

**MINUTES OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF BENTHOLOGISTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
7 DECEMBER 2000**

Location: Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, Florida.

Members Present: Michael Crikis, Member at Large; Lynn Denahan, Treasurer; Darrie Hohlt, Other Government Representative; James L. Hulbert, Newsletter Assistant Editor; David J. Karlen, President-Elect; Palmer Kinser, Member at Large; Robert A. Mattson, Newsletter Editor; Marc Minno, President; Robert P. Rutter, Secretary; Douglas G. Strom, State Government Representative and Executive Committee (EC) Chair; Albert S.(Ford) Walton, Immediate Past-President.

Doug Strom called the meeting to order at 6:05 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 January 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. Balance Sheet, dated December 6, 2000. Our General Fund balance is \$14,416, of which \$6372 is in the Endowment Fund. The report will appear in the January Newsletter. Doug asked if there had been any progress on an audit, and whether it was required because of our non-profit status. Lynn replied that there had been no further progress to date. David Evans, our F.A.B. Registered Agent, said that it was not a requirement, but it would be a good practice - it would be helpful to know if we are conducting and recording our financial affairs properly. He added that he knew two individuals who might be able to help us, and that he would contact them. On another topic, Doug asked if F.A.B. yearly membership dues are still being included in the Annual Meeting registration fee. They are. Doug recommended that Lynn compile a list of this year's meeting attendees to be given to Marianne Pluchino, Chair of the Membership Committee, for the purpose of preparing mailing labels for the F.A.B. Newsletter. This would establish a link between meeting attendees and the Newsletter, thus insuring that all paid members would receive the Newsletter. Marc suggested doing the same for the spring and fall workshops, even though attendees are not necessarily members. He continued that perhaps non-member attendees could receive the Newsletter complimentary for one year. This would serve to maintain their interest and, ideally, increase membership. This idea generated considerable dialogue among the EC. Other "complimentary" Newsletter ideas included outreach to college/university departments, consulting firms, fisheries groups, mosquito control districts, and Florida members of other related societies; for example, the North American Benthological Society, the North American Lake Management Society, and the Estuarine Research Federation. Jim Hulbert volunteered to scan membership lists of the first two societies, and Dave Karlen the latter. Marc offered to collate their information and forward it on to Marianne. Marc moved that F.A.B. meeting attendees receive the Newsletter for one year. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Marc then moved that potential new members gleaned from the outreach effort also receive complimentary newsletters for one year. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Rob Mattson, Newsletter Editor, wants to include our membership list as an item sometime next year, but the list needs to be checked for accuracy and completeness, as alluded to in previous discussion. Mike Crikis said that Reedy Creek may be able to upgrade Marianne's membership software. Speaking of software, Marc commented that our F.A.B. website needs to be updated and should maximize our links list. Doug (also a member of the Internet Committee) said he would work on it. Rob also reported that he would continue to pursue non-profit postage for the Newsletter.

Unfinished Business

Doug mentioned that we are still having difficulty filling the "Industry/Business Representative" position on the Executive Committee, and suggested that we change the description of the position to make it easier to fill. Marc said he would bring it up at tomorrow's Business Meeting. Doug continued that we also need to fill the chair positions for the Nominating and Literature Review committees.

Doug asked if the Annual Meeting was announced in *Florida Environments* and a local newspaper, as we had intended. The meeting was not announced. We need to see that this gets done for next year's meeting, to satisfy one of the requirements for our non-profit status. It was decided that Doug and the President would remind the Local Arrangements and Program chairs. Marc said he would prepare a guideline.

New Business

Marc asked if F.A.B. could cover the hotel room cost for meeting presenter Jan Peters, who is filling in for her late husband, W. L. Peters. Approval was unanimous.

Mike Crikis announced that he will add Ford Walton's name to the "Past President" plaque and pass it on to Ford. He also has an individual plaque for Ford which will be presented tomorrow at the Business Meeting.

Doug asked about plans for F.A.B. meetings next year. Marc was quick to respond that he was planning the Spring Workshop for Palatka, at the St. John's River Community College in mid-April. Mike Milligan will again orchestrate the Fall Workshop in the Keys, again in October. Freshwater and marine gastropods could be the main topic. The 15th Annual Meeting is planned again for early December. Marc proposed three possible locations: Whitney Laboratory south of St. Augustine, Cedar Key/Seahorse Key west of Gainesville, and Archbold Biological Station in south Highlands County. Dave Karlen volunteered, for the fifth year running, to be Program Chair.

