

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

6 July 2016

New Orleans Marriott, Galerie 6, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Board members in attendance: David Green, Dave Sever, John Herman, Jim Spotila, Kim Lovich, Stephen Mullin, Stan Trauth, Ann Paterson, Lisa Hazard

Committee members and guests: Taylor Fulton (Allen Press), Al Savitzky, Brad Moon, Katherine Wadsworth, Tiffany Doan, Carol Spencer

Regrets: Michael Harvey, Hal Heatwole, Christopher Petersen, Ken Cabarle, Laurie Mauger, Mike Dorcas, Pilar Santidrián Tomillo

HL President David Green called the meeting to order at 14:11 CT.

1) 2015 BoT and Business as well as phone meeting minutes – John Herman

John Herman – All minutes posted on the wiki site.

Stephen Mullin moved to accept, Lisa Hazard seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

- David Green – new amendments to the constitution need to be written and posted. We need to vote to ratify at Business meeting.

Action: *David Green will write-up the new amendments and John Herman will distribute them for posting on the website.*

2) President's report – David Green

David Green – Nominated Lisa Hazard to look into daycare services provided at JMIIH.

- David Green – AIBS requests sent to Stan Trauth not Al Savitzky. A request for money and support for a letter to Congress.
 - o David Green – The letter had mixed messages and was not productive. Climate change is not likely an issue to get fixed but the assault on science and knowledge is one that needs to be addressed. We need to be smarter in how we interact with politicians.

Action: *David Green will write-up a response letter to AIBS.*

3) Vice President's report – Dave Sever

Dave Sever – Reviewed the management changes with Christy Classi and all were happy about the outcome.

- Dave Sever – 75th Meeting of HL, what is appropriate? Chris Peterson is heading a committee to address this. If you have suggestions please contact Dave Sever, David Green, or Chris Peterson.
- Dave Sever – Formally merged long range planning and membership committees. We met today and discussed membership, these were the things we talked about:
 - o Better use of social media, facebook and the like.
 - o Spicing up our publications, lack of color in the last Herpetologica journal.
 - o Handling of manuscripts in a faster fashion.
 - o Get Professors to encourage their students to join the societies.
- Steve Mullin – if we want to reach students, what if we developed some kind of wall art to hand out to students or a post card that has a link to our Facebook? Maybe every fifth click could get a possible reward such as free or reduced membership.
 - o Stan Trauth – I think the HL can afford this and maybe extend it to 2 years to promote long term commitment.
- David Green – let's wait until long term planning to address all of this.

4) Treasurer's report – Laurie Mauger

David Green – Both Laurie and Meredith are not present so let's table it for a future date.

5) Secretary's report – John Herman

John Herman – Nothing more to report.

6) Herpetologica Editor's report – Steve Mullin

Steve Mullin – The time to process manuscripts has decreased. We have adjusted to trim size change well. Total number of manuscripts submitted was down in 2015 but we are up a

little this year. Acceptance and rejection rates about the same.

- Stan Trauth – how much do authors pay for color plates? And is this a money maker?

- Steve Mullin – \$450 per page containing color content
- Taylor Fulton – We don't make money, just cover cost.
- Steve Mullin – but on-line is free, so I make authors aware of this.

- David Green – Do we have an online early publication?

- Steve Mullin – yes, except systematics.

- Stan Trauth – how can Herp Review publish massive color plates at no cost, as well as Copeia?

- Steve Mullin – SSAR got a huge endowment from a private donation to cover all color costs.
- Stan Trauth – could we afford to build our own endowment to cover our costs?
- Steve Mullin – Taylor can you forecast any change in price of color?
 - Taylor Fulton – It has gone down a little and may in the future but we could work on figuring that out.
- David Green – how many authors would take advantage of this?
 - Steve Mullin – perfect for systematics, so maybe 2-4 manuscripts and 2-4 plates per issue, so total 32 per year color plates if needed.
- Stan Trauth - Should we build a proposal for setting up our own endowment to cover color page costs?
 - David Green – yes, and I think we have it in the budget.
- Marty Crump – ASIH is spending a lot of money this year, maybe we should look at spending our 75th anniversary money on something like this which is better for the society long term.
- Steve Mullin – In 3 years it will be the 75th volume of the journals. Maybe we could move to no color costs and start having editor discretion now.
- David Green – Steve can you cost this out and then we can bring it to the Treasurer and then we can put it up for vote.
 - Steve Mullin – There could be multiple models to cost this out.
 - David Green – put them all together and let's look.
 - Taylor Fulton – There are ways to reduce the cost by placing color pages

together.

