

**Minutes of the 43rd Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Chapter
American Fisheries Society
May 10, 2023
Guy Harvey Resort, St Augustine, FL**

President Chelsey Crandall called the meeting to order at 1600 hours and Steve Beck established a quorum with approximately 75 Chapter members in attendance.

Current officers, past-presidents, committee chairs, and several members of the Florida Chapter were in attendance: Dan Nelson, Chelsey Crandall, Ed Camp, Steve Beck, *Jason O'Connor, Kyle Miller, Casey Murray, Amanda Croteau, Chuck Cichra, Chris Anderson, Kevin Johnson, Nick Trippel, Kerry Flaherty-Walia, Travis Tuten, Drew Dutterer, Summer Lindelien, Alexis Trotter and many more.*

Chelsey then asked for and received approval of the agenda.

After numerous membership requests to shorten the typical business meeting, as a time saving measure, a Chapter Business Update document was distributed to Chapter membership before the business meeting. That document is included as an appendix to these minutes.

AFS and Southern Division AFS Business:

Mark Rogers (President Elect, Southern Division AFS) commented on large meeting turnout relative to the SDAFS meeting and good job encouraging interaction among old new members.

Chapter Business:

Steve asked for and received approval of 2022 Business Meeting minutes.

Steve gave a brief update on the status of funds.

Past-President Dan Nelson then facilitated elections for chapter President-Elect. Candidates Angela Collins and Amanda Croteau. Each gave a bio about themselves and their vision as chapter president. Paper ballots were distributed, collected, and tallied by Dan Nelson.

Committee Reports:

Chelsey recognized committee members and briefly reviewed committee highlights (included in the Appendix below).

Awards:

Venue Master Award: Given to Ryan Henry for finding/initiating conversations with Guy Harvey Resort

Student Scholarships and Awards – Chuck Cichra began his comments by mentioning that this is the 25th year the Rottmann Scholarship has been awarded. He also highlighted the increased student involvement over the years and how important it is for our Chapter. Chuck then gave the history of the Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship and summarized the recipient applications before announcing that Kaitlyn O’Neil (University of Florida) received the M.S. Rottmann award and Nicholas Castillo (Florida International University) received the Ph.D. Rottmann award. He went on to comment about how impressive students resumes and applications are these days, and how that (plus an increased endowment of the Rottmann fund) led to the separation of the award into a M.S. and Ph.D. level.

He also spoke about the student travel grants. Eight universities were represented by this year’s 21 applicants. All applicants’ meals and lodging were covered by the chapter. This will be Chucks last year doing travel grants and Rottman awards and suggested two people take over these duties.

Florida Chapter Awards – Eric Nagid presented the history of the Rich Cailteux Award, which is meant to recognize individuals for their career contributions to the fisheries profession and the Florida Chapter. Bob Heagey was then named the 11th recipient of the Rich Cailteux Award for his career with the Marine Fishery Independent Monitoring Offshore Program, koi aquaculture, and safety program development work with FWC and long history with the Florida Chapter (2 terms as President). There was no Outstanding Achievement Award this year.

Student Subunit Report:

Student Subunit President Nicholas Castillo began by promoting student research by discussing the Reefs to Rivers blog (most views in 2022), Shellcracker student highlight articles, and the Subunit’s Facebook and Instagram pages (most views in 2022). Nick discussed signing up for the 6th annual Sheepshead Shuffle. Nick then presented the newly elected officers for the Student Subunit: President: Karli Corey (NSU), Vice-President: Cody Eggenberger (FIU), Secretary/Treasurer: Kelly Chase (UF), and University Liaison: Shakira Trabelsi (FIU).

Old Business:

Included in the Appendix below.

Installation of New Officers:

Dan Nelson congratulated Angela Collins on being elected as the new President-Elect. Ed Camp then presented a plaque to Chelsey Crandall for her time as Chapter President. A plaque will be sent to Nicholas Castillo for his time as Student Subunit President.

New business:

Surplus Funds:

Call for proposals for ideas of how we can spend money, after noting the Florida Chapter has roughly twice as much money as the entire Southern Division. Numerous suggestions were made, including: development of outreach materials, donations to other organizations/Southern Division AFS, construction of artificial reefs. It was noted that a sub-committee was formed in 2017 after hosting the International AFS meeting on how to spend surplus funds. The ExComm will review this material and decide on next steps, which will likely include a survey of membership to acquire new ideas.

Next year's meeting venue/date:

Given that the 2023 meeting was in a new location, the ExComm has much to consider/evaluate and will notify Chapter membership regarding the 2024 meeting location.

Ed Camp thanked membership and adjourned the business meeting at 1700 hours.

