for input on the proposed award that will be given at the annual meeting in St. Petersburg, December 1997.

No reports from the following committees due to absence of chairperson: ERC, Literature Review, Internet, and Editorial.

Marc Minno, Bylaws Committee Chairman, was thanked again for the time put in on the Constitution and Bylaws.

### Old Business

Marc Minno will be responsible for providing a bound ledger at the next meeting. This ledger will allow attendees to sign in and will provide a reference of attendance for all future meetings.

Some more logos were presented by Marianne Whitehurst. Llyn French with FMRI has worked very hard with these, providing the membership with several good choices. Six were chosen as favorites with a request of minor changes on three of them. Marianne requested that Llyn French be compensated for some of her time. The Executive Committee agreed to paying Ms. French for her efforts. There will be an attempt to provide a prototype tri-fold brochure at the spring NABS meeting. However, the final brochure will not be generated until a decision by the entire membership has been made on the official logo. Marianne welcomed more suggestions for the brochure.

Phyllis Guthrie nominated Jerrell Daigle to temporarily fill the chair of Treasurer, until elections were held at the annual meeting. Bill Bartodziej seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### New Business

Since this is the tenth anniversary for F.A.B., Doug suggested we plan something special for the annual meeting. The next newsletter should also mention this milestone.

Doug suggested that the membership list be published every 2 years in the newsletter. An attempt for a 10th Anniversary Edition will be made to include all previous members. Doug also suggested polling members for e-mail addresses, Suncom numbers, fax numbers, and professional interest.

Contingency plans were suggested for a possible cancellation of the Keys meeting in the event of another threatening weather condition. Due to October 1st being the rate change for the Keys, it was generally agreed unnecessary and too difficult to establish an alternate set of plans.

Doug adjourned the meeting at 1740h.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert P. Rutter, F.A.B. Secretary  
5 May 1997

**MINUTES OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF BENTHOLOGISTS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING  
9 OCTOBER 1997**

Location: Lime Tree Bay Resort, Long Key, Florida

Members Present: Michael Crikis, President; Craig Duxbury, Industry/Commercial Representative; David J. Karlen, Member at Large; Robert A. Mattson, Newsletter Editor; Michael R. Milligan, Consultant Representative; Robert P. Rutter, Secretary; Douglas G. Strom, State Government Representative and Executive Committee Chair; Albert S. (Ford) Walton, President-Elect.

Doug Strom called the meeting to order at 1606h, and reminded those present that this is the tenth-year anniversary of F.A.B.

**Reading and Approval of Previous Minutes.** Minutes of the previous EC meeting in April are pending and not available for reading, so Doug proposed that we forego the reading until the annual meeting in St. Petersburg in December.

**Reports of Officers and Standing Committees**

Rob Mattson, Newsletter Editor, sporting his newly acquired stonefly body art (*Acroneuria* sp.), again requested help from the membership regarding book and article reviews. Doug commented that the group digital photo taken at the spring workshop (by Ford Walton) looked good in the May Newsletter, and should become a regular event at our meetings. Doug also asked Rob to look into the cost of a “non-profit organization postage paid permit” for Newsletter mailings.

Michael Milligan, Award of Excellence Committee Chair, reported that he has received two nominations and is still soliciting. Doug reminded Michael, and others, that some committees will need new members as of next year, and to consult the terms listing and By-Laws.

Doug commented that the Environmental Requirements Committee has been inactive for some time, and that this subject may be inappropriate for the Association at this time. Comments from the membership would be appreciated.

**Unfinished Business from Previous Meetings**

Doug reported that Marc Minno, Chair of the By-Laws Committee, had provided a ledger book for “sign-ins” at our meetings and workshops. The ledger will be a historical record of attendees, and will enjoy first use at the present meeting. Doug thanked Marc for donating the ledger.

