

## **The Coastal Society Board Meeting**

**Friday, December 7, 2007**

**1:30PM Eastern Time**

Attendance: TCS Past President Paul Ticco, TCS President-Elect Jeff Benoit, TCS Secretary Helene Scalliet, TCS Secretary Mo Lynch, Executive Director Judy Tucker, TCS Board Members Larry Hildebrand, Rick Burroughs, Bob Goodwin, Laurie Jodice, Tali Engoltz. Susan White, TCS Ex-Officio Board Member Christine Patrick, Tom Bigford, and Lisa Schiavinato (TCS21 Program Chair).

TCS President Kristen Fletcher was in the process of moving and could not attend the call.

### CONFERENCE UPDATE (SCHIAVINATO)

About 140 abstracts were received – this is a high number. A lot of the abstracts were for the Effective Integration of Coastal Science, Policy and Management Track. The abstracts review will end next Thursday night (Dec. 13). A week later, notes will be sent to contributors to accept the abstracts, reject them, or accept them with changes.

Plenary co-chairs are still working hard to get speakers. The new online abstract submission system set up by the conference coordinator makes review and navigation easy.

### **NO ACTION**

### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM 09/06/07 (SCALLIET)

Discussion: Paul was supposed to find an article and he couldn't find it. The minutes were sent at the beginning of the meeting, so a number of participants did not have a chance to peruse them prior to the call.

**MOTION** was made and seconded to accept the minutes, but it was decided to wait until everyone had a chance to read the minutes so the approval was postponed.

**ACTION NEEDED**: Need to approve the minutes from the 9/06/07 meeting at the next Board of Directors meeting.

REPORT OF E-VOTE: (TUCKER)

**Conference Location Procedure Policy (Tucker)** - There was a motion by email for adopting the procedures to determine future TCS conference locations. The motion passed with 11 in favor and 1 opposed. This new procedure will be used for TCS 22.

Jeff Benoit is chairing a working group (Jeff, Ariel, Gib, Susan, Laurie and Paul) to review proposals from the BoD, and will be vetting those proposals through the new process. So far there are 3-4 options (2 national and 2 international), they were due today per Jeff's Call for Proposals emailed on 10/24/07.

**ACTION NEEDED: The working group will vet the proposals through the review process and present recommendation(s) to the BoD for feedback and discussion.**

**Membership Motion (Tucker)** – There was a motion by email that BoD adopt the following: change in membership schedule to calendar year, create password protected part of website, and increase rates as follows to include journal subscription. The E-Vote motion passed with 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Various comments were raised during the voting process:

- Category of young professional/retired is a proposal, would require vote by membership and change in by-laws to be included.
- Category of life member should be included.
- Putting membership in same calendar year with pro-rating poses problems.

**ACTION NEEDED: The Membership Committee will need to address these proposed categories in the future and report back to the Board of Directors.**

**ACTION NEEDED: The Membership Committee will determine the best way to implement the transition to a calendar year membership and report to the BoD.**

**Nominations Slate/Election Results (Ticco)** – There was a motion by email to elect the new treasurer and two new directors. There was one person running for treasurer and eight people running for director. Jeff Smith was elected to treasurer. The top two nominates for directors were Rick DeVoe and Lisa Schiavinato. 84 votes were cast.

**MOTION** was made and seconded to accept these results. Results: All in favor (+ Kristen through Paul), no opposed and no abstained. Motion has passed.

Note: We always try to have the non-elected people join us in another capacity, so we hope they stay engaged with TCS leadership in the future.

Discussion: There were a lot of nominates on the ballot, and the winning margin can be by a small number of votes because of it. Should TCS limit the number of people on the ballot?

Pros of limiting number on ballot: A smaller number of people might reduce the problem of people winning by a very small margin of vote.

Cons of limiting number on ballot: A larger list brings more motivated folks to the attention of the membership; this will help these people be more involved with TCS later on. If an officer/elected member resigns during his/her term, there is already a list of others to contact to see if they would like to serve the remainder of the term.

**ACTION NEEDED:** The Board of Directors should revisit this issue before next year's elections.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT (LYNCH)

We are doing well, we even got more dues than we expected (by more than 216%) and didn't expend as much as we thought. We are running into the red half as much as we expected (for a non-conference year) and Judy thinks we will finish the year expending less than planned.

