President Porath called meeting to order at 3:35 PM.

Recognized Past presidents: Brian Graeb Ron Essig Joe Larscheid Jeff Boxrucker Hal Schramm, thanked for service

Recognized HOE attendees: Steve Miranda, Hal Schramm, Dave Phillip, Jeff Boxrucker, Bob Carline

Introduced excom: Quinton Phelps, Randy Schultz, Jeff Koch, Jason Olive, Mike Colvin, Eileen O'Donnell Kyle Bales, Sara Tripp. Mark relayed what a great, energetic group to work with.

President’s remarks. Sections were asked to write a special publication on climate change for Fisheries, Mike Colvin wrote a special publication on education for Fisheries. FMS helped out with four or five symposia for the annual meeting in KC. Section has been very busy, due to active members.

President Porath introduced Quinton Phelps to provide information on minutes and the financial report.

Quinton noted minutes from the Portland meeting had been posted to the FMS website. No comments provided by members in attendance, and approved by acclamation.

Quinton moved on to the financial report, and provided a PowerPoint presentation on the year’s budget, expenditures, and income. Quinton noted Rebecca Krogman’s exchange trip with the Institute of Fisheries Management, and specifically mentioned that $5,000 was tied to the Angling Symposium, and $1,500 additionally will be given to the symposium. The Young Professional Committee will be asking for $5,000 to promote their project to video tape HOE recipients. Jeff Boxrucker reminded the excom that the FMS is not in the business of banking money, and encouraged the excom to find worthwhile projects to promote financially. Jeff motioned to approve the $5,000 requested by the YP, and provide the excom discretion to increase the YP budget as needed. President Porath noted the excom has the ability to approve up to $3,500/ year in $1,000 increments. President Porath noted that $5,000 is slated for the YP Committee, and if the membership wants to increase that amount, this would be the
time to do so. Responding to a question from Jeff Boxrucker, Quinton noted the need for the increase from $5,000 to $7,500 may come about as new projects are developed. Tom Lang motioned to increase the budget to $7,500 for the YP Committee; Jason Vokoun seconded. No discussion was provided, President Porath asked if there was any objection to the motion. The motion carried by acclamation. Quinton next provided some background on the Young Professional Committee activities during the past year. The committee was formed during the 2012 FMS meeting. The hope for the committee was to get young professionals involved in FMS activities, lessening the disconnect between the section and young professionals. This has been accomplished by projects conducted by the YP committee, with funding and guidance by the FMS. Current projects include the HOE videotaping project, survey by Marty Hamel assessing importance of AFS to YP members and employers, to extend the membership range of the YP category from 3 to 5 years post-graduation. The YP committee is starting to collaborate with other sections. Hilary Meyer provided an update of the HOE videotaping project. 22 complete; 13 to go. There are also four videos dealing with how AFS has impacted people’s careers, motivations/passions of fisheries personnel, mentors, and what does induction into the Hall of Excellence mean to inductees. A great way to get young professionals involved. Jason Vokoun mentioned AFS has staff members that may be able to help provide editing features for the HOE videos. Jason also mentioned providing videos of members within their divisions and chapters to upcoming unit meetings would be a great way to promote AFS and the project. Marty Hamel updated membership on the survey recently conducted. Purpose was to try to determine interaction between YPs and FMS and AFS. 625 respondents with 26% being non-AFS members, which is the group they were really trying to engage. Largest factors non-AFS members did not belong to AFS was 1) financial cost (60%), 2) felt belonging to the state chapter provided enough professional involvement (60% of non-AFS members did belong to their local chapter), and 3) respondents did not believe belonging to AFS provided any benefit. 30% of AFS respondents were unaware that membership in their state chapter did not necessarily mean they were society members. Some survey respondents indicated the difficulty in renewing their memberships drove them away from AFS memberships. Marty believed the survey provided much toward educational opportunities. Report submitted to AFS Governing Board, looking to publish results in Fisheries. Jason Vokoun mentioned more appropriate terminology for chapter members would be affiliates. Rebecca Krogman provided a PowerPoint presentation on her trip to the Institute of Fisheries Management, as a trial run for an exchange program between FMS YP and IFM YP members. President Porath recognized Eamon Cusack, Chairman of the IFM, and acknowledged what gracious hosts the IFM has been to FMS exchange members.

Kyle Bales provided an update of potential upcoming YP projects. Kyle discussed a potential survey of AIS activities and occurrences within states, to be conducted by YP members within each state, to allow them to become involved with FMS. Jason Vokoun recommended a regional approach to this project, since federal agencies work in this realm. President Porath encouraged membership to contact any YP member if they have suggestions for future projects. A comment from membership encouraged the YP
committee to engage with International Fisheries members, also. Another comment from membership noted leadership training for YPs would be an appropriate way to spend money, and encouraged joint meetings between YP Committee members and International Marine Fisheries Section to address global challenges. Scott Bonar led a discussion on a project proposal for YP. Scott suggested videos of standard sampling methods posted to the FMS and AFS websites would be a very useful project to engage YP members professionally. Scott led a quick update on the International Sampling Symposium held last year at Portland. Scott thanked the YPs for the collaboration they have been involved in. Scott relayed years ago at the Madison meeting the FMS was tasked with leading a standardized procedures manual for fisheries. The reason is that most other professional organizations have standardized procedures. The FMS provided support to international members to present on standardized methodology within their agencies. It was determined that we should be interacting with members on other continents to engage them in standardized sampling. The symposium was able to support members from five continents to detail their standard sampling components. Actually, Europe has been sampling with standardized methods longer than we have in the U.S. For other continents, standardized sampling occurs on a localized basis, but all attendees were interested in developing standards. European scientists noted that standardized sampling has provided huge benefits in being able to look at thousands of lakes in regards to the effect of acid rain, climate change, etc., across the continent. Consensus from the symposium was to keep a continental emphasis. The mandate was to continue forward. Next step is promoting the adoption of methodologies. Scott encouraged members to look at potential opportunities to adopt these standard methods within states, agencies, universities. Secondly, we want to get YPs involved in demonstrating these methods. Finally, we need to think about updating the standard sampling book. President Porath mentioned one of the needs we have is to get hands-on experience for graduates. This is a niche we can fill.

