

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:paventurelli@bsu.edu) or Tiffany [Tiffany.Hopper@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto: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