

WORLD SEAGRASS ASSOCIATION

Meeting #50

Date: 07 April 2017

Venue: email

Time: 11:00am

1. Present: Mike Van Keulen (MVK)(email)President
 Jessie Jarvis (JJ)(email) Vice President
 Lina Mtwana Nordlund (LMN)(email) Treasurer
 Len McKenzie (LM)Secretary
 Richard Unsworth (RU)(email) Past President

2. Welcome & Apologies: LM (Chair) opened the meeting at 11:00am and recorded the minutes (from emails received)

Apologies: nil

3. Update from the Secretary & Treasurer

3.1. Update from Secretary (Len)

Since the last meeting (*WSAAGM2016*), activities relating to the business included:

- 27Dec16 - Annual return of Association submitted to Office of Fair Trading (including fee of \$51.70) as per legal requirement of Association registered in Queensland, Australia.
- 27Mar17: sent out call for meeting#50 agenda items to WSAMC members

3.2. Update from Treasurer (Lina)

Since the last meeting (*WSAAGM2016*), activities relating to the business included:

- PayPal account balance 06Apr17=USD 2,321.21 and AUS 59.76
- NAB account balance 06Apr17= AUD571.64
- Petty Cash 29Mar17 = AUD7.50
- Expenditure since 21Dec16:
 - AUD51.70 for Office of Fair Trading
- Expenditure forecast for quarter:
 - nil

4. Tasks and Discussion

4.1. WSA Steering Committee

Activities which Steering Committee members can contribute:

- Communications and social media (see 4.2)
- Student liaison (need a Student Rep)
- Webinar programme
- Seagrass education
- Fund raising
- Conservation
- Awards (see 4.3)
- Journal publications (e.g. special issues) (see 4.5)
- Major initiatives

LM (21Dec17): received 5 expressions of interest to be appointed to the Steering Committee. Steering Committee is capped at 10 members

LM (03Apr17): As per Action from AGM2016, approached a few other financial members for other countries to ask their interest in being considered.

LM (04Apr17): names of 6 nominees sent to WSAMC for consideration for Steering Committee

MVK (07Apr17): responded to Steering Committee nominations –it would be nice to

see wider global representation. Apart from Africa, we are also very under-represented in Europe, particularly the Mediterranean region.

Action: LM to contact membership from African countries and other underrepresented nationalities for possible Steering Committee nominations

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: Rich, Siti, Adriana

Status: ongoing

Activity since last meeting & Discussion:

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

www.facebook.com - World Seagrass Association,

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

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

LMN (6Apr17): This is something I would like to add to the discussion: What if WSA were to be the place to see all seagrass publications worldwide, I think that would be very attractive. If we use e.g. twitter, we could add a twitter feed to the WSA website, and link twitter to WSA facebook. In e.g. google scholar it is possible to search for 'seagrass' arranged according to date, and seagrass publications could be tweeted "Seagrass publication: 'what it is' and the link". There are about 5-15 publications per week. (We could use Web of Science, but then we miss everything not published in peer-reviewed journals with an impact factor). Google scholar post everything that is uploaded, e.g. old papers to research gate, but I think it would still be valuable as long as we have the same criteria, e.g. 'seagrass' or 'a seagrass species name' must be in the title, or it must be possible to understand the research was on seagrass from reading the 3-liner that shows up in the search. If researchers want their publications to be shared via @WSA_tweets we are happy to do so if they send us the URL of their publication. Moderating the twitter could be shared, e.g. one person one month at the time, among a few people. This would make the WSA twitter, facebook and website look updated with relatively little effort. Sure it would take a little bit of time to do around 40-50 tweets per months, but I am happy to be one of the moderators if we think this would be interesting. If we think we should tweet everything relevant to seagrass (e.g. everything that comes up at a seagrass search in Google scholar) we would have around 70 tweets a month, "Publication including seagrass: 'what it is' link".

We have many seagrassers out there that has blogs, any chance we could connect them to "our" blog if they are interested, it takes a lot of time and effort with blogs and it is really difficult to find people that has time to contribute (right Siti)? Or maybe we want to do it into a photo blog, might be easier to find people that can share a photo with a one-liner of what it is. Thoughts?

MVK (07Apr17): Thanks for your comments Lina (sorry, I've been a bit overwhelmed this week, so still trying to catch up). I agree fully with your comments, especially the ones on social networking and publicity. I like the Twitter idea ... I'd be interested to hear others' opinions.

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 (28Dec16): with Rob Coles OK, two nominators is good.

MVK (29Jan17 + 23Feb17): Just wondering what's the status of the Lifetime Achievement Award? Did that get approved or were further amendments

required?

