

The Coastal Society Board Meeting

March 6, 2007
12:00 Noon EST

Attendance: TCS President Kristen Fletcher, TCS Past President Paul Ticco, TCS President-elect Jeff Benoit, TCS Secretary Amy Blizzard; TCS Board Members Rick Burroughs, Patrick Christie, Ariel Cuschnir, Tali Engoltz, Bob Goodwin, Larry Hildebrand, Laurie Jodice, Susan White; TCS Ex-Officio Board Members Tom Bigford, Kim Lellis, Duke Chapter President Brendan Hurley, URI Chapter Co-President Christine Patrick, TCS Executive Director Judy Tucker, TCS Bulletin Editor Ellen Gordon.

NOAA NMSP and NMFS were thanked for sponsoring the conference call.

I. Electronic Votes

The following electronic votes taken since the last meeting were reported:

1. Motion: To accept the University of Massachusetts Amherst proposal to design and lay out the *TCS Bulletin* and to manage the TCS website for 2007.
Of 13 possible votes, 10 were in favor, and zero against. The motion carried.
2. Motion: To enter into a contract with Ellen Gordon as editor of the *TCS Bulletin* for 2007 and 2008; for four issues per year; at a cost of \$1,250 per issue.
Of 13 possible votes, 12 were in favor, and zero against. The motion carried.
3. Motion: To pay approximately \$4,700 to cover the cost of the 2007 Board retreat.
Of 13 possible votes, 11 were in favor, one recusal, and zero against. The motion carried.
4. Motion: To accept the attached CRRF proposal for the distribution of \$2,100 of CRRF-donated funds to the Alabama Coastal Foundation, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, and the Mississippi Coast Audubon Society for the projects detailed in the proposal.
Of 13 possible votes, 13 were in favor, and zero against. The motion carried.

II. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the December 7, 2006 meeting were accepted.

III. 2007-2008 Biennial Budget

Fletcher presented a draft budget for 2007 and 2008 in a format which included a comparison to the previous two biennial budgets. Because planning for the conference is commencing sooner, with approximately \$20,000 of related expenditures expected, fundraising for the conference will need to begin sooner also. Any new initiatives, or new plans under ongoing initiatives requiring expenditures, will require additional funding beyond the proposed revenue amount.

ACTION: Development Committee (Cuschnir, Benoit, Chase, Fletcher, Hildebrand, Lynch) to make a short-term development plan for TCS 21 as soon as possible.

Motion: To accept the budget as a planning document.

Motion carried 12 - 0.

In support of the events at the Coastal Program Managers Meetings, the following sponsorships were approved by the TCS Executive Committee:

\$250 Coastal States Organization Coastal & Ocean Celebration reception

\$250 Band at the Coastal Program Managers' Meeting Thursday evening reception

IV. Executive Director Roles and Responsibilities

Fletcher, Ticco and Benoit recommended a set of responsibilities for the Executive Director, which focused ED responsibilities on providing guidance and support to the Board and committees in support of the TCS mission, and less on administrative tasks (such as setting up conference calls, taking minutes, researching vendor options) which could be reassigned to the Secretary or Committee Chairs. The salary was set at \$25,000 per year for 700 hours of time, dividing by percentage among the major categories of responsibilities. If TCS embarks on initiatives requiring more time from the Executive Director, the salary and number of hours can be increased. Financial oversight and bookkeeping duties are divided between the Treasurer and Executive Director as a means of checks and balances for financial security.

Motion: To adopt the Executive Director Roles and Responsibilities document as guidance for the Executive Director position. Motion carried 12 - 0.

V. SCOTIA Proposal

Cuschnir proposed that TCS become involved in a new initiative known as SCOTIA, Sustainable Coastal Tourism in Asia, a USAID Program implemented by The Louis Berger Group, Inc. The purpose of SCOTIA is to reduce the damage to coastal ecosystems in Sri Lanka while promoting responsible sustainable tourism and other local economic interests that benefit all stakeholders in the community. The role of TCS is to assist in the selection of 4-5 TCS members as candidates who can travel to Sri Lanka and the Philippines to represent the United States experience in Marine Protected Area management and to assist with the development of guidelines for sustainable tourism with in MPA's, local community and private sector participation, and changes to existing management plans. USAID and Louis Berger Group will select one candidate to join the team. This person will participate in his or her own professional capacity, but serve as an ambassador for TCS, sharing information about The Society. An article for the *TCS Bulletin* will be submitted and an opportunity to present at TCS 21, possibly including a person from Sri Lanka or the Philippines. There would be no cost to TCS involved. The contract with USAID covers health and liability insurance.

