

THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND OFFICERS  
AT THE 60th ANNUAL MEETING,  
MCNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY  
LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA, USA  
Thursday, 4 April 2013

Present: Loren Ammerman, Troy Best, William Caire, Michael Dixon, Robert Dowler, Mark Eberle, Adam Ferguson, Hayley Gillespie, Michelle Haynie, David Heins, Justin Hoffman, Michael Husak, Mandy Husak, Dan Hough, John Hunt, Michael Kennedy, Beth Leuck, Celia López-González, Karen McBee, Nicté Ordóñez-Garza, Susana Perea-Fox, Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez-Romero, María de Lourdes Romero-Almaraz, Cornelio Sánchez-Hernández, Jake Schaefer, Gary Schnell, Phil Sudman, Matt Watson, Julianne Waits, and Earl Zimmerman.

President Robert Dowler called the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists (SWAN) to order at 13:30 h with a quorum of Officers and Governors present. The Board of Governors (BOG) approved the minutes of the meeting of the BOG and Officers and the minutes of the Business Meeting for the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México (UAEMEX), Valle de Bravo, Estado de México, Asociación Nacional de Universidades de Educación Superior- (published in *The Southwestern Naturalist* volume 57(4), and available on the SWAN webpage at <http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/swan/>).

Treasurer Michael Dixon reported on income and expenses for the Association during 2012, trends with respect to membership and dues, and a summary of financial contributions.

Dixon reported income in 2012 of \$92,672 (including \$22,016 from dues, \$891 from contributions and proceeds from the annual meeting, \$23,455 from meeting registration, \$14,947 from page charges, \$13 from sales of back issues, \$31,350 in royalties, and \$0 from earned interest).

The Treasurer's report detailed expenses totaling \$98,569, including \$521 for Treasurer's expenses (office help \$0, postage \$423, printing \$0, office supplies \$98); editorial expenses (office help \$3,000, Copy Editor and indexing \$4,400, shipping and mailing \$184, Spanish translation \$515); Historian expenses \$0; Allen Press volume 56(4)-volume 57(3) \$42,053 (printing *The Southwestern Naturalist* \$41,096, pdf files \$957); Wilks Award \$1,500; Hubbs Student Poster Award \$1,250; McCarley Awards \$7,000; Student Travel Awards \$9,280; 2012 meeting expenses \$23,455; Student Advisory Committee \$0; AIBS dues \$200; President's discretionary expense \$318; Officer Bonding \$561; BioGraphics (award plaques and certificates) \$386; CPA charges (preparation of tax return) \$800; merchant card (credit card) fees \$2,359 and bank fees of \$41. The bulk of non-journal related expenses continue to be merchant card fees, indicating that SWAN members continue to be taking advantage of using online credit card payments for membership, meeting registration and page charges.

The checkbook balance at the beginning of 2012 was \$35,191; expenses exceeded income by \$5,897. No funds were transferred to the Trustees for investment for 2012 and the checkbook balance at the end of 2012 was \$29,294. Dixon also presented a report on the 2013 year-to-date income and membership statistics.

The Trustees report was given by Jake Schaefer (Chair–Jake Schaefer; Members–Robert Dowler, Loren Ammerman). There were no transactions made by the Trustees in 2012. Schaefer reported that the markets did well in 2012 and that there has been strong market performance in the first two months of 2013. SWAN assets are currently valued at approximately \$716,091 YTD in 2013. The total market value of the Association’s investments on 31 December 2011 was \$594,517.57 and on 31 December 2012 the market value had increased to \$687,800.15 an increase in value of \$93,282.88, or 15.69%.

At the annual meeting of SWAN in 2007, the BOG approved a budget that called for funds to be transferred from the Trustees to the Treasurer to meet expected expenses of the Association. That transfer had not been needed and there was, again, no transfer made in 2012. The Trustees remain committed to cautious management of SWAN assets. All dividends will continue to be reinvested unless the Trustees are directed to do otherwise by the Officers and Governors.

Beginning the committee reports, Robert Dowler reported for the Conservation Committee (Chair--Florence Oxley; Members--Jack Clinton Eitnier, Jennifer Frey, Fausto R. Mendez de la Cruz, Kendra Phelps). There was no nomination for the 2012 George Miksch Sutton Award in Conservation Research due to inactivity by the committee. President Dowler reminded all committee chairs to contact the President in the case of inactive members so that we can keep committees active.

