

THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
GOVERNORS AND OFFICERS
COLIMA, COLIMA, MEXICO
THURSDAY, 13 APRIL 2006

Present: Loren K. Ammerman, Ricardo Ayala Barajas, Troy Baird, Troy Best, Jerry R. Choate, Robert Dowler, Tony Echelle, Stanley F. Fox, Andrés García, Dan Hough, Michael L. Kennedy, Celia López González, William Lutterschmidt, William J. Matthews, Edie Marsh-Matthews, Karen McBee, David L. McNeely, Lourdes Romero-Almaráz, Cornelio Sánchez-Hernández, Jake Schaefer, Gary Schnell, Bruce G. Stewart, Philip D. Sudman, Monte Thies, Gregory M. Wilson.

President Karen McBee called the meeting to order at 1:55 p.m. with a quorum of Officers and Governors present. The BOG approved the Minutes of the Board of Governors and Officers and the Minutes of the Business Meeting for the 52nd annual meeting in Huntsville, Texas as printed in *The Southwestern Naturalist* 51 (1): 127–136.

Treasurer Jake Schaefer reported 2005 income and expenses for the association, the trends with respect to membership and dues, and statistics on contributions.

Treasurer Jake Schaefer reported 2005 income of \$75,780 (including \$46,017 from dues, \$11,960 from contributions and meeting proceeds; \$943 from PDF reprints sales; \$14,140 from page charges; \$379 from sale of back issues; \$2,278 from royalties, and \$64 from earned interest).

Schaefer reported expenses totaling \$61,553 including \$4,597 for Treasurer's expenses (office help \$4,000, office supplies \$235, printing \$362); editorial expenses of \$4,465 (office help \$3,000, mailing \$365, Spanish abstracts \$700, indexing \$400); Allen Press \$37,256 (printing *The Southwestern Naturalist* \$36,243, PDF files \$1,013); Biographics \$267; Wilks Award \$500; Hubbs Student Poster Award \$300; McCarley Awards \$5,000; Student Travel Awards \$7,450; AIBS Dues \$125; meeting expenses \$298; President's Discretionary Expenses \$351; CPA charges (tax return preparation) \$500; merchant card fees \$351; and returned checks and other bank fees \$93.

The checkbook balance at the beginning of 2005 was \$29,000; income exceeded expenses by \$14,228; \$18,600 was transferred to the Trustees for investment; the checkbook balance ended the year at \$24,628.

Schaefer further reported 2006 year-to-date income of \$38,305 (including \$23,011 for dues, \$2,967 in contributions (endowment \$2,800, student awards \$70, Student research fund \$97), \$4,485 page charges, \$125 back issue sales, \$7,691 royalties (BioOne), and \$26 interest earned). Online activity through BioOne was higher than expected in 2005 and explains the increase in royalty income. There were 49,437 "hits" for *The Southwestern Naturalist* in this electronic database in 2005. Schaefer's report included a projected budget for 2007 to be considered under New Business.

Treasurer Schaefer also reported that membership as of December 2005 numbered 897 including 126 new members. Student memberships increased slightly whereas regular and institution memberships decreased. New members' names were listed in the Treasurer's Report and were to be submitted for members' approval at the Business Meeting.

Jerry Choate reported for the Trustees (Chair Choate, H. H. Genoways, T. L. Yates) that in 2005 SWAN assets increased in value by \$61,685 to \$465,849 from 31 December 2004 to 31 December 2005, or 15.3%. Actual return on investment was 10.7% after the increase was discounted by \$18,600 for the funds received from the SWAN treasury. The board thanked Choate and the Trustees for their efforts on behalf of SWAN.

Michael L. Kennedy reported for the Budget Oversight Committee (Chair Phyllis Kennedy, William H. Baltosser, Bryan R. Chapman, Robert J. Edwards, Beth Leuck) that the committee had examined the Treasurer's and Trustees' records for 2005. The committee found the fiscal operation of the association to be in good order. The committee also recognized that the Board of Trustees continues to do an outstanding job handling SWAN's assets.

