

**THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND
OFFICERS, STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS
THURSDAY, 19 APRIL 2007**

Present: Loren Ammerman, John Baccus, Troy Baird, Troy Best, John Bickham, Jerry Choate, Mark Eberle, Tony Echelle, Stanley Fox, Hayley Gillespie, Meredith Hamilton, Chad Hargrave, Dan Hough, Mike Husak, Michael Kennedy, Celia López González, William Lutterschmidt, William Matthews, Edie Marsh-Matthews, Karen McBee, Lourdes Romero Almaráz, Cornelio Sánchez Hernández, Gary Schnell, Bruce Stewart, Philip Sudman, Monte Thies, Ronald Van Den Bussche, Julie Waits, Paula Williamson, Gregory Wilson, Earl Zimmerman.

President Karen McBee called the meeting to order at 1:43 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 53rd annual meeting in Colima, Mexico as printed in *The Southwestern Naturalist* 52 (1): 168-184.

Chad Hargrave reported for Treasurer Jake Schaefer on 2006 income and expenses for the association, the trends with respect to membership and dues, and statistics on contributions. Hargrave reported 2006 income of \$75,386 (including \$38,384 from dues, \$6,958 from contributions and meeting proceeds; \$1038 from PDF reprints sales; \$18,423 from page charges; \$410 from sale of back issues; \$10,093 from royalties, and \$81 from earned interest).

The treasurer's report detailed expenses totaling \$66,454, including \$3,717 for Treasurer's expenses (office help \$3,000, postage \$243, printing \$474); editorial expenses of \$5,552 (office help \$4,000, mailing \$552, Spanish abstracts \$600, indexing \$400); Allen Press \$38,823 (printing *The Southwestern Naturalist* \$37,789, PDF files \$1,034); BioGraphics \$391; Wilks Award \$500; Hubbs Student Poster Award \$300; McCarley Awards \$5,000; Student Travel Awards \$10,175; AIBS Dues \$125; Officer Bonding \$561; CPA charges (tax return preparation) \$520; Back Issues expenses \$42; Student Advisory Committee \$102; and returned checks and other bank fees \$648.

The checkbook balance at the beginning of 2006 was \$24,627; income exceeded

expenses by \$8,932; \$5,619 was transferred to the Trustees for investment; the checkbook balance ended the year at \$27,940.

Schaefer's report included a projected budget for 2008 to be considered under New Business. Mark Eberle suggested that income from the electronic database BioOne might be greater because we are in a growth phase and had almost twice the number of "hits" as last year (about 90,000 hits in 2006).

Hargrave also reported that membership as of December 2006 numbered 878, including 137 new members and noted that institutional memberships dropped from 339 to 311 since last year. New members' names were listed in the Treasurer's Report and were to be submitted for members' approval at the Business Meeting. The BOG approved the Treasurer's Report and recognized Jake Schaefer in his absence for his efficient work on behalf of the society.

Jerry Choate reported for the Trustees (Chair Choate, Hugh Genoways, Terry Yates) that in 2006 SWAN assets increased in value by \$87,817.07 to \$553,666.25 from 31 December 2005 to 31 December 2006, or 18.9%. Actual return on investment was 17.6% after the increase was discounted by \$5,619.00, that is, the funds received from the SWAN treasury. It was pointed out that SWAN has recovered from near bankruptcy to having invested assets of more than a half-million dollars in just 21 years. The board approved the report and thanked Fi Choate and the Trustees for their efforts on behalf of SWAN. The BOG voted to re-appoint Jerry Choate for another 3-year term as Trustee.

President McBee reported for the Budget Oversight Committee (Chair Phyllis Kennedy, William Baltosser, Bryan Chapman, Robert Edwards, Beth Leuck) that the committee had examined the Treasurer's and Trustees' records for 2006. The committee found the fiscal operation of the association to be in good order. Treasurer Jake Schaefer was commended for an excellent job. The committee also recognized that the Board of Trustees continues to do an outstanding job handling SWAN's assets and the committee supports the reappointment of Jerry Choate to the Board of Trustees. Fi Choate was also recognized for her continued service and support. The report was approved by the BOG.

Mark Eberle gave his last report as Managing Editor. He announced that Chris Lauver and Cheri Jones retired as Associate Editors this year and they were recognized for their service. The Editorial Board, that was approved last year, has been re-structured and will be discussed under New Business. Eberle reported

that the acceptance rate was 68% in 2006 and that expenses increased by approximately \$2600 this year but more pages were published. Page charges do still cover a significant portion of journal cost. Three of 4 issues in 2006 and March 2007 were mailed on schedule. The exception was the December 2006 issue which was delayed until mid-January. All issues of *The Southwestern Naturalist* other than the most recent 3 years became available on-line to subscribers of JSTOR in February 2007. The most recent issues are available to subscribers of BioOne. The Board thanked Eberle for five years of service to SWAN and approved the report.