Doug informed those present that the F.A.B. logo project is winding down and that three “finalists” will be presented to the membership at the December meeting. Once selected, work can begin on producing the F.A.B. trifold brochure. Dave Karlen suggested that perhaps an F.A.B. poster/logo can be prepared for the marine oriented Benthic Ecology

meeting to be held in Melbourne in March 1997, and the North American Benthological Society meeting in April 1997.

Doug, speaking as a member of the Internet Committee, reported that the F.A.B. web page can be accessed at <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fab/> . It's still developing, so check it out and give him or Webmaster Greg Graves your comments on how to improve it - comments can be e-mailed directly from the web site. Future plans include the logo and a link to an on-line membership list. Benthic consultants should be aware of our "Consultant's Corner." The question was raised, should the F.A.B. Newsletter be included on the web page, and if so, in whole or in part. After some discussion it was decided that the entire Newsletter should be made available, because it would help promote F.A.B.

Doug reported that nominations need to be made for Secretary, Treasurer, and President Elect. Jim Hulbert's term on the EC as Immediate Past President will expire after the annual business meeting. He will be replaced by Mike Crikis; Ford Walton will assume the EC position Mike held, and Ford's position will be assumed by the new President Elect. Phyllis Guthrie's term as Nominations Committee Chair will soon expire; should she not want to continue, a replacement will be needed.

### **New Business**

Doug asked whether we should publish a membership list in the Newsletter or as a special issue. Rob said he would include it in a regular issue of the Newsletter.

Doug asked Ford to think about the theme and location of the upcoming spring workshop. Ford was quick to respond that the Riverwoods Field Laboratory in Florida would be an option. This facility was highlighted earlier in the day as part of a presentation given by Dr. Carlos de la Rosa, Director. The laboratory serves as the central staging area for Kissimmee River restoration research. [The facility's web site is <http://riverwoods.ces.fau.edu>]. Dave Karlen suggested one topic could be exotic freshwater species.

Dave Camp, Local Arrangements Chairman for the upcoming annual meeting at the Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI) in St. Petersburg, suggested that perhaps membership and registration fees could be waived for FMRI personnel who attend the meeting. Doug remarked that it has not been our policy to police meeting attendees; however, compensation would be expected for social activities and meals. He invited any interested FMRI workers to audit the meeting on behalf of F.A.B.

Doug adjourned the meeting at 1647h.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert P. Rutter, F.A.B. Secretary  
24 October 1997

**MINUTES OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF BENTHOLOGISTS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING  
2 DECEMBER 1997**

Location: Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI), St. Petersburg, Florida.

Members Present: David J. Karlen, Member at Large; Marc Minno, Member at Large; Robert P. Rutter, Secretary; Douglas G. Strom, State Government Representative and Executive Committee Chair; Albert S. (Ford) Walton, President-Elect. Alternates; Palmer Kinser, Eric Pluchino, Marianne Whitehurst.

Doug Strom called the meeting to order at 1710h, and handed out the latest revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws, and minutes of the April and October EC meetings.

**Reading and Approval of Previous Minutes.** Doug called for any corrections to minutes of the previous EC meetings in April and October; there were none. In the interest of time, Doug proposed that we forego reading the minutes, and that they be approved as distributed. Ford seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Reports of Officers and Standing Committees**

Marianne Whitehurst, chair of the Membership Committee, handed out two examples of new and improved membership lists; a blue list of the entire membership compiled since the beginning (181 names), and a yellow list of dues-paying members, trial members, and honorary members (94). After some discussion it was agreed that the Newsletter would be mailed only to those on the yellow list. Doug suggested an inactive list for purged names, and asked Marianne if she could prepare charts or graphs that summarize trends in F.A.B. membership that could be included in future meetings. Marianne has been compiling e-mail addresses, and Greg Graves has been using them on our web site.

David Evans, speaking on behalf of Phyllis Guthrie, Nominating Committee chair, reported on nominees for the following positions: President-Elect, Marc Minno; Secretary, Joy Jackson and Bob Rutter; Treasurer, Lynn Denahan. Bob and Dave Camp will prepare ballots for tomorrow's voting.