President McBee reported for Managing Editor Mark Eberle that 4 associate editors (Kevin Bestgen, Tim Brush, Cody Edwards, and Steve Goldsmith) retired as Associate Editors and were recognized for their service. Five new associate editors were initiated in 2005 — Jerry Cook (Terrestrial Invertebrates), Gary Garrett (Fish), Mike Husak (Birds), Joe Shannon (Aquatic Invertebrates), and Phil Sudman (Mammals). McBee reported that the acceptance rate was 64% in 2005, that expenses declined by approximately \$6,000 this year, and that time between acceptance to publication ranged from 8–11 mo. Instructions for authors were revised, expanded, and posted on the website in October 2005. The Board recognized Eberle for his service to the Association.

Eddie Marsh-Matthews reported for the Honors Committee (Chair Marsh-Matthews, Alice F. Echelle, Gary A. Heidt, William J. Matthews, Gary D. Schnell) that two members were replaced because they were involved in the nomination process, and were therefore replaced by Celia López-González and Christopher M. Ritzi this year. The committee received 3 nominations for the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award and 2 for the Donald W. Tinkle Research Excellence Award. Marsh-Matthews moved as committee chair that the nominations for each award be approved without identification so that the award could be announced at the Business Meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

President McBee reported for the Conservation Committee (Chair Robert Channell, Jeff Kelly, Jennifer K. Frey, David J. Hafner, Kimberly Hays, Jim Ott) that after review of *The Southwestern Naturalist* 49(3–4) and 50(1–2) the nominee for the George M. Sutton Award for Conservation Research was “Decline of an island fox subspecies to near extinction” published in *The Southwestern Naturalist* 50 (1):32–41, authored by T. J. Coonan, C. A. Schwemm, G. W. Roemer, D. K. Garcelon, and L. Munson. The Board approved this nomination.

Stan Fox reported for the Wilks Award Committee (Chair Stan Fox, Alice Echelle, Andrés García, Bruce Stewart) that 9 applications (2 from Mexico and 7 from USA) were received and reviewed, and that 4 were selected to present results of their research at the Plenary Session. The winner will be announced and receive the award at the banquet on Saturday.

Monte Thies announced for the Student Awards Committee (Chair Monte Thies, Mitchel Beauchamp, Jerry Cook, Raelynn Deaton, Alice Echelle, Tony Echelle, Dave Hafner, Chad Hargrave, Bill Lutterschmidt, Bruce Stewart, Phil Sudman) that the Clark Hubbs Student Poster award will be presented at the banquet. Thies then reported that 20 students submitted proposals for the Howard McCarley Student Research Award (up to \$1,000 each), and that judges had evaluated the proposals. Five recipients were to be announced on Saturday at the annual banquet.

There was no report from the Public Relations and Publicity Committee.

Greg Wilson reported for the Membership Committee (Chair Greg Wilson, Amanda Husak, Joseph D. Maness, Miguel A. Mora, Dwight W. Moore, Christopher M. Taylor) that 30 free student memberships were awarded in 2005. The board approved 30 additional student memberships for 2006.

President McBee reported for John T. Baccus and the Development Committee (Chair Baccus, Robert J. Baker, David Heins, Jerry D. Johnson, David J. Schmidly, Kathryn Vaughn) that the campaign to raise money (goal of \$100,000) that will be dedicated to students should continue this year. Pledges last year amounted to \$8,500. The board discussed the need to raise additional funds and made suggestions to the committee regarding publicizing the pledge drive and clearly describing to members the benefit of this fund to students. The BOG applauded the committee's efforts on this initiative.

Philip D. Sudman reported for the Program Committee (Chair Sudman, Salvador Contreras-Balderas, Ricardo Ayala Barajas, William I. Lutterschmidt, William J. Matthews, O. W. Van Auken) that the 2007 meeting will be hosted by Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX. Sudman reviewed preliminary plans for the meeting and was to give his presentation at the business meeting. Michael L. Kennedy offered to host the meeting in 2008 (Memphis, Tennessee) and his invitation was approved by the board after some discussion.

There was no report by Historian Meredith J. Hamilton or by the International Relations Committee this year.

Celia López-González reported for the the *ad hoc* Cross-Border Affairs Committee (Chair López-González, Stanley F. Fox, Michael L. Kennedy, M. de Lourdes Romero-Almaráz, Bruce Stewart) that the committee considered 59 applications from 22 institutions in the USA and 2 applicants from Latin America to fund travel to Mexico for this year's SWAN meeting. Priority was given to SWAN members presenting a poster or talk. A total of 21 applicants received travel awards totaling \$9,889. The BOG thanked the committee for their work.