Action: *Steve Mullin will put together the information on color page costs for multiple models (e.g., all color, editor choice, only systematics) and present it to David Green and Laurie Mauger for discussion.*

- David Green – We talked about the journals earlier today. The most successful journals are the hardest to get into and fastest turn around. For example, Science and Nature. How can we enhance these two metrics on our journals?

- Steve Mullin – We are good on turn around.
- Taylor Fulton – Yes we are having faster turnarounds.
- Steve Mullin – The impact factor is going up and we are at the top.
- Marty Crump – How do we get that information out?
- Dave Sever – Many journals have their Impact factor on their websites.
- Taylor Fulton – we can do that.

- David Green – How many are rejected before review.

- Steve Mullin – about a dozen out of 74. The time to decision is not included in my report, but I could do that.
- David Green – We should know that. Maybe you should be even more stringent and reject even more before going out to review.
- Steve Mullin – I have been leaning on the Editorial Board more and more for this.
- David Green – That is good.
- Taylor Fulton – Be careful though because you can get thin journals, which may hurt membership.
- David Green – Maybe we need to be more direct and tell people we are getting tougher and reducing turnaround time.

- David Green – How many strictly taxonomic papers, new species accounts do we do?

- Steve Mullin – 15 papers or so.
- David Green – but those don't get cited well, which hurt our Impact factor. Maybe those should only be published if associated with a larger scientific paper.

The emphasis is on the science not the species directly.

- Steve Mullin – Those larger papers usually go to Herp Monographs. Some of the taxonomic papers can get scooped and they lose out on initial publication. Therefore, we need to be careful.
- David Green – maybe Herpetologica should move away from species accounts.
- Tiffany Doan – we need that outlet and Herpetologica has a history for being that journal.
- David Green – I'm saying we should redefine ourselves.
- Tiffany Doan – but authors already see Herpetologica in this light
- Steve Mullin – I agree with Tiffany.
- David Green – I just wanted to increase impact factor
- Steve Mullin – I have increased techniques papers for that purpose.
- David Green – fair enough, I just wanted to ask.

7) Herpetological Monographs Editor's report – Michael Harvey

Steve Mullin – I don't know what Michael is doing to address more pages.

- David Green – so could we use the empty pages to increase number of color pages.
 - Taylor Fulton – Sure we could look into it.
- Dave Sever – Did the concerns with Allen Press raised last year get taken care of?
 - Steve Mullin – It is better.
 - Taylor Fulton – we have had a change in managers and it is better.

8) Publications/ Webmaster report – Ken Cabarle

David Green – We can table this until Ken can be here.

- David Green – There was concern between the two websites, the business is managed by Christy Classi but our own site needs to be handled by us.
 - David Green – We need to clarify what the webmaster does. Ken gives stuff to someone else and then it gets put up.
 - Steve Mullin – yes and no. There are fields that can be filled by Ken at any time.
 - David Green – then information needs to be given to him. We need to badger the

appropriate people.

- Carol Spencer – I tried and it has been tough to get things going.
 - David Green – We need a boss for webmaster and Facebook matters. Maybe Ken isn't up for this task.
 - Carol Spencer – SSAR provides a stipend to a student that handles it and it has been working well.
 - David Green – I like that idea, do we like that idea?
 - Steve Mullin – Turn over would be high.
 - Carol Spencer – students can recruit other students.
 - Lisa Hazard – set-up some generic webmaster and let several students check the site.
 - Carol Spencer – the payment is the key.
 - Steve Mullin – In 2005 our webpage was pretty cutting edge but it has been in stasis.
- Dave Sever – Can anyone post to the Facebook page?
- Carol Spencer – yes

Action: *David Green will write to Ken to let him know that we are increasing his responsibilities but he can hire an assistant. If this is too much of a burden on Ken then we can appoint someone else as webmaster.*

9) Symposium Committee report – Mary White

David Green – There is one symposium proposal. I have asked Mary to increase the call for symposia or make it more visible. This seems to be a feast or famine system, so maybe we don't reject symposium but just delay them so that we have a managed system of symposia.