This role for TCS fits into the vision expressed at the Board retreat that TCS will "empower coastal professionals and decision-makers and affect improve management of the coasts and oceans." Through this opportunity, TCS will gain exposure and may expand its efforts internationally. Individual TCS members gain a benefit not available to non-members.

Motion: To accept the proposal for SCOTIA.

Motion carried 12 - 0.

Cuschnir was thanked for providing TCS with the opportunity for this new initiative and opportunity to become active internationally.

VI. TCS 21

The hotel selection has been narrowed down to the Crowne Plaza Redondo Beach, situated on a recreational harbor with a pier, 7 miles from the Los Angeles airport. Detailed information will be sent to the Board.

A core group of the TCS 21 planning committee will meet by the end of March. Then a “call for participants” for the full committee will be sent to the TCS membership. Jim Fawcett of USC Sea Grant is likely to have a lead role. The theme of the conference will center on urban coastal issues.

VII. Changes to TCS Bylaws

Two items currently on the list for revision include:

- 1) the inclusion of the Executive Committee, in operation since the May 1997 Board meeting, and
- 2) creation of a Chapters Committee.

Other changes may come out of the Working Groups’ plans, and will be incorporated as one package and presented to the membership for approval.

VIII. Coastal Zone 2007 Events

Rooms and logistical arrangements have been made for two meetings at CZ’07:

- 1) Annual Membership Meeting and breakfast, July 24, 2007, 7:30-8:30 AM PT
- 2) Board Meeting and lunch with conference call set up, July 25, 2007, 12:30 – 1:30 PM PT.

Board members planning to attend include Fletcher, Ticco, Benoit, Bigford, Christie, Jodice, White. The membership meeting offers an opportunity to present the plans of the Retreat Working Groups, possible changes to the bylaws, and to promote TCS 21.

IX. Coastal Management Journal

CMJ responded to the Board’s concern that members might drop their membership if the dues amount for an automatic subscription to CMJ included with membership was too great by offering either an electronic subscription at \$15 or a hard copy subscription for \$20. This is half the current discounted price of \$40. The arrangement would be on a trial basis for two years. An additional 30 – 40 copies would be provided electronically to people in developing countries. This offer was made by an employee who has since moved on, and needs to be confirmed by his replacement.

ACTION: Christie to contact Taylor and Francis and confirm the terms of the proposal.

ACTION: Board Upon confirmation and collection of information, **Board** to present the arrangement to the TCS membership for a vote on dues structure.

X. New TCS Chapters

The request for affiliation from the University of Hawaii chapter is complete and ready for consideration by the Membership Committee. The chapter structure includes all the Hawaiian islands, though most of the activities will be on Oahu.

ACTION: Membership Committee to review package of information and prepare recommendation for affiliation to Board in 2-3 weeks.

ACTION: Board to review package and vote electronically to approve affiliation.

Ticco is meeting on March 8, 2007, with potential leaders and faculty sponsors to discuss a possible chapter at the University of Delaware.

ACTION: Ticco to inquire what support is available for a chapter through the university.

XI. Board Planning Retreat

The Board held a retreat on January 30, 31, February 1. Notes from the retreat were created by the facilitators from NOAA Coastal Services Center and distributed to the Board. A summary will be published in the next issue of the *TCS Bulletin*.

Working Groups were created at the retreat to develop the next steps in the creation of a strategic planning document. Reports were distributed by the Working Groups on Chapters, Committees/Membership Involvement, Membership, Development, Influ-cation.

ACTION: Board to read and comment on all distributed reports.

ACTION: Board to set a date to discuss next steps.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM ET.