Loren Ammerman reported for the Student Awards Committee (Chair--Loren Ammerman; Members--Raelynn Deaton Haynes, Adam Ferguson, Michelle Haynie, Chris Higgins, Jessica Light, Jesse Meik, Monte Thies, Juliann Waits). The committee received 39 proposals for the Howard McCarley Student Research Award. McCarley applicants were affiliated with 15 different institutions and 18 PhD level, 14 masters level, 7 undergraduate level students. Twenty-nine posters were submitted for the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award and 11 out of 29 students presenting are SWAN members. The winners will be announced at the annual banquet.

John Hunt reported for the Public Relations and Publicity Committee (Chair--John Hunt; Members--Stan Gehrt, Meredith Hamilton, Renn Tumilson, Kathryn Vaughan). A press release was written for each of the SWAN award winners for 2012 (Blair Award, Tinkle Award, Sutton Award, and two Wilks Awards). In addition, a press release regarding the renaming of the Student Travel Awards to the Bruce Stewart Student Travel Awards was composed. Each release was sent to the major public newspaper and university newspaper, and to the public relations department of the university of each of the respective award winners. Although it is unknown how many of the newspapers contacted actually published the stories, a Google search indicates that at least one news story posted on a university web page resulted from the press releases.

Michelle Haynie reported for the Membership Committee (Chair--Michelle Haynie; Members--Greg Wilson, Amanda Husak, Julio Lemos-Espinal, Joseph D. Maness, Nicté Ordóñez-Garza, Elmer Finck). As approved by the BOG at the 2004 annual meeting, free student memberships are made available to individuals who previously had not been a member of SWAN. In 2012, nine free student memberships (all from Mexico) were awarded. Michelle Haynie took over chairing the committee in October 2012. In February 2013, the Committee was charged with developing a document outlining the benefits of SWAN membership. Haynie presented a draft of this document that was

discussed by the BOG, and she will incorporate the suggestions in a final document to the President.

Jake Schaefer and David Heins reported for the Development Committee (Co-Chairs--Jake Schaefer and David Heins; Members--Robert Dowler, Phil Sudman, and Caryn Vaughn). While the Development Committee did not meet in 2012, it continues to advocate for the following four initiatives: (1) A push for lifetime memberships, including electronic-only lifetime memberships at a reduced cost. The committee plans to initiate a study to determine the per-member cost of producing the paper version of the journal. Future dues structure (regular and lifetime) could include options for electronic journal access only. (2) Inclusion of specific donation amounts on dues notices (\$10, \$20, \$50 and "other"). In addition to suggested donation amounts, streamlining the dues payments system (e.g., PayPal) will facilitate processing of payments. (3) To aid in recruitment and retention of members while institutional online access to the journal increases, the Long Range Planning committee should establish what the tangible benefits for members are. Membership Committee Chair Michelle Haynie has started this third initiative, as reported above. (4) Use silent auctions or raffles at annual meetings to raise funds. The Development Committee will host its first silent auction at the 60<sup>th</sup> annual meeting banquet on Saturday April 6, 2013.

Beth Leuck presented the report for the Program Committee (Chair--Beth Leuck; Members--Ricardo Ayala-Barajas, Neil Ford, María de Lourdes Lozano-Vilano, William Lutterschmidt, William Matthews, O. W. Van Auken). The committee reports that Oklahoma State University will host the 2014 meetings in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Karen McBee and Susana Perea-Fox will serve as the local committee co-chairs. San Diego State University has expressed interest in hosting the 2015 meetings in San Diego, California. Tod Reeder and Marshal Hedin would serve as local committee co-chairs. The cost of holding the meetings in San Diego is a potential concern, but the location may generate interest among a large number of California biologists. A host institution in Mexico is needed for the 2016 meetings, and Leuck asked the BOG for assistance in identifying any institution that may be interested. No revisions to the Local Committee Procedural Manual were made because it was extensively revised last year.

Reporting on her activities as Historian, Karen McBee stated that she will schedule a trip to deposit 2012 and 2013 meeting materials and journals that were collected for submission to the archives. McBee continues to encourage committee chairs to send her relevant e-mail or other correspondence for inclusion in the archives.

Susana Perea-Fox presented the report of the International Relations Committee (Co-Chairs--María de Lourdes Romero Almaraz and Susana Perea-Fox; Members--Stanley Fox, Robert Edwards, Michael Kennedy, Ricardo Ayala, Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez-Romero, Cornelio Sánchez Hernández, Nikki Smith, and Nicté Ordóñez-Garza). Susana Perea-Fox reports that the committee met at the 2012 meeting and moved the application date of the Bruce Stewart Student Travel Award to 1 February 2013 to match the deadline for the Call for Papers and the Wilks and Hubbs Awards. The committee also ruled that award winners must be current members of SWAN and can be awarded no more than two Student Travel Awards. Finally, the committee asks the students to acknowledge the reception of the Bruce Stewart Student Travel Award in their presentations and/or posters. There were 12 awardees for the Bruce Stewart Student Travel award for 2013 totaling \$10,000.

