THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING AT

THE 65th ANNUAL MEETING,

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY AND ST. EDWARD’S UNIVERSITY

SAN MARCOS, TEXAS

FRIDAY, 13 APRIL 2018

President Susana Perea-Fox called the meeting to order at 1009 h with a quorum present. Perea-Fox explained that we were missing the new membership list, Treasurer’s report, and a budget because the Treasurer, Ray Willis, had to have emergency surgery and was unable to attend the meeting. These will be delivered to the membership of SWAN at a later date once Ray is well.

The membership approved the minutes of the 2017 Board of Governors and Officers (BOG) Meeting for the 64th Annual Meeting at Cameron University (published in *The Southwestern Naturalist* volume 62(4), and available at <http://www.bioone.org/toc/swna/62/4>).

Secretary Deaton Haynes then summarized the reports, discussions and action items from the BOG meeting that was held on 12 April 2018 at Dick’s Classic Car Garage from 1-5:15 pm. The summary read as follows: “In the process of updating our website and transferring information to the new management system, it was realized that SWAN’s tax-exempt status has lapsed. In addition, it was discovered that SWAN was not actually an incorporated non-profit organization. Past-President Phil Sudman and President Susana Perea-Fox have been working diligently to resolve these matters and have made significant progress in rectifying these issues.

Due to medical reasons, our treasurer Ray Willis was unable to attend the meeting this year. Therefore, no budget was presented to the BOG, nor will the budget be presented to the membership here today. Once Willis recovers and finalizes the budget, it will be sent to the BOG for review and approval. Once a balanced budget is approved, it will be posted online for the membership to view.

Our endowment has now reached over $1,200,000, so we’d like to thank our Board of Trustees for doing such a great job with the long-term financial sustainability of the Association.

The George M. Sutton Award in Conservation Research nomination that was approved by the BOG will be announced at the Banquet. This award highlights the best conservation paper published in the Southwestern Naturalist in 2017.

Submissions for the Howard McCarley Student Research Awards were up significantly this year from last year to 21 submissions. The Chair of the Student Awards Committee would like to remind all the students in the membership about the McCarley awards and to apply for these research funds, as each grant awarded is $1,000, which can make a significant impact toward your research. You do not have to be present at the meeting to win this award; however, we do encourage you to attend, and would like to see you present your findings the year following your award if granted. Of course, we can’t fund every proposal, so if you don’t get funded on your first submission please try again. This year we will make eight awards and these will be announced at the banquet.

Deaton Haynes also would like to request poster reviewers for the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Awards competition at today’s poster session. You would be reviewing only 3-4 posters, so not a huge commitment. Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered, but we still need 3-4 more reviewers. If you are reviewing posters, please find Deaton Haynes before the poster session to get your forms and return them to her when you finish. Winners of the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Awards will be announced at the banquet.

The Publicity and Public Relations Committee chaired by Chris Taylor, in collaboration with Kathrin Dodds, sent out many letters this year regarding our Resolution against the U.S.-Mexico Border Wall. The letters were sent to local state representatives, congressmen and women, and governors of border states in both Mexico and the US. This action strengthens SWAN’s opposition to the border wall approved by the membership last year.

The student advisory committee has scheduled two workshops for the meeting, the first being held today from 12:00-1:00 pm on “How I Became a Scientist” and the second tomorrow 12:15-1:15 pm on grant writing and how to successfully apply for a Howard McCarley Student Research Award. Please join us for those workshops. If you have questions, please find Austin Osmanski.

The 2019 meeting will be held in Chihuahua, Mexico. The BOG approved the 2020 meeting to be held at Sam Houston State University, hosted by Chad Hargrave. The BOG is currently looking for hosts for 2021. If you are interested, please let Stanley Fox know.

As of March 28th, the new SWAN website is live, so please check it out, and you can see the face of it on the screen here.