Dan Hough reported for the *ad hoc* Web Site Committee (Chair Dan Hough, Mark Eberle, Stanley Fox, Jacob Schaefer, Caryn Vaughn) that the web site (www.biosurvey.ou.edu/swan) provided online abstract submission and registration for the meeting this year. Suggestions were discussed to improve the process. The committee also updated the membership directory and LISTSERV. Hough provided statistics on web page usage. The Board extended their appreciation to Dan Hough and the committee for their work. President McBee agreed with the suggestion to write a letter to officially recognize the University of Oklahoma Biological Survey for hosting the site at no cost to SWAN.

Robert C. Dowler reported for the *ad hoc* Committee on Disposal of Back Issues of *The Southwestern Naturalist* (Chair Dowler, Brenda S. Clark, Celia López-González, Edie Marsh-Matthews). Requests for full sets are decreasing. The committee received 2 near-complete sets of back issues from Orlando Schwartz. One of these sets will be donated to the Biological Field Station at Chamela. The Board recognized Angelo State University for housing back issues and Amy Bishop and Molly McDonough for managing back issue requests.

President McBee reported for H. George Wang and the *ad hoc* Student Advisory Committee (Chair Wang, Luis Manuel Guevara Chumacero, Kendra L. Phelps, Jacqueline M. Paritte, Hayley Gillespie, Noé de la Sancha) that the committee is sponsoring a student workshop on Saturday evening "Tips for International Students Applying to Graduate Programs in the US."

There was no report for Long Range Planning Committee.

Ricardo Ayala Barajas, Local Representative, welcomed the board to Colima and reported for the Local Committee that there were 225 papers on the program (115 oral, 110 posters). He and Andrés García discussed some problems that had been resolved regarding several lost abstracts and they reviewed changes in plans for the meeting.

The BOG Meeting was adjourned for a short break at 4:05 and reconvened at 4:30 p.m. by President McBee.

The President then took up Old Business.

President McBee presented a proposal by the Editorial Board Committee (Mark Eberle, Chair, Troy Best, Steve Goldsmith, Michael L. Kennedy, Edie Marsh-Matthews, and David Wester) to restructure the current review process by forming an editorial board of 12–15 members to more equally distribute the work load, and selecting a Copy Editor that would serve as the primary contact between the Association and Allen Press and edit accepted manuscripts for grammar and style. The proposal also suggested selecting an Editor for English that would offer grammatical assistance to authors whose first language is not English. There was favorable discussion and the proposal was approved by the board.

McBee further reported that BioOne and JSTOR had scanned all but 10 issues of *The Southwestern Naturalist* that were missing; however, they were recently located in a set of back issues that were donated.

At the conclusion of Old Business, President McBee took up New Business.

Following a motion and a second to do so, Loren Ammerman was reappointed as Secretary, Jake Schaefer was reappointed as Treasurer, Mark Eberle was reappointed as Managing Editor, Terry Yates was reappointed to the Trustees, and Phil Sudman was appointed as Program Director and Local Representative.

The BOG accepted an invitation from the University of Memphis to host the 2008 annual meeting in Memphis, Tennessee. Michael L. Kennedy was appointed as Local Representative.

Amendments were offered, seconded, and passed for the following adjustments to the 2007 budget proposal presented by Jake Schaefer:

Under Projected Income

1. Changed “Income from Back Issues” from \$1,100 to \$300.
2. Increased “BioOne Income” from \$3,000 to \$7,000.
3. Increased “Contribution from Endowment” to \$17,650.

Under the Proposed Budget

1. “Editorial Expenses” were increased by \$4,000 to \$10,700 to fund the new Copy Editor position.

The board approved a balanced budget of \$81,425 to be presented to the membership at the Annual Business Meeting.

A motion by Michael L. Kennedy was approved by the BOG to recognize Esteban Meneses, a private citizen in Colima, with a Presidential Award for fostering natural history in Colima and for his role in coordinating activities for researchers. Gary Schnell was to present the award at the annual banquet.

The 2006 BOG meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Loren K. Ammerman
Secretary