Dan Hough presented the Web-Site Committee report (Chair--Dan Hough; Members--Mark Eberle, Stanley Fox, Jacob Schaefer, Caryn Vaughn). Accomplishments this year were maintaining the meeting website for the 2013 meeting including online submissions of abstracts and meeting registration, updating the membership directory, updating the Student Advisory Committee pages, and updating the listserv. Susana Perea-Fox and Stanley Fox provided Spanish translations. One-hundred seventy-one abstracts and 230 online registrations were processed successfully for the 2013 meeting. Local Committee Chair Charles M. Watson and Web-Site Committee Chair Dan Hough were applauded by the BOG upon reporting that this is the first year the Call for Papers did not need to be worked on during Christmas break. The SWAN web page received 111,741 hits from 12,933 visitors during the year. There are currently 1,359 members on the listserv and 232 members on the student listserv. President Dowler emphasized the importance of our website as one of the faces of the organization and the BOG applauded Committee Chair Dan Hough for his continued efforts on the SWAN website.

Adam Ferguson and Nicté Ordóñez-Garza presented the report for the Student Advisory Committee (Co-Chairs--Adam Ferguson and Nicté Ordóñez-Garza; Members--Sara T. Martínez-Chapital, Enrique Santoyo-Brito, and Matthew Troia). Ferguson acknowledged Charles M. Watson and Dan Hough for their help in getting the student registration information for the 2013 meeting. He also reported that student membership in SWAN was 86 dues-paying members this year with a total of 139 students registered for the meeting this year (with 26 oral presentations and 6 posters signed up for the presentation review service). Sara Martínez-Chapital worked to reformat the SWAN Facebook page so that there is now one focal Facebook page for all of SWAN (accessible at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthwesternAssociationOfNaturalistsSWAN>). If you would like to be added as a manager to the page (which will allow you to post on behalf of the Association), please contact one of the current page managers: Hayley Gillespie, Nicté Ordóñez-Garza, Sara T. Martínez-Chapital or Enrique Santoyo-Brito. Ferguson announced that "Lunch with a Scientist," in which student members can sign up to have an informal lunch with a member of the Association was a success at the 2012 meeting and will be continued for the 2013 meeting on Saturday, April 6, 2013 from 12:00 to 13:30 h. The 2012 Student Workshop (*Graduate Students in an International Setting: How to Successfully Apply to International Programs and Maintain Productive International Collaborations*) had 37 students in attendance and approximately 65 students attended the 2012 student social. The 2013 workshop was held on Thursday, April 4, 2013 entitled *Model Selection and Model Averaging*, taught by Dr. Richard E. Straus. Though 34 students registered for the workshop, only three attended. The SAC will discuss how to improve attendance rates for future workshops while still keeping the workshop free or inexpensive to attend. Finally, The SAC distributed the fall 2012 newsletter to the student listserv and drafted a list of student membership benefits which may be distributed on the website or Facebook page.

At 15:17 h the BOG meeting was recessed for a short break and was reconvened at 15:38 h by President Dowler.

Celia López-González reported for the Wilks Award Committee (Chair--Celia López-González; Members--Edie Marsh-Matthews, Bob Edwards, Tony Echelle). There were 11 applications from nine institutions (seven in the USA and two in Mexico). Four papers were selected for presentation at the meeting and the award will be given at the

banquet. This year, the committee initiated the \$250 travel reimbursements to Wilks finalists that were approved by the BOG last year. The committee recommends having the reimbursements available in cash at the annual meeting so that students from Latin America will not have trouble cashing the checks.

President Dowler reported for the *ad hoc* Committee on Disposition of Back Issues (Co-Chairs--Robert Dowler and Wesley Brashear; Members--Celia López-González and Edith Marsh-Matthews). Three complete sets of *The Southwestern Naturalist* were set aside as prizes for the Wilks Award and Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award winners in 2012. Difficulties in international shipping logistics prohibited the shipment of complete sets to last year's awardees, and we are hoping to resolve the issue at this year's meeting. Two orders for back issues were filled during the year 2012. The advertisement in *The Southwestern Naturalist* continues to run in English and Spanish. The current price for back issues is \$1/issue for Volumes 1-39. For Volumes 40-44, the price is \$32/volume. For volumes 45-present, the price is \$36/volume. These prices do not include shipping and handling. Back issues are being housed in the Department of Biology at Angelo State University at no cost to the Southwestern Association of Naturalists. All financial transactions for back issues are carried out by the Treasurer's office.

