



Meeting #54

Date: 14 June 2018

Venue: Auditorium 2
UTOWN, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Time: 4:45pm

1. Present:

Mike Van Keulen (MvK)	.....	President
Jessie Jarvis (JJ)	.....	Vice President
Lina Mtwana Nordlund (LMN)	.....	Treasurer
Len McKenzie (LM)	.....	Secretary
Siti Maryam Yaakub (SMY)	.....	ISBW13 Convener/Steering Committee Member
Benjamin Jones (BJ)	.....	Student Representative/Steering Committee Member
Paul Erftemeijer (PE)	.....	Steering Committee Member
Jennifer Verduin (JV)	.....	Steering Committee Member
Jimena Samper Villarreal (JSV)	.....	Steering Committee Member
Ainsley Calladine (AD)	.....	Member/Website Manager
Maria Potouroglou (MP)	.....	Member
Anitra Thorhaug (AT)	.....	Member
Rob Coles (RC)	.....	Member
Michelle Waycott (MW)	.....	Member
Sven Beer (SB)	.....	Member
Maricela de la Torre-Castro (MTC)	.....	non-Member

et al.

2. Welcome & Apologies:

- LM proposed Mike Van Keulen (MvK, WSA President) to chair the meeting, seconded by AT
- The Chair (CC) opened the meeting at 1650pm
- LM recorded meeting minutes
- Apologies: nil

3. Update from the Secretary & Treasurer

3.1. Update from Secretary (LM)

Since the last meeting (*MCM#53*), activities relating to the business included:

- 18May - Proposed the following applicant for WSA membership:
Dr Johan Eklöf - Stockholm University, Sweden (*ordinary member*)
Seconded by LNM. Motion passed

3.2. Update from Treasurer (LMN)

Since the last meeting (*MCM#53*), activities relating to the business included:

- PayPal account balance 14Jun18 = US\$4,919.75, AU\$59.76
- NAB account balance 14Jun18 = AUD571.64
- Petty Cash 14Jun18 = AUD7.50
- Expenditure since 14Jun18:
 - nil
- Expenditure forecast for quarter:
 - Reimburse LM for 2016-17 Annual Return of Association to the Queensland Office of Fair Trading = AU\$53.50 (*approved AGM2017*)
 - Evamaria Koch student travel award fund to ISBW13 = US\$4,250
 - ISBW13 Photo Competition = US\$150

JJ: Asked how to improve engagement and maintain funds

LMN: noted how membership had significantly increased over the last 12 months due to ISBW13 discount – thanking Siti and ISBW13 Organising Committee for

agreeing to implement WSA member discount

SMY: asked that it be recorded, that financially ISBW13 has been a success and that funds from ISBW13 will be available to support students in future. She also asked “what the capacity to make money grow”?

MvK: commented that the main way to increase WSA financially was to increase the number of members.

JSV: commented WSA should learn from SMY’s example for raising funds

MvK: reiterated, to increase the number of members.

4. Tasks and Discussion

4.1. 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: LMN, BJ

Status: ongoing

Activity since last meeting & Discussion:

<http://wsa.seagrassonline.org/blog/>, nil activity

www.facebook.com - World Seagrass Association, 227 followers

twitter - World Seagrass Assoc @Seagrass_WSA. 565 followers, 10,000 impressions per month (mentioned 15 times per month), and 19,200 impressions in total SeagrassForum 679 subscribers

MvK: commented that the WSA website needs update ASAP.

MP: agreed the website needed an update

MW: Commented that content is needed (text and images) and recommended that members contribute (supported by AC)

LMN: confirmed that it does not matter who – as any member can contribute

MvK: Asked if a Social Media person should be added to the Steering Committee to improve WSA profile and contribute to Twitter feeds etc

LMN: Agreed that the opportunity was right for a Steering Committee or general WSA Member. She asked that anyone with an interest can apply.

MvK proposed that the WSA create a Social Media/Communications position on the WSA Steering Committee.

