

**MINUTES OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF BENTHOLOGISTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING
9 DECEMBER 1999**

Location: Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Ft. Pierce, Florida.

Members Present: Lynn Denahan, Treasurer; James L. Hulbert, Newsletter Assistant Editor; David J. Karlen, Member at Large; Palmer Kinser, Member at Large; Robert A. Mattson, Newsletter Editor; Marc Minno, President-Elect; Robert P. Rutter, Secretary; Douglas G. Strom, State Government Representative and EC Chair; Albert S. Walton, President.

Doug Strom called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. He asked for any corrections to minutes of the previous EC meeting in April. There were none, so he proposed that the minutes be approved as published in the May Newsletter. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Lynn Denahan, Treasurer, handed out copies of the F.A.B. Financial Report, dated December 5, 1999. Our General Fund balance is \$14,737, of which \$5114 is in the Endowment Fund. Doug moved to approve the report as presented; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The report will appear in the January Newsletter. Lynn reiterated her concern about an audit, and the best way to go about it. It would be nice to know if we are conducting and recording our financial affairs properly. She mentioned that it's possible that a qualified individual may be among the membership. Whether the audit should be done internally or externally is an issue, as well as the costs involved. She will contact Phyllis Guthrie (a previous F.A.B. Treasurer) and David Evans (our Registered Agent) for guidance. Previously, David had offered to look into an interest-bearing account for the Association, but as yet there has been no word back.

Rob Mattson, Newsletter Editor, is soliciting material for the January issue. He will include our membership list as an item sometime next year. Each member will be listed only by name and affiliation. Doug would like to see it on our website as well. Jim Hulbert said that the Florida Lakes Management Society would like to use our membership list to advertise their meetings. The EC members present concurred that this would be a positive use. Regarding increasing our membership, Palmer Kinser suggested that we scan other societies' lists for their Florida members. Rob needs people to review books and Florida-related papers - if you would like to help out please contact him.

Marc Minno, Chair of the By-Laws Committee, discussed proposed changes to the Constitution, to be presented for vote by the membership at tomorrow's Annual Business Meeting. First, *Constitution Article III - Activities, Section 1*, states that "No part of the net earnings of the Association shall or may under any circumstances inure to the benefit of any individual." Mark pointed out that this wording prevents us from, as an example, presenting a monetary award for best student presentation. He suggested that the wording be expanded to include "... except in the case of awards, prizes, or grants given in support of Association programs." Second, *Constitution Article VI - Elections, Section 1*, states that "The Executive Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee . . ." This should actually read "Nominating Committee Chair." Marc proposed that the wording be changed to "The Executive Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee Chair who shall form a committee and . . ." Doug raised a question regarding interim appointments by the EC in order to satisfy the quorum requirement for conducting business.

With 14 members the EC needs a quorum of seven. We could appoint up to three alternates and still have an EC majority of four. This would require a modification of *Constitution Article V - Officers, Section 2*. Marc said he would prepare a revision for tomorrow's meeting. It was suggested that the most recent revision date be included on future versions of the Constitution and By-Laws.

Unfinished Business

Doug reviewed our past concerns over the status of the Environmental Requirements Committee (ERC). It has been inactive for several years now. He proposed that we bring before the membership tomorrow a motion to dissolve this committee. This was seconded and passed unanimously. Jim volunteered to provide the membership with some background information on the ERC.

Doug asked if we were announcing our meetings in *Florida Environments* or similar periodical. We're not, but should be to satisfy our requirements for non-profit status. Doug suggested that we amend *Constitution Article VIII - Meetings, Section 4* to specify that only the Annual Meeting needs to be announced, and in a statewide publication. Workshops are announced in our Newsletter. Marc said he would prepare a revision for tomorrow's meeting.

New Business

Doug asked about plans for upcoming F.A.B. meetings. Marc responded that Dr. Manuel "Manny" Pescador at Florida A. & M. University has volunteered to host the Spring Workshop in Tallahassee, sometime in April. Proposed topics are steephead streams in northwest Florida, and spring (geologic feature) fauna. Field trips could include a tour of the FDEP Central Laboratory. Mike Milligan will again orchestrate the Fall Workshop in the Keys, again [probably] in October [said Doug - "What are the odds of a third October Workshop hurricane?!"]. One topic so far - Molluscs. The 14th Annual Meeting is planned to be held at the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, in early December. Topics include Florida Lakes (it is anticipated that several FDEP regional lakes biologists will participate) and a marine subject yet to be decided. Dave Karlen again volunteered to act as Program Chair. Marc suggested bringing in a keynote speaker, perhaps to lead off the lakes session; a good idea endorsed by all. He also promoted posting a call-for-papers as soon as possible, hopefully the January Newsletter.

Doug pointed out that two Executive Committee positions will probably need to be filled for next year, At Large Member and Industry/Commercial Representative. Marc will look into it.