Doug pointed out that we should be looking ahead to the 2001 Officer elections, and the pressing need to find a chair for the Nominating Committee. After some brief thought, Marc moved that the Immediate Past-President, with no less than four continuous years of F.A.B. experience, assume the Nominating Committee Chair. Doug seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Marc said he would prepare an appropriate By-Laws' revision for tomorrow's Business Meeting.

Marc asked about items to be discussed at tomorrow's Business Meeting. Lynn will present the Balance Sheet, Rob will speak briefly about the Newsletter, and Marc will propose the two By-Laws revisions.

There being no additional business, Doug adjourned the EC meeting at 7:20 p.m.

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

**MINUTES OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF BENTHOLOGISTS
14TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
8 DECEMBER 2000**

Location: Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, Florida.

President Marc Minno opened the meeting at 11:05 a.m. He asked for any corrections to minutes of the previous Business Meeting. There were none, so he had the minutes stand as they appeared in the January Newsletter.

Marc acknowledged those F.A.B. officers and Executive Committee members present at the meeting, and called on Doug Strom, Chair of the Executive Committee, who took the podium and summarized the people and events of F.A.B. in 2000. [Doug's address is included elsewhere in the Newsletter.]

Marc then introduced the Treasurer, Lynn Denahan. Lynn briefly went over the F.A.B. Balance Sheet. Our General Fund balance is \$14,416, of which \$6372 is in the Endowment Fund.

Marc next called on Rob Mattson, Editor of the Newsletter. Rob solicited input for the Newsletter, and reported that there are extra copies of the last two issues. He also asked for names of potential new members, and said that he would mail them a complimentary copy of the Newsletter.

Marc introduced Mike Milligan, Chair of the Award of Excellence Selection Committee. Mike reminded the attendees that our Association presents an award in two categories, contribution to benthic ecology and contribution to F.A.B. He asked for nominations for next year.

Marc asked for discussion of any old business items. There was none. He then moved on to new business by proposing two changes to the By-Laws. The first concerned *Article V – Officers, Section 2*. This section requires that the Executive Committee be composed of 14 members, one of whom represents “industry/business.” This has been a difficult position to fill. Therefore, the Executive Committee proposes that this position be re-designated as “Member-at-Large.” This would result in three “at-large” positions. Marc asked for discussion from the floor. Rob Mattson suggested that an attempt should still be made to find a representative from industry/business. Accordingly, Marc proposed that this section should also be amended to read that one of the three “at-large” positions preferably be from industry/business. Ford Walton moved on the proposal, Doug seconded, and it carried unanimously. The second proposed change concerned *Article III – Standing Committees, D. Nominating Committee*. Because the Chair of this committee has been vacant for some time, and because the Immediate Past-President is perhaps most familiar with pertinent personnel and workings of the Association, the Executive Committee proposes that the wording be amended to specify that the Chair of this committee be the Immediate Past-President. Marc asked for discussion from the floor. There was none. Marc proposed the change. Dave Karlen moved on the proposal, Doug seconded, and it carried unanimously.

Marc reported that election of officers would be conducted at next year's Business Meeting, specifically President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer.

Marc then discussed next year's meetings. The Spring Workshop will feature Chironomidae identification, and will be held in mid-April at the St. John's River Community College in Palatka. The Fall Workshop will again be organized by Mike Milligan on Long Key in mid-October. It is likely that the topic will be freshwater and marine Gastropoda, but Crustacea and Annelida might also be covered. The Annual Meeting is planned for Cedar Key/Seahorse Key, west of Gainesville, in early December.

Marc asked for other new business. Mike Milligan responded that he had been talking with Steve Wolfe (Florida Department of Environmental Protection, FDEP) and David Camp (editor of the Crustacean Society's journal) about starting a taxonomic certification program, and asked for comments on the idea. Marc said it had been tried before without success. Mike proposed three workshops a year, each of one-week duration, with instructors approved by the state. He envisions a multi-volume taxonomic set within a seven-year timeframe, something similar to what California has done. He suggested that F.A.B. could get involved by helping to identify pertinent gray literature. Doug mentioned that the FDEP's Central Laboratory could be helpful in that regard. Jan Peters added that up to four state agencies could be involved in certification. Marc thought that F.A.B. could work with Dr. Manuel Pescador at Florida A. & M. University, and suggested that Mike write up a proposal for consideration/discussion by the EC. [Dr. Pescador is our College/University Representative on the Executive Committee.]

There being no additional business, Marc said he would close out the meeting with a couple of awards. Ford Walton received the President's Award, and Rob Mattson received The Award of Excellence for his contributions to F.A.B., not the least of which has been as Editor of the Association's Newsletter since 1995.

Marc asked for a motion to close the meeting. It was so moved and the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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