

# Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Herpetologists' League

17 July 2015

Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, Reno, Nevada, USA

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## Spotila called the meeting to order at 1801 PT.

### 1) 2014 Business Meeting minutes – Jim Spotila

Spotila – Asked for any changes or discussion to the 2014 Business and Board of Trustees Meeting minutes as published in the December edition of *Herpetologica*. No discussion.

*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 met in April in Reno to prepare for this Reno conference. We have a MOU with K-State and that needed to be renewed. We put bids out for other organizers. Ultimately, K-State was selected with a 10-year agreement.

Spotila – The Reno meeting had planned for 630 but 700 plus people attended so meeting will be in the black.

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

Spotila – All officers are doing their job and all the journals are doing well.

- During a phone conference in May Spotila proposed a \$5,000 a year award to Assistant Professors for research in herpetology and that it should be called the Raymond D. Semlitsch Award. The HL Board accepted that award.
- Also during this phone conference an update on *Bsal* was given. We are trying to get ahead of the new salamander chytrid problem but USFWS is not acting with any haste. A meeting with the USFWS asking for more action was largely met with resistance.

David Wake – A new *Bsal* paper will soon be published in Science.

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

Green – At last year's Chattanooga meeting I was tasked by HL President Spotila to assemble a committee to go over the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The amended Articles and Bylaws were approved by HL Board and membership.

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

Spotila – The HL ended the 2015 fiscal year with \$378,714.11 in total assets, which was an increase of \$12,833.97. HL is in sound financial position. Meredith will be stepping down and new nominations will be talked about later tonight.

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

Green – A meeting in Reno was held, those attending were Green, Spotila, Cundall, and Herman. VP as chair of this committee is great so that they are ready to get work done in their presidency. Society involvement is low and we need to figure out how to increase this. Green also needs to meet with the editors to go over where they want the journals to go.

**7) Membership report – Meredith Mahoney**

Spotila – HL currently has 599 members, but in 2005 it was 780 members. Student membership has increased but regular members are down. We need to figure how to keep students as members as they transition into their professional careers. We can possibly accomplish this by developing the previously discussed new early career award and other incentives for this group. We need to instill the fact that there are other reasons to join the society besides the journals, we need to build a community.

**8) Secretary's report – John Herman**

Herman – Please keep an eye on your email for any electronic votes that may happen.

Discussion was initiated - The ballot was not received by many members from ZenScientist.

Action – Spotila – All correspondence will now be coming directly from John Herman to prevent this issue in the future.

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

Spotila – Journal acceptance rate of 52%. The number of articles was lower than last year and Allen Press sent fliers to encourage submissions. Brazil was the second highest submitting country, other than USA. There were a few issues in the publication process but editors are working with Allen Press to resolve them. Our contract runs through 2018 with Allen Press. Our journals are the highest impact factor herp journals.

David Wake – Herp monographs is a little thin. Maybe we need some more solicitation.

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

White – There is one symposium this year and two next year. We need more submissions.

**11) Graduate Research Award Committee report – Robert Espinoza**

Spotila – This year’s award winners will be announced at the end.

**12) Williams Award Committee report – Ann Paterson**

Spotila – There were lots of submissions and judges, which shows great participation from both students and already professional society members.

E.E. Williams Award winners 2015:

<b>last name</b>	<b>first name</b>	<b>category</b>	<b>title</b>
Crane	Adam	Behavior	Can tadpoles update information about predation risk by extrapolating from prior risk trends?
Kruger	Ariel	Conservation	Horizontal transmission of beneficial microbes and the maintenance of chytridiomycosis resistance in amphibians
Caruso	Nicholas	Ecology	Range dynamics and range limits of a montane salamander
Karhl	Ariel	Morphology/ systematics	How does sexual selection shape the evolution of sperm morphology?
Weeks	Denita	Physiology	Potential mitigation of amphibian disease with biopesticides: a natural, unexplored strategy

**13) Conservation Committee report – Kim Lovich**

Lovich – The committee usually meets via email. We keep track of petitions and other activities in the community, like rattlesnake roundups and *Bsal*. We write letters to political entities when warranted. We had some new people join the committee, including students and agency people. Will start working with ASIH for greater impact as a whole community.

- There has been lots of support for a *Bsal* moratorium on salamander import. We need to increase education outreach to further enhance those aware of this issue and why we need to address it.
- We also work on the rattlesnake roundups. In the review of roundups, those that have converted to no-harm festivals have shown as much if not more earnings. We wanted but couldn’t write about the gassing ban in Texas because Texas formed a committee to look at an alternative to gasoline. After the Texas committee provides an alternative there may be a chance to write the letter. We are looking to form a task force to support the no-harm festivals and target those to that haven’t switched to think about it.

Spotila – There was a large chemical spill this morning near the Guatemala and Mexico border and the river system was decimated. So the societies have come together to write a letter asking the Governments of Mexico and Guatemala to fix this situation and prevent it from happening again.

**14) BioOne/AIBS report – Al Savitzky**

Savitzky – These entities are doing a great job and we are making good money from our Bio One membership. AIBS represents conservation groups and has had some turnover but will seek to solidify new directions to focus on.

**15) Nomination Committee report – Jim Spotila**

Spotila – A list of nominees was handed out for the various positions that are open. The nominees and a short introduction about them were read aloud. Nominations were opened to the floor. No nominations were made from the floor. A ballot will be sent out for vote by HL Secretary Herman.

**16) Graduate Student Award report – Marty Doan**

Doan – The committee decided that runners-up will not be ranked. So we have a 1<sup>st</sup> place and 4 runners-up awards. The runners-up were Julie Ziembra, Rory Telemeco, Michelle Gordon, and Rachel Rhymer. First place went to David Penning.

Spotila – All the papers were great.

**17) Jones-Lovich Award Committee report – Carol Spencer**

Lovich - The 2015 Jones-Lovich Grant in Southwestern Herpetology, \$1,000, was given to Jennifer Singleton (University of California, Riverside) for her project entitled “Relatedness and Home Range Overlap in the Desert Iguana, *Dipsosaurus dorsalis*.”

**18) New Business**

David Green – Canadian NSERC grants, equivalent to NSF, instituted a new policy to increase dissemination of results, which will require all sponsored research to be published in an open-access journal after first year. We need to find a work around for this. So, it would be helpful if HL journals would allow papers to be open-access after 1-year and the other herp journals are also being asked. This would allow Canadian researchers to continue to use these journals.

Spotila – This is a difficult situation because HL makes money from publication subscriptions. So the editors and Allen Press will work together to identify options to get this done.

Spotila – We need to nominate HL Honorary Herpetologists. So, a note will be sent out by HL Secretary Herman.

**Meeting adjourned at 1900.**