

World Seagrass Association, Inc.

Annual General Meeting

12-September-2006

Minutes

Introduction

The meeting held Zanzibar, Tanzania, was the fourth Annual General Meeting of the World Seagrass Association, Inc. (WSA). As a company, we are required to hold an AGM every year within six 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/and office bearers at the AGM.

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

Our total number of financial transactions is quite small for 2005–2006 and we were able to use the CRC Reef Research Centre as our auditor. This service has not been charged for so we appreciate of their help. Unfortunately the CRC Reef Research Centre closed down as a company in September 2006 and we will have to find a new auditor for next year.

We are required to pay tax on income generated in Australia that we can largely reclaim when we spend money. I am working with the management committee and treasurer to ensure our tax exposure is small.

Meeting Agenda

Item	Time
1. Nomination of Chair for the meeting	1400
2. Welcome by Chair	1435
3. Registration of Proxy voters and members	1440
4. Acceptance of Audit Report	
5. Appointment of Auditor	
6. Discussion and voting on resolutions 1–7	1450
7. Other Business and Discussion	1520
8. Wind up and thanks.	

Location

The meeting opened at 1400hrs in the conference room at the Zanzibar Beach Resort, the location of ISBW7. The following were present:

Members and others present (*our quorum is 9*).

Name	Member	
Mat Vanderlift	Yes	Proxy
Silvia Ibarra Obando	Yes	Proxy
Len McKenzie	Yes	Present
Jane Mellors	Yes	Present
Michelle Waycott	Yes	Present
Tim Carruthers	Yes	Present
Anne Brearley	No	Present
Kathryn McMahon	Yes	Present
Di Walker	Yes	Present
Mike van Keulen	Yes	Present
Cynthia Durance	Yes	Present
Xiaoping Huang	Yes	Present
Jacqueline Uku	Yes	Present
Karen Vidler	Yes	Present
Gloria Peralta Gonzalez	Yes	Present
Arie Vonk	No	Present
Jessie Jarvis	Yes	Present
Lotte Horn	Yes	Present
Paul Lavery	Yes	Present
Anitra Thorhaug	Yes	Present
Ken Moore	Yes	Present
Maricela de la Torre Castro	Yes	Present
Meredith Ferdie	Yes	Present
Giuseppe Di Carlo	No	Present
Saloman Bandeira	Yes	Present
Tomas J Lyimo	Yes	Present
Eugenia Apostolaics	Yes	Present
Amy Dale	Yes	Present
Mats Bjork	Yes	Present
Aaren Freeman	No	Present
Paul Erftemayer	Yes	Present
Miguel D Fortes	Yes	Present
Fred Short	Yes	Present
Sven Beer	Yes	Present
Rob Coles	Yes	Present

The meeting was chaired by the Prof Fred Short (incumbent President) and Dr Michelle Waycott (newly elected President).

Main Business

- The Secretary's report and Audit report were tabled and accepted.
- The meeting appointed Fred Short as Chair.
- Kathryn McMahon took meeting minutes.
- Congratulations was expressed to the ISBW7 organising committee
- Congratulations expressed to Mike van Keulen for running the Seagrass Forum (website)
- There was a short presentation by the Secretary on the last two years activities.
- Members present and by proxy were noted as above. There was a quorum for the meeting.
- Chair declared that all positions on the WSA Inc. Management Committee (*President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary*) were vacant and nominations could be taken from the floor, but that only members were eligible to vote.
- Members agreed that nominees wait outside while members voted.
- Member who nominated was asked to give short presentation on the nominee.
- Nominees for WSA Inc. President were:
 - Fed Short
 - Michelle Waycott (*elected by majority of 28 total votes cast*)
 - Di Walker
- The meeting appointed Michelle Waycott as Chair.
- Nominees for WSA Inc. Vice President were:
 - Tim Carruthers
 - Fed Short (*elected by majority of 28 total votes cast*)
 - Mike Fortes
 - Guissepe di Carlo
- Nominees for WSA Inc. Treasurer were:
 - Tim Carruthers
 - Kathryn McMahon
 - Gloria Peralta Gonzalez (*elected by majority of 27 total votes cast*)
- Chair explained that position of WSA Inc. Secretary was an appointment and election was not required. Also WSA Inc. Secretary must be a resident of Queensland Australia, where WSA Inc. is registered. A new Secretary was appointed.
- WSA Inc. Steering Committee was appointed from floor.
- Discussion and voting on resolutions 1–7

