

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting
Florida Association of Benthologists Annual Meeting
Wednesday, May 4, 2005 @ 6:21 PM
Cabot Lodge, Gainesville, FL

Attending Executive Committee Members:

**Dana Denson, Sandi Hanlon-Breuer, Darrie Hohlt, Palmer Kinser, Peggy Morgan,
Eric Pluchino, Laura Line, and Doug Strom**

Acting Alternates:

Marianne Pluchino, Marc Minno, David Evans

Doug Strom, FAB Executive Committee Chair, called the meeting to order. We did not have the minutes from the meetings last December to approve, so those will be done at the next meeting. Doug asked for the committee reports.

Endowment Committee

Eric Pluchino, Endowment Committee Chair, reported \$200 was given for the excellent student presentation at the annual meeting. We have about \$350 left in the Endowment Fund. Eric stated that we may be able to find a higher rate certificate of deposit instead of the money market that it is in now. We are limited by our position and cannot speculate with the Endowment money. We can make a transfer from the General Fund to the Endowment Fund.

The award categories are Poster and Oral Presentation. A discussion ensued about the number of students doing oral presentations and posters vs. the number of awards given and if we could be flexible with the awards given, such as two oral presentation awards instead of one of each.

Membership Committee

The question was brought up about how to bring in more students to the meetings. Marianne Pluchino, Membership Committee Chair asked if we could have a link from the Universities to FAB. President Elect Dana Denson remarked that personal contact is most effective. Manuel Pescador and Andy Rassmussen of FAMU have students and it was suggested that more meetings be held in association with universities. Mark Wetzel can post us on the North American Benthological Society (NABS) website. David Evans, Registered Agent, asked if there were NABS professors in Florida. The University of South Florida probably has marine invertebrate people affiliated with NABS. Peggy Morgan, Member at Large, suggested linking to the Florida Academy of Sciences (FAS). David said that in the past we were closely associated to FAS.

We have a past president plaque for FAB with free engraving each two years to have the next past president added to the plaque. Marianne is planning to have Marc Minno's name engraved on this plaque.

Regarding FAB membership, we have about 144 fairly active members and some honorary members. It was suggested we have a paper membership list to hand out only at annual meetings. You are not a member according to the by-laws if you haven't paid in the last two years. We need a 2005 dues paid list with columns paid or not. The topic of membership renewal came up. Palmer Kinser, President, said that for this Coleoptera Meeting we had two prices, \$80 for members and \$95 for non-members, which included

membership for a year. Sandi Hanlon-Breuer, Treasurer, said this was an effective way to collect membership dues.

E-mail had been suggested as a method to cut down on mailing costs. We have e-mail addresses from the sign-in lists at meetings, but e-mail addresses, it was agreed, are fairly unstable. We could send postcards by terrestrial mail with our web address on it and then post announcements on our website as an alternative.

Treasurer's Report

Sandi Hanlon-Breuer, Treasurer did not have a formal report ready, but the following topics were discussed.

David Evans announced that we are still a corporation. We are exempt from paying sales tax when we purchase merchandise, but have to collect sales tax on the merchandise we sell and send it in. Sale of merchandise on the web was discussed and it was decided it may be better just to sell it at meetings. Shipping items in the mail may be more trouble than it's worth.

We were about \$1,000 in the red from the last workshop. The Archbold meeting did not cost anything, and we coming closer to our goal of breaking even with this meeting.

The Endowment Fund was brought up again and that we should consider transferring money to it from the general fund. It is our mission to encourage research in our area. If a check says on it "for Endowment Fund" then it may be directly deposited to that fund. Otherwise, it goes to the General Fund.

Doug requested a colorful graph of our money throughout the years.

By-Laws

Marc Minno had no By-Laws news. We made changes which were published and may be found on the website.