Doug reported that Gary Warren, because of his increased workload, has resigned his positions of Assistant Editor, Literature Review Committee chair, and member of the Awards Committee. Doug thanked Gary for his many years of active involvement with F.A.B., and looks forward to continued interaction with him as a regular member. Jim Hulbert will assume the position of Assistant Newsletter Editor, and will be supported in this role by Linda Lord who has a strong background in style editing.

Doug also informed the group that Jerrell Daigle, Acting Treasurer, has had a job transfer and probably won't be able to maintain the level of F.A.B. participation that he has of late, and therefore an official Treasurer's report was not available at this time. Doug thanked Jerrell for his involvement.

Marc Minno and Palmer Kinser have made minor changes to the Constitution and By-Laws (CBL's) to provide for terms of some committee members, and to recognize that the CBL's were adopted by the association as a whole, not just by the EC. Doug suggested that perhaps Linda Lord, with her editing background, could review the CBL's.

Doug reported that he has asked Phil Kane, chair of the Environmental Requirements Committee, to look into the federal effort in this regard, and how we might get access to the information. Greg Graves suggested that we create a master species list, tolerances, and related indices on the web site. It may be possible to link to the FDEP Biology Section database.

### **Unfinished Business from Previous Meetings**

Marianne reported that six logo "finalist" designs have been selected, and a ballot is being prepared for membership voting tomorrow. Llyn French, staff artist at FMRI, deserves much of the credit for logo development. Doug suggested that we begin looking into ideas for the F.A.B. trifold brochure, which could include digital photos and a reference to our web site.

Greg Graves, F.A.B. Webmaster and chair of the Internet Committee, reported that he will demonstrate our web page tomorrow, following his 8:45 presentation. There have been some kinks in converting the Newsletter. Dave Camp thinks that FDEP may have Adobe software that will correct the problem.

### **New Business**

Doug brought up Rob Mattson's idea, first presented as an editorial in the September 1997 Newsletter, of having a special session at each of the annual meetings devoted to comparative benthic community ecological studies of various aquatic ecosystems throughout Florida, with accompanying manuscripts that could be published in a peer-reviewed journal or proceedings document. Group discussion indicated that manuscript preparation and publication may be overly ambitious, but we should continue David Karlen's effort at this meeting of including presentation abstracts with the agenda. There was also agreement on incorporating the special session concept at the annual meetings.

Palmer suggested that e-mailing the Newsletter might be more efficient and cost less than mailing paper copies. Doug added that our web page was also an option, and that paper copies could be optional. Palmer mentioned that the University of Florida's Center for Aquatic Plants has a good newsletter web site that could prove instructive. Following considerable discussion it was decided that this is a concept worthy of consideration, but we need to phase into it.

David Evans, F.A.B. Registered Agent, proposed future involvement of F.A.B. with volunteer water resource evaluation groups. For example, we could provide macroinvertebrate related and other services for selected groups. Doug suggested doing this on a case by case basis, and that perhaps endowment funds could be used. Several members of the group offered other suggestions, such as providing environmental education and training workshops [for schools/teachers, 4-H and related groups, Lake

Watch type groups, county personnel, etc.] at our spring or fall meetings, and creating a "speakers list" for public involvement. This would be a way to market F.A.B. as well as meet the public service requirements of our non-profit status. David will pursue the idea and would appreciate receiving any suggestions from the membership.

Doug stated that we need to vitalize the Endowment Committee/Chair, and develop specific funds for specific purposes. The committee should probably be linked with the Treasurer who would manage the records. It was pointed out that the present meeting included some student poster presentations, and perhaps a "Student Poster Award" might be an option. David has designed an Endowment Fund contribution form which will be sent to all members and included on our web site. Doug interjected tis the season to be jolly and make tax-deductible contributions!