Resolutions of the Meeting

- 1. That we accept the tabled financial summary and report from the Secretary.**
Agreed unanimously
- 2. That we accept the approval of the auditor.**
Agreed 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)**
Agreed unanimously
Nominations taken from the floor
- 4. That we approve the management committee role in nominating a suitable ongoing process for auditing the Associations Accounts**
Agreed unanimously
- 5. That the membership fee be set at USD\$20.00 for full membership and USD \$10.00 for student membership and USD\$500.00 for corporate membership or the close equivalent in foreign currency and that membership be open.**
Agreed unanimously
- 6. That the association members entrust to the management committee the day-to-day running of the Association business.**
Agreed unanimously
- 7. That the association note and approve of the method of handling credit card transactions as follows:**
“Credit card information is faxed to Northern Fisheries Centre as per the membership form and is logged as arrived. It is then faxed to the CRC Reef Research Centre in Townsville and processed to their bank account as we are to small an organisation to maintain an international merchant bank facility. We receive a copy of the credit receipt and exchange rate receipt returned by mail and logged back into our system as received. Money is transferred back to our bank account on invoice. A receipt can be sent to individual members if requested. Information is held only as a paper copy in the Northern Fisheries Centre. The Reef and Rainforest Research Centre will replace the CRC Reef Research Centre in late 2006”
This system is as secure as we can make it but obviously there is always a small chance that information could be misused. We would appreciate your acceptance that we take as much care as possible but that you accept there is always some risk involved.
Agreed unanimously

Management Committee

As per resolution 3 the Management committee positions for 2006–2007 will be:

President: Michelle Waycott
Vice President: Fred Short
Treasurer: Gloria Peralta Gonzalez
Secretary: Len McKenzie

The management Committee will continue to be supported by a Steering committee consisting of:

Cynthia Durance
Rob Coles
Mike Fortes
Sven Beer
Giuseppe di Carlo
Aaron Freeman (non-member)
Meredith Ferdie (student representative)
Paul Erftemeiyer
Joel Creed
Maria Christina Buia (original member)
Jacqueline Uku (original member)
Diana Walker,
Hitoshi Iizumi,
Evamaria Koch,
John Kuo
Gloria Peralta Gonzalez

General Discussion

- Maricela suggested use of internet banking for membership payments.
- Di Walker (seconded by Len McKenzie) suggested that the association consider mechanisms for reducing cost of membership for developing countries.
- Options for ISBW8 (2008) discussed. Original proposal was for ISBW8 to be in Brazil, however this has been postponed until possibly 2010. Presentations given by delegates for alternate possible locations in September 2008, and the members voted.
 1. Cynthia—British Columbia (elected by majority of 25 total votes cast)
 2. Xiaoping Huang—southern China (suggested as possibly ISBW9)Members recommended that a workshop be included in 2008, especially for management issues, and also recommended proceedings.
- Options for ISBW9 (2010) discussed:
 1. Presentation from Joel Creed (absent) for Brazil in 2010.
 2. Southern China

Members gave support for both places to be considered.

Motion was passed that both Brazil and China prepare proposals for hosting ISBW9 in 2010, and WSA Inc. Management & Steering committees will make final selection. Applications to include proposed structure and approximate prices of conference. Decision on 2010 meeting location to be made by end of year (2006). Members recommended a team be appointed to

guide both the theme and structure of conference. Feedback from ISBW7 organising committee for ISBW8 organising group.

- Members suggested a joint meeting with other groups.
- Maricela requested more flexibility in running WSA Inc.
- Giuseppe di Carlo requested opportunity to show outcomes of Mediterranean Conference.

The meeting adjourned at 1600hrs.

The WSA Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best in your seagrass endeavours. We look forward to the possibility of catching up with you in Canada at ISBW8.

Best Wishes

Len McKenzie
Secretary, WSA Inc.