LM (04Apr17): Have not received final version of the nomination form and documents from Anitra. There were some edits following, see AT correspondence above.

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

Action: AT to send recommendation from sub-Committee that WSAMC endorse WSA Lifetime Achievement Award approach & documentation.

4.4. ISBW13 & World Seagrass Conference, Singapore, 11-17 June, 2018:

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

Responsible officer/s: Siti, Mike & Len

Due date: 2018

Status: ongoing

Activity since last meeting:

The WSC2018 (11-14 June) will consist of four days of conference-style talks, followed by ISBW13 (15-17 June), which consists of three days of workshops. The theme is “Translating Science into Action”.

LM (04Apr17): Organising committee has met several times and planning/prep progressing very well. Committee has established a form for participants to register interest (<https://goo.gl/forms/TIhDGhEx71m0tcj1>), and also active Facebook (@ISBW13) and Twitter (#ISBW13) accounts to keep participants informed of progress. Siti has confirmed a special edition of the journal *Botanica Marina* for the event. Some sponsorship has been secured from NParks, and other sponsorship being negotiated. UTown secured for the event, including tentative accommodation for participants – accommodation not confirmed until 1-2 months prior to event. An events management company has been engaged to handle all the registration and booking details. Final cost for registration yet to be confirmed – will include tea breaks, lunch, welcome dinner and conference dinner. Field trips have been planned with several locations available. Plenary speakers yet to be confirmed. Suggestions welcome – need to include a SE Asia speaker (topical and possibly policy orientated)

13Mar17: Call for Workshop Proposals. Deadline for proposal submission is 31 October, 2017.

LMN (6Apr17): I am sure we are all aiming for gender-balance for the plenaries, one idea if this becomes really difficult to achieve is to invite a young upcoming researcher (maybe someone that has just published a review) of the sex underrepresented. I think this could also be inspirational some young researchers.

Something we talked about at ISBW12 was the lack of African nationals, Fred Short and I talked a bit more about this, and maybe a few of us could mentor one person each to help writing an abstract and grant application to submit to our and other travel funding. I am happy to try to help one person, and Fred Short said he was happy to help one as well, but more needed.

MVK (07Apr17): I’m also pleased to hear about you and Fred working on mentoring African researchers; are there any active native African seagrass researchers that could be encouraged to be more involved?

4.5. WSA seagrass special issue Ocean & Coastal Management

Objective:

Responsible officer/s: Mike, Leanne Cullen-Unsworth, and Lina

Due date: 2017

Status: ongoing

Activity since last meeting & Discussion:

JJ (04Apr17): Have we done more than 1 special issue with MPB in the past?

LMN (6Apr17): The Special Issue in *Marine Pollution Bulletin* has just closed its

submission. Reviews are ongoing.

MVK (07Apr17): An update on the WSA special issue in Marine Pollution Bulletin ... we have received 21 submissions to date, with a further few promised within the next week or so. The manuscripts have been evenly distributed to the Lina, Leanne and myself for action. Most manuscripts submitted have been of a suitable standard for review and reviews are in progress.

5. Other

5.1 Other business

JJ (05Jan17): Can someone write up a formal request for Reda (ISBW12 Student Award recipient who was MIA) to transfer the money to reimburse the WSA as he did not attend the meeting? Also are you all ok with him paying us back in 2 parts? I understand he might not have the money so I am ok with breaking it down into two equal payments. However that means we would have to pay twice the transfer fees and follow up with him on the payments.

JJ (04Apr17): This needs an immediate follow-up!

Action: JJ, RU & LMN to draft formal request to Reda

LMN (03Jan17): submitted a small biography and photo as per request at AGM2016 for the WSA Website to include a small biography of each committee member with photo

JJ (04Apr17): I missed this – how long should the bio be?

Action: MVK, JJ, LM & RU to submit small biography (150 words max) and photo

LMN (03Apr17): Maybe we could add a point on how to get new members and make present members stay. Would be good to know what have been done, and thoughts people have regarding this.

LM (04Apr17): Each year I send out a reminder to all members regarding membership status. This is generally done prior to ISBW (to advocate support for student travel award) and also prior to the AGM. Members with more than 2 years arrears are removed from the list. We did a big call out for support a few years ago via the forum etc, to let the seagrass science community know about the WSA and what it did. We could run a similar campaign again?

JJ (04Apr17): I agree. We can do a call via email and send out announcements via social media.

5.1 Wrap up and Close of Meeting

LM thanked the members for their participation and contributions to the meeting.
Meeting Closed 1105am

I confirm these are the true minutes of the World Seagrass Association Meeting #50.

Dated the 10th day of April 2017



Len McKenzie

Secretary

World Seagrass Association Inc.

