

# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of the Herpetologists' League

15 July 2015

Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, McKinley Room, Reno, Nevada, USA

**Board members in attendance:** David Green, John Herman, Jim Spotila, David Cundall, Kim Lovich, Marty Crump, Meredith Mahoney (via phone conference)

**Committee members and guests:** Taylor Fulton and Maria Preston-Cargill (Allen Press), Al Savitzky, Chelsea Clyde-Brockway, Henry Mushinsky, Mary White

**Regrets:** Michael Harvey, Hal Heatwole, Christopher Petersen, Carol Spencer, Tiffany Doan, Stephen Mullin, Stan Trauth, Ken Cabarle, Ann Paterson

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## Spotila called the meeting to order at 1400 PT.

Jim Spotila – Reminded everyone that the last Board Meeting was a phone meeting in May.

All of the following reports were approved unanimously:

### 1) **2014 BoT and Business as well as phone meeting minutes – John Herman**

Herman – All minutes posted on the wiki site.

*David Cundall moved to accept, David Green seconded, and it was approved unanimously.*

### 2) **Meeting Management and Planning Committee report – David Green**

Green – The committee held a Reno meeting where a common symposium platform was discussed for the different societies. Next year's meeting will be in New Orleans, 2017 recommended Austin, TX and it has been approved. Looking for venues thereafter.

Henry Mushinsky – MOU between societies is about to expire, ASIH accepted a 10-yr plan. Rather than a 3 or 5 year MOU between the societies.

### 3) **President's report – Jim Spotila**

Spotila – I regret to inform you that Meredith Mahoney is stepping down as Treasurer. The Illinois State Museum is closing. Spotila sent letters to the Governor to show support for the

Museum and education in general. Laurie Mauger will be the nominee for new Treasurer.

- Requests that HL develop a \$5,000 award to an HL member at the Assistant Professor level in Ecology and Conservation of Herps, it will be named the Raymond D. Semlitsch Award.

David Green – Agreed that this is great and that this is the membership level we need to keep.

*David Green moved to approve, David Cundall seconded, and it was approved unanimously.*

- Journals have been doing fine.
- New Chytrid in salamanders has been identified and the HL is active in the discussion.

#### **4) Vice President's report – David Green**

Green – Was asked by HL President Spotila to form a committee to look at By Laws and Articles of Incorporation. The committee was formed, the documents changed, and the changes were voted on and approved by the BoT and the membership.

- Has been learning with Jim Spotila for when he takes over as President in January.

#### **5) Treasurer's report – Meredith Mahoney**

Spotila – We are doing well in terms of assets and value. Membership was lower but publication costs were lower. Laurie Mauger will be new Treasurer.

#### **6) Long Range Planning Committee report – David Green**

Nothing more to report.

#### **7) Secretary's report – John Herman**

Nothing more to report.

#### **8) Membership Committee report – Meredith Mahoney**

Nothing more to report.

**9) Herpetologica Editor's report – Steve Mullin**

Nothing more to report.

**10) Allen Press Publishing report – Taylor Fulton and Maria Preston-Cargill**

Fulton – Allen Press has had 4 primary successes this past year, 1. HL journals impact factor increased, 2. Amount of content increased 51 articles but only a 1% editorial page increase, 3. Article usage on-line increased through website HLjournals.org and BioOne, 4. HL for mobile was launched in 2014 that displays the articles nicely in a mobile environment, which led to an increase of 83% for mobile usage.

- There were some challenges, manuscript submissions decreased 20% but Steve Mullin was not too concerned about this. A marketing comparison was done and we can do more to encourage submissions. Total journal revenue decreased about 3%.

Jim Spotila – The editors have had some concerns about workflow and publication dates.

Fulton – Yes, a new trim size was utilized by Allen Press and so there were growing pains from this. There was also a miscommunication during the type-set process that did result in a delay of publication. This in turn led to some miscommunications between HL Editors and Allen Press, but they have had meetings to make sure additional quality issues are being handled appropriately. The 3<sup>rd</sup> volume is on time. There is also still space available in the journals. The total allotment is 800 pages with 600 pages for Herpetologica and 200 for Herp Monographs but they can share.

Al Salzitzky – Asked for clarification in the Allen Press report concerning publisher reductions.

Fulton – The reduction data are correct and other publishers have also had a major downturn due to the bankruptcy of Swets.