Edie Marsh-Matthews reported for the Honors Committee (Chair Marsh-Matthews, Alice Echelle, William Matthews, Gary Schnell) that the committee received 2 nominations for the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award, 1 for the Donald W. Tinkle Research Excellence Award, and 1 for the Robert L. Packard Outstanding Educator Award. The committee recommended both nominees for the Blair 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.

There was no report from the Conservation Committee (Chair Jeff Kelly, Brian Carver, Jennifer Frey, David Hafner, Kimberly Hays, Jim Ott).

Chair Stan Fox reported for the Wilks Award Committee (these names will be announced at the banquet) that there were 9 applications for the Wilks Award, 1 from Mexico (in Spanish) and 8 from the U.S. (in English). Fox also reported that the deadline was extended because originally there were not enough applicants. The top four finalists were invited to give their oral presentations at the Wilks Plenary session the first morning of the meeting. The winner will be announced and receive the award at the banquet on Saturday.

After hearing the report of the Wilks Award Committee, and some discussion, the BOG passed a motion to change the Wilks Award requirement so that multiple authors are allowed, but the student must be the primary author. President McBee instructed the committee to revise the written Instructions for Student Awards to reflect this change. The suggestion was made to consider increasing the monetary award associated with the Wilks and Hubbs student awards. BOG approved

doubling the monetary award associated with the Wilks and Hubbs student awards.

Monte Thies announced for the Student Awards Committee (Chair Thies, Raelynn Deaton, Susana Perea-Fox, Chad Hargrave, Bill Lutterschmidt, Kelly McCoy, David McNeely, Kendra Phelps, Bruce Stewart, Julie Waits, Ray Willis) that the awards were to be presented at the banquet. Thies then reported that 17 students submitted proposals for the Howard McCarley Student Research Award. Five recipients were to be announced on Saturday at the annual banquet in addition to the single Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award recipient.

In response to a problem with identifying which posters were to be judged in the student competition, the BOG discussed ways to automatically have abstracts identified as applications for the Hubbs or Wilks Awards during the submission process and be sent to the appropriate committee chair. After some discussion, the BOG approved that there should be explicit instructions in the Call for Papers for indicating application for the Hubbs or Wilks Awards and that applications submitted via the internet be automatically routed to the webmaster and then distributed to committee chairs (Wilks and Student Awards).

It was moved and seconded to change the requirement to allow multiple authors for the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award, with the recommendation that the committee require a statement that the work is primarily that of the student. Motion passed. President McBee instructed the committee to revise the printed "Instructions for Student Awards" to reflect this change and the wording to clarify the on-line abstract submission process.

The BOG Meeting was adjourned for a short break at 3:00 p.m. and reconvened at 3:10 p.m. by President McBee.

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

Greg Wilson reported for the Membership Committee (Chair Wilson, Amanda Husak, Julio Lemos-Espinal, Joseph Maness, Dwight Moore, Christopher Taylor) that 45 free student memberships were awarded in 2006. The President's Discretionary fund was used to support the extra 15 memberships. It was determined that 20% of these students renewed their memberships for 2007. The board approved 30 additional student membership awards for 2007. It was suggested that the Student Advisory Committee could actively invite students to

renew memberships. A logistical difficulty was identified involving problems with students from Mexico paying dues. In response, President McBee appointed María de Lourdes Romero Almaráz to co-chair the International Relations Committee and to act as treasurer in Mexico and collect dues from Mexican students.

John Baccus reported for the Development Committee (Chair Baccus, Robert Baker, David Heins, Jerry Johnson, David Schmidly, Kathryn Vaughn) that the membership continues to show little interest in contributing to the fund that is strictly for students. Pledges of \$10,500 of the \$100,000 set by the Board of Governors have been received. Suggestions for invigorating contributions to the fund were discussed. The BOG approved a motion to give the Development Fund a specific name – the Student Naturalist Fund.

There was no report from the Program Committee (Chair Philip Sudman, Salvador Contreras-Balderas, Ricardo Ayala Barajas, William Lutterschmidt, William Matthews, O. W. Van Auken), but Phil Sudman was thanked by the BOG for his work hosting the meeting this year.

There was no report by Historian Meredith Hamilton.

International Relations Committee (Co-Chairs Salvador Contreras-Balderas and Bruce Stewart, Robert Edwards, Stanley Fox) reported that they helped with judging of Spanish posters and Wilks award presentations last year in Colima.

Celia López González reported for the the *ad hoc* President's Advisory Committee on Cross-Border Affairs (Chair López González, Stanley Fox, Michael Kennedy, Ma. de Lourdes Romero-Almaráz, Bruce Stewart) that the committee considered 29 applications from 13 institutions in Mexico and one in Central America for Student Travel Awards. The number of applicants exceeded the budget so we gave a complete award to our applicant from Central America, and partial awards of \$800 or less to other students, for a total of 18 individuals and \$13,600. By the date of this report, however, two of the winners had declined the award because they were denied tourist visas. One of them is sending his poster to the meeting anyway. It is the idea of this committee that we must make every effort to continue to facilitate exchanges between students from other countries. Because it had been 5 years since the creation of this *ad hoc* committee, the BOG discussed re-approval. A motion was made to combine the Cross-Border affairs committee with the standing International Relations

Committee. Motion passed. Appropriation of funds for Student Travel Awards for another 5-year period was considered under New Business and was approved.

