

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

10 July 2013

Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, NM, USA

Board members in attendance: Marty Crump, David Cundall, Tiffany Doan, Linda Ford, Meredith Mahoney, Stephen Mullin, Patrick Owen, Brian Sullivan, Stan Trauth

Committee members and guests: Breck Bartholomew, Kim Lovich, Henry Mushinsky, Ann Paterson, Karen Rigeway and Jane Cigard (Allen Press), Al Savitzky, Dane Ward

Regrets: Michael Harvey, Hal Heatwole, Fred Kraus, Jim McGuire, Carol Spencer, Jim Spotila

Trauth called the meeting to order at 1400.

The 2011 Board of Trustees Meeting and Business Meeting Minutes were approved as amended.

All of the following reports were approved unanimously:

Meetings Management and Planning Committee Representative's Report (Mahoney)

HL will meet next year in Chattanooga, and this will be the first year of a shortened (4-day) meeting. There may be caps on the number of talks, but there will be increased opportunities for posters. The number of symposia per society will be limited. The 2015 meeting will be in Reno, Nevada, with ASIH (SSAR will be meeting separately that year).

Mullin moved that HL will meet with other JMIH societies in 2016. All votes were in favor.

HL will need to have an email vote on 2016 meeting locations this winter. Crump is the new program officer for the JMIH planning committee.

The Board needs to discuss how HL appoints the representative to this committee. Mahoney has been the representative since 2009. HL would be better served to have an HL representative who is not treasurer or president, perhaps for a 3-4 year term.

Mullin moved to make the following addition to Article II, Section 2 of the HL Bylaws:

The President shall appoint a representative of HL to the Joint Meeting Management and Planning Committee for a minimum of a three-year term.

All votes were in favor.

Cundall moved that Article 3, Section 2 of the HL Bylaws be amended to read:

During the League's participation in the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, a Herpetologists' League representative appointed by the present President shall be recommended to serve as a formal member of the Joint Meeting Planning and Management Committee to assist in the planning, organization, and financing of all aspects of the Joint Meeting.

All votes were in favor.

President's Report (Trauth)

Trauth identified the nominations received so far from Michael Lannoo, the Nominations Committee chair.

Treasurer's Report (Mahoney)

HL received almost \$30,000 in royalty payments for this year. Income is currently split evenly between royalties and membership. Some income came from calendar sales, and some donations have been received for the Williams Award through the ZenScientist site. Right now there is enough money in the operating budget to pay for the Williams Award without taking money out of the endowment. HL continues to receive royalties from *Lizards of the American Southwest*, and this will provide funding for the Jones-Lovich Award for at least the next few years. The biggest costs are the publication of the journals. Last year the World Congress of Herpetology took care of many potential costs, so these meeting costs were less than expected. HL donated its live auction income back to the WCH. HL voted last year to join the National Center for Science Education (NCSE) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), but Mahoney lapsed in making the donations and is rectifying this. HL's endowment in its investment accounts continues to grow, and there has been a stable annual return over the last 3.5 years. The projected budget for next year is slightly in the red. Despite this, there are ample funds to use for various projects without affecting the long-term financial viability of the society.

Allen Press Report (Rigeway)

There were a few changes last year, including changes in editorships for both journals, and replacement of the HL Publications Secretary. Jane Cigard is the new manager of the journals. The successful sale of back issues brought in an extra \$2000.

New initiatives include:

1) ORCID – This is similar to DOI, and is a unique identifier for authors. Authors register to get an identifier that is then posted along with their publications. The identifier helps keep track of who wrote what. It will be introduced into HL journals and posted online. Rigeway indicated

that the author can retroactively label prior manuscripts, and ORCID has global acceptance. Much of the current use is in the medical and chemical sciences.

2) CrossCheck - There has been a large increase in instances of plagiarism. CrossCheck is a new program in which an editor can submit an article to the database to determine what percentage of the article is similar to others. This was launched about 1.5 years ago. While it does not have retroactive capture, it will build quickly. Mushinsky noted that many papers that are based on dissertations can look like they are plagiarized, so one needs to be careful.