Finally, David Heins got reappointed to the Board of Trustees, and Robert Dowler is now Chair of the trustees since Jake Schaefer is moving into the president rotation. Phyllis Kennedy stepped down as Chair of the Budget Oversight Committee and was replaced by Robert Edwards. Raelynn Deaton Haynes is stepping down as Secretary and the BOG approved Jason Strickland as our new secretary. Deaton Haynes and Strickland are working together this year to transition him into the position. All of those who served the society received a round of applause.

President Perea-Fox announced that Mark Eberle has agreed to serve as the Long-Range Planning Committee Chair as Robert Dowler has stepped down.

President Perea-Fox called for nominations for the new class of the Board of Governors, to replace outgoing members Bob Edwards, Julie Waits, Austin Osmanski, and Sarah Gonzales Perez. She directed the membership to vote for four new members, then appointed the Wilks Award/Student Field Natural History Award finalists, Zachary Adcock, Kristina Ayers, Amara Lee Garza, and Garrett Hopper to serve as tellers for the election of the new BOG members. Nominations by the membership included Julie Waits, Bob Edwards, Keith Gido, Loren Ammerman, Raelynn Deaton Haynes, Austin Osmanski, and Joel Brandt. Nominations were closed with a motion by Julie Waits and seconded by Edie Marsh-Matthews and a ballot vote was conducted. The election results will be announced at the banquet on Saturday evening 14 April 2018.

President Perea-Fox then announced that we would move on to brief committee reports and reminded the membership there would not be a budget nor treasurer’s report, and we wouldn’t be voting to approve new members.

The Trustees report was given by B. Dowler. Dowler announced Jake Schaefer has stepped down after 10 years as he moves into the presidential rotation. A round of applause was given. Dowler announced that the endowment had over $1,252,000 at the end of 2017 and that the society is in good financial shape. Over the last year, our returns were in between the DOW and S&P and the Trustees continue to invest in a fairly conservative manner. Most of the assets are in mutual funds and the Trustees continue to review them. Since the beginning of 2018, we have lost a little bit but are still over $1,225,000. Money will be moved if needed to balance the budget, given the transition to the new website and management system and the expenses associated.

Julie Waits gave the Conservation Committee report and announced that there was going to be a George Sutton Award for Conservation Research this year. The committee reviewed all papers in the Southwestern Naturalist that came out in the last year and made a decision. Waits thanked the BOG and membership for supporting the resolution for continued scientific collaboration with the U.S., Mexico, and countries in Central America.

Raelynn Deaton Haynes gave the report for the Student Awards Committee, stating that there were 21 applications from the U.S. and Mexico, including 6 Ph.D., 10 M.S., and 5 B.S and were from 16 different universities. She thanked the 13 individuals for reviewing grant proposals, including the five people who were outside reviewers not on the committee. There will be 29 competitors for the Clark Hubbs Student Poster competition. The eight winners for the Howard McCarley Student Research Award will be announced at the banquet, as well as first, second and third place winners for the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award.

Chris Taylor gave the report for the Public Relations and Publicity Committee. Taylor announced that the committee spent Christmas break 2017 sending letters to 40-50 senators, congressional representatives, and governors from states in the U.S. and Mexico along the border. There has been one response so far. Next, the committee will work on getting our statement on the teaching of evolution to politicians, publishers, and boards of education to advance and advertise our stand on the teaching of evolution. Additionally, the committee is looking for members if anyone is interested.

Perea-Fox gave the report for the Membership Committee, in lieu of Nicté Ordóñez Garza. Ordóñez Garza sent apologies for the committee not being as active as it had hoped and that it would do more next year.

Jake Schaefer gave the Development Committee report. The committee stresses five initiatives, including increasing membership, increasing life memberships, making it easier to pay dues, making it easier to donate to the society, and considering an electronic-only option for journal subscriptions.