10) Graduate Research Award Committee report – Robert Espinoza

Marty Crump – We have 21 students this year, most ever. And our award is the best in terms of monetary amount.

11)) Williams Award Committee report – Ann Paterson

Ann Paterson – Had difficulty in getting some judges in Physiology and some web issues with getting call for proposals out and submissions in. We had fewer proposals this year.

- Ann Paterson – The morphological and systematics judges thought it should be re-named to diversity and evolution to better address the proposals that are being sent in. The judges didn't feel confident in judging some proposals.

- David Green – I agree with a change because it seems archaic.
- Ann Paterson – Do we lump with a new name or do we create a new category, for which we need funds.
- Steve Mullin – We could probably support another category.
- Ann Paterson – It may increase submissions.
- Ann Paterson – Maybe functional morphology and then also a systematics and evolution categories.
- Tiffany Doan – If we separate it then maybe we won't have enough to support the category.
- David Green – If there are so many in Ecology and fewer in these other categories then that is a problem too.
- Ann Paterson – We could also use our discretion to move them to where we think they belong.
- Ann Paterson – This cycle of proposals has already come out so we can't change it now. Maybe wait to see what we get this year and then survey the judges.
- David Green – I would like you to submit a proposal about how to fix this. We need to balance the categories by either adding or renaming some categories.
- Ann Paterson – I will and I would like it done by December so that it can inform the next call for proposals.
- David Green – good that can be handled through email.

Action: *Ann Paterson will put together a proposal addressing the need to balance the categories and deliver it to David Green for discussion.*

12) Jones-Lovich Award Committee report – Carol Spencer

Carol Spencer – 12 students this year, which is typical. Consistent group of judges and consistent feedback.

- Kim Lovich – Do you see a consistent group of institutions?

- o Carol Spencer – Yes, we have tried to get more students from Mexico. The quality has improved through the years.

- Ann Paterson – The students really love the feedback from these awards.

13) Semlitsch Award Committee report – Michelle Boone

David Green – Michelle Boone is not here. The committee was charged with crafting the terms, set out the criteria and then pick a winner. This has been done! We are now working on matching the funds of Jim’s initial funds. The winner will be announced at the Plenary tomorrow. We don’t have a plaque or anything yet but I created a coupon that can be redeemed.

14) Graduate Student Committee report – Chelsea Clyde-Brockway

David Green – Chelsea is not here, so let’s table it.

15) Education Committee report – Craig Guyer

David Green – This is a joint committee and it gives out the Meritorious Teaching Award. We haven’t heard anything from this.

16) Long Range Planning and Membership Committee report – Dave Sever

Dave Sever – We need to increase membership. We need students to feel like the society is beneficial.

- Marty Crump – What about a more long-term benefit, maybe students could pay the membership at a reduced rate for ten years or something else.
- Stan Trauth – I like that idea, maybe 2 years would do it.
- Lisa Hazard – You could get a reduced rate to JMIH for membership loyalty.
- Taylor Fulton– what is the cost of membership?

- Steve Mullin – About \$50, which is not bad.
- David Green – What is the value of the society? It is no longer the journal.
- Kim Lovich – What about a challenge to bring in more members? You get 5 new members we will give your membership to you free.
- David Green – We should stress the networking benefit. Many of your studies now need outside help. Maybe our role could be the way to connect these researchers.
- Stan Trauth – Get them to the meeting and let them connect.
- Al Savitzky – Recent studies in membership suggesting people join less and are joining more specialized societies.
- David Green – We need to hear more from the young members.
- Al Savitzky – Let’s not compete amongst ourselves as societies.
- David Green – So should the societies actively diversify so that we concentrate on particular fields within Herpetology?
- Al Savitzky – We could do that with journals but maybe not at the society level. A single membership for all might be the best model. The Ornithology societies have agreed to do this.
- Stan Trauth – We have the problem with how the Ichthyologists in ASIH will view this arrangement.
- Al Savitzky – We don’t need to exclude them.
- John Herman – We could offer a Service Award to the Profession.
 - David Green – This would go to senior members for leadership to societies, meetings, etc. Doesn’t need to be any one society but more to the profession. Do you think that is something we should pursue?
 - Stan Trauth – Is this a monetary award?
 - David Green – yes, similar to the Distinguished Herpetologist Award.
 - Tiffany Doan – Will this increase membership?
 - Steve Mullin – maybe a criteria could be how many student memberships you have generated in the course of your career. That could be a way this would support membership.
 - David Green – There are lots of ways to look at this and a committee would need to be formed.
 - Carol Spencer – This would hurt people from small institutions or that

don't have students.