Seconded by LMN, no objections, Motion passed

4.2. WSA Lifetime Achievement Award

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

Responsible officer: AT

Due date: TBA

Status: ongoing

Activity since last meeting & Discussion:

AT: outlined the award, subcommittee roles and recommendations, and the selection criteria and nomination form for the award

RC: commented how process has taken so long and whether it was 1 award or 2?

LM: stated how he had just received the documents and will take them and recommendations to the WSAMC. WSAMC may approach WSA membership for a final consideration before decision is reached.

RC: supported WSAMC engage members on any final considerations before approval.

LMN: suggested a Google Poll may be option to gauge WSA member responses.

MvK: recommended 1 award per time (based on career + work), supported by RC

RC: recommended WSA should not include monetary award and proposed wording be removed from document

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

4.3. WSA seagrass special issue Marine Pollution Bulletin

Objective:

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

Due date: 2018

Status: ongoing

Activity since last meeting & Discussion:

MvK: all manuscripts and editorial have been accepted. Table of Contents is yet to be finalised. We expect the issue to be finalized soon, although actual publication date hasn't been confirmed yet

5. Other business 5.1 ISBW14 (2020)

LM: Successful host and location to be announced at ISBW13 Conference Dinner

JSV: Commented that future ISBW need to support managers etc and not just student members – e.g. virtual attendance option as at ISBW13

LMN: commented it will require 6-7 months working to encourage internationally how to tackle challenge

LM: commented that ISBW has historically alternated within and outside Asia, however there has been suggestion that it may be time for WSA to alternate ISBW's with Africa or South America rather than Asia, recognising the immediate need. Suggested WSA consider this over the next 2 years for ISBW15.

MTC: questioned whether the structure needed to change to rethink the travel with carbon footprint

SB: asked if there was a forum to raise ideas (LM confirmed openness of WSA and meetings) and "where are the Americans"?

MW: explained there is often expectation for others to go to USA and not vice versa. Timing is also difficult with teaching commitments.

LMN: suggested using role of Social media/Communication Officer to raise ISBW profile.

MW: commented that a TED conference had been discussed, but needs topics.

JV: commented she is currently doing a TED education, but could look at a seagrass topics

RC: suggested ISBW meet less often or link with other big conferences (e.g. ICRS), or introduce carbon offsets

5.2 UN World Seagrass Day and SeagrassSeptember

MvK: confirmed 110 signatures so far on website

MP: outlined procedure for UN General Assembly in mid-September 2018. Noted that a member state (from 193 UN states) needs to be identified to take proposal forward.

SMY: will make another call as momentum is important. Confirmed will need global backing and asked if possibly through Dugong MoU

MTC: commented that there is confusion on the date of World Seagrass Day – asked if it was 1st March or 1st September.

LM: clarified it is proposed as 1st September

MvK: reiterated the need to publicise as widely as possible

JV: Suggested setting up a stall at conference dinner

MW: commented tackling everyone and encouraging them to sign

MW: reiterated that International Days have a formal process to be followed

RC: asked if there was any cost

MP: commented that it will need a volunteer, but no cost as far as she is aware – but will check.

Action: MP to approach Lars to gain support and progress forward

Action: LM to speak with Dugong MoU

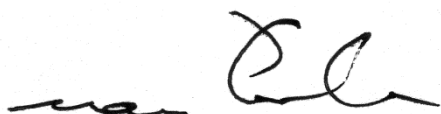
Action: MP to confirm if there is any cost proposing an International Day

**6. Wrap up and
Close of
Meeting**

LM thanked the members for their participation and contributions to the meeting.
RC: moved on behalf of meeting a motion to thank members of the WSA Management Committee, supported by members in attendance.
MW: expressed thanks to SMY for her amazing job as ISBW13 Convener, and to her cohort of student volunteers
Meeting Closed 1815pm

We confirm these are the true minutes of the World Seagrass Association Meeting #54.

Dated the 8th day of July 2018



Mike van Keulen
Chair/WSA President
World Seagrass Association Inc.



Len McKenzie
WSA Secretary