

**AFS Fisheries Information and Technology Section
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2021**

Attendees: 13

- Call to order 12:28am
- Welcome and introductions (Paul)
- Determination of a quorum (need 10) (Paul)
 - Met with 13 in attendance
- Approval of agenda (Paul)
 - Motion to approved by Jessica Weir
 - Second: Jeff Kopaska
- Approval of last year's minutes (Paul)
 - Motion to approved by Patrick Cooney
 - Second: Jeff Kopaska
- Treasurer Report (Kayla)
 - Membership total 489; increase of 45 since last year due to increase in student/early career members.
 - Finances: 2020
 - Accounts total 76,222
- Old business
 - Year in Review
 - Member benefits (membership, registration, travel) (Paul)
 - How to make being a FITS member a benefit?
 - Opportunity to have registration or membership covered
 - Holiday FITS Membership Lottery-20 free memberships
 - Registration Lottery- Offered to 10 individuals
 - [Partnership Travel Award](#)- Representing FITS at partner conferences. Awards give twice a year (6-month rotation).
 - Bylaw change (Paul)
 - How to minimize commitment of FITS Presidency: First of President-Elect (observation year) and Last year of Past President (reduced duties).
 - [Center for Fisheries Technology and Collaboration](#) (Rebecca)
 - FITS wants help connect fisheries scientist with technology solutions. With CFTC, a researcher can search by many factors to help them find tech for their research needs. Continuous adding items and vendors.
 - Annual meeting(s)
 - "COVID Effects" Symposium (Tiffany)
 - Wednesday 8:20am
 - Data Management workshop (Paul)
 - We had to cancel this workshop due to Covid concerns.
 - Solicitation of ideas for Spokane 2022 (Paul)

- Do you have an idea of a Workshop or Symposia that you would like to see at AFS 2022? Email your idea to Paul at paventurelli@bsu.edu
 - Electrofishing advancements/techniques?
 - eDNA? Habitat?
 - Machine Learning? With video data/streamlining analysis
 - Continue to support important workshops such as GIS
 - Tech Talks- hopefully will resume in 2022
 - Partner with local state agency to see what workshops/symposium they are interested in and could plan potential fieldtrips
- New business
 - The coming year in PREview (Paul)
 - FishR-FITS partnership (Paul)
 - A package they will do a lot of the usual Fisheries analysis. Creator is retiring, need a plan forward for maintenance etc.
 - We will host website for FishR package on FITS webpage
 - Create a core team for FishR package initially lead by Jason Doll to keep software going and develop and maintain code, and developing advancements.
 - Look out for volunteer announcement
 - Volunteer opportunities
 - Center for Fisheries Technology and Collaboration (Rebecca)
 - No experience necessary
 - No coding or expertise required
 - Opportunities in Outreach via soliciting feedback from members and vendors
 - Website management opportunities
 - If you are interested in Volunteering with CFTC, contact Rebecca at Rebecca.Krogman@gmail.com
 - Citizen Science Task Force (Paul)
 - Identify ways scientist can communicate results and findings with citizen science volunteers collecting data.
 - Awards committee (Paul)
 - We are soliciting volunteers to help manage the Membership and Meeting Registration Lotteries and the Partnership Travel award
 - Please contact Paul paventurelli@bsu.edu or Tiffany Tiffany.Hopper@tpwd.texas.gov if interested!
 - FITS SWOT to ID priorities (Paul)
 - Strengths
 - Long history as a section; Respected by AFS leadership
 - Communicating with past presidents for guidance on terms
 - Integration of core goals with AFS on vendor partnerships
 - Workshop, tech talk, field day- as a package covering specific topics
 - Weaknesses

- Communication –
 - Emailing issues- Mailpoet issues
 - Inviting Past Presidents to meetings
 - Branding/Identity
 - Name change again?
 - Lack of understanding of who FITS is and who should be a member?
 - Exclusiveness of acronyms- Try to use long or shortened version of FITS and CFTC
 - Opportunities
 - Branding
 - Article in Fisheries Magazine or Posted on Front page of website?
 - Supporting symposium related to FITS interests
 - Collecting room attendance & analysis for AFS initiatives
 - Threats
 - Identity/People don't know about FITS
 - Aging out members, and losing overall membership volume overtime
 - Officer transition (Paul)
 - Tiffany as President
 - Paul as Past President
 - Patrick as President-Elect
 - Farewell to Rebecca Krogman for her 6 years of service to FITS!!
- Other business
- Adjourn 1:43pm