Program Director Stanley Fox gave the report for the Program Committee. Fox announced the locations for the next two meetings: Chihuahua, Mexico, for 2019 and Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, in 2020. The meeting in 2021 will potentially be at the field station in Junction, Texas, and the 2022 meeting is tentatively scheduled for the Universidad Juarez Estado Durango (UJED). Fox encouraged faculty members to consider hosting meetings and reminded them that this would be good exposure for your university and promotes interchange of ideas. If you are interested, talk to Fox. To facilitate the success and ease of hosting meetings, the committee has developed a spreadsheet of data with information about number of attendees, tickets, etc. to help future hosts plan better and the committee also maintains a Meeting Procedure Manual in English and Spanish available to local committees. Fox thanked past Local Committees for keeping track of data.

Karen McBee gave the Historian Report, beginning by stating that the SWAN archives are maintained in the Western History Collection at the University of Oklahoma. She is working towards digitizing the collection and being able to accept digital documents. She is also developing a mechanism for electronically searching the archive. She charged members to make sure to get any materials that may be of historical significance to her to be filed in the archives. She also asked that any publications that include SWAN in the acknowledgments for funding via Howard McCarley Student Research Awards be sent to her.

Stanley Fox presented the report of the International Relations Committee in place of Perea-Fox and Romero Almaraz. Fox announced that the committee had their annual meeting and made various suggestions to the Local Committee on how to facilitate international exchange. The committee is working on redesigning the Bruce Stewart Student Travel Award application and that the new form will be put online ASAP. The main modification is the requirement that you must be the first author/presenter on a poster or presentation to get the award. One of the main tasks by the committee is to review applications for the Bruce Stewart Student Travel Award. This year, all recipients came from Mexico. There were 28 applications, 20 awards initially granted, but, because two students were not able to get visas, 18 awards were ultimately given. The total amount awarded was $11,911, and the committee has asked the BOG to increase the budget from $10,000 to $15,000. Fox ended by stating that one of the most important programs that SWAN has to promote is the cooperation between countries and that next year, students from outside of Mexico will be eligible since the meeting is in Mexico in 2019. Fox then asked award recipients to get checks from Mike Dixon if you had not received them already.

Dan Hough gave the report for the Website Committee. Hough announced that the website transitioned to the new Wild Apricot website on 28 March 2018. The committee is still working to complete the transfer of all of the information. Additionally, the committee is working to update the listserv to make it more useful. Once the membership information is updated in the new system, everything will be combined to make it easier to communicate with the membership. Hough ended by thanking Stanley Fox and Susana Perea-Fox for their assistance translating the website. Perea-Fox then thanked Dan for his many years of service and a round of applause was given.

Justin Agan presented the Student Advisory Committee report. He reminded students about the workshops hosted at lunch today and tomorrow. He also reminded students about the socials for students before the picnic and banquet. Agan announced that four student travel awards had been granted and that the committee would work to increase applicants for the money. Next year, students in Mexico would be eligible. Also, the committee is in need of members, so if you are interested, please contact Justin. Stanley Fox stated that we especially need students from Mexico to join the committee.

President-Elect Jake Schaefer gave the report for the Wilks/Student Field Natural History Award Committee. There were four finalists chosen to compete out of 25 applications. The four finalists presented this morning during the plenary session. Winners will be announced at the banquet. Schaefer thanked his committee and stated that there were very strong applications this year and it was very difficult to select the winners.

Robert Dowler gave the report for the *ad hoc* Disposition of Back Issues Committee, stating that the issues are available at Angelo State University and to contact him if you are interested in obtaining any. They fill a few orders each year and López-González has been assisting with getting them to Mexico as needed. The Wilks and Student Field Natural History Award winners can get an almost complete set of back issues if they want. Finally, Dowler ended by thanking Matt Hamilton for his assistance curating the back issues and sending them out when needed.

Robert Dowler gave the report for the Long-Range Planning Committee. He announced that the committee was inactive this past year and that he was stepping down as Chair. Mark Eberle is joining the committee and will be the chair.

Phyllis Kennedy gave the report for the Budget Oversight Committee. She stated that the Board of Trustees is doing a great job. However, since there was no budget, the committee was not able to evaluate it. Phyllis is stepping down as Chair and Bob Edwards is replacing her. There was a round of applause for Phyllis and she was thanked for her service.

