

THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND OFFICERS
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
PACKARD NORTH, LLANO RIVER FIELD STATION, JUNCTION, TEXAS
THURSDAY, 22 APRIL 2010

Present: Loren Ammerman, Troy Best, Priscilla Crawford, Robert Dowler, Mark Eberle, Anthony Echelle, Elmer Finck, Stanley Fox, Hayley Gillespie, David Heins, Dan Hough, John Hunt, Michael Kennedy, Edie Marsh-Matthews, William Matthews, Karen McBee, Flo Oxley, Susana Perea-Fox, Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez-Romero, María de Lourdes Romero Almaraz, Cornelio Sánchez Hernández, Bruce Stewart, Philip Sudman, Christopher Taylor, Paula Williamson, Greg Wilson, and Earl Zimmerman.

President Mark Eberle called the 57th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists (SWAN) to order at 1316 h with a quorum of Officers and Governors present. The Board of Governors (BOG) approved the minutes of the BOG and Officers meeting and the minutes of the Business Meeting for the 56th Annual Meeting in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico (published in *The Southwestern Naturalist* volume 54(4) and available on the SWAN webpage at <http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/swan/>).

Phil Sudman, Treasurer, reported on income and expenses for the Association during 2009, trends with respect to membership and dues, and statistics on contributions. Sudman reported income in 2009 of \$81,363 (including \$34,671 from dues, \$6,476 from contributions and proceeds of the Annual Meeting; \$400 from sales of PDFs and reprints; \$15,891 from page charges; \$250 from sale of back issues; \$23,675 from royalties, and \$0 from earned interest). About one-half of the income was generated from memberships with the other one-half from page charges and journal royalties. The Treasurer encouraged all members to take advantage of online reprints available on JSTOR. Each article viewed on JSTOR generates royalties for the Society.

The Treasurer's report detailed expenses totaling \$70,323, including \$1,124 for Treasurer's expenses (office help \$500, postage \$416, printing \$0, office supplies \$208); editorial expenses of \$7,540 (office help \$3,000, shipping and mailing \$140, Spanish abstracts and minutes \$0, Copy editor and indexing \$4,400); Allen Press \$43,223 (printing *The Southwestern Naturalist* \$42,213, PDF files \$1,010); Wilks Award \$1,000; Hubbs Student Poster Award \$600; McCarley awards \$5,000; Student Travel awards \$7850; meeting expenses \$0; AIBS dues \$200; CPA charges (preparation of tax return) \$600; merchant-card fees \$2,186; expenses for back issues \$0; Student Advisory Committee \$1,000; and bank fees \$0. The bulk of the non-journal related expenses come from the increased credit card fees. Although an added expense, this means that more people are taking advantage of easy on-line credit card payments for membership, meeting registration, and page charges.

The checkbook balance at the beginning of 2009 was \$31,317; income exceeded expenses by \$11,040; \$2,431 was transferred to the Board of Trustees for investment; the checkbook balance ended the year at \$39,926.

Sudman presented the 2010 Income-to-Date (1 January-12 April), which included \$21,110 in dues, \$22,824 in royalties (both BioOne and JSTOR already exceed the royalties from all of 2009), \$425 in contributions, \$5,033 in page charges, \$5 in sales of back issues, and \$0 interest. The checking account is not interest bearing due to the cost based on the high number of transactions. Total income to date is \$49,397.

Sudman reported that membership continues to drop, with one new life member and no new institutional memberships in 2009. Forty-two free student memberships were distributed. Additional donations are down, but it is not surprising given the economic climate.

Because of continued difficulties with the current payment system, especially by members outside of the USA, the President charged Phil Sudman to research the use of PayPal as an option for online payment to SWAN. He will look into cost and anticipated transition difficulties. He will make a report to the BOG via email and the BOG will make a decision before the membership renewal notices go out in autumn. The BOG thanked Phil Sudman for his work as Treasurer.

Representing the Board of Trustees (Chair, Jacob Schaefer, Members, Loren Ammerman and Robert Dowler), President Eberle announced that Fi Choate will continue to manage the SWAN investment assets. The BOG made a resolution thanking Fi Choate for her continued service to SWAN and the Board of Trustees. The Trustee's report, written by Jake Schaefer, stated that SWAN investment returns are slightly higher than the stock market average. However, funds have not returned to their pre-recession level. The Trustees remain

committed to cautious management of SWAN assets, with all dividends being reinvested unless otherwise directed by the SWAN BOG and Officers.