There is a new contract under consideration by HL. Highlights include:

- 1) Increasing the trim size to 8.5x11 for journals
- 2) Increasing mobile device accessibility for the website
- 3) Free online color figures for authors (pay for print)
- 4) A change to continuous workflow for *Herpetological Monographs* in which papers will be formally published online as they are accepted. Doan indicated that there are potential problems with taxonomic papers. Rigeway noted that the ICZN has changed its policy for the publication of online papers, so this should not be an issue. Publication date will be the date the paper is published online. The printed journal will serve as a reprint. Mushinsky noted that the taxonomic community feels that publication date should be based on a paper publication, not an electronic publication. Rigeway indicated that publication of taxonomic papers can be delayed so that electronic and paper dates are the same. Doan noted that *Journal of Herpetology* currently will not publish taxonomic papers online before print. Savitzky indicated that his understanding was that ICZN has approved electronic publication after 2011, and registration must occur in *Zoobank* before publication. The date of registration in *Zoobank* is the date of official publication. Rigeway indicated that the cover of *Herpetological Monographs* can clarify publication dates. There is competition with online journals such as *ZooTaxa*, so AP would like to be able to publish taxonomic papers early enough to get naming authority. As long as there is a published date on each article, there should not be any challenge to naming authority. Papers can be held if authors are concerned about this issue. *Herpetologica* is set up for pre-prints, but Moon never took advantage of this (probably due to concern about taxonomic issues).

AP will continue to pay the current royalty rate, it will continue to pay editorial assistantship, and it will lower the amounts paid for print and online. There will be two options for authors' page charges. 50-75% of papers have an HL member as author, and half of these may waive fees.

There has been turnover in associate editors. AP could plan to set up a training seminar at the next annual meeting with the Editors and Rigeway.

Trauth and Mullin discussed potential changes in terms of publishing the journals online with limited end-of-year printing or online-only printing. Rigeway indicated that this is available if

the society is agreeable. The financial impact on society will need to be examined. Rigeway will write an addendum to the current contract to make it fit this possible business model.

Mushinsky noted that Wiki Herps is publishing pirated herpetological articles online the day after articles are published. *Herpetological Review* seems to be affected the most. Rigeway had not heard of this but will look into it. Doan indicated that it seems to be driven by individuals outside of the U.S., and it becomes a major problem when whole journal issues are posted. Rigeway noted that there is not much that AP can do about individuals sharing individual articles, but action could be taken about pirating entire issues.

Membership/Long Range Planning Committee Report (Mahoney)

Spotila organized a conference call that included Henry Mushinsky, Dane Ward, David Cundall, Bibi Santidrian Tomillo, Meredith Mahoney, and Patrick Owen. The conversation covered a number of annually reoccurring topics (see report). Spotila is interested in putting together a strategic plan that could involve an in-person retreat. Savitzky recommended that the committee members examine the references cited in the current AIBS/BioOne report as AIBS has used a strategic plan to completely revamp its bylaws, governance structure, and mission.

Secretary's Report (Owen)

Owen is currently sorting through inherited materials for submission to HL archive. He will be working with the incoming Secretary to ensure a good transition.

Publications Secretary/Webmaster's Report (Mullin)

Ten copies of *Snakes of the World* will be auctioned or given to award winners. HL's distribution of the book will now be handled by Breck Bartholomew. Bartholomew noted that storage of *Snakes of the World* would be folded into normal services for HL, although shipping costs would have to be covered. Bartholomew is happy to store remaining copies, but he would like to sell them. He will retain enough copies to give out as awards or auction items for the next couple of years. Bartholomew will offer books at slightly discounted prices to HL members, but they will be able to be purchased by anybody.

The new Publications Secretary will continue as Webmaster. There is now a Spanish mirror website: thanks to Erin Muths who arranged volunteer Monica Paez. Cundall suggested that a mirror site in Portuguese be created using same procedure as Spanish site since a large proportion of foreign submissions to HL journals come from Brazil.

Herpetologica Editor's Report (Mullin)

The transition from Moon (outgoing editor) to Mullin is continuing. Mullin is currently finishing processing of manuscripts that were initiated through Moon. There is a higher than expected number of manuscripts on amphibian systematics, and Mullin is looking for recommendations

on an additional associate editor. Mullin thanked the outgoing Associate Editors for their service.

Mahoney moved to honor outgoing HL officers with a copy of Snakes of the World. All votes were in favor.

Herpetological Monographs Editor's Report (Mullin)

Michael Harvey is continuing to effectively serve as editor of the journal.

