

Plenary Session of the 26th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium

April 7, 2006
Time: 5.45 pm

Meeting called by:
Dimitris Margaritoulis

Type of meeting:
Plenary Session

> 104 in attendance

Note taker:

Manjula Tiwari

Agenda

Treasurer's report	Ed Drane
Nominations	Matthew Godfrey
Travel Committee Report	Hoyt Peckham
Modifications to the By-laws and Constitution	Nancy FitzSimmons
Resolutions	Jack Frazier
Resolutions Task Force	Jeff Seminoff
27 th Annual Symposium	Michael Coyne

Additional Information

Special notes:

Agenda

Treasurer's Report**Ed Drane****5.50 pm**

Drane presented the budget and explained the different categories. Income was budgeted at approximately \$137,000, but the ISTS brought in about \$260,000. He explained the difference between the Symposium and Operating Accounts.

Coyne: Move to accept the Treasurer's report

Paladino: Seconds

Unanimously passed

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Nominations**Matthew Godfrey****6.00 pm**

Godfrey listed the members of the Nom. Committee, described the process and criteria, and mentioned that there were 26 nominations. He presented the slate for President-Elect (J. Nichols), Secretary (Manjula Tiwari) and Treasurer (Ed Drane).

Paladino: Move to accept slate

Coyne: Seconds

Motion passes unanimously

There were no nominations for the Board from the floor.

Paladino: Move to close nominations from the floor

Jack Musick: Seconds

Motion passes unanimously

There were no nominations for the first position on the Nom. Committee.

Paladino: Move to close nominations from the floor

Campbell: Seconds

Motion passes unanimously

There were no nominations for the ex-Board member position on the Nom. Committee.

Paladino: Move to close nominations from the floor

Seminoff: Seconds

Motion passes unanimously

The secret ballot took place while Margaritoulis announced the officers completing their term: Matthew Godfrey, Neca Marcovaldi, Frank Paladino, and Clara Padilla

Election results:

Board of Directors: Ana Barragan, Naoki Kamezaki

Nom. Committee: Scott Eckert and Alberto Abreu

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:

Travel Chair's Report	Hoyt Peckham	6.15 pm
<p>Peckham provided the details of the travel grant. Special emphasis was given to Africa (24 participants from 18 countries) – supplemental funds for Africa were received from the Chelonian Research Institute and the Marine Conservation Society. Margaritoulis added that additional funds came from UNEP-RAC and the Bern convention and requested Peckham to include the information in his report.</p> <p>Paladino: Moved to accept Travel Chair's report with amendments</p> <p>Jack Musick: Seconds</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Marydele Donnelly: Did some applicants have both airfare and room covered? Was all their travel covered?</p> <p>Peckham: Some applicants received both airfare and room, but no one had it all covered.</p> <p>Margaritoulis: The problem lies in having to determine the amount to be allocated when the money is still not there.</p> <p>David Godfrey: If there are excess funds, a certain percentage can be set aside for travel.</p> <p>Margaritoulis: There is a Reserve Account in the By-laws and Constitution. However, some sponsors want their money used for specific purposes, so sometimes it is difficult to re-allocate.</p> <p>Peckham: Not many Societies have such an excellent program. Suggestions for augmenting the money are most welcome.</p> <p>Motion passes unanimously</p>		
Conclusions:		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:

Modifications—By-laws & Constitution	Nancy FitzSimmons	6.25 pm
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FitzSimmons explained the Board's need to modify this document and make it more relevant for the ISTS. She went through all the modifications to the By-Laws.

Discussion that arose during this process:

Jack Frazier: If the President is appointed by a selected Board, why have a President-Elect?

Paladino: We are a parliamentary body.

Jack Frazier: Understand the logic of having an ex-Board member on the Nom. Committee, but concerned that the power remains with a small, elite group.

Paladino: The Nom. Committee is split between 3 new members and 2 ex-Board members with membership majority, so less chance for being an elitist group.

Peter Pritchard: What happens if you have a bad Nom. Committee?

Paladino: Cannot fire them, but the President has the power to appoint the Committee.

Marydele Donnelly: Need more diversity at the top. Suggest having 4 new people and one person with experience in the Nom. Committee.

Paladino: There is diversity.

Karen Eckert: If members are on the Board for 5 years and on the Nom. Comm. for 2 years, then we will run out of Board members and become repetitive.

Jack Musick: There are many ex-Board members including Treasurer and Secretary.

Paladino: The Board exists since 1981, so there are many people available.

Sali Bache: Support Marydele's comment about having only one Board member

Pilcher: The two ex-Board members are staggered to provide continuity within the Nom. Committee.

