

# WORLD SEAGRASS ASSOCIATION

## Meeting #49

Date: 20 October 2016  
 Venue: Chapel, Nant Gwrtheyrn, Gwynedd, Wales, United Kingdom  
 Time: 5:00pm

**1. Present:**

Richard Unsworth (RU).....	President
Mike Van Keulen (MVK) .....	Vice President
Jessie Jarvis (JJ)(email) .....	Treasurer
Len McKenzie (LM) .....	Secretary
Rob Coles.....	Steering Committee Member
Siti Yaakub .....	Steering Committee Member
Anitra Thoraug .....	Steering Committee Member
Hugh Kirkman.....	Member
Tina Salo .....	Member
Ben Jones .....	Non-member
Francesca Rossi .....	Non-member

**2. Welcome & Apologies:** RU (Chair) opened the meeting at 5:20pm and LM recorded the minutes  
 Apologies: nil

**3. Update from the Secretary & Treasurer**

**3.1. Update from Secretary (Len)**

Since the last meeting (*WSAMCM#48*), activities relating to the business included:

- 02Oct16 - Proposed the following applicants for WSA membership:
  - Mr Dimosthenis Traganos (PhD student, confirmed 01Sep16) - Universität Osnabrück, Germany
  - Mrs Qiu Guanglong (ordinary) Guangxi Marine Environment and Coastal Wetland Research Center, Beihai, China

*Secoded by MvK (02Oct16). Motion passed*

**3.2. Update from Treasurer (Jessie)**

Since the last meeting (*WSAMCM#47*), activities relating to the business included:

- PayPal account balance 28Aug16= USD197.10
- NAB account balance 28Aug16= AUD571.64
- Petty Cash 28Aug16 = AUD31.55, USD20.00
- Expenditure since 29Jun16:
  - USD2,500 for ISBW12 student travel awards
- Expenditure forecast for quarter:
  - nil

**4. Tasks and Discussion**

**4.1 Consensus Statement**

**Objective:** WSA endorsed Consensus statement about the future of seagrass; much like the *Consensus Statement on Climate Change and Coral Reefs*.

**Responsible officer/s:** WSA Management Committee

**Due date:** completed

**Activity since last meeting & Discussion:**

RU said that the statement was published on 10Oct16 with the article 'Seagrass is a marine powerhouse, so why isn't it on the world's conservation agenda?' on The Conversation. Here's the link: <http://theconversation.com/seagrass-is-a-marine-powerhouse-so-why-isnt-it-on-the-worlds-conservation-agenda-66503>  
 Statement is also available on WSA website (<http://wsa.seagrassonline.org/securing-a-future-for-seagrass/>). At the time of

release was 115 signatures, however now at 160. RU suggested we get a series of blogs from the workshops to update the statement. EcoBusiness also did a piece on the statement (<http://www.eco-business.com/news/the-most-threatened-ecosystem-youve-never-heard-of/>).

#### 4.2 Communication and social media tools

**Objective:** *to increase the line of communication with members and non-members; to improve the visibility of the Association within the seagrass community; to raise the profile of seagrasses through stories, blogs, news, etc.*

**Responsible officer/s:** Giuseppe, Siti, Rich, Adriana

**Status:** ongoing

**Activity since last meeting & Discussion:**

<http://wsa.seagrassonline.org/blog/>

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) - World Seagrass Association,

[twitter](https://twitter.com/WSA_tweets) - World Seagrass Assoc @WSA\_tweets.

[SeagrassForum](http://www.seagrassforum.com)

RU commented that much of the social media and extension has gone by the wayside and needs to be reinvigorated. Suggested it would be good to get the “note from the field” going again.

SY commented that she has received 3-4 offers of bloggers in the coming year to assist. She also said she had lost the twitter and blog passwords

RU suggested that next Management Committee and Steering Committee meeting need 3-4 people who have access to social media accounts, and WSA needs to find multiple people rather than just one.

JJ supported that it would be better for multiple people from multiple countries to contribute

**Action:** SY to reactivate Twitter and also to find replacement

#### 4.3 WSA Lifetime Achievement Award

**Objective:** *Award to WSA members who have made significant or outstanding contributions to the Association and scientific representation*

**Responsible officer:** Anitra Thorhaug

**Due date:** TBA

**Status:** ongoing

**Activity since last meeting & Discussion:**

AT outlined the process. It will be a 2-step process:

1. Prepare short form which needs to be approved by WSAMC. The Sub-committee will select the top 5 candidates
2. Additional information to be further assessed, e.g. gains in seagrass knowledge and not just research alone

RC lead brief discussion about what the award could be (e.g. life membership + medal?) and that once approved by WSAMC that there be a widely publicised announcement/notice/statement to all members

RU commented that the award document was structured from the TUSK foundation, but suggested the “lifetime” period be set at achievements over a minimum of 20 years

RC suggested sub-committee consider changing from “Lifetime Achievement” to “Achievement”

AT stated that the final version approved by WSAMC be kept on website for all members to easily access

**Action:** AT to send final version of document “The Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Seagrass Scientific Research and Service to Enhance Seagrass Sustainability” to LM with sub-Committees recommendation that WSAMC endorse

**4.4 ISBW12, Nant Gwrtheyrn, Gwynedd, North Wales, 16-21 October 2016:**

**Objective:** *facilitate the biennial International Seagrass Biology Workshop (ISBW), an official WSA Inc. event.*

**Responsible officer/s:** Rich, Leanne & Len

**Due date:** 2016

**Status:** ongoing

**Activity since last meeting:**

RU commented that 5 students were presented with WSA Travel Awards, with a focus more on developing countries. There was some discussion on whether the applicants had additional funds. It was suggested that a questionnaire may be appropriate to clarify. RU suggested there may need to be some refinement of selection criteria in future, in particular regarding the definition of what constitutes a student, e.g. whether have full time employment and studying, how recently completed studies.

JJ suggested that at the time of registration, participants be asked if willing to be student judge.

**5. Other**

**5.1 Other business**

nil

**5.1 Wrap up and Close of Meeting**

LM thanked the members for their participation and contributions to the meeting. Meeting Closed 1756pm

I confirm these are the true minutes of the World Seagrass Association Meeting #49.

Dated the 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 2016

Len McKenzie

Secretary

World Seagrass Association Inc.