Symposium Committee Report (Mahoney)

HL received a single symposium submission for 2014 that is designed to coincide with preparation of the 10th volume of the Reproductive Biology and Phylogeny series. Mahoney indicated that the submission deadline had been extended into March to try to obtain more submissions. Mushinsky suggested that in the future, the submission deadline needs to be earlier to make sure that the approval process and Board vote can be completed. This is even more important in coming years with the compressed schedule of future meetings, and early January would probably be adequate. Trauth noted that concerns over a lack of proposed talks involving phylogeny or tuataras are being resolved.

Mullin moved to approve the symposium and its funding with minor modifications. All votes were in favor.

Graduate Research Award Committee Report (Mahoney)

The competition was very large last year (due to the World Congress of Herpetology), but participation is down to a more normal size again this year.

Williams Award Committee Report (Paterson)

The committee used a more complex system this time, so judges had fewer proposals to critique. This increased feedback for applicants. Next year the committee hopes to have at least one judge provide good feedback for each applicant. The committee will provide guidelines to judges for feedback in future years. The committee also will make sure that a better job is done of getting proposals assigned to the correct categories in future, and this is helped through new application guidelines.

Jones-Lovich Award Committee Report (Kim Lovich)

The reprint of *Lizards of the American Southwest* should allow royalty funding for the award to continue. Mahoney noted the HL gets 10% of the sale as royalty.

Conservation Committee Report (Kim Lovich)

Lovich is keeping in touch with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) to be aware of activity in Washington. There is ongoing discussion of how to get graduate students more involved. The committee signed a petition to stop logging in the range of the endangered Alpine Golden Salamander. The committee wrote a letter to the Jamaican government protesting illegal logging that is threatening the Hellshire Hills and the Jamaican Iguana. The committee will be reviewing a new petition from Fish and Wildlife about listing garter snake species.

BioOne/AIBS Representative's Report (Savitzky)

It is more difficult for Savitzky to make the BioOne meetings, so he is now reporting based on online postings. A DC-area member might be a more logical representative for HL. BioOne continues to provide substantial royalty income to HL.

AIBS has been working on its own strategic plan for a number of years, and Savitzky recommends reading the references noted in the report for HL strategic planning. Not enough people are taking advantage of the Legislative Action Center which provides timely information on issues coming up before congress and offers letter templates for getting information to congressional representatives.

Education Committee Report (Mullin)

There is no paper report since Kaiser is ill, and personnel turnovers have been occurring. The committee is organizing a Science Café at Marble Brewery on Monday, 15 July, at 4 pm. Herpetologists will “pitch their product” to a tavern audience, and the winner will be selected by popular vote. This event will promote making herpetological science interesting and understandable to the general public.

Graduate Studies Committee Report (Mullin)

Student volunteers are needed to help man the table to sell calendars.

New Business

Frogs of the United States and Canada (Mahoney)

HL donated money to support Dodd's *Frogs of the United States and Canada*. Mahoney suggested that the book received from publisher be used as auction item.

Online publishing of HL journals (Trauth)

Trauth proposed that HL bundle its journal issues into a single volume at the end of the year. Issues would be published strictly online, and hard copies could be specifically requested by members. Rigeway is looking into cost savings.

Student involvement in HL (Trauth)

Trauth noted that at the present time the journal editor selects the cover art. To increase student involvement in HL, the society could have a student contest for submission of photographs for covers, and this would encourage membership.

***Herpetological Conservation and Biology* (Trauth)**

Spotila has contacted the editors of *Herpetological Conservation and Biology* about potentially coming under the wing of HL. Trauth suggested that manuscripts not deemed a good fit for *Herpetologica* could be forwarded to *Herpetological Conservation and Biology*. If this was agreed to, *Herpetological Conservation and Biology* would gain the ability to bind and publish hard copy issues. Publication so far has only been electronic. Ford suggested that there be an exploratory committee on both sides, and that there should be a memorandum of understanding. Sullivan noted that the conservation focus of the journal would be a good benefit for HL, and it could bring in a readership that HL currently does not have for its journals. Lovich indicated that zoo professionals view *Herpetological Conservation and Biology* as the cutting edge of conservation. Rigeway indicated that she would investigate the financial details. Mullin noted that conservation papers are not underrepresented in *Herpetologica*, so the perception that *Herpetologica* does not serve conservation well may not be correct.

Trauth adjourned the meeting at 1750.