Lance Williams gave the Managing Editor’s report. First, Williams thanked Loren Ammerman for her service getting the journal back up to date over the past several years. He then thanked Mandy Husak for her work in support of the journal. Lance thanked Marsha Williams for her service over the last year in helping with the journal. *The Southwestern Naturalist* is almost on schedule and the 4th issue from 2017 is in press now. There was a slow-down due to the lack of full feature articles, so please encourage colleagues to submit feature articles. There are plenty of notes, but lack of feature articles was limiting the speed of publication. The committee is working to make it easier to submit papers to increase speed of publication. In 2017, there were 97 papers submitted and there was an acceptance rate of 71%. The journal needs Associate Editors for plants, invertebrates, and mammals, so please talk to Lance Williams if interested.

Past President Phil Sudman gave the report for the Honors Committee. Sudman began by thanking the committee for their hard work. There were seven submissions for the Distinguished Awards and it was a difficult decision. Nominations will be held for three years; one nomination was incomplete and the material lacking has been requested. Sudman thanked the people that nominated and wrote letters for the nominees. Sudman reminded the membership to continue nominating colleagues for these important awards. Sudman ended by saying that three of the four Distinguished Awards would be given and announced at the banquet.

Raelynn Deaton Haynes gave the report for the Local Committee. Deaton Haynes and Paula Williamson co-chaired the Local Committee. There are 275-300 people in attendance, including 93 regular members, 23 regular non-members, 84 student members, and 74 student non-members. There are 120 oral papers and 67 posters. Abstract breakdown by taxon is14 plants, 40 invertebrates, 32 fishes, 14 amphibians, 40 reptiles, 14 birds, and 34 mammals. There are three field trips planned. Deaton Haynes finished by announcing that the vans would be available for transporting people to different locations and reminded everyone about the glass-bottom boat tour coupon that everyone has for a free tour. Perea-Fox formally thanked the local committee, which elicited a big round of applause from the membership.

Mike Husak announced that the *ad hoc* Auction Committee was not active this year and there will be no auction until 2020. Mandy Husak has stepped down as Chair, so this will allow time to get a new chair and start gathering material for the auction.

Perea-Fox discussed old business. The first update was that she would we working with Christy Classi about her e-commerce contract to fix additional issues with SWAN including tax-exempt status and insurance. Second, the new website will soon be complete and become our permanent website. Third, SWAN is now incorporated in Oklahoma and will modify the statement of incorporation based on discussion with our lawyer to get everything ready to get tax-exempt status back. Robert Dowler asked if we would need to change the constitution or bylaws. Perea-Fox stated that we would not.

President Perea-Fox closed old business and moved on to new business.

Jesús A. Fernández presented information pertaining to the 66th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists to be held at the Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua in Chihuahua, México, on 11-14 April 2019. Students handed out booklets to the members about the city. Fernández gave a PowerPoint presentation and showed the logo for the meeting. Fernández announced that Ángela Camargo-Sanabria will be Co-Chair of the Local Committee. Fernández and his team are excited about hosting the meeting and facilitating students from both the U.S. and Mexico interacting and meeting each other.

President Perea-Fox announced that Jason Strickland would be taking over the secretary duties after the meeting.

Following a motion to do so, a second, and approval, the Business Meeting recessed at 1126 h to reconvene at the banquet. The membership gave a round of applause.

The Business Meeting reconvened at the Annual Banquet on Saturday 14 April 2018 at 2120 h with Past-President Phil Sudman giving his SWAN song “A mammologist on the move.” This stellar SWAN song elicited a big round of applause by the audience.

President Perea-Fox then announced the four new BOG members: Loren Ammerman, Bob Edwards, Julie Waits, and Keith Gido.

Phil Sudman, Immediate Past-President and Chair of the Honors Committee, announced the Donald W. Tinkle Research Excellence Award went to Jake Schaefer from the University of Southern Mississippi, the Jerry R. Choate Meritorious Service Award went to Dan Hough from the University of Oklahoma, and the Robert L. Packard Outstanding Educator Award went to Brian Chapman from Sam Houston State University. There was no W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award given.