Godfrey: Jeanette Wyneken (ex-Board on Nom Comm.) did not try to influence decisions; she played an important role.

Paladino: Move to accept By-Laws as amended here.

Campbell: Seconds

Abstained: 1

Motion passes

FitzSimmons goes through the modifications to the Constitution

Discussion that arose during this process:

Pilcher: Concerned about a quorum being a 100 members instead of a percentage.

Drane: Before any change like that can be made, the "100" in the Articles of incorporation will first have to be modified.

Jack Musick: Number of people at a Symposium varies, but we can always rustle up a 100 people

Jack Frazier: Is there anything else that also affects the Articles of incorporation?

Drane: No other issue.

Jack Musick: Move to accept the new By-Laws and Constitution

Paladino: Seconds

Motion passes unanimously

Resolutions

Jack Frazier

7.10 pm

1) On the Need to Strengthen Protection of the Kemp's ridley sea turtles by Creating a Texas-Mexico Protected International Swimway

Frazier: According to the guidelines someone has to be responsible for the Resolution if the author Carole Allen is not present.

A graduate student of Andy Lantry offers to fill the position.

Margaritoulis: If the Board has approved it, why is someone needed to be present?

Campbell: The Board approves that it goes to Plenary, but to be consistent, the sponsors need to be here.

Paladino: A member can be eligible to sponsor it.

Rod Mast's name is suggested because he is an Endorser of the Resolution. He says he doesn't know enough about it to explain it, but agrees to sponsor it.

There is some discussion about why year-round closure is recommended in Mexico, but not the US.

Pilcher: Move to accept Resolution as presented

Marydele Donnelly: Seconds

Opposed: 11

Abstained: 50

Resolution passes

2) Resolution to support the adoption and implementation of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's "Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations" by Parties to regional fishery management organizations and sea turtle agreements.

Marydele Donnelly briefly explains the Resolution

Paladino: Move to accept Resolution

Jack Musick: Seconds

Abstained: 6

Resolution passes

3) Resolution on the Need to Strengthen and Implement the Recovery Plan for Kemp's Ridley

Paladino: Move to accept as presented and approved by the Board

Jack Musick: Seconds

Abstained: 15

Resolution passes

4) Designation of Puerto Rico's Northeastern Ecological Corridor as a Nature Reserve

Anders Rhodin explains the Resolution. There is some discussion about whether the Resolution prevents development completely or guides development in a friendly way. Rhodin explains that the Resolution supports Puerto Rican laws to update protection in the region.

Jack Musick: Move to accept Resolution

Paladino: Seconds

Abstained: 11

Resolution passes

5) Resolution to minimize Disturbance of nesting Loggerhead Turtles (Caretta caretta) by tourist activities on the Island of Zakynthos, Greece

A representative of WWF-Greece describes the Resolution

Karen Bjorndal: Move to accept Resolution

Paladino: Seconds

Abstained: 1

Resolution passes

Jack Frazier: Resolutions are part of the Society and the Board knows it is painful process. Please follow the Resolution guidelines otherwise we will be dragged to measures we want to avoid.

Margaritoulis: The BoD has to make decisions about the Resolutions within a very short time. So to increase the efficiency of the process, we have decided to have a Resolutions Committee that does the work and then the Board approves the Resolutions.

Resolutions Task Force Report**Jeff Seminoff****7.40 pm**

Seminoff: The Board meets twice a year and spends a lot of time and effort on Resolutions. It was felt that the process needed to be reviewed and revised and consequently a Resolutions Task Force was created. There was general consensus that Resolutions give the membership a voice. The BoD takes this very seriously. Opinions and comments are welcome. Additionally, having Resolution sponsors at the Board meeting was very useful.

Peter Pritchard: Some members are not English speakers and we correct typos at Plenary and we vote on typos. Seminoff disagreed and requested comments to be sent in.

Jack Frazier: Typos can be corrected. The Resolutions are well publicized ahead of time; little can be done if they are not reviewed ahead of time.

Coyne: This process is the responsibility of a member. Please read in advance.

Jack Frazier: Need to change guidelines to have something firmer.

Seminoff: The Resolutions Task force will deal with it.

27th Annual Symposium**Michael Coyne****7.50 pm**

Location: Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Kingston plantation/Embassy Suites (largest convention center on the mid-Atlantic coast)

Dates: 22 Feb – 1 March

Rooms: \$109/night (can have 4 people per room; includes breakfast)

Highlights: 2 hours of Happy Hour and arrangements of special activities for families with children.

Additional Information

Meeting adjourned at
8.00 pm