APPENDIX

AFS and SDAFS UPDATES: Mark Rogers

Parent Society

- Code of Ethics – there are consequences for misbehavior and everyone should feel safe and secure at AFS hosted conferences. Do not be intimidated to reach out to any officer, colleague, or mentor and report unprofessional behavior if something made you uncomfortable. That is unsustainable and unacceptable.
- New Officer voting will have concluded April 28, stand by for results
- Executive Director Doug Austen is retiring and AFS is conducting a search for the next leader
- Upcoming AFS meetings
 - 2023, Grand Rapids Michigan
 - 2024, Honolulu, Hawaii
 - 2025, Houston, Texas

Governing Board:

- Review of President-Elect Cecil Jennings' draft for plan of work. Parent Society President's vision.

Membership Committee:

- Same thing we struggle with in license sales: 3R's (recruitment, retention, recession, and responsibility) I added a 4th (responsibility) related to Code of Ethics and DEI – **Let Mark know if you want to engage**
- Membership is in a decline... We need the next generation to step up or tell us why they aren't.
- It's a struggle because we don't know how to reach non-AFS members at the Parent and Division levels. When you pay your Chapter dues at a meeting, it doesn't make you an AFS Parent Society or Division member. Dennis Reicke's emails from SDAFS don't reach non-Division members even though there's a ton he sends out from policy, to job announcements.
- I'm going to make an attempt to get a list from SDAFS Chapter Secretary-Treasurers of all university attendees at State Chapter meetings over the last ~5 years so we can create a contact list of universities that may not have a subunit but have some form of fisheries program. Chapter membership is good, but Parent Society opens up a whole other level and network.
- Try to figure out where the gaps are for AFS involvement and commitment. Levels of interest and roadblocks.

Mark Rogers' goals as SDAFS President:

- Continue and follow up with engaging in communications with agency leaders regarding support for participation and activity in Technical Committees, meeting attendance, AFS participation, etc.

- Continue the quarterly meetings with Division Chapter leadership so we can explore if there are any needs from the Division or from AFS HQ. We want to know how we can help.
- Request that Chapters please look at Briefing Book to see what other Chapters are doing. There are some small things that can have big impact.
- Appoint a Liaison to Southeast Fishes Council – **let Mark know if you have a nominee**
- Upcoming SDAFS Meetings:
 - 2024, Chattanooga, Tennessee
 - 2025, Asheville(?), North Carolina
 - 2026, New Orleans, Louisiana
 - 2027, Alabama
 - 2028, Mississippi
 - 2029, Florida
 - 2030, Puerto Rico (?)

FLORIDA CHAPTER:

Treasurers Report

2022 Account Balances (Steve Beck):

	Cash (MS, WF, PP)	Mutual Fund (Morgan Stanley)	Total
January 1, 2022	\$ 38,530.42	\$ 39,326.46	\$ 77,856.88
December 31, 2022	\$ 39,416.67	\$ 28,024.50	\$ 67,441.17
Difference:	\$ +886.25	\$ -11,301.96	\$ -10,415.71

Rottman Memorial Scholarship Fund Report (Larry Connor): The Fund lost 4.0% in 2022; however, since its inception has shown a 5.9% annual rate of return.

Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship Fund
Balance Sheet 31 December 2022
Accrual Basis

<u>Assets:</u>	
Franklin Income Fund A:	\$28,164.52
Morgan Stanley Dividend Growth Fund B:	\$12,287.49
Cash:	\$9,800.61
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Total Assets:	\$50,252.62
 <u>Liabilities:</u>	
Unfunded 2022 Scholarship:	\$2,000.00
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Total Liabilities	\$2,000.00
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Total Assets – Liabilities	\$48,252.62

FLAFS Committee Updates

Website

Committee Chair: Jason O'Connor

Action Items Completed:

- Added a DEI page
- Created a webform for the student travel grants
- Routine maintenance

Action Items in Progress/Pending:

- New page needed for the Dennis Punched Memorial Scholarship
- Create a webform for Rottman Scholarship

Announcements:

- Committee pages? If any committees would find it valuable to have a dedicated page on the website to share information, let me know. We can also set up unlisted/password protected pages to facilitate storing and sharing files/documents among committee members.
- It would be nice to have a web committee rather than a single webmaster. This would allow the website to respond to chapter needs more rapidly and provide some measure of organizational resiliency in the event of turnover (to be clear, I've got no plans to step

down, just looking to improve the way we're doing things). If interested in serving on the website committee, contact Jason.

Newsletter

Committee Chair: Kyle Miller

Action Items Completed:

- Quarterly Newsletters

Announcements:

- Thank you to the EXCOM, student subunit, and DEI committee for regularly submitting content to share with the chapter!