Julie Waits, chair of the Conservation Committee, announced that the Sutton Award winner was the paper entitled “Native desert grassland plant species declines and accelerated erosion in the Paint Gap Hills of southwest Texas” by John A. Ludwig, Steven M. Wondzell, Esteban H. Muldavin, K. Rosalind Blanche and Yvonne Chauvin, and that the article appeared in Volume 62, Issue 1, pp 53–61 of *The Southwestern Naturalist*.

Stanley Fox, Chair of the Bruce Stewart Student Travel Award Sub-Committee, presented the Bruce Stewart Student Travel Awards. The 2018 awards were granted to: Zanni Hernández Pérez, Angélica Colín Martínez, Alba Rocío Dueñas Cedillo, Saúl Filemón Domínguez Guerrero, Verónica Mancillas Lozano, Juan José Castañeda Gaytán, Genoveva Iomira Chacón Sotelo, Luis Guillermo Constante Pérez, Anahí Esquivel Ramírez, Víctor Manuel Martínez Bustos, Juan Miguel Borja Jiménez, Aline Méndez Rodríguez, Lía Elizabeth Reyes Barón, Daphne Giovana Raven Villa, Uriel Alejandro Jiménez Vargas, and Ángel Neftalí Osorio Rodríguez. Ángel Osorio and Luis Constante won travel awards but unfortunately, were unable to attend the meeting because they were not granted visas.

Raelynn Deaton Haynes, Chair of the Student Awards Committee, thanked the SWAN members (and external reviewers) who helped evaluate the applicants for the 2018 student awards. She announced the eight recipients of the Howard McCarley Student Research Awards ($1,000). Awards were given to one undergraduate student, four Master’s students, and three PhD students. Awardees were (in no particular order): Ciara Crochett, Undergraduate, St. Edward’s University, Advisor Dr. Raelynn Deaton Haynes, Hormonal-mediated dominance hierarchies in a coercive livebearing fish; Allison Hannah, MS, Oklahoma State University, Advisor Dr. Daniel Moen, The effects of temperature on physiology in frogs and their dispersal to the temperate zone from the tropics; Roxanne Pourshoushtari MS, Angelo State University, Advisor Dr. Loren Ammerman, Assessment of the, genetic variability of the Mexican Long-Nosed Bat (*Leptonycteris nivalis*) using microsatellite markers; Aline Méndez Rodríguez, MS, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Advisor Dr. Ricardo López Wilchis, Hibridación de *Pteronotus fulvus* y *Pteronotus gymnonotus* (Chiroptera: Mormoopidae); Holly Garrod, MS, Villanova University Mentor Dr. Robert Curry, A tale of two todies: how vocalizations influence gene flow in sympatric species; Isaác Camargo, PhD, Advisor Dr. Sergio Ticul Álvarez Castañeda, Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas del Noroeste, Filogeografía del género (Soricidae: *Notiosorex*) en la península de Baja California; Gregor Hamilton, PhD, University of New Mexico, Advisor Dr. Thom Turner, A novel approach to trace effects of invasive species across food webs using stable isotopes; Lisa Walsh, PhD, University of Michigan, Advisor Dr. Priscilla K. Tucker, Evaluating the Virginia Opossum’s historical northward expansion from Mesoamerica.

Deaton Haynes then thanked the numerous poster reviewers and announced the 2018 recipients of the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award: first place ($600), Tylor Quiros and colleagues, Mercury levels in tropically diverse fish from Canyon Lake, TX; second place ($400), Angelica Colín and colleagues, Philopatric patterns of *Mugil cephalus* in the Gulf of Mexico and Mexican Pacific; and third place ($300), Jade McCarley and colleagues, The Kisatchi painted crayfish status in Louisiana.