Beginning the committee reports, Loren Ammerman reported for the Student Awards Committee (Chair, Ammerman; Members, Michael Dixon, Bruce Hoagland, Jessica Light, William Lutterschmidt, Russell Pfau, Bruce Stewart, and Juliann Waits). The committee received 36 proposals for the Howard McCarley Student Research Award, but disqualified 12 applications due to lack of adherence to award criteria. Twenty-four applications were reviewed, with the five winners being announced at the banquet. Thirty posters were submitted for the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award. The winner also will be announced at the banquet.

Mark Eberle reported for John Hunt on activities of the Public Relations and Publicity Committee (Chair, Hunt; Members, Stan Gehrt, Meredith Hamilton, Renn Tumlinson, and Kathryn Vaughan). A press release was written for each of the SWAN award winners for 2009 (Tinkle Award, Packard Award, Hubbs Award, Wilks Award, Sutton Award). Releases were sent to the major public newspaper and university newspaper for each award winner. There continues to be no feedback from the media on press releases written for SWAN award recipients. Mike Kennedy (Managing Editor, *The Southwestern Naturalist*) will encourage the Committee to submit a short article on award recipients for the journal.

Greg Wilson reported for the Membership Committee (Chair, Wilson; Members, Amanda Husak, Julio Lemos-Espinal, Joseph Maness, Dwight Moore, and Christopher Taylor). In 2009, 42 free student memberships (5 from the United States, 37 from Mexico) were awarded. Hayley Gillespie did an excellent job distributing free student membership forms during the annual meeting last year. There was some difficulty in reading the handwriting on forms. Membership forms will be submitted online to reduce this problem. Gillespie reported that ca. 30% of students receiving free membership renewed after their free year. Phil Sudman thought that statistic might be high.

Flo Oxley reported for the Conservation Committee (Chair, Oxley; Members, Jack Clinton Eitnier, Jennifer Frey, Fausto R. Mendez de la Cruz, James Ott, and Kendra Phelps). The Committee nominated the following article as the recipient of the George Miksch Sutton award in conservation research: Horne, J. S., A. M. Haines, M. E. Tewes, and L. Laack. Habitat partitioning by sympatric ocelots and bobcats: implications for recovery of ocelots in southern Texas. *The Southwestern Naturalist* 54(2):119-126.

The BOG moved and approved the Conservation Committee's nomination for the George Miksch Sutton Award in Conservation Research. In the future, the BOG will approve the committee's recommendation prior to the BOG meeting.

Following Oxley's question to the BOG on the role of the Conservation Committee, there was a discussion of potential projects in which the Conservation Committee could be involved. Many in attendance agreed that the Society has been a bit slow in responding to big conservation questions and sustainability issues. It was suggested that the Committee work with the Long-Range Planning Committee to reduce the environmental impact of our annual meetings. The BOG discussed that SWAN could become a clearinghouse of information on conservation issues in the Southwest with the Conservation Committee setting up a system to post on the SWAN webpage information and links to important conservation problems. The BOG agreed that we should improve our conservation efforts and encourage our members to think more about conservation issues.

Mark Eberle reported for the Program Committee (Chair, Beth Leuck; Members, Ricardo Ayala Barajas, William Lutterschmidt, William Matthews, O. W. Van Auken, and María de Lourdes Lozano-Vilano). Neil Ford and other members of the Department of Biology at the University of Texas at Tyler will host the 2011 meetings to be held on their campus. The BOG moved to entertain an offer to hold the 2012 meeting in Valle de Bravo, Mexico, hosted by the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México. The President will send the university a note expressing our interest in having the meeting in their region. There will be a continued effort to find locations for meetings 2 years in advance.

Bruce Stewart and Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez-Romero reported on activities of the International Relations Committee (Co-Chairs, Stewart and María de Lourdes Romero Almaraz; Members, Stanley Fox, Robert Edwards, Michael Kennedy, Ricardo Ayala, Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez-Romero, Cornelio Sánchez Hernández, Nikki Cavalieri, and Gloria Tapia-Ramírez). The committee was pleased that the annual meeting in Monterrey was the most bilingual meeting to date, with most of the posters and presentations, at least in part, in

both Spanish and English. All meeting abstracts were submitted in both languages again this year. The translation quality of some abstracts is unknown, but even low-quality translations are better than none.

Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez-Romero reported on activities of the Sub-Committee on Student Travel Awards (Chair, Rodríguez-Romero; Members, Bruce Stewart, Stanley Fox, and Lourdes Romero Almaraz). The Committee would like to see more involvement from Latin American countries outside of Mexico. The Committee intends to promote SWAN to young, international members through social network sites such as Facebook. The Sub-Committee received 20 applications from seven institutions outside of the USA for student travel to this meeting. Twelve awards were granted with a total of \$10,000 being awarded.

Hayley Gillespie presented the Student Advisory Committee report (Co-Chairs, Gillespie and Jorge Armando Contreras Lozano; Members, Rosemary A. Burk, Sara B. González Pérez, Kimberly Hays, Jacqueline M. Paritte, and Noe de la Sancha). The Committee continues to organize the popular student social during the annual meeting. The Committee also organizes the presentation-feedback service with >40 students signed up for this meeting. The student workshop this year will be "Creating and Perfecting a CV in the Biological Sciences." The Student Advisory Committee and the International Relations Committee were charged by the President to explore how the exchange rate affects non-USA student membership and meeting participation. Prices may be reduced to make the financial burden equivalent for USA and non-USA students. The BOG thanked Hayley Gillespie for her 3-year service on the Student Advisory Committee.

Dan Hough reported on activities of the Web-site Committee (Chair, Hough; Members, Mark Eberle, Stanley Fox, Jacob Schaefer, and Caryn Vaughn). Updates to the web-site during 2009 included: 2010 meeting information, including abstract submission, meeting registration, and student travel application; membership directory; Student Advisory Committee pages; LISTSERVE list; and meeting message board. The number of hits to the web-site outside of the USA continues to increase with ca. 7% of total hits coming from Mexico. There continues to be some difficulty with online submission of abstracts and meeting registration. However, the major problems have been identified and resolved. Hough encouraged the 2011 Local Committee to adjust the call for abstract submissions so that it is not during winter break. The BOG thanked Hough for his work on the SWAN web-site, online meeting registration, and abstract submission.

Robert Dowler, President-Elect, reported on the Wilks Award Committee. There was a record-setting 23 applications for the Wilks Award. Three judges (to be named at the annual banquet) reviewed the applications. The top four finalists were chosen and invited to give their oral presentations at the Wilks Plenary session on Friday, 23 April 2010. The BOG decided to add the Wilks Award Committee Members to the list of committee members listed in the journal and web-site.

Karen McBee reported on her activities as Historian. She deposited new materials on 17 March 2010 in the Western History Collections of the University of Oklahoma Libraries. McBee highly encouraged members to visit the archives. The BOG asked Dan Hough to add a link from the SWAN web-site to the SWAN archive catalog in the Western History Collection at OU. McBee is also working with Troy Best (Editor, *The Southwestern Naturalist*) to include historic information, photos, or notes in the unused end pages of the journal.

The BOG meeting was adjourned for a short break at 1505 h and was reconvened at 1523 h by President Eberle.

Stanley Fox reported for the Honors Committee (Chair, Fox; Members, Alice Echelle, Paula Williamson, Gary Schnell, and William Lutterschmidt). The Honors Committee received one nomination for the Robert L. Packard Outstanding Educator Award and one application for the Meritorious Service Award. The BOG accepted the nominations to be announced during the Business Meeting. The 2009 award recipients will be recognized during the 2010 annual banquet.

Edie Marsh-Matthews reported for the Long Range Planning Committee (Chair, Marsh-Matthews; Members, Bryon Clark, Tony Echelle, Robert Edwards, Celia López-González, Dwight Moore, O.W. Van Auken, Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez-Romero, and Caryn Vaughn). The Long-Range Planning Committee did not meet this year, but will meet during this annual meeting. One goal for the coming year is to work with the Student Advisory Committee to develop and implement ideas for greening future meetings.

