

EAFP council meeting Tampere, Finland, April 9, 2011

Attendees: Stephen Feist (President), David Bruno (Vice president), José Garcia (Meetings secretary), Roy Palmer (Publications officer), Lone Madsen (General secretary).
Sven Bergmann (Treasurer) had to cancel his attendance due to personal reasons.
During midday the meeting was for two hours joined by Satu Viljamaa-Dirks and Jouni Taskinen from the local EAFP branch in Finland.

The minutes from the last council meeting in Aberdeen, Scotland, October 2010 were approved by the council. The council agreed that previous action points from that meeting had been dealt with in a satisfactory way, but two additional action points arose during discussion.

Action points:

Meetings secretary to contact the American and Asian Fisheries Societies concerning the forthcoming conference and the possibility of the conference to be advertised on the website of these societies.

General secretary to update the EAFP flyer and forward to the Vice president, so the flyer can be made available on the EAFP website.

1) Meetings secretary

a) 2011 conference updates:

Abstract submission extended one more week until 15th April.

Deadline for registration is 13th May (payment possibilities are bank transfer or credit card payment).

As of April 5th: 6 participants have registered.

Abstracts submitted – 55 (April 9th: 70). Post meeting note: over 480 abstracts have been submitted.

A microscopic picture competition for the Split conference was suggested.

This suggestion was accepted and will be taken forward by the vice president who will seek sponsorship for the 'best picture'.

b) Conference planning for 2013

The council as well as two representatives of the local organizing committee (Satu Viljamaa-Dirks (head of the LOC) and Jouni Takinen) in Finland were shown the facilities at the Tampere conference hall, guided by Tuija Liuko, between 10 and 11. Various aspects of the organisation and planning of the conference were discussed and the council appreciated the helpful and positive contributions made by the LOC for the 2013 conference, as well as the organisation of facilities and arrangements for this council meeting.

c) Future conferences

Several countries have put forward interest in arranging the 2017 conference. It was agreed that a deadline for countries to put forward their interest will be January 2012.

Action: the Vice president to clarify the process of determining conference venues for the future (this should be placed on the website).

2) Treasurer

a) Detailed breakdown of the EAFP's financial status

The President presented the document forwarded by the Treasurer. It was agreed that a more detailed breakdown will be produced prior to the next council meeting. However, it was acknowledged that the financial status of the EAFP was in good shape but that the previous trend in reducing membership and increasing costs needs to be monitored carefully to ensure that the EAFP remains able to provide the service expected by its members.

Action: The treasurer to provide the itemised accounts and balance sheet for the previous year following the normal audit process.

b) Secretariat agreement for 2011/12

It was stressed that it shall be an itemized budget, so it is easy to see if the money is used on bulletin typesetting or administration items.

Action: The President to liaise with the General Secretary on the agreement document for provision of these services for 2011/12.

3) President

a) Sustaining members and their "advantages" as EAFP members: suggestions from sustaining members.

The sustaining members have been contacted directly – no suggestions were received. All the logos of our current sustaining members are now placed on the back cover of the EAFP bulletin.

Action: Identify possible new sustaining members and attract them to the EAFP – President and Vice president to send out letters to companies.

b) EAFP views of the future – suggestions from a member

Several suggestions from an EAFP member had been received. The Council welcomed the suggestions and considered each suggestion. In particular the suggestion of the EAFP going on Facebook was discussed in depth. The member raised the question if EAFP was doing coordination of research as is written in the Statutes – this lead to the following action point.

Actions: Concerning coordination of research it was suggested to place info on the EAFP website regarding ongoing research and the seeking of collaboration. Regarding Facebook, the Vice president to investigate possibilities. Post meeting note: this is being taken forward.

4) Vice president

a) Student travel awards update

To date 4 applications have been received.

b) Electronic fee payment

Action: Vice president to contact f.ex. the American Fisheries society and the Mycological society on how they handle electronic payment, and which company they use.

c) Maintaining of the website after September 2011
The rest of the council have greatly valued the time and effort done by the Vice president concerning maintenance of the website. The webmaster will continue to be David Bruno.

d) Dedicated email system (especially for the Publications officer position)
Action: The Vice president to set up this system.

5) General secretary

a) Strategy for increased membership – answers from branch officers regarding reasons for possible membership resignations.
The council appreciated the responses by BO's although not all responded. Several reasons were suggested, including student members moving away from the discipline and retirements. There was no general reason for resignations and the Council remains determined to increase membership by continuing to advertise the benefits of membership and to increase these (eg. 3b above).

b) EAFP council elections 2011
So far one suggestion for Vice president has been put forward and seconded by EAFP members. If more than one will be suggested, then an electronic vote will be set up via the message board on the EAFP website.

c) Honorary membership. A nomination for honorary membership was submitted and discussed by the Council.

d) Branch officers to charge the correct amount
There has been one incidence where it seems that members of one branch have been charged more than 50 euro in fees for a regular membership. It has earlier been stressed that members cannot be charged more than 50 Euro. Bank charges and/or bank transfer fees can be subtracted from the total fee amount from a country, before the money is transferred to the central EAFP account in Germany, but the transfer fees/charges has to be stated clearly to the treasurer and the best/cheapest option should be used. All branch officers are informed regarding this.

Action: President to contact the branch officer in question.

6) Publications officer

a) Feed back on bulletin changes
Positive feedback

b) Printing arrangements for the Bulletin

c) Open access – questions from members.

It was agreed that open access to members will be considered when the swap to an electronic payment system has been done.

7) Next council meeting – venue and dates

Next council meeting will take place in Split Sunday 11th September

May 2011
General secretary