

World Seagrass Association, Inc.

Annual General Meeting

26-09-2004

Minutes

Introduction

The meeting held in Townsville as part of the Seagrass 2004 Conference was the third Annual General Meeting of the World Seagrass Association, Inc. (WSA). As a company, we are required to hold an AGM every year within three months of the end of our financial year (30-June).

The AGM is a formal meeting to report on the progress of the Association and to accept an audit report of the financial position of the company – World Seagrass Association, Inc. The Association is also required to elect a new management committee at the AGM.

The Secretary of WSA compiles a report for the auditor each year and the report is available on the WSA web page.

The auditor did have some comments to make about the company. These were to do with income – particularly that we cannot predict or control our income with small amounts of money in a changing dollar exchange world. There is not much we can do about this. The auditor also noted that we are not signing off on management committee meetings – we have not done this because all our meeting are conducted by e-mail, so there is no confusion about the discussion and outcome that has to be summarised in minutes and agreed to. It is the auditor’s view that we should provide summarised management committee minutes for agreement. It will be done in future.

We are required to pay tax that we can largely reclaim when we spend money. I am working with the management committee to ensure our tax exposure is small.

WSA Meeting in Townsville

The meeting opened at 1730hrs at the Seagrass 2004 conference venue (Jupiters Casino conference room) on Sunday the 26 of September 2004. The following were present:

Members and others present (our quorum is 9).

Name	Organisation	Member
Pat Biber	University of Carolina, Chapel Hill	No
Eric Paringit	University of the Philippines	No
Ainsley Calladine	James Cook University	No
Maricela de la Torre Castro	Stockholm University	Yes
Everardo Barba Mactas	Ecosur - Mexico	Yes
Martin Gullstrom	Goteborg University	Yes
Britta Munkes	University of Kiel	No

Massahiro Nakaota	Chiba University	Yes (04-05)
Hitoshi Iizumi	Japan Sea National Fisheries Res. Int.	Yes
Ken Moore	VIMS. College of William and Mary	Not yet
Pere Renom	Dept. Ecology Univ. Barcelona	Not yet
Kun-Seop Lee	Dept. Biology, Pusan National Univ.	Yes
Japar Sidik Bin Bujang	Dept. Biology, Faculty of Science, Univ. Putra, Malaysia	No (will be from 2004-2005)
Ziyusei Kanamoto	CMES, Ehime Univ. Japan	Yes
John Kuo	Univ. W. Australia	Yes
Karen Vidler	Coastcare, Australia	Yes
Xiaoping Huang	South China Sea Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, P.R. China	Not yet
Anitra Thorhaug	Yale University	Yes
Chiltima Aryuthaka	Kasetsart University Bangkok, Thailand	No
Yaowaluk Monthum	Kasetsart University Bangkok, Thailand	No
Christie Pergent - Martini	Univ. Corsica	Yes
Maria Cristina Buia	Stazione Zoologia - Italy	Yes
Gerard Pergent	University of Corsica	Yes
Jane Mellors	DPI&F	Yes
James Stuart	JCU	No
Miguel D. Fortes	IOC / Westpac	Yes
Jacqueline Uku	KMFRI, MOMBASA, KENYA	Yes
Michael Traber	Univ. of RI	Yes
Fred Short	UNH	Yes
Evamaria W. Koch	UMCES, USA	Yes
Jeffery L. Gaeckle	UNH, USA	Yes
Len McKenzie	DPI&F, CRC Reef	Yes
Paul Erfteimeijer	WL/ Delft Hydraulics	Yes
Caroline Ochieng	UNH, USA	Yes
Di Walker	UWA	Yes
Joel Creed	Brazil	Not yet
Marcia Figueiredo	Jarodim Botanico, Brazil	No
Gabriele Procaccini	Stazione Zoologica Italy	Yes
Alan Jordan	Univ. of Tasmania	No
Stephen Granger	University of RI	Yes
Bill Dennison	Univ. MD CTR ENV SCI	Yes
Michelle Waycott	JCU	Yes
Bob Orth	VIMS, College of William and Mary	No
Cynthia Durance	Precision Identification	Yes
Karine Matos Magalhaes	Fafire	Yes
Ann-Maree Schwarz	NIWA, New Zealand	Yes
Mike van Keulen	Murdoch Univ. Australia	Yes
Kieryn Kilminster	Univ. of WA	Not yet
Stephanie Seddon	Univ. of Sydney	No
Christian Hily	IUEM, Brest France	Not yet
Gloria Peralta Gonzalez	Univ. of Cadiz (Spain)	Yes
Bob Virmstein	St. John River Water Management District	No
Ivan Blanch Penate	Univ. of Las Palmas de Grau Cauaria (S Paiee)	Yes
Begona Martinez Crego	Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Blanes - CSIC	Yes
Adriana Verges	Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Blanes - CSIC	Yes
Fiona Tomas	Dept. Ecologia, Universitat de Barcelona	Yes

Mat Vanderklift	CSIRO Marine Research	Yes
Anne Brearley	UWA, Australia	Yes
Paul Lavery	ECU, Australia	Yes
Judson Kenworthy	NOAA, USA	Yes

A proxy vote was received from Andrea Raz Guzman Macbeth, Mexico, to be exercised by the Secretary.