Robert Dowler presented the report for the ad hoc Committee for the Disposition of Back Issues (Chair, Dowler; Members, Brenda Clark, Celia López-González, and Edie Marsh-Matthews). Sale of back issues generated \$258 in 2009. Robert Dowler recommended appointing a student co-chair who is responsible

for the actual distribution of back issues. The BOG agreed that a student co-chair is appropriate as long as a regular member remains co-chair for consistent contact purposes.

Mike Kennedy reported for the Budget Oversight Committee (Chair, Phyllis Kennedy; Members, William Baltosser, Brian Chapman, Robert Edwards, and Beth Leuck). The Treasurer's report for 2009 was in good order. The report of the Board of Trustees indicates that our investments are recovering. The Committee commended Fi Choate for her continuing service to the Board of Trustees.

Michael Kennedy began the Managing Editor's report stating that the rejection rate for manuscripts is up a bit and probably will continue to increase given the increased number of submissions. The turnaround time on manuscripts is improving. The increase in pages in the last few issues has helped to reduce the backlog of accepted manuscripts.

BioOne and JSTOR are significant sources of revenue and will continue to increase. Kennedy thanked Gary Garrett, David Wester, and Paul Stone for their service as Associate Editors. The journal needs new Associate Editors in Plants and Herps. Flo Oxley and Priscilla Crawford are currently serving as Guest Associate Editors in Plants. Because of continued concern regarding length of time from submission to publication, Mike Kennedy will communicate to the Associate Editors the need to improve review time.

After a discussion on the scope of *The Southwestern Naturalist*, Mike Kennedy and Troy Best will draft a new publishing statement that incorporates the journal's acceptance of articles not necessarily focused on the Southwest, but are of interest to the biologists in the Southwest and foster understanding of the biota of the Southwest. The BOG thanked Mike Kennedy, Troy Best, and Phyllis Kennedy for their work on the journal.

David Heins delivered the Development Committee report (Co-Chairs, Heins and Jake Schaefer; Members, Robert Baker, Jerry Johnson, David Schmidly, and Kathryn Vaughan; ex officio member, Philip Sudman). There were good suggestions made at last year's meeting, but the committee did not meet or have a chance to implement them. The Committee plans to meet during this annual meeting and take up the suggestions.

Chris Taylor, Local Representative for the 2010 meeting, announced that 323 people were officially registered for the meeting, with 25% additional on-site registration expected. There are ca. 100 posters and 150 oral presentations. The BOG thanked Chris and the Local Committee for their hard work hosting the meeting.

There was no additional Old Business. President Eberle then took up New Business.

The BOG reappointed the Officers: Priscilla Crawford, Secretary; Phil Sudman, Treasurer; Beth Leuck, Program Director; Michael Kennedy, Managing Editor.

The BOG reappointed the Trustees: Jake Schaefer, Loren Ammerman, and Robert Dowler.

The BOG approved the invitation by University of Texas at Tyler to host the 58th annual SWAN meeting in 2011.

Treasurer Phil Sudman presented the proposed budget for 2011. During discussion of the proposed budget, the BOG agreed to add funds to cover full digital access to all issues of the journal for all members. This will allow those who do not have access through their university library to log-in to JSTOR and BioOne and retrieve all back issues of *The Southwestern Naturalist*. This is a first step in setting up a totally online membership for those who do not want to receive the paper journal. This increases projected expenditures by \$5,000. The actual expense will not be known until we determine the number of members using the service. The BOG approved the balanced budget of \$94,600.

In honor of the first recipient and his contribution to SWAN, the BOG approved renaming the Meritorious Service Award to the Jerry R. Choate Meritorious Service Award.

The BOG passed the following resolution:

Whereas Gary D. Schnell and Anthony A. Echelle have been loyal members of SWAN for many decades, and Whereas Gary D. Schnell and Anthony A. Echelle have served as SWAN President, Past-President, and for many years on the BOG, and

Whereas Gary D. Schnell and Anthony A. Echelle have trained many graduate students who went on to be active SWAN members and leaders in SWAN, and

Whereas Gary D. Schnell and Anthony A. Echelle are completing 40 years of teaching, research, and service at their home universities, University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University, and

Whereas Gary D. Schnell and Anthony A. Echelle have been recently inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame, therefore

Be it resolved that SWAN congratulates Gary D. Schnell and Anthony A. Echelle on their long distinguished career as educators and as naturalists.

The 2010 BOG Meeting adjourned at 1712 h.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla H. C. Crawford
Secretary