Jake Schaefer, President-Elect and Chair of the Wilks/Student Field Natural History Award Committee asked the four student finalists to come forward and gave them each a check for $250 to offset travel costs to the meeting. He then presented the 2018 Student Field Naturalist Award to Garrett Hopper ($1,000) for his talk entitled “Fine Scale Response of Fish Community to Mussel Derived Resource Subsidies” and the 2018 Wilks Award to Amara Lee Garza ($1,000) for her work entitled “Exploring the Fitness Consequences of Alternative Life History Strategies in Two Texas Butterfly Species”

President Perea-Fox thanked the Local Representatives and Local Committee for a job well done. They received a round of applause from the membership.

Austin Osmanski and Guillermo Álvarez read, and the membership adopted, the following resolutions, which were authored by Austin Osmanski, Jason Strickland, and Mike Husak.

“First off, I would like to thank all the students and faculty who assisted in making the SWAN resolutions this year.

We hereby present the resolutions of the 65th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists.

Whereas, the 65th annual meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists was held in beautiful San Marcos, Texas, from the 12-15 of April 2018,

And whereas, scientific discoveries were exchanged in multiple languages from a wide array of biological disciplines spanning morphology, physiology, genetics, demography, reproduction, phylogeography, behavior, ecology, and conservation,

And whereas, the audience of the fish ecology section were dazzled by an impromptu lecture from Bill Matthews... You could say he’s e-FISH-ent... Don’t worry these jokes won’t SCALE up... they’re pretty CRAPPIE and without PORPOISE... and that’s saying something coming from a guy with a MULLET... I’ll r-EEL-ly just be up here FLOUNDERING around for the next 20 minutes... but I promise I’ll even-TUNA-ly get off the stage soon I promise,

And whereas, our beer to burrito ratio was skewed in the wrong direction on Friday... we could feed Trump’s entire inauguration crowd with all of the leftovers,

And whereas, the arrival of the SWAN water bottles and notepads were later than a non-major to a 2:00 pm lab... but not quite as late as Mandy Husak to SWAN this year,

And whereas, speaking of those water bottles, they all came with a paper warning note inside to not stick your tongue inside the hole... So naturally, we conducted a behavioral survey of the SWANies yesterday to determine who neglected to take out this paper before filling their bottle. Preliminary results from about 30 people indicate that roughly 40% of bottle-users were drinking soggy paper water... and of those, 100% were male,

And whereas, the lack of response from the PowerPoint during the first Wilks award presentation was about as bad as the lack of response from the legislators to SWAN's border wall resolution. At least the PowerPoint had the decency to send an error message,

And whereas, the Dean had his own categories for organisms: fliers, swimmers, crawlers, and those that photosynthesize... but the mussel folks were left out... they felt lonelier than Paula’s keys at the bottom of the elevator shaft,

And whereas, we were all excited the see the endowment reach over $1,250,000 this year. Now we can finally afford to bribe Scott Pruitt to believe in climate change,

And whereas, yesterday, most of us were reminded that being a biologist can sometimes feel like an uphill battle. And some of us turned up to the talks wetter than a bald beaver,

And whereas, SWAN continues to demonstrate their dedication to students,

And whereas, SWAN also continues to promote international collaborations and reach across borders to uphold the universality of naturalism,

And whereas, academic families enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect annually,

And whereas, governmental agencies, academics and lay naturalists were able to come together and discuss biology,

And whereas, every member of SWAN has enjoyed the hospitality of a superb Local Committee spearheaded by Paula Williamson and Raelynn Deaton Haynes and multiple students from both St. Edwards and Texas State Universities, and Paula and Raelynn have also been gracious enough to personally reimburse everyone for Friday’s parking fees,

Therefore, be it resolved, we thank all volunteers and supporters of SWAN, St. Edwards and Texas State universities for allowing us to convene in your beautiful city and hold our 65th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists.

President Perea-Fox then thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, invited the membership to the 66th Annual Meeting in Chihuahua, Mexico, and declared the meeting adjourned at 2146 h.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Strickland

Secretary