Doug introduced a motion that we begin numbering our annual meetings as a way to confer a sense of continuity and permanence for F.A.B. and its annual meetings. [The present meeting is the 11th Annual, and the 25th overall]. Ford seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

David Karlen, Program Chair for this meeting, suggested that we need to consider holidays *re* getting maximum attendance, and that one way of doing this might be to move the annual meeting to mid November. Also, it would be nice if the meeting agendas were finalized and made available to the membership earlier, say in the preceding newsletters. Ford will look into this. David added that another way for F.A.B. to branch out would be to organize a session at another society's meeting.

David Karlen and Dave Camp discussed the need to continue caretaking the invertebrate collection at FMRI because it's possible that it may be phased out. This generated considerable discussion during which it became apparent that those present felt the collection should be maintained. Dave Camp will prepare a note for the Newsletter describing the benefits of the collection and the need to support it.

There being no additional new business, Doug adjourned the meeting at 1910h.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert P. Rutter, F.A.B. Secretary  
14 December 1997

**MINUTES OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF BENTHOLOGISTS**  
**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**3 DECEMBER 1997**

Location: Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI), St. Petersburg, Florida.

The 1997 F.A.B. Business Meeting was called to order at 1050h by President-Elect Albert "Ford" Walton, filling in for the acting President, Mike Crikis. Ford welcomed the participants and previewed the agenda: (1) logo selection, (2) Constitution and By-Laws revisions, (3) election of officers, and (4) committee reports.

Marianne Whitehurst and Dave Camp introduced Llyn French, a staff artist at FMRI, who has been instrumental in the development of the F.A.B. logo, incorporating suggestions from many individuals over a several-month period. She handed out photocopies of the six finalist designs, numbered one through six. The membership was instructed to rank their selections, with the first choice worth six points, the second choice worth five points, and so on. There will be only one official organization logo, but other designs might be used in the future on items such as shirts, caps, coffee cups, etc.

Revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws had been made available in the breakroom during the meeting. Ford summarized the changes, considered minor overall. After several questions from the membership, Rob Mattson moved that the revisions be accepted as written; Dave Karlen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously by voice vote.

David Evans, acting as an alternate for Phyllis Guthrie, chair of the Nominating Committee, asked that ballots for election of officers be handed out. Positions to be filled were (1) President-Elect, nominee Marc Minno, (2) Secretary, nominees Joy Jackson and Bob Rutter, and (3) Treasurer, nominee Lynn Denahan. All positions also had a write-in option. As voting was in progress, David challenged the membership to think of creative ways that F.A.B. might practice public outreach, to the citizenry, legislators, and regulators. Such efforts would be in keeping with our status as a non-profit organization. Perhaps the Newsletter would be a useful vehicle.

Ford called for Committee reports and introduced Doug Strom, chair of the Executive Committee, who summarized the people and events of F.A.B. in 1997. Doug's address is attached to these minutes.

Peggy Morgan announced results of the ballot voting. Newly elected officers are President-Elect Marc Minno, Secretary Bob Rutter, and Treasurer Lynn Denahan. The preferred logo was choice number 3, its free-flowing appearance and the inclusion of both freshwater and marine invertebrates made for a real crowd pleaser. Good work Llyn! David Evans suggested that the logo be colorful, and that the present Newsletter letterhead be retained.



Michael Milligan, chair of the Awards Committee, reported that he has had two nominees for the Award of Excellence, and that he is still accepting nominations. Traditionally this award has been presented at the Spring workshop, but not this time. Quite to Mike's surprise, Ford presented *him* with the F.A.B. Award of Excellence for his contributions to the Association, especially for his yearly organization of the Fall workshop in the Keys. Surprised but not speechless, Mike commented that one reason he volunteered to chair the Awards Committee was that it might spare him the "embarrassment" of receiving one. Not so Mike, congratulations and thanks for your effort!

Ford announced that the Spring meeting will be held April 21-23 at the Riverwoods Field Laboratory in Lorida. Planned topics include freshwater taxonomy, field trips, and Kissimmee River restoration efforts.