Old Business

Peggy Morgan asked if the subject matter for student presentations has to be concerning aquatic organisms. Other topics such as nutrient cycling, organic matter processing, fungal and microbe, are related to macroinvertebrates. What are the guidelines to give professors? The Endowment Committee agreed to discuss the topic and relate the guidelines to aquatic ecology.

New Business

Internet Committee

Palmer Kinser, Internet Committee Chair, reported that we have an internet provider which we paid for one year in advance. The service is fine and the site allows for all kinds of stuff. We have a domain name for \$14 called floridabenthos.org. It was asked if they will let Sandi know when the next check is due. Dana's pictures of Hemipterans from the last meeting are posted, as well as photos of attendees from past meetings. We need to add new pictures and it was suggested we have a page to link to different orders.

Online Journal

Dana had the idea of an Online Journal for the FAB website, an idea that has become popular in 3rd world countries. Comments on the articles may be read online as well. It could be like the Florida State Museum Occasional Papers, Notes, etc. We need an assistant editor and an editorial committee of three to set standards and editorial guidelines for submissions and to edit the papers. We would need to have them peer reviewed. Benthophile or the Florida Benthological Journal are suggested names. Once placed on the website, it would be considered published. We may attract new members who want to publish their research. It could be diverse in content and the circulation would be as large as the internet. One wouldn't have to go through a university to access the articles and publication would be free for FAB members. Under our present structure Rob Mattson, Editor, would still do the newsletter. The Assistant Editor could work on the online journal.

Annual Meeting

Palmer brought up discussion about the upcoming annual meeting in December 2005. The Guano Reserve north of St. Augustine was deemed too expensive. They may drop the price if we make it clear we are not for profit. Rookery Bay suggested a \$150 donation. Palmer said we need a keynote speaker that would attract people, who would discuss cutting edge topics like systematics, DNA, phylocode, molecular biodiversity. Maybe we could get people in with differing viewpoints. Kelly at Brigham Young may have suggestions. We could have self-guided tours early in the day or right after lunch. The first week in December was discussed as a possible time for the meeting.

Elections

We need to have an election for President-Elect. The immediate past president needs to find candidates. An Executive Committee Chair is also needed.

2005 Fall Workshops

There will be a two-day Fall workshop on mollusks on Long Key in October at the Florida Keys Marine Laboratory in Layton, FL. A Freshwater Oligochaete Workshop sponsored by the FDEP is planned, possibly in Gainesville for Fall of 2005. Mark Wetzel could possibly do the workshop again for FAB in the spring of 2006.

Peggy made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. Eric seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Line, Secretary

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting
Florida Association of Benthologists Annual Meeting
Wednesday, December 14, 2005 @ 8:38 PM
The Moorings at Crystal Cove, Palatka, FL

Attending Executive Committee Members:

**Doug Strom, Palmer Kinser, Dana Denson, Dave Karlen, Laura Line, Rob Mattson,
Marc Minno, Ford Walton,**

Acting Alternates:

Donald Ray, Frank Butera, Mark Wetzel

Observing Visitor: John Epler

Minutes Compiled by FAB Secretary Laura Line

Doug Strom, FAB Executive Committee Chair, called the meeting to order. Palmer Kinser made a motion to approve the minutes for May 4, 2005 and December 16, 2004 and Rob Mattson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Doug asked for the committee reports.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Sandi Hanlon-Breuer was absent. There was no report.

Awards of Excellence Selection Committee

Marc made a motion to shorten the name of this committee to the Awards Committee. The motion passed unanimously. Doug brought up the idea of tying the Executive Committee to the Chair of the Awards Committee. The current Immediate Past President, Dave Karlen, did not oppose becoming the Chair of the Awards Committee. Ford made a motion that the Outgoing Immediate Past President will become the Chair of the Awards Committee. Laura seconded the motion. The motion passed.

By-Laws and Constitution Committee

Marc will check to see if the way the Executive Committee linking the Awards Committee to Outgoing Immediate Past President needs to be discussed in the Business Meeting. Previously, the chair was selected by the Executive Committee. Marc will draft edited text for the FAB Constitution and By-Laws for approval during the Business Meeting.

