

TCS Annual Meeting

April 17, 2024

12:00 – 1:00 PM Eastern

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Central

9:00 – 10:00 AM Pacific

Draft Minutes

Attending:

Officers: President Paul Ticco, Past President Steven MacLeod, Treasurer Jeff Benoit, Executive Director Judy Tucker

Directors: Larry Cahoon, Rick DeVoe, Cirse Gonzalez, Genevieve Guerry, Riley Lewis, Alexis Maxwell, Lisa Schiavinato, Andy Wilson

Welcome & Call to Order

Ticco called the Annual Meeting to Order at Noon Eastern via Zoom