

Plenary Session of the 27th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium

February 27, 2007
Time: 4.50 pm

Meeting called by:
Michael Coyne

Type of meeting:
Plenary Session

~ 135 people

Note taker:

Manjula Tiwari

Agenda

Travel Committee Report

Hoyt Peckham

Treasurer's report

Ed Drane

Nominations

Larisa Avens

Resolutions

Nancy FitzSimmons

Online voting

Michael Coyne

28th Annual Symposium

J. Nichols

Additional Information

Special notes:

Agenda

Travel Committee Report**Hoyt Peckham****4.50 pm**

Peckham presented the budget allocations to the travel grantees from the different regions; the number of grantees has increased. Next year the emphasis will be placed on participants from Latin America.

Discussion:

Marydele Donnelly: Some of the grants are small considering how expensive travel can be (e.g., Asia).

Peckham: The emphasis was on Africa. Kartik Shanker found additional funds for his South Asia region through the Ford Foundation. For US participants, only those who were presenting received funding.

Chuck Schaffer: It can be difficult to cash checks. Is there some alternative? Can people be paid in cash?

Peckham: Currently discussing this for next year in Mexico where it will be quite challenging. Marydele Donnelly has suggested donating air miles to the travel grant.

Peter Pritchard: Can you mix and match travel miles?

Peckham: It depends on the company and the program, but there is some precedence. Will find someone to coordinate this.

Bill Irvin: Motion to accept the Travel Chair's report

Chuck Schaffer: Seconds

Motion passes unanimously

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Treasurer's report**Ed Drane****5.00 pm**

Last year was a huge success despite the challenges of going to a different country. Margaritoulis sent the receipts and amount in the Greek account. Drane went through the various items on the budget. The auction brought in \$10,847 dollars. The net profit for Greece was \$26,000.

Bill Irvin: Motion to accept the Treasurer's report

Chuck Schaffer: Seconds

Motion passes unanimously.

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Nominations**Larisa Avens****5.10 pm**

Avens described the nominations process and presented the slate of nominees.

President-Elect: Colin Limpus

Treasurer: Ed Drane

Secretary: Manjula Tiwari

Board: Jean Beasley, Kirstin Dobbs, Marydele Donnelly, Mark Hamann, Selina Heppell, Doug Hykle, Cynthia Lagueux.

Nominating Committee members: Karen Arthur, Felix Moncada Gavilan, Aliko Panagopoulou, Chloe Schauble.

Nominating Committee (Previous BoD member): Sally Murphy, David Owens, Blair Witherington.

Bill Irvin: Motion to accept the slate

Nick Pilcher: Seconds

Motion passes unanimously.

Bill Irvin: Motion to accept Board nominees

Nick Pilcher: Seconds

Motion passes unanimously.

Bill Irvin: Motion to accept Nom. Comm. nominees

Nick Pilcher: Seconds

Motion passes unanimously.

Bill Irvin: Motion to close nominations.

Nick Pilcher: Seconds

Motion passes unanimously.

A secret ballot took place and the votes were counted. There was a tie between Mark Hamann and Jean Beasley, which required a revote.

Final results:

President-Elect: Colin Limpus

Treasurer: Ed Drane

Secretary: Manjula Tiwari

Board: Marydele Donnelly and Jean Beasley

Nominating Committee members: Aliko Panagopoulou, Felix Moncada, Dave Owens.

Conclusions:

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:

Resolutions**Nancy FitzSimmons****5.25 pm**

FitzSimmons explained the new resolutions procedure for this year and apologized for not having the resolution online.

The submitted Resolution was presented: **Resolution to urge countries to adopt, strengthen, and implement domestic legislation to protect sea turtles from international trade**

Bill Irvin: Motion to accept the resolution

Godley: Seconds

Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion:

A. Guthrie: Terms such as “acknowledging” should be replaced with “where as.” Black turtle should be called the mystery turtle to act as a media hook. Add a clause about there being 8 species.

Jack Frazier: The term “where as: is acceptable, but the current format is acceptable too. How will this resolution affect legal exploitation? E.g., Costa Rica, Australia

Marydele Donnelly: The term “trade regulated” addresses this. It’s about illegal trade—only countries that do have legislation should/will respond.

Charlie Manolis: Looks like this is going out to everyone. It is disrespectful to countries that already have efforts underway. Australia and Costa Rica have legal take. CITES only deals with international legislation and cannot talk about domestic legislation.

Marydele Donnelly: Australia has not been included. The document has been devised to give a backbone to improve legislation.

FitzSimmons: We discussed that ISTS members in countries listed can follow up on this Resolution.

Barragan: African and S. American countries should be added to recipient list.

Nick Pilcher: This is primarily about domestic trade.

Marydele Donnelly: It is about control within countries.

Nick Pilcher: Two issues seem to be confused here—domestic and international trade. Need ‘illegal’ trade in the title.

International aspect dilutes the objective of the resolution. This needs a major rewrite.

Colin Limpus: It is important that we focus on illegal trade but urge countries to consider what is legal under their legislation. Traditional use can be trade.

Todd Steiner and Rebecca Regnery: There are many different opinions. Need to vote now. It should have been read earlier and comments sent in for a rewrite. Should move forward with it and make changes here. The main goal is international trade focusing on domestic trade.

Doug Hykle: It is somewhat confusing. If international trade is to improve domestic legislation then add ‘international’ in the title.

Charlie Manolis: This is a complicated resolution and should have been posted on the website for comments.

Sheryan Epperly: Changes in the wording of the title would help.

Amendments were made and the resolution was voted on.

Opposed: 3

Abstained: 9

Resolution passes.

Online voting

Michael Coyne

6.10 pm

Coyne explained that this discussion stems from a need to improve the nominations procedure.

David Godfrey: This is a good idea. If the Plenary is held earlier in the Symposium more people will attend.

Peter Pritchard: If there is a large percentage of uninformed votes, then they would rule out the informed votes.

Coyne: Nomm. Comm. and Board procedures remain. Slate will be presented as before.

Cynthia Lagueux: If people are not attending, but have paid their membership fee, can they vote?

Coyne: Yes.

Todd Steiner: Online system will be for nominations and resolutions?

Coyne: Just nominations

Bill Irvin: Motion to have Board prepare the proposal
Chuck Schaffer: Seconds

Coyne: If you agree, should we prepare for next year or have a plan first?
Godley: Go for it.
Nichols: We should discuss this at the Board retreat and then implement it.

Bill Irvin retracts motion.
Bill Irvin: Motion to create and implement online system.
Chuck Schaffer: Seconds

Peter Pritchard: Will there be nominations from the floor?
Coyne: Two options: 1) keep it or 2) remove it

Bill amends motion to “create proposal, get affirmation from members, and then implement.”
Nick Pilcher: Nomination from members will be solicited
Shanker: Voting on site will be possible?
Coyne: Yes.
Jean Beasley: is the voting process described in the By-Laws and Constitution?
FitzSimmons: yes.

The motion was voted on:
Opposed: 1
Motion passes.

28th Annual Symposium

J. Nichols

~6.30 pm

Location: Loreto, Baja California, Mexico
Dates: 21 – 27 January
Theme: Native Oceans
Accommodation, transportation and possible field trips were described.

Additional Information

Meeting adjourned at
~6.45 pm