Marc asked about tomorrow's elections. It was decided that Ford would announce the nominees so far (Dave Karlen for President-Elect, Lynn Denahan for Treasurer, Bob Rutter for Secretary) and then open the floor to other nominations. Either voice or ballot vote would be acceptable, depending on the number of nominees.

There being no additional new business, Doug asked for a motion to adjourn. Marc so moved, and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert P. Rutter, F.A.B. Secretary

MINUTES OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF BENTHOLOGISTS
13TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
10 DECEMBER 1999

Location: Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Ft. Pierce, Florida.

Ford Walton opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. He got right to business by pointing out the upcoming Year 2000 F.A.B. meetings posted at the front of the room: Spring Workshop in April in Tallahassee, topics will include northwest Florida steephead streams and the fauna of Florida springs; Fall Workshop on Long Key, probably in October, topic molluscs; Annual Meeting at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota in early December, topics to include Florida lakes and a marine subject yet to be determined. He told the membership that the two orders of business to be discussed this morning were revisions to the Association's Constitution and By-Laws, and election of new officers.

Ford then introduced Marc Minno, Chair of the By-Laws Committee. Marc presented several proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws:

(1) *Constitution Article III - Activities, Section 1.* This states that "No part of the net earnings of the Association shall or may under any circumstances inure to the benefit of any individual." He pointed out that this wording prevents us from, as an example, presenting a monetary award for best student presentation. He proposed that the wording be expanded to include ". . . except in the case of awards, prizes, or grants given in support of Association programs.", and asked for discussion from the floor. There being none, he proposed that the revision be accepted as written, and it passed unanimously by voice vote.

(2) *Constitution Article V - Officers, Section 2.* Mark explained that the 14-member Executive Committee (EC) needs a quorum to conduct business, and on some occasions the EC may need to appoint alternates to achieve a quorum. There was some discussion from the floor. The question was asked if the EC ever used a phone session to conduct the business and affairs of the Association. Doug Strom, EC Committee Chair, responded that it has had not been used yet, but it was an option if important matters needed to be handled in a timely fashion. Another questioner asked if business was conducted only at the Annual Meeting. Doug answered that business could also be conducted at any of the EC meetings, which can be held during the Spring and Fall workshops, in addition to the Annual Meeting. Following this discussion, Marc proposed that the following wording be approved: "The Executive Committee may designate up to three alternates to serve for official meetings when members are unable to be present." The proposed change passed unanimously by voice vote.

(3) *Constitution Article VI - Elections, Section 1* states that "The Executive Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee . . ." Marc informed that this should actually read "Nominating Committee Chair.", and proposed that the wording be changed to "Nominating Committee Chair who shall form a committee and . . ." There being no discussion from the floor, he proposed that the revision be accepted as written. It passed unanimously by voice vote.

(4) *Constitution Article VIII - Meetings, Section 4.* Mark explained that one of the provisions of our non-profit designation requires that we announce our upcoming Annual Meeting in a statewide publication, such as *Florida Environments*. The workshops, publicized in our F.A.B. Newsletter, do not need to be announced in a statewide publication. He proposed that the wording in Section 4 reflect this, and asked for discussion from the floor. It was suggested that the meeting also be announced in a local paper where the meeting will be held. Marc proposed that the revision read "Notice of the Annual Meeting will be published in a Florida newspaper of

state-wide distribution, and a local newspaper where the meeting will be held.” It passed unanimously by voice vote.

(5) Marc informed that the Environmental Requirements Committee (ERC) has been inactive for several years now, and should be dissolved. He introduced Jim Hulbert, who gave a brief history of the committee. It was initially organized and chaired by Bill Mason, and was charged with publishing an annual report consolidating specific information related to life history and other ecological information, tolerances to toxic substances, field and laboratory methods, and data interpretation methods. A *Benthic Ecology Data Base* was published in 1992 and contained basic information on the taxonomy, distribution, habitat associations, food habits, and environmental requirements of common freshwater and estuarine benthic invertebrate species of the lower coastal southeast United States. Considerable time and effort by several individuals, and some expense, were required. About 30 copies of this publication are still on hand at the FDEP office in Orlando. The plan originally was to have each volunteer complete environmental requirement sheets on about 25 species of their particular group each year. This only came close to happening the first year. Dr. Phil Kane took over as Chair of the committee but couldn't get enough volunteers to commit to such a large task. Bill Mason had started dialog with federal agencies to have them expand and take over the project; however, the project cost rose to over \$1 million, Bill has since retired, and the federal initiative is uncertain at present. Marc asked for discussion from the floor. There was none. Doug mentioned that such a committee could be re-formed as a special committee if desired. Marc proposed that the Environmental Requirements Committee be dissolved, and it passed unanimously by voice vote.

Ford opened the floor to Committee reports. Doug Strom introduced himself as Executive Committee Chair, and summarized the people and events of F.A.B. in 1999. Doug's address is attached to these minutes.