- David Green – It could be a blended model.
- Stan Trauth – I think it should be North American because we don't know that much about those that are doing stuff in Europe or elsewhere.
- David Green – Should we do this award? Can we have a motion to set up a committee?
 - Jim Spotila moved to set up a committee, Kim Lovich seconded.
 - Dave Sever – We need to be able to distinguish this person from the other awards.

The vote was unanimously affirmative.

Action: *David Green will setup a committee to draft a proposal for a new HL Service to the Profession Award.*

17) Meeting Management and Planning Committee report – David Green

David Green – There is a recommendation that we meet in Rochester, New York in 2018. They had the better venue and prices. The city is pleasant. We couldn't identify a local host but we can figure that out. Do you all approve of meeting in Rochester, New York?

The vote was unanimously affirmative.

- David Green – 75th anniversary next year, the committee is headed up by Chris Peterson. The committee will be organized soon. We are not trying to do something huge just nice. Kim Lovich would you be willing to serve?
 - Kim agreed.
- David Green – Daycare at the JMIH, Lisa Hazard was appointed to a joint committee to address this issue.
 - Lisa Hazard – We asked other societies how they handle this situation and we are working on it.
 - David Green – the main issue is liability.
 - Jim Spotila – The young herpetologists are those that will benefit and this is a

great way to encourage them to join and attend.

18) BioOne/AIBS report – Al Savitzky

Al Savitzky – There is some leadership changes in AIBS. I have left the board of that society so HL may want to have someone closer to Washington serve on this committee. BioOne is very cheap to Libraries so we are not going away anytime soon.

- David Green – Al, I received AIBS initiatives through Stan Trauth, why didn't I get them through you?

- Al Savitzky – They probably have Stan as the president.

- David Green – that needs to be fixed.

Action: *John Herman will write to AIBS and inform them who the current HL officers are.*

19) Liaison report – Al Savitzky

Al Savitzky – Most things that happen as the Liaison are concerning the planning of the JMIH. There was not an effective Liaison position, except recently.

- David Green – How much do you want to know?

- Al Savitzky – As much as you want to give me. I think the societies should collaborate more. Competing with each other is not a good long term strategy.
- David Green – Most of us have held positions in multiple societies anyways.

Stan Trauth called for a break at 16:35 CT.

- David Green – Yes, 10 minute break.

20) Conservation Committee report – Kim Lovich

Kim Lovich – Rattlesnake round-ups weren't being very actively engaged by the societies so we have taken a stronger role. We would like the HL to sponsor \$250 for a rattlesnake festival to compete with the kill roundups. Some of the big name sponsors that support the kill roundups were contacted and their leadership was unaware. The zoos have also been engaged through demonstrations and education.

- David Green – I think this is something HL should support.
- Kim Lovich – Bsal regulations covering over 200 species were listed by USFWS but it is complicated. This includes samples but not eggs. The person receiving the samples is the one that needs the permit so things are complicated right now. The concern is how we address disease concerns not necessarily transport only. A task force is being setup to address disease permitting.
 - o Stan Trauth – It is a \$100 permit correct?
 - o Kim Lovich – Yes, the receiving institution needs to fill out the permit and pay for it. The current system is not good but we are working on it.
 - o Stan Trauth – How is this policed?
 - o Kim Lovich – It will be difficult.
 - o Jim Spotila – It did get very complicated.
- Kim Lovich – PARC has established some new habitat management guidelines, HL has supported this book.

21) Standard Names Committee report – David Green

David Green – Haven't really done much. New Peterson Field Guide came out and are now mostly in-line with the standard names list.

22) Allen Press Publishing report – Taylor Fulton

Taylor Fulton – Financial performance has declined due to subscription decrease. Distribution and subscriptions fell but licensing and usage have increased. One marketing strategy was a call for papers that went out to over 1,100 people and 18 new submissions came from people on that list.

- Steve Mullin – the most recent JCR scores have increased and continues to be the highest for North American journals. I'd also like to introduce Katherine Wadsworth as a new member of the team.

23) New Business

David Green – Any other Business?

Meeting adjourned at 17:07 CT.