### **New Business**

Dave Camp reminded the membership that the following day FMRI would be hosting a Restoration Genetics Workshop. Mike Milligan plugged the North American Oligochaete Symposium which he is co-organizing, to be held 17-21 October 1998 at the University of Wyoming Biological Research Station in Jackson Hole. Marc Minno said that a group photo for the current meeting would be taken immediately following the business meeting.

There being no additional business, Ford adjourned the meeting at 1130h.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert P. Rutter, F.A.B. Secretary  
11 December 1997

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR'S ADDRESS

Doug Strom

This year we continued efforts to insure the future vitality of F.A.B. We continued to streamline the business activities of the organization, and to increase awareness of F.A.B. using marketing techniques to insure an upward trend in membership. Rob Mattson continued to spread the word about F.A.B. with the three newsletters issued this year. Thanks to Rob for all the hard work!

The Florida Association of Benthologists web site was activated, allowing F.A.B. to reach a larger audience of interested individuals. The web site continues to grow and acquire new relevant links to other sites. Please visit the site if you can, and e-mail the webmaster Greg Graves with any suggestions for improvement or other web sites to link to. I want to thank Greg, Dave Karlen and John Epler for making the web site possible, and for their efforts to continually improve the site.

A logo was developed to be used in brochures and on the Internet web site. The logo will enable more recruitment efforts; it is leading to the development of a brochure we can distribute at meetings of related organizations. Thanks to Marianne Whitehurst and the membership committee for this accomplishment, with special thanks to Llyn French for creating the logo graphics!

The By-Laws Committee continues to fine-tune the F.A.B. Constitution and By-Laws, allowing the business of the organization to operate smoothly under well-defined but flexible rules of conduct. I thank Marc Minno, Palmer Kinser, and Bill Mason for their work on this committee. Phyllis Guthrie deserves recognition for her continuing participation in F.A.B. operations, most recently as chair of the Nominating Committee. Thanks go also to David Evans who currently serves as the Registered Agent for F.A.B. His efforts help maintain the non-profit status of the organization. David is the person who perhaps has been most active in F.A.B. throughout its ten-year history, and he continues to be active behind the scenes, introducing innovative and challenging new initiatives and providing guidance for the future of the organization.

I would like to thank the F.A.B. officers for their commitment and efforts on behalf of F.A.B. Mike Crikis has performed admirably as President for the last two years, as has Bob Rutter as Secretary and recently in his role as F.A.B. historian. Jerrell Daigle has done well filling in as Treasurer after the departure of Bill Bartodziej. Ford Walton has been an active participant in the Executive Committee as President-Elect, and is already making plans for the meetings and workshops to be held during his upcoming two-year term.

I want to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their efforts which are invigorating F.A.B. Jim Hulbert should be recognized for his long-term involvement in F.A.B. business activities. Jim has served for six years on the Executive Committee due to his tenure as President, and has recently agreed to assume the Executive Committee position of Assistant Newsletter Editor. I also wish to thank those who have made the three meetings held this year successful. Among those to be commended are Mike Crikis

and the staff at the Reedy Creek District. Mike Milligan deserves a really big thank you for the enormous effort he has expended in single-handedly making the annual Keys meetings a success. Mike was instrumental in beginning the trend which continues today of involving marine scientists in F.A.B. Interactions between freshwater and marine scientists working in Florida and adjacent areas creates a kind of cross-pollination which can only enrich both disciplines. We should also thank Mike for his work with the Awards Committee. Accordingly, he is the deserving recipient of this year's award for Outstanding Service to the Florida Association of Benthologists.

Special thanks go to Dave Karlen and David Camp for coordinating the current meeting, and to many others at FMRI who have been great hosts. Thanks also to the speakers for their excellent presentations.

Finally, I want to thank anyone I forgot to thank, and I want to thank the regular members of F.A.B. who make F.A.B. such a great group to interact with. We still need the members who are not active in F.A.B. to consider being a committee chair or member, particularly for the Endowment, Literature Review and Awards Committees. You can be a part of the effort to assure that F.A.B. continues to be an important nexus for Florida aquatic scientists.