Internet Committee

Palmer Kinser, Internet Committee Chair has renewed the FAB domain name subscription. The site is alive, but needs updating, which he will do when Dana becomes President. The annual meeting was posted on it. Posting of notices from macroinvertebrate-oriented businesses is a function of the website. Mike Milligan's lawyer is handling his business now, which will be removed from the website.

Literature Review Committee

Should the assistant editor automatically be the chair of the Literature Review Committee? Rob would like it to be voluntary. Rob gets much of the information for the

Literature Review sections of the newsletter from the internet. We could have past newsletters posted on the website. For recent ones we could give members a code or PIN number to be able to access a member's only section, but instead we could just delay the posting for 6 months.

The online journal is still in the works. Maybe by the spring workshop the Assistant Editor could take on the online journal task. Doug says it is a great idea and a way to publish. We still need some peer review. FAB history (the 20th anniversary is coming up in 2007) can be on the website. We need to set up rules for publishing in the online journal, in particular for how articles will be peer-reviewed.

Endowment Committee

Eric Pluchino, Endowment Committee Chair was not present.

Membership Committee

Marianne Pluchino, Membership Chair was not present. Palmer said, however, that the committee still needs names and addresses of members. E-mail addresses are very hard to keep up to date. We need lists of names of institutions and students. Marianne gives Rob address labels of members for the newsletter. People sometimes write illegibly, and it is hard to correct addresses. We should publish a membership list that we could hand out at meetings. We need to try to work out the details of the by-laws on how to make meeting attendees become FAB members. Anyone at the Annual Meeting (automatically becomes a member). We are phasing in a system where member fees are included for all meetings, for those who are not already members.

Nominating Committee

Dave Karlen, Nominating Committee chair said Gloria Eby is the President Elect candidate, Laura Line, the Secretary candidate, and Sandi Hanlon-Breuer, the Treasurer candidate. Laura and Sandi (note: Sandi was not present during this EC meeting) have agreed to remain in their positions if elected.

Workshop Committee

Mark Wetzel will talk at the current meeting about the Oligochaete Conference to be held in Gainesville at the Department of Entomology and Nematology building in the spring. A non-chironomid Diptera workshop is slated for 2007. The fall workshop, with Mike's passing, will need someone to take over and Dave Karlen volunteered to do it. We need to begin to keep better records of this meeting; it will be run like the other FAB workshops. It will be moved around to other parts of the coast of Florida. Rookery Bay is a possibility for the Fall 2006 Workshop. Dave would like to give up the annual meeting program chair position, but it is a voluntary position. Alternatively, the president can be the program chair.

The consensus of the EC is that the spring workshops should stay in centrally located Gainesville. Due to hurricanes, we should not have the fall workshops in the keys or panhandle. The lab in the keys was severely damaged. Mike Milligan looked at the workshops as retreats. The other style is more like a classroom. The fall workshop can be

any style Dave prefers. The EC determined that the fall workshop will continue to be marine-estuarine oriented, and the spring workshop will be freshwater oriented.

Certification Committee

NABS certification has become important. EPA required it in a recent proposal. We need access to certification in Florida, with a fair, regionalized test. We will discuss partnering with NABS and regionalizing it.

David Evans, Registered Agent, was absent. There were no other reports.

New Business

Doug suggested that his EC status should be changed to Consultant Representative of the Executive Committee. Palmer made a motion that Doug Strom remain Committee Chair and his status be changed from At-Large Member to Consultant Representative on the EC. Dana seconded the motion. The motion passed without further discussion.

Palmer nominated Dave Karlen to become an EC member as an At-Large Member when he is no longer Immediate Past President after this meeting, (so we don't have to deputize a bunch of clowns). The EC also nominated Marc Minno to become another EC At-Large Member. The motions were seconded and passed. Orlando was suggested as the location for the next annual meeting. It was held at Reedy Creek twice in the past.