We received a lot more dues than expected – a lot of them came through Paypal, which seems to indicate that it is a useful vehicle.

#### **NO ACTION**

#### STATUS OF CMJ AGREEMENT (TUCKER)

The agreement can now be implemented after having been voted on by the Board. CMJ will be given to members with regular membership, now on the calendar year.

Note: If someone wants a print copy, they will have to contact Taylor and Francis and set that up for \$20.

Susan White drafted some publicity messages for outreach to membership about this change.

Larry Hildebrand is now on the editorial board – he encourages members to submit articles.

Discussion: There are still two unresolved issues. 1) If you are a current member and your dues are not yet due, should you be charged \$15 now or should you be given all benefits till your dues are due? 2) What about pro-rating throughout the year? Pro-rating only applies to the 2008 interim year for current members and any new member. The membership committee will look at these questions again and make a recommendation to the board as soon as possible, followed by an E-vote with the options. Mo requests to be included in the further discussions of the membership committee so he can estimate costs of various options.

**ACTION NEEDED: 1. TCS should sign the contract with CMJ. The contract says TCS will be invoiced for amount of subscription at end of Year 1 (2008) – we have a whole year to do that. The minimum amount we owe Taylor and Francis is \$2250 (150 members at \$15).**

**2. We need to get our website behind a password-protected frame and then send every renewing member a password. Behind that site will be a link to CMJ where they will go activate their subscription. Laurie Jodice has already set up the website. There will be one password for everyone for member-only site and journal access. We expect this to occur Jan 1, 2008.**

**3. The membership committee will consider the unresolved issues and report back to the Board shortly.**

BULLETIN (SCALLIET)

**Review and renewal of contract with UMass Amherst (Scalliet)**

David Loomis requested an increase of \$200 for the 2008 contract (now \$4250 instead of \$4050) for cost of living. The contract is simply being reviewed and updated from last year and a full vote from the Board was taken last year, so we are only voting on the cost increase.

**VOTE** to renew the UMass contract: All were in favor of the increase of \$200, and 0 opposed.

**ACTION NEEDED: The secretary will work with UMass Amherst to renew the contract.**

### **Donation of Bulletin Printing (Tucker)**

We have about 20 copies of every Bulletin issue that need to be mailed to libraries. That was donated by Roger Williams University but with Kristen moving on, we need to find an entity to donate this.

Cost for 20 pages in color for 20 copies – Approximately 200-300 dollars.

**ACTION NEEDED: Board members should think about potential organizations who could donate this.**

**ACTION NEEDED: TCS Executive Director will contact the libraries subscribing to the paper copy to ask if they truly need it. They might consider an electronic version.**

### COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUP REPORTS

#### **International Working Group (Hildebrand)**

Global Oceans: Ariel has been leading efforts to look at opportunities in the international arena. Top activity in the table that was sent out is the global forum on oceans, coasts and islands. There are a lot of working groups putting together policy briefs to present at the Global Oceans Conference in Vietnam in April 2008. We should bring our TCS perspective to these working groups. Paul and Larry are co-chairs on some of these working groups – they are exploring if there are opportunities for other TCS members to be on these working groups.

Comment: It would be most useful to find out HOW we get involved in the international arena. It is not easy to get organizations involved with other countries, and TCS members could use guidance. Larry said that yes, this was one of the priorities for the working group.

International TCS Conference: How about hosting a TCS conference outside the United States. Ariel has been putting a lot of work on that topic, but is it really the wish of the Board of Directors?

There is hesitation to jump into the international arena with both feet, especially since the biennial conference is the main source of funding for TCS. One option is to “try” an international conference on an off-year, as a first step in that direction. This would give us a taste of an international conference without compromising our biennial domestic

conferences. It was commented that we need to act quickly, especially since Ariel is putting so much work into this and he needs to get feedback as soon as possible. It was pointed out that it takes time for a meaningful discussion and decision on such an important issue.

GOODBYE AND THANKS TO BOB AND LARRY (TICCO)

On behalf of Kristen and Paul and the whole Board, thanks to Bob Goodwin and Larry Hildebrand as their term on the TCS BoD ends. Your dedication, energy, professionalism, hard work and great humor over the years have been an inspiration. You are always welcome to help in the future.

2:40pm – Adjourned.