Dan Hough reported for the *ad hoc* Web Site Committee (Chair 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 of abstract and award submission. The committee also updated the membership directory and LISTSERV and improved the meeting message board. Hough provided statistics on web page usage. The Board extended their appreciation to Dan Hough and Caryn Vaughn for their work and thanked University of Oklahoma Biological Survey for hosting the site. Motion was approved to make the *ad hoc* Web Site Committee a standing committee.

Loren Ammerman reported for Robert Dowler and the *ad hoc* Committee on Disposal of Back Issues of *The Southwestern Naturalist* (Chair Dowler, Brenda Clark, Celia López-González, Edie Marsh-Matthews). During 2006, 10 orders were filled totaling about 40 individual issues and generated \$280. No whole sets were requested. Whole sets continue to be provided to student award winners at the banquet. A near complete set was donated to the Biological Field Station at Chamela. A revised advertisement will be included in *The Southwestern Naturalist* to offer remaining back issues through 1994 (Vol. 39) for \$100 (which is just under 100 individual issues). The committee thanked Molly McDonough for managing back issue requests. The Board recognized Bob Dowler for his work and Angelo State University for housing back issues.

Hayley Gillespie reported for the *ad hoc* Student Advisory Committee (Chair Gillespie, Edith Arenas Ríos, Kendra Phelps, Jacqueline Paritte, Noe de la Sancha, George Wang) that the committee is sponsoring a student workshop on Friday evening “Choosing Your Study System & Wildlife Permitting Processes.” The committee is recruiting new members with the loss of Phelps and Wang this year. The committee continues to explore ways to respond to student concerns regarding member issues and is promoting a web site to facilitate networking between prospective graduate students and professors and also among students in the US and Mexico. The BOG thanked outgoing chair Wang and approved a motion to make the *ad hoc* Student Advisory Committee a standing committee.

Michael L. Kennedy reported for the Long Range Planning Committee (Chair Kennedy, Jerry Choate, Bryon Clark, Salvador Contreras-Balderas, Anthony Echelle, Robert Edwards, Celia López González, Edie Marsh-Matthews, Dwight Moore, O. W. Van Auken, Caryn Vaughn) that no actions were taken in the past year.

The Editorial Board Committee (Chair Mark Eberle, Troy Best, Steve Goldsmith, Michael Kennedy, Edie Marsh-Matthews, and David Wester) made recommendations following the approval of the editorial board restructuring last year. Their recommendations will be considered under New Business.

Phil Sudman, Local Representative, was unable to address the BOG because he was busy with meeting registration.

There were no items of Old Business. President McBee then took up New Business after a 10-minute break at 4:40 p.m.

Following a motion and a second to do so, Loren Ammerman was reappointed as Secretary, Jake Schaefer was reappointed as Treasurer, Phil Sudman was appointed as Program Director, and Mike Kennedy was appointed as Managing Editor. Mark Eberle officially retired as Managing Editor for *The Southwestern Naturalist* and he was thanked with applause from the BOG for the outstanding job that he has done over the past 5 years. Names of 5 new Associate Editors were presented and approved (Janis Bush, Michael Dixon, Marlis Douglas, Celia López González, Paul Stone) to serve on the Editorial Board and Troy Best was approved as Copy Editor.

The BOG approved plans presented by Michael Kennedy and Julie Waits for University of Memphis to host the 2008 annual meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, from 10-12 April 2008. Julie Waits was appointed as the Local Representative.

No formal invitation was made for the 2009 meeting site.

Other New Business included discussions about the issue regarding a US-Mexico Border Fence. President McBee charged the Conservation Committee to draft a resolution to address the biological impact of the fence. The Development Committee was asked to produce a document similar to the one used by American Society of Mammalogists to promote society involvement in funding and to list funding alternatives. President-Elect Fox agreed to respond positively to an offer

from Rio Nuevo Press that SWAN accept royalties on a big lay field guide, “Lizards of the American Southwest: A Photographic Field Guide” (Larry Jones and Rob Lovich, editors) that will be of educational value for lay and professional natural historians of reptiles and amphibians of the southwestern U.S. and adjacent Mexico.

Amendments were offered, seconded, and passed for the following adjustments to the 2008 budget proposal presented by Chad Hargrave (for Treasurer Jake Schaefer):

Under Projected Income

1. BioOne income was increased from \$7000 to \$8300.

Under Projected Expenses

1. Wilks Award was increased to \$1000 and the Hubbs Award was increased to \$600.
2. The expense for bonding was increased from \$0 to \$200.
3. Miscellaneous and Office Expenses were increased from \$100 to \$400.

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

The 2007 BOG meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Loren K. Ammerman
Secretary