**11) Symposium Committee report – Mary White**

White – As mentioned in the report, 2 symposia were submitted and accepted.

- Not enough Symposium are being submitted. This year's symposium is dual funded, and David's next year is triple funded. Maybe not enough true herp symposia.

David Green – Going through the process of symposium submittal was difficult, particularly because they were trying to submit to multiple societies. All of the societies have different rules, funds, submission processes, etc. It shouldn't be that hard. Maybe a button to clarify the regulations on the JMIH website would help. In order to get good symposia we need to make it easier and this should also increase submission rates.

White – Maybe multiple societies shouldn't fund a single symposium. That way we have more symposium.

Jim Spotila – Maybe just a common date for all societies on symposium submission and acceptance.

White – We had to send out another call for symposium because we didn't get enough submissions so a deadline wouldn't help.

Henry Mushinsky – ASIH has instituted new guidelines that are posted.

White – Symposium support has not been increased in many years. We need to address that. It no longer covers the cost. HL gives \$2,000, ASIH gives \$1,500.

Spotila – Make some new recommendations with David Green to the HL Board about how much would be acceptable to increase the symposium funding. We should fund all accepted symposium at the full rate of \$2,000 or whatever the new amount would be rather than split it amongst them.

Mushinsky – We need to limit the number of symposia so that we don't get rid of contributed paper presentations and cause competition between societies.

Green – The societies need to communicate.

#### **12) Graduate Research Award Committee report – Robert Espinoza**

Nothing more to report.

#### **13) ) Williams Award Committee report – Ann Paterson**

Spotila – It looks like there was some difficulty in finding physiology reviewers. However, there were lots of proposals submitted. Maybe we should consider if we need more awards if proposals merit it and funding is available, such as Honorable mention maybe funded.

#### **14) Jones-Lovich Award Committee report – Carol Spencer**

Nothing more to report.

#### **15) Conservation Committee report – Kim Lovich**

Lovich – The committee fills out online petitions and we often comment on them. We need to update the website with new contact info. Two main issues right now;

- Rattlesnake roundups and the gassing ban in Texas. We wanted to write a letter to support

the ban but Texas closed the comment period and formed a committee consisting of roundup supporters and petrol industry leaders to develop alternative chemicals to use other than gasoline. However, we shouldn't be waiting, Texas isn't the only place with roundups. A report was given showing which states are still using roundups and those that have changed to no-harm shows. We need to do more letter support and provide support for the no-harm venues. Rather than go to the roundup entities, write to the sponsors.

- o Spotila - Formed a new sub-committee to accomplish this.

- Second initiative is *Bsal*. Herp societies and pet trade approached USFWS to stop salamander imports. New PCR testing regime in place across zoos. USFWS was hesitant to accept full salamander import ban. This may have something to do with the python law that was lumped into the Lacey Act and a lawsuit is now underway.

Jim Spotila – We sent a joint letter to USFWS. USFWS refused to put a moratorium on salamander imports.

Lovich – We offered to offset costs and still no budget. Pet industry also offered to pay for the testing. Cost of prevention is much cheaper than treatment.

Spotila – This should have been a no-brainer. Once it gets here we can't undo it. They are too afraid to get sued.

John Herman – What about the new “cure”? Could we treat them as they come in to prevent?

Lovich – USFWS just not interested. It would be better if USDA and APHIS handled this.

#### **16) BioOne/AIBS report – Al Savitzky**

Savitzky – For BioOne it is business as usual. AIBS has lost staff and is reevaluating but they will continue to work on legislative issues.

- BioOne started its own journal, *Elementa*, but it is struggling, they need manuscripts.

#### **17) Nomination Committee report – Frank Paladino**

Spotila – A list of candidates was generated and they were contacted. We have tried to involve everyone in the society, including our female membership and they denied the request. A list of nominees was distributed.

David Green – The Editors of the journals should be on the ballot.

## **18) New Business**

David Cundall – Some people aren't getting renewal notices for their membership.

John Herman – There are issues with ZenScientist and how membership is passed along.

Jim Spotila – We need to try to recapture those members that are lost and figure out how to fix the ZenScientist issues or switch to another service.

Meredith Mahoney – Has some old membership lists.

Spotila – We can use those lists to possibly get those old members back.

**Meeting adjourned at 1525.**