

**Gathering of the TCS Board  
Hotel Washington  
Washington, DC  
and by phone**

**March 8, 2005  
12:30 PM ET**

Attendance: TCS President Paul Ticco, TCS President-Elect Kristen Fletcher, TCS Treasurer Mo Lynch, TCS Secretary Lindsay Fullenkamp, TCS Board Members Tom Bigford and Ruth Kelty, and TCS Executive Director Judy Tucker (TCS Board Members Laurie Jodice, Gib Chase, Bob Goodwin and Larry Hildebrand; and TCS Ex-Officio Board Member Ariel Cushnir by phone)

Paul Ticco thanked Tom Bigford for sponsoring the call, and Joelle Gore and Judy Tucker for reserving the room and arranging for lunch.

I. Bulletin Contracts with UHI and Ellen Gordon

Tom Bigford pointed out the difference in price between services provided by UHI (the publisher) and by Ellen Gordon (the editor). The meeting attendees decided to offer both entities the same amount - \$1,000 per issue. There was also general consensus to include the required length of the Bulletin in Ellen's contract.

**ACTION ITEM:** Lindsay Fullenkamp will contact Ellen with the new payment per issue, and will update the contracts.

II. FWS MOU

Paul Ticco reported that most of the comments the Board sent him suggested TCS does not want to include specific tasks and responsibilities in MOUs, but that MOUs with other organizations are generally a good idea.

**ACTION ITEM:** Paul will continue to work with Dan Ashe at the Fish and Wildlife Service to refine the MOU.

III. Membership

Tom Bigford indicated that membership is currently around 350 to 370, and that numbers have steadily increased over time.

The Board discussed actions to take to move forward as an organization. There was general consensus that TCS needs to determine what the benefits to the members are, and that the Board needs to get more members involved in its activities. There was support for re-visiting TCS's mission statement. Judy Tucker mentioned she sends out a form to new members asking them to indicate on which committee they would be interested in serving. The response rate is low. Opportunities for members to get more involved with the Society could be the subject of a Bulletin article.

Ruth Kelty and Mo Lynch mentioned that the Society could involve minority-serving institutions through the work of the Environmental Cooperative Science Center (ECSC).

Tom has not yet developed a plan to implement the membership strategy, and expressed a need for more help. Ariel Cushnir offered to work with Tom.

**ACTION ITEM:** Tom Bigford and Ariel Cushnir will work together to prepare a membership strategy implementation plan for the Board to vote on at the next meeting.

IV. TCS20

Kristen Fletcher is preparing RFP's for an on-line abstract submission system, and is looking into an on-line registration process. The text for the call-for-papers also needs to be developed. She would like to have the themes and format of the conference determined in May so that the text for the Call for Papers will be ready before CZ 05. The Board also needs to develop a conference planning committee, and find planning committee co-chairs soon.

**ACTION ITEM:** Kristen Fletcher asked Board members to send information on contacts in the Tampa/St. Pete Beach area who could help in planning the conference.

Gib Chase asked for updated information so he could begin sending out sponsorship packets.

**ACTION ITEM:** Gib will review and update TCS19 materials for a sponsorship packet.

V. Other Items

Bob Goodwin wondered about the responsibilities of Board members, and whether they are required to serve on a certain number of committees.

Lindsay Fullenkamp reminded the Board that the chair of the Development Committee is vacant, and to send suggestions to Paul Ticco.

Bob Goodwin suggested the Board develop a relationship with the CZ 05 conference planners to better arrange receptions, membership tables, etc. Paul was going to meet with the conference organizers that afternoon.

The meeting ended at 1:40pm.