Ford moved to adjourn the meeting, Dave seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Line, Secretary

**Minutes of Florida Association of Benthologists
Annual Business Meeting
St. Johns River Water Management District
Palatka, FL**

Members Present:

**Palmer Kinser, Doug Strom, Dave Karlen, Sandi Hanlon-Breuer, Laura Line,
Lorene Bachman, Frank Butera, Donald Ray, Mark Wetzell, Ford Walton, Mark
Minno, Rob Mattson, Jim Hulbert (and five others)**

December 16, 2005

The meeting was brought to order at 3:55 PM by Palmer Kinser.

Committee Reports

Sandi Hanlon-Breuer gave the **Treasurer's Report**. The no-interest checking account contains \$10,958.98. The endowment money market fund contains \$12,693.40. We have \$103.83 in interest and would like to find an account with a higher interest rate. A motion was made to pursue a CD with Wachovia with a fixed higher interest rate. The motion was seconded and passed.

The **By-laws Committee** Chair, Mark Minno passed out the following proposed changes to the by-laws.

1. The annual meeting registration will include FAB dues for the following calendar year. The fees for spring and fall workshops will cost an extra \$15 for non-members, which will pay their dues for the remainder of that year. This change was approved.
2. The "Awards Committee" became the new name for the "Award of Excellence Selection Committee." This committee will be chaired by the Outgoing Immediate Past President. The change was approved.

Internet Committee Chair, Palmer Kinser said that that Sandi paid \$95.40/year for the website. He will post beetle workshop information and rearrange the site.

Literature Review/Newsletter Committee Chair, Rob Mattson stated there is an opening for Assistant Editor, and items are needed for the newsletter. He needs help with the literature review. Tasks would include going to the North American Benthological Society (NABS) website to review JNABS articles, and to look for relevant macroinvertebrate articles in other journals and books. Rob would like to include book reviews in the newsletter, and asks members to direct contributions for the newsletter to him.

Workshop and Certification Committee Chair, Dana Denson, reserved the room at the Entomology and Nematology building on the University of Florida campus for the May 2006 FAB Oligochaete Workshop. The May 2007 workshop will be on non-Chironomidae Diptera. Dave Karlen will take over the fall workshops and may move them around the state to be closer to other people as opposed to having them in the

Florida Keys every year. Also, the lab in the keys was severely damaged during hurricane Wilma, and is not currently available.

David Evans, **Registered Agent**, was not present.

Endowment Committee Chair, Eric Pluchino, was not present.

Marianne Pluchino, **Membership Committee** Chair, was not present.

[So reports were not given for these committees.]

Dave Karlan, **Nominations Committee** Chair, stated that the current President Elect, Dana Denson becomes the President at the close of this meeting. Gloria Eby accepted the President Elect nomination. Laura Line agreed to accept the Secretary nomination, continuing with her current post, as did Sandi Hanlon-Breuer as Treasurer nominee.

New Business

A motion was passed to close the nominations. A voice vote was held, and the membership voted to accept this slate of candidates. Gloria Eby will become the first female FAB President.

Doug Strom gave an address to the group, thanking the Executive Committee members, committee chairs and others not in attendance for their efforts on behalf of FAB. He also thanked the students for their presentations. Rob Mattson and Palmer Kinser will be cooperating to get the newsletters and other information up on the website. Marianne will be asked to publish the membership list to hand out at meetings. Palmer will be taking over as the Nominating Committee chair, and Gloria will take over as the Workshop and Certification Committee chair.

Palmer Kinser then passed on the job of President to Dana Denson. This ceremony was documented in photographs.

Next Dana spoke to the group. He is thrilled to be president of FAB and would like to increase attendance, especially of young people. He would like us to personally contact those who may be interested in joining the organization.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Line, Secretary