

AREA Bi-Annual Membership Meeting
Hawk's Cay Resort
Duck Key, Florida
September 20, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Jones. Forty-three members were in attendance. Bob welcomed new members to the conference and to the meeting. He mentioned that the new Board has been working over the past two years to address concerns and issues that have been voiced by the membership. The Association is moving toward being a more professional organization. The Board participated in a facilitated strategic planning session which was driven by the results of the membership surveys. A special thanks goes to RBFF and FFF for sponsoring the expenses of the strategic planning session.

A conference proposal has been received from Jimmy Barnett for Hot Springs, Arkansas for 2006. There is also a proposal in the works for 2008. Bob mentioned how nice it is to have proposals for future conferences rather than scrambling to pull one together at the last minute.

Committee Reports:

1. Membership Committee – Jimmy Barnett reported that he received great response from the membership to be involved on this committee. There were a variety of state agency, federal and supporting organization representatives on the committee. Their main accomplishments were to define a member, revise membership categories as needed, create a new application and work on mentoring new members. They had two subcommittees:
 - a. Scholarship Committee – will draft guidelines to post on our website.
 - b. Awards Committee – will develop guidelines, criteria, applications and present awards at the banquet.
2. Education Committee – Sam Faith reported that this committee had two goals with current timelines: 1) hold panel discussions at the conference (which was accomplished) and 2) create a working definition of stewardship (in progress).
3. Conference Committee – Marc Sommer thanked the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and the many others involved with coordinating and organizing this conference. It was noted from the floor that attention should be made to avoid conflicting with the International dates for future conferences.
4. Administrative Committee – Laurel Garlicki reported that she did not receive a good response when soliciting members for this committee. The revised Articles of Incorporation were mailed out with a ballot to each current member. One correction on the final draft should be noted: Marc Sommer is not the Vice-Chair, that seat remained vacant after Anne Skalski resigned. However, this should not affect the vote in any way. Laurel encouraged members to mail, fax or hand their ballots to her before the October 6 deadline.

Bob Jones opened the floor to nominations for officers. In following with Roberts Rules of Order, the Chair called for nominations three times for each seat on the Board.

- For the office of Secretary, Laurel Garlicki was nominated by Doug Darr and seconded by Bruce Matthews.
- For the office of Treasurer, Amanda Wuestefeld was nominated by Marc Sommer and seconded by Jimmy Barnett. Michael Kaspar was nominated by Doug Darr but refused the nomination.
- For the office of Vice Chairman, Marc Sommer was nominated by Jenn Dennison and seconded by Ann Miller.
- For the office of Chairman, Jimmy Barnett was nominated by BeBe Harrison and seconded by Doug Thornburg.

All nominations were closed and the Chair cast the vote for all nominated persons. Special thanks went to Trina Cale-Rosario, Anne Skalski and Bob Jones for their past work on the Board.

The floor was opened for membership comments/discussion:

- Bob Jones mentioned the importance of the upcoming regional meetings and encouraged each region to elect a representative and get that information to Laurel as soon as possible.
- Jenifer Matthees sends her thanks to the webmaster for the quick and frequent updates to the webpage.
- Tony Fedler suggested the new Chairman write a letter of thanks to Carol Paterick, our webmaster, for all the effort she's put into our website and the Association.
- It was noted that Carol generously donated a variety of jewelry for the conference's silent auction.
- BeBe Harrison suggested we formally invite Carol Paterick to our next conference.
- Sharon Rushton thanked the Board for their commitment to this organization and the effort they've put into "doing it right" and holding it all together. She commended the direction they are taking the organization.
- Jenifer Matthees commented on a great membership meeting.
- Jimmy Barnett noted that as the new Chair, he has appointed Doug Darr to chair the Membership Committee, Laurel will finish up her work with the Administrative Committee, Marc will continue to chair the Conference Committee, Jon Lyman will continue to chair the Education Committee, and Bob Jones will chair the Awards Sub-Committee.
- Bob Jones emphasized that as a volunteer organization, AREA can function effectively only when members step up and help where needed.
- BeBe Harrison gave a special thanks to our sponsors for this conference and noted they are listed in the conference program. A big thanks goes to RBFF.
- Barb Gigar suggested we pat ourselves on the back – this organization has come a long way.
- George Babey suggested we use the "reply to all" option on the listserv to keep the banter going about relevant topics.
- Bob Jones gave a final thanks to the membership for the last two years.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Bruce Matthews, seconded by Jimmy Barnett and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurel Garlicki, Secretary
9/30/04

As of 12/2/04, ten AREA members had voted to approve these minutes. One comment/correction was received (below).

Received on 10/29/04:

Laurel et al,

Thanks so much for forwarding on the minutes of these meetings, and thanks to all of the AREA Conference organizers who put together a great meeting. I would however like to address the following statement found in the board minutes:

"George Shipp discussed how the conference committee structure is cumbersome and it was difficult to find out information because of the structure. It was even difficult just to figure out how to help. One of the resulting problems was that the Federal Aid folks could not attend the conference because the agenda was not created to fit their needs and made organizing the conference difficult...."

Julie Morin and I represented Federal Assistance at the meeting and we were able to present talks on Sportfish Restoration Program topics. That more Federal Assistance staff couldn't attend was a result of a number of unrelated reasons (including prior commitments to attend other meetings, and yes, even some weather-related issues). Any shortcomings with the AREA meeting planning process George discussed had no bearing on our attendance - personally I had no experience with the problems George mentioned in the minutes. Since Federal Assistance had both of our presentation proposals accepted for the meeting, the agenda looked great to us!

Obviously, when it comes to job of Federal Assistance helping the States, "OUR NEEDS" can't be spelled without "U NEEDS". Federal Assistance "needs" were met at the conference by getting the opportunity to talk about issues we hope will assist State aquatic resource education programs.

Thanks again.

Joshua

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