



Management Committee (WSAMC) Meeting #45

Date: 30 October 2015

Venue: email

Time: 12:00pm

1. Present:

Richard Unsworth (RU)(email) President
 Mike Van Keulen (MVK)(email)..... Vice President
 Jessie Jarvis (JJ)(email) Treasurer
 Len McKenzie (LM)..... Secretary
 Giuseppe Di Carlo (GDC)(email) Previous Past President
 Ainsley Calladine (AC)(email) WebManager
 Paul Erfteimeijer (PE)(email)..... Steering Committee Member
 Anitra Thorhaug (AT)(email) Steering Committee Member
 Jennifer Verduin (JV)(email)..... Steering Committee Member

2. Welcome & Apologies:

LM (Chair) opened the meeting at 1202 and recorded the minutes (from emails received)
 Apologies: Leanne Cullen-Unsworth

3. Update from the Secretary & Treasurer

3.1. Update from Secretary (Len)

Since the last meeting (#44), activities relating to the business included:

- 11Jul15 - MvK proposed the following applicant for WSA membership:
 - Ms Lisa Bennett (Murdoch University) PhD student
 Seconded by LM. Motion passed
- 13Jul15 - After receiving messages from a potential member that their registration request had not been processed, Ainsley checked the online registration webform and confirmed there was a notification step missing from the process - it must have happened during one of the routine updates. Ainsley replaced the webform and tested, and now form working OK.
- 03Aug15 - Proposed the following applicant for WSA membership:
 - Cynthia Durance (Vancouver, Canada) - ordinary member
 - Michael Rasheed (Queensland, Australia) - ordinary member
 - Ms Melanie Leblanc (McGill University, Quebec, Canada) - PhD student
 - Ms Lane Whitlow (California State University, Fullerton USA) - ordinary member
 - Ms Lina Rasmusson (Stockholm University, Sweden) - PhD student
 - Dr Paul York (Cairns, Australia) - ordinary member
 Seconded by MvK, RU & GdC 03Aug15. Motion passed
- 21Aug15 - Proposed the following applicant for WSA membership:
 - Dr Timothy Smith (Deakin University, Australia) - ordinary member
 Seconded by MvK and JJ, 21Aug15. Motion passed
- 28Aug15 - Ainsley informed me that there was another problem with the online registration webform and he had now fixed it. Over the last couple of weeks, all new registrations had been going to the wsa.membership spam folder. This has now been corrected. It's unfortunate that this had happened on the tail of the form not working for a while.
- 03Sep15 - Proposed the following applicant for WSA membership:
 - Ms Alex Carter (James Cook University, Cairns, Australia) - Ordinary Member
 Seconded by MvK, JJ and RU, 03Sep15. Motion passed
- 14Oct15 - Proposed the following applicant for WSA membership:
 - Ms Mardi McNeil (QUT, Queensland, Australia) - Honours student

(confirmed 09Oct14)

- Ms Sara-Xaali O'Reilly Berkeley (University of Manchester, UK) - M.Sc. student (confirmed 08Oct14)

Seconded by GdC, 14Oct15. Motion passed

3.2. Update from Treasurer (Jessie)

Since the last meeting (#44), activities relating to the business included:

- PayPal account balance 30Oct15 = **USD1,798.65**
- NAB account balance 30Oct15 = **AUD22.17**
- Petty Cash 30Oct15 = **AUD31.55, USD20.00,**
- Expenditure since 26Jun15:
 - DreamHost, LLC web hosting payment 07Aug15 = USD190.80
- Expenditure forecast for quarter:
 - Reimburse LM for 2012/13 Annual Return of Association to the Queensland Office of Fair Trading = AU\$46.60
 - Reimburse LM for 2013/14 Annual Return of Association to the Queensland Office of Fair Trading = AU\$48.25

4. Tasks and Discussion

4.1 WSA Steering Committee

On 23Jun15, all Steering Committee members were emailed the following list of tasks and asked to nominate which task they would like to contribute:

- a. Communications and website (see 4.2)
- b. Social media (see 4.2)
- c. Notes from the field (see 4.2)
- d. Webinar programme (see 4.7)
- e. Student liaison (need a Student Rep) (see 4.6)
- f. Seagrass education (see 4.6)
- g. Fund raising (see 5.1)
- h. Conservation
- i. Awards (see 4.3)
- j. Journal publications (e.g. another special issue) (see 4.8)
- k. Major initiatives (e.g. new books, an Atlas update, a methods update) (see 4.9)

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 - World Seagrass Association, 225 members [26Jun15]

twitter - World Seagrass Assoc @WSA_tweets. 65 followers, 36 tweets [26Jun15]

4.3 WSA Life Membership Award

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

Responsible officer/s: Giuseppe, Anitra & C. den Hartog

Due date: ???

Status: ongoing

Activity since last meeting & Discussion:

AT (27Oct15): There is some slight difference of opinion among the members on the precise criteria and the points of the judgment accorded to the criteria. As Rob Coles mentioned in the open meeting when the criteria were presented last December in China, the activities toward supporting the WSA should enter into the judging, so that someone who had spent a lot of time supporting the WSA would benefit in their score from those not working for membership interests of

WSA. I agree with that and den Hartog feels less important.

A second point is how much the various web site scores (Google scholar, Research Gate, etc.) rather than excellence and breakthrough research should count. This is resolvable.

Third is that someone in a distinct and rare field could make as much achievement for seagrass as someone in more generally quoted field as an example general seagrass ecology rather than systematics of specific seagrass organs.

We will resolve this quickly over the Christmas holidays and then report that we are open for nominations (with criteria OK's by sending to committee) with having several on committee from various global seagrass areas. (Western hemisphere, Asia, Europe, etc.).

RC (29Oct15): We will eventually have to make a call on the awards – does not seem to be progressing – and there is no single right way to do it that will satisfy everyone- so we need to choose a deadline and make a call

4.4 Monitoring review

Objective: *review of seagrass monitoring efforts: last 10 years of monitoring*

Responsible officer/s: Giuseppe

Due date: TBA

Status: ongoing

Activity since last meeting & Discussion:

RC (29Oct15): I agreed to co-ordinate a manuscript on monitoring – that has not been forgotten – jus broken bones have slowed me down

4.5 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:

16Sep15: ISBW12 Call for workshop proposals

RU (22Oct15): getting lots of queries about student/low income grants for ISBW12. It would be very useful to publish guidelines for this ASAP on the ISBW12 website. Essentially, need to know a rough estimate of the amount of funds available from WSA to support this (i.e. maximum size of an individual grant) and prepare a list of key criteria we can use to assess proposals. Proposed the following criteria:

- Favour students
- Scientists from low income countries
- Scientists out of scientific employment
- This present recent research data, and
- Request a 1 page statement and a letter of support to explain current status (e.g. from a uni prof, local NGO....)

The aim would be to set an early deadline and results so that those successful have time to obtain the rest of the funding. People in these circumstances need time to plan.

MvK (26Oct15): responded that proposed guidelines seem appropriate.

PE (27Oct15): Realising that seagrasses are still being lost worldwide at an alarming rate, there is reason for concern and a real need for more strategic action (*incl.* from the WSA side) for:

- Advocacy - to spread the word and increase people's awareness about the importance of seagrass (while efforts are being made in some places, we should be doing more)..
- Monitoring - to document losses and recovery) and standardised methodologies for that – Seagrass-Watch is an absolute champion in that (which I truly admire and respect) but we should also encourage governments, ports and national park authorities etc. worldwide to monitor formally and regularly (e.g. I know we do at ports in Qld, but that

- example should be followed-up elsewhere in the world as well...)
- Best practice approaches to seagrass management (for dredging, trawling, discharges, impact studies, boating, climate adaptation, etc.)
 - Letters of concern to responsible authorities about our shared concerns over the potential environmental impacts from planned developments on seagrasses (worldwide), which the president of WSA could champion on our behalf (esp. in particularly significant cases)
 - Cost-effective methodologies for seagrass restoration (research, guidelines, pilot projects to demonstrate)

Each of these topics could perhaps be considered as themes for special sessions or mini-symposia/workshops at the upcoming ISBW in Wales... But it would be great if there would be some funding and some clear outputs & deliverables that will be widespread and well-advertised, preferably through collaboration with global organisations like UNEP, IUCN, WWF and the like...