The meeting was jointly chaired by the President Miguel Fortes and Vice President Fred Short.

Main Business

There was a short presentation by the Secretary on the last two years' activities.

The following resolutions as per the agenda – mostly items required to run the company - were then voted on:

Resolutions of the Meeting

1. That we accept the tabled financial report

Passed unanimously

2. That we accept the tabled report of the auditor

Passed unanimously

3. That we consider nominations for the position of President, Vice President Treasurer, and Secretary for the management committee and such members as we decide to be members of the general committee (paid up members only are entitled to vote)

Management committee positions were declared open and nominations taken from the floor of the meeting as per Section 14(1) (d) of the Associations Incorporations Regulations 1999.

Fred Short was nominated for President by Di Walker and seconded by Miguel Fortes.

There were no other candidates

Fred was elected unanimously

Miguel Fortes was nominated for Vice President by Fred Short and seconded by Jane Mellors.

There were no other candidates

Miguel was elected unanimously

Len McKenzie was nominated as Treasurer by Rob Coles and seconded by Miguel Fortes

There were no other candidates
Len was elected unanimously

The meeting reappointed Rob Coles as Secretary.

There was discussion re the composition of the general committee that we have used to help run the affairs of WSA. Discussion centred on having a student and the organiser of ISBW7 on the committee.

On this basis, the meeting elected Jacqueline Uku (ISBW7 organizer and student) and Gloria Peralta (new member from Spain) to the committee. Maria Christina Buia, past Treasurer of WSA, was also elected to stay on the committee.

Fred welcomed the new members on behalf of the Association.

- 4. That we appoint Horwath Kehoe Smith of Lake Street Cairns as the association auditors.**

Passed unanimously

- 5. That the membership fee be set at USD \$20.00 for full membership and USD \$10.00 for student membership and USD \$500 for corporate membership or the close equivalent in foreign currency and that membership be open.**

Passed unanimously

- 6. That we agree to pay \$3000.00 to the SG 2004 travel award.**

Passed unanimously

- 7. That the association members entrust to the management committee the day-to-day running of the Association business.**

Passed unanimously

Location of the next ISBW?

Three locations were suggested for the next workshop to be held in 2006. Presentations on each were given to the meeting.

- Zanzibar**: Jacqui Uku gave a presentation on behalf of Sven Beer who was unable to come.
- Brazil**: Karine Matos Magalhaes gave a presentation for Brazil but noted that it would be best there in 2008.
- Thailand**: Chiltima Aryuthaka nominated Phuket, Thailand as a location for ISBW7.

There was a general feeling that we should support an African location despite concern from American participants about the travel cost involved in such a distant place. East Africa had been considered at previous meetings but had been passed over. A meeting there should attract some local scientists.

The meeting decided to support Zanzibar for 2006 and to consider Brazil and Thailand for ISBW 8 and 9.

General Discussion

1. Masahito Yoshida, Executive Director of the Nature Conservation Society of Japan, outlined the problems at the Okinawa airport development site in southern Japan. He is not sure how to approach the issue, but he asked the WSA to write to the Japanese and US Governments regarding the development of the airport. The airport is to be built on a seagrass bed that is used by Dugong as a feeding site.

Anitra Thorhaug suggested writing to the endangered species program in the US Department of Commerce and to the UNEP programme and the CITES convention.

There was general agreement that a letter should be written and members voted to allow the management committee to work with Japanese scientists to compose a suitable letter. The management committee will work on this issue.

2. Fred Short suggested the WSA should establish a lifetime achievement award to be presented at future meetings. He suggested a candidate for the first award.

A resolution was put to support an award (nominated by Rob Coles and seconded by Michelle Waycott). The resolution was passed on show of hands after some discussion about the form the award should take. A candidate was chosen to receive the first award. The management committee will work on the form the award.

3. Fred Short suggested a global mapping effort to increase information of seagrasses worldwide. The problem is that there is no money to do global mapping but he suggested to the Association should group together and try to push seagrass global mapping efforts. WSA could provide moral and possibly some financial support to initiate the global mapping effort. No formal resolution was made on this issue.

4. It was also suggested the Association could support a simple field guide to global seagrasses like the one Michelle Waycott has put together for the Western Pacific. Bill Dennison suggested just a regional guide.

5. Pere Renom suggested a world herbarium and Fred Short noted the World Herbarium already held at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington. Pere is suggesting a photographic (digital) herbarium with a new technique using a scanner to produce a 2 dimensional image for records.

Michelle Waycott noted that the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and James Cook University has a virtual herbarium and is hoping for more input from the WSA members. The QDPI&F collection will go on line in the next few months. Rob is hoping that people could complete a similar virtual herbarium for each region and the WSA and QDPI&F could be the avenue for dissemination.

6. Bill Dennison hopes to have an image library for various seagrasses where people want to share photos with photo credits etc. Fred has asked that Bill send him the protocol for his photo library.

There was no formal resolution and the management committee will continue with a discussion of options for issues 4-6 above.

The meeting adjourned for the conference dinner at 19:00 PM.

The WSA Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best in your seagrass endeavours. For those members unable to come to Townsville, we look forward to the possibility of catching up with you in Africa at ISBW7.

Best Wishes



Rob Coles
Secretary, WSA