President Porath mentioned FMS’ support for the 3rd International Big Rivers Symposium.

Randy Schultz presented awards. Randy thanked membership for taking time to submit nominations:

Award of Excellence: Fred Rychman and Andre Punt

Award of Merit: Marty Hamel “Summarization of the Online Survey Assessment of Young Professional Viewpoints” and Hilary Meyer “Hall of Excellence Video Documentation"

Certificates of Appreciation: Geno Adams, FMS Newsletter Editor, Travis Neebling FMS Webmaster, Quinton Phelps, FMS Secretary-Treasurer

Conservation Award: Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) and Discovery World

Hall of Excellence: Michael Van den Avyle.
President Porath handed the gavel to incoming President Randy Schultz. Mark thanked the membership and noted how the YP has encouraged him during his tenure.

President Schultz moved into new business. Randy thanked the membership for allowing him to lead the FMS and he is looking forward to working with FMS during the next two years.

President Schultz led a discussion of the potential YP exchange program. There is a need for increasing communication and a global perspective on fisheries management. The excom would like to move forward in developing the exchange program in 2017. In response to a question, Randy stated that at the moment we want to follow with our established track of an exchange program with the IFM, but there may be potential for branching out to other international groups in the future. Ken Kurzawski mentioned having the opportunity to be a part of this exchange program early in one’s career is priceless, and support by FMS for this program is a great thing. Jeff Boxrucker asked for clarification of the cost to send Rebecca Krogman in 2016, noting he thought the total expenses were around $2,500. Rebecca relayed she did not remember exact expenses, but $2,500 would be at the maximum end. Jeff encouraged us to pursue this route. Tom Lang motioned that the excom allot $2,500 annually to development of the YP exchange program with IFM, seconded by Jason Olive. Jeff Boxrucker provided a friendly amendment to increase the amount to $5,000. Tom accepted the amendment. More discussion ensued on Rebecca’s time at the IFM. Suggestion from membership was to allow more time at the IFM to perhaps hold a group workshop to benefit YPs from the AFS and IFM, developing skill sets of both YP groups. Mark Porath noted there had been some discussion along these lines. In response to a question, President Schultz noted the motion is for the YP exchange program to occur annually. Members noted that an exchange program with IFM on an alternate year basis would allow development of a YP exchange program with other international societies. There is potential to work with Marine Fisheries and International Fisheries Sections to identify potential exchange organizations. It was suggested the YPs develop a list of potential exchange organizations. Tom Lang mentioned we should first work with other international organizations capable of developing an exchange program on their end, so the FMS YP exchange program is not a one-way exchange. Schultz reiterated the friendly amended motion: “to support YP exchange every year, alternating with IFM, and develop an exchange program with other organizations to be determined. Each exchange would be allowed $2,500”. Brian Graeb suggested the YP Committee develop a proposal on how the $2,500 would be spent on the years that alternate with the current IFM exchange program. Motion approved.

Dan Isermann presented an idea to produce an outlet for case histories or case studies that are worthy of publishing, but no acceptable publication. Dan’s idea is a journal similar to SEAFWA. Dan believed the cost of such a journal would run $10,000 - $12,000. It would not have the intent to compete with the NAJFM, and Dan noted this is not a new idea, just revisiting the issue. Dan asked the FMS if they would be amenable to Dan’s group pursuing this idea. As to a question from membership, Dan noted he had been in contact with members of the Publishing Oversight Committee on this
Dan noted again that it does not necessarily need to be supported by AFS. Dan also noted he was just making FMS aware of this idea as it moves forward. Conversation ensued as to the need for AFWA to support such a journal. Dan suggested they first pursue collaboration with AFS on such a journal, and if this is not supported by AFS, they look to SEAFWA for a collaboration to approach AFWA on this topic. Consensus was that FMS would support pursuing such a journal, and will report back to FMS.

Mark led a discussion on disaster support for Louisiana. Membership agreed that if there is a chance to support our peers in Louisiana, we should pursue this.

Election results: Quinton Phelps, President-elect. Andy Jansen Secretary/treasurer. Randy thanked Jason Olive and Mike Colvin for also running.

Bob Hughes is pursuing a new book on conservation standards. President Schultz encouraged Dr. Hughes to submit a formal request and the membership would be glad to consider his request.

Adjourned 5:15 PM

Submitted by Randall Schultz, FMS President