Questions or proposals for the Chapter:

- How do you prefer to receive the newsletter? I am evaluating a shift to a web-based format that would be emailed to the chapter, and linked on AFS Florida Chapter website. Does anyone still prefer printing the pdf version of the newsletter?
- Anyone that would like to share their research projects or volunteer efforts with the newsletter, I'd love to hear from you - Kyle

Continuing Education

Committee Chair: Jason O'Connor

Committee Members: Allison Durland-Donahou, Nick Trippel, Carissa Gervasi, Kerry Flaherty-Walia, Dan Nelson, Michelle Shaffer, Brittany Hall-Scharf, Josh Beaulaurier, Bridgette Froeschke, Rachel Liebman

Action Items Completed:

- Organized workshop for the 2023 Chapter Meeting – Introduction to Open Science for Fisheries Professionals – presented by Dr. Marcus Beck, Tampa Bay Estuary Program.

Announcements:

- **THANK YOU**, Dr. Beck for putting together and leading the workshop!
- All meeting participants are encouraged to attend (tomorrow, May 11th, 12:30-3:30), workshop is included with registration. Check website for link to workshop page which has more information.
- The Continuing Education Committee will be immediately following the conclusion of the business meeting. If anyone is interested in joining the committee for the upcoming year, please stick around. The CE committee is a great way to get involved with the FL chapter: we're always looking for new committee members and fresh ideas, and the annual time commitment is relatively small.
- Reach out to Jason O'Connor or Allison Durland-Donahou for more information.
- Have a skill or information that other chapter members may benefit from? Please consider hosting a future workshop (either at the annual meeting or virtually)? Pitch your idea to the CE committee! We'll help make it happen.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Action Items Completed:

- Initiated the new committee
- Created DEI page on the Chapter website
- Shellcracker articles published
- Created anonymous question and idea suggestion link

Action Items in Progress/Pending:

- Drafting manuscript on disability inclusivity in the field
- Initiating a “spotlight” series for the Shellcracker
- Drafting a Florida Chapter Dialogue Agreement

Announcements:

- Committee wants to remind members about the anonymous comment or suggestion form, available in the DEI section of our website

Membership

2022 Membership Report (Larry Connor):

Membership Category	2021	2022	Change	% Change
Total	253	168	-85	-15.9%
Student	76	68	-8	-10.5%
Society	163	133	-30	-18.4%

Marketing and Membership

Committee Chair: Kerry Walia

Questions or proposals for the Chapter:

- Motion to merge this committee with the regular Membership committee
- Need for new chair
- Progress on new logo?

Policy Committee

Committee Chair: Ed Camp

Action Items Completed: None

Action Items in Progress/Pending:

- Ongoing discussion and pending information pieces regarding potential changes to regulatory structure related to aquaculture

Announcements:

- Be aware that there are political discussions (senate and house bills) that if approved in some form would alter the structure for how aquaculture decisions are made within the state of Florida, leading to changes in both how FDACS and FWC operate. The policy sub-committee is asking some additional input from people especially well-versed in this issue, including Bob Heagey, Jeff Hill, and others to help us do a decent job describing these changes as they become more identifiable. Any outputs will be purely informative

and the policy sub-committee does not intend to make recommendations for or against any measures being considered.

Questions or proposals for the Chapter:

- Provide additional background status of MS 222 as sedative for LMB

Raffle

Committee Co-Chairs: Amanda Croteau, Geoff Smith, and Chelsey Crandall

Action Items Completed:

- Over \$6,280 of items from 41 businesses and individuals were donated to this year's raffle and silent auction.
- The silent auction has a total estimated value >\$3580
- The raffle has a total estimated value >\$3200

Action Items in Progress/Pending:

- 100% of money raised by the raffle and silent auction, fund student travel awards so thank you for supporting our students!
- Buy raffle tickets!
- Remember the silent auction closes after the business meeting, so make sure to place your final bids!

Announcements:

- If you would like to be part of this committee, reach out to Amanda or Chelsey

Questions or proposals for the Chapter:

- Reminder to buy raffle tickets and participate in the silent auction!

Aquatic Cleanup

Committee Chair: Nick Trippel

Action Items Completed:

- 6 cleanup events in the Fall 2022:
 - Harris Chain, Lakeland, Spring Hill, Orange/Lochloosa/Newnans lakes
 - total trash removed this year: 3,214 lbs
 - total trash removed since start in 2019: 9,691 lbs

Announcements:

- So many events, too much of a good thing, spent ~\$1,606
- How much do we fund each year? No dedicated funds
- Limit to \$250 max reimbursement per event, consider limiting # events per year