Ford moved on to the election of officers. Positions to be filled were (1) President-Elect, nominee David Karlen, (2) Secretary, nominee Bob Rutter, and (3) Treasurer, nominee Lynn Denahan. He asked for any additional nominations from the floor. There were none, so he moved that the nominees be approved by acclamation. Doug seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Ford then presented the traditional meeting package to incoming President Marc Minnow. Marc took the podium and gave a brief biographical background, after which he opened the floor to discussion. Doug Strom brought up Marc's new book "*Florida Butterfly Gardening*" (co-authored by his wife Maria), for which there will be a signing party on December 17th in Ft. Pierce. Jim Culter, Staff Scientist in the Benthic Ecology Program, said that Mote Marine is looking forward to hosting the upcoming Annual Meeting, whereupon Marc urged the early submittal of paper titles. Marc concluded by thanking all the presenters, and announcing that a group photo would be taken immediately after the close of the meeting.

Marc asked for a motion to close the meeting. It was so moved and the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert P. Rutter, F.A.B. Secretary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR'S ADDRESS

Doug Strom

The officers, committees and members of FAB continue to surprise me with their commitment to furthering the organization and its goals. We've had another productive year thanks to the people of the Florida Association of Benthologists.

I thank Mike Crikis for his six years of service to FAB and the executive committee as President-elect, President and immediate past-President. Ford Walton's efforts as President resulting in several excellent meetings are much appreciated. Bob Rutter's and Lynn Denahan's services as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, have been excellent. Bob has maintained records of meeting minutes and FAB history with alacrity, while Lynn has kept the burgeoning financial affairs of the organization in order. I hope that they can both continue in these capacities for the foreseeable future; they provide much needed stability in the conduct of the Association's affairs.

Rob Mattson and Jim Hulbert continued the fine reputation of the Florida Benthological Newsletter with the three issues produced this year. I really appreciate their unsung efforts and implore the membership to aid them by submitting items for next year's FBNs. Rob also went above the call of duty by hosting another excellent meeting in April at the Suwannee River Water Management District office in Live Oak.

Mike Milligan continued to further the interchange between benthic and other biologists of various persuasions (freshwater, marine and in-between!) with his meeting on Long Key this year. Despite the approaching hurricane, much information was exchanged and a good time was had by all!

I appreciate the commitment of time and effort by executive committee members to FAB. In addition to those already mentioned, Craig Duxbury, Darrie Hohlt, Dave Karlen, Manny Pescador and Palmer Kinser are commended for their service to the association.

Those who serve as Chairs and Members of the various FAB committees deserve thanks for their efforts to further FAB's organizational goals. The Awards committee (chaired by Mike Milligan) has done a great job recognizing those who have given outstanding service to FAB and/or those who significantly advanced the knowledge of Florida's aquatic organisms. The committee selected David Evans to receive the award for "Outstanding Service to the Florida Association of Benthologists" for 1998 in April, 1998 at the workshop at Riverwoods. A co-founder of FAB, David served as President and as Executive Committee Chair for many years. David now serves as registered agent, and continues to challenge FAB members with new and relevant proposals for association action. Manny Pescador received the "award of Excellence in Benthic Science" in April, 1999 at the Live Oak spring workshop. Dr. Pescador has been involved in seminal work on the mayflies of Florida, including being a co-author of "The Mayflies of Florida".

The bylaws committee (chaired by Marc Minno) continues to do an excellent job refining the Constitution and Bylaws in order to streamline operations and facilitate organizational growth. The Endowment Committee has really taken off under the leadership of Eric Pluchino. Their commendable efforts will soon result in meeting such FAB goals as providing student stipends and travel expenses. The Internet Committee (chaired by Greg Graves) continues to update site features to improve our website. Members are encouraged to visit the site and offer suggestions for improvement. This committee is also seeking computer aficionados willing to provide code

for the site. The Membership committee has done a great job organizing the membership lists and furthering efforts to promote FAB to a wider audience under the leadership of Marianne Pluchino.

Program Chair Dave Karlen and Local Arrangements Coordinator Marc Minno are to be commended for their efforts that have made this meeting a success. I would also like to express my appreciation for those who presented papers and posters; you have continued to uphold the high standards of quality for which FAB is known.

I would like to thank the staff of Harbor Branch for hosting this meeting. I invite Harbor Branch associates to become involved in FAB, and to assist continued efforts to use FAB as a forum for cross-cultural exchange between freshwater, estuarine and marine aquatic scientists.

My continued appreciation goes out to the membership of the association, for whom FAB exists, and who sustain the organization. I challenge you to become more involved in association business. Several openings exist for committee membership, particularly in the Internet, literature review and nominations committees. Please help us continue to improve the quality of our meetings and publications. Your support and involvement can help insure that FAB remains an active and vital forum for Florida aquatic scientists.