Mandy Husak reported for the *ad hoc* Auction Committee (Chair--Mandy Husak; Members--Alex Lamle, Ann Maxwell, Jake Schaefer). Husak reported that to date over 60 items have been received or promised, with personal donations from SWAN members constituting 60% of the total contributions. The committee thanked all donors with a poster with the names of all donors, which will be displayed at the banquet and special thanks are due to the Cameron University Department of Biological Sciences for providing the poster.

President Robert Dowler reported for the *ad hoc* Long-Range Planning Committee (Chair--Robert Dowler; Members--Mark Eberle, Stanley Fox, Sara González-Pérez, Michelle Haynie, Bruce Hoagland, Dan Hough, Michael Kennedy, Jake Schafer, Phil Sudman), which has remained inactive. He indicated that the committee will remain charged with retention and promotion of membership and issues pertaining to the journal.

Michael Kennedy gave the report of the Budget Oversight Committee (Chair--Phyllis Kennedy; Members--William Baltosser, Brian Chapman, Robert Edwards, and Beth Leuck). The committee examined the invoices from Allen Press billed in 2012 and the annual 2013 report from the Board of Trustees. The committee commends the Board of Trustees for doing an outstanding job of handling SWAN's assets.

Michael Kennedy also gave the Managing Editor's report for *The Southwestern Naturalist*. He began by thanking Marlis Douglas (Genetics/Ecology), Karen Francl (Birds/Mammals), and Floyd Weckerly (Wildlife) who stepped down as Associate Editors in 2012. Janis Bush (Plants) and James Kennedy (Aquatic Invertebrates) stepped down as Associate Editors in 2013. He also thanked Michael Husak (Birds) and Tom Lee (Birds) who served as Guest Associate Editors in 2012. Kennedy presented Fredrick Govedich (Aquatic Invertebrates), Clay Green (Birds), and James Moore (Plants) as new Associate Editors for approval. He also indicated that additional Associate Editors are needed for birds (2), mammals (1), herps (1) and plants (1) and additional reviewers are needed in all areas. There were 113 manuscripts submitted in 2012 with a rejection rate of 24.8%. Troy Best and Michael Kennedy are stepping down as journal editors, and Kennedy announced that the journal is still seeking qualified candidates for these positions. Volume 57 of *The*

*Southwestern Naturalist* was published in the new large page size (8.5" x 11"), contained 47 feature articles and 46 notes, and all four issues were mailed on schedule. Kennedy summarized editorial expenses of approximately \$49,637 (\$41,096 journal printing by Allen Press; \$956.53 pdf reprints by Allen Press; approximately \$7,584 editorial office expenses) and income from the journal of approximately \$23,079 (\$17,170 page charges; \$5,909 BioOne) for 2012.

Mark Eberle gave the report for the Honors Committee (Chair–Mark Eberle; Members–Alice Echelle, Gary Schnell, Paula Williamson). The Honors Committee approved one nomination for the 2013 W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award. After being moved and seconded, the BOG approved this nomination by voice vote. Eberle suggested that nominators for the awards should have to be SWAN members, with more on this in New Business.

Charles Matt Watson gave a brief report as Local Representative. (Co-chairs--Charles Matt Watson, Justin Hoffman; Members--Harry Meyer, Juliana Hinton, Mark Merchant, Eddie Lyons, Gary Kratzer, Christopher Kirkhoff, Jordan Angle, Jay Comeaux, Joni Drost, Connie Kersten, Kathy Joe Jackson, Melinda Hutton, Bill Dees, Mark Wygoda). This year the Local Committee instituted some of the green meeting recommendations including reusable tote bag that members can bring to the meeting each year (with a new patch that can be attached to the same bag each year), and reusable cups for breaks to avoid using disposable products. There is also a new member-wide workshop available this year by Charles Matt Watson and Hayley Gillespie on *Designing Effective Scientific Poster Presentations*, which will be held Friday, 5 April 2013 during the lunch hour. The BOG acknowledged the work of the Local Committee with a round of applause.

There were two items of Old Business. President Dowler explained that the BOG charged the Student Advisory Committee with drafting a plan to implement an abstract translation service for SWAN members at the 2012 annual meeting of SWAN. Such a service would pair authors in need of translating their abstract for papers accepted by *The Southwestern Naturalist* with qualified student translators. Ferguson and Ordóñez-Garza summarized their research and plan for implementation. After extensive discussion by the BOG about whether there is a true necessity for such a translation service, issues about who would pay student translators (SWAN or the paper's author(s)), and at what point during the editorial process abstract translation is most needed (initial submission or edited version), Troy Best suggested that it is rarely an issue that papers are submitted without the Spanish abstract, but that it would be beneficial to have a list of available and interested student translators to recommend to authors if the need arises. Therefore, President Dowler charged the Student Advisory Committee with passing on three names of qualified student translators to the Managing Editor of *The Southwestern Naturalist* should the need arise for one later in 2013 and that the issue will be revisited at the 2014 BOG meeting.

The second item under Old Business was discussion of an on-line only option for membership (and electronic version of *The Southwestern Naturalist*). President Dowler explained that the BOG has been discussing such an option for at least two years. There was extended discussion of whether or not and how to change the dues structure to accommodate both online-only and print memberships. While moving to more online memberships may produce a cost-savings in shipping and may result in higher royalties through BioOne, a smaller print run of the journal could possibly result in an increase in

per-page production costs of the printed journal. The BOG unanimously approved a motion to offer an online-only membership beginning in 2014 with the fee structure for all membership levels to be decided later after researching print costs with a reduced print run. Robert Dowler and Dan Hough will also research the issue of streamlining online access to BioOne for members who do not have access to the online database through their institutions as this may help to facilitate distribution of the electronic copy of the journal to members who choose the online-only membership option.

Beginning discussion of New Business, the BOG reappointed officers Hayley Gillespie, Secretary; Michael Dixon, Treasurer; and Beth Leuck, Program Director. The BOG reappointed Trustees Robert Dowler (2011-2014), Loren Ammerman (2012-2015) and Jake Schaefer (2013-2016) to their staggered three-year terms.

President Dowler announced vacancies of the Program Director, Managing Editor, and Editor positions; all three of these officers asked to step down in 2012, but no suitable candidates have been found to fill the positions.

Mark Eberle reported as chair of an *Ad Hoc* committee to research options for changing the editorial structure of *The Southwestern Naturalist*, and the possibility of hiring Allen Press to conduct copyediting and/or all editorial services for the journal. President Dowler reported that Phyllis Kennedy has temporarily stepped in to copy edit one full issue, but does not wish to continue in this position. Gary Schnell suggested that Phyllis receive editorial credits in *The Southwestern Naturalist* to acknowledge these efforts if she wishes them. Eberle presented the results of his research on the costs of sub-contracting editorial services to Allen Press and there was lengthy discussion of the options by the BOG. Options discussed included moving all Managing Editor and Copy Editor duties to Allen Press (at an approximate cost of \$25,000 per year), moving only Copy Editor duties to Allen Press (at an approximate cost of \$10,400 per year), moving to an Editorial Board structure (suggested by Jacob Schaefer, as with *Copeia*), budgeting more to pay a Managing Editor and Copy Editor from our membership to encourage someone within the Association to take up the position. Several members of the BOG expressed support for making sure that with any option, one of our members has ultimate editorial power and not someone from outside of the Association at Allen Press. Gary Schnell moved that Phyllis Kennedy be appointed editor so that it can be noted in the journal. The motion was seconded and approved by the BOG. While no formal decision was reached, a straw poll indicated that 15 members in attendance favored a move to Allen Press for at least Copy Editing services.

Karen McBee and Susana Perea-Fox presented information about the 2014 meeting at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, to be held 17-20 April 2014 at the Wes Watkins Center for International Education and Outreach. President Dowler requested that a non-member price for registration be instituted for the 2014 annual meeting.

The BOG approved recommendation of Todd Reader and Marshal Hedin as the Local Representatives for the 2015 Annual Meeting at San Diego State University, to be presented to the membership for a vote during the 2013 business meeting.

Treasurer Michael Dixon reported the proposed budget for 2014. During the proposed budget discussion, both the Editor and Managing Editor editorial expenses were increased to \$1,500 per issue, Student Advisory Committee budget was increased to

\$1,500 and the bonding budget was reduced by \$600 (bonding only occurs every other year). The BOG approved the balanced budget of \$102,750.

During other New Business, Mike Kennedy's motion that the new Associate Editors named in the Managing Editor's Report—Frederick Govedich (Aquatic Invertebrates), Clay Green (Birds) and James Moore (Plants)—was approved by the BOG by unanimous voice vote. The BOG approved a motion by Loren Ammerman that student membership in SWAN be required for all student awards (this was previously the case for the Wilks Award and Howard McCarley Student Research Award, but not the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award). Finally, the BOG also approved a motion by Gary Schnell that the principle submitter of nominees for the Distinguished Awards be a member of the Association.

The 2013 SWAN BOG meeting adjourned at 18:05 h.

Respectfully submitted,  
J. Hayley Gillespie  
Secretary