4.6 WSA student network

Objective

Responsible officer/s: ??

Due date:

Status:

Activity since last meeting:

JV (29Oct15): better exposure of WSA (through education?). Do we need to put a call out for (post)graduate students interested in getting involved with the WSA student network?

4.7 WSA Webinars & Online events

Objective:

Responsible officer/s: n

Due date:

Status:

Activity since last meeting:

JV (29Oct15): would like some more information about the Webinar programme, would be interested in putting things to together for this.

4.8 WSA seagrass special issue Ocean & Coastal Management

Objective:

Responsible officer/s: Leanne, Mike vK and Lina

Due date: ???

Status: ongoing

Activity since last meeting & Discussion:

Anitra (27Oct15): I would like to help Mike with this - at least the overview of various items.

4.9 Major initiatives

Objective: e.g. new books, an Atlas update, a methods update

Responsible officer/s: Rob

Due date: ???

Status: ongoing

Activity since last meeting & Discussion:

PE (27Oct15): it would be worth noting the ongoing preparations for the new book on "Seagrasses of Australia" (*not many people outside Australia are probably aware*).

AT (27Oct15): I have some concepts for redoing either Methods or a new volume I would like to discuss with Rob. For instance the restoration reviews have been not professional and now Marieke Van Katwijk and 26 others (mostly members) have a new way of judging and evaluating that can be done for a new volume as well as applied to other subject matter besides restoration.

Education: There are education of public and education of school children and education of students of seagrass. All are important to sustain Seagrass. So the

education committee should include all of these. I have helpful materials I am putting together for Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Islands seagrass which I can donate. Am now working on River effects, having Carbon loss and Gain in Gulf of Mexico.

RC (29Oct15): RE the methods review – Fred and I had some discussion with Elsevier on a new edition of the Green Book – not out of the question but it will need someone with a huge amount of spare editorial time

5. Other

6. WSA website

AC (06Aug15): has looked at the donation options with PayPal and believe we can put a ‘donate’ button (in which the donor enters their own contribution amount) on the site fairly easily. PayPal notes that the button is intended for fundraising and not to use it if not raising money for a cause. "Non-profits must verify their status to withdraw the donations they receive. Users that are not verified non-profits must demonstrate how their donations will be used, once they raise more than \$10,000 USD". Unlikely WSA will raise more than \$10,000 so WSA should be good to go with this option. Although we might better use the phrase "contribution to Evamaria Koch Student Travel Fund" rather than donation as presumably there won't be any tax relief for amounts "contributed". We need some language for the page that we'll be accepting donations on and some more for a thank you email or post-payment landing page once someone has sent money. If someone would like to send me something I will draft up a page.

LM (07Aug15): Confirmed that the WSA Inc is a registered not-for-profit so that will not be an issue. Support suggestion to include a ‘donate’ button on the site, but use the words "*contribution to Evamaria Koch Student Travel Fund*".

AC (07Aug15): Thanked Len for response and will wait the feedback for the contributions page. Although happy to hear from anyone else who would like to put some text together

7. Wrap up and Close of Meeting

LM thanked the members for their participation and contributions to the meeting.

Meeting Closed 1219pm

I confirm these are the true minutes of the World Seagrass Association Management Committee Meeting #45.

Dated the 30th day of October 2015

Len McKenzie
 Chair/Secretary
 World Seagrass Association Inc.



Actions carried forward from previous WSA Inc. meetings

Meeting #	Actions Arising from Discussion	Status
40	Giuseppe to provide details on status of funds from Eva's family	ongoing
AGM2014	Len to check with Ainsley (Web Manager) if donation section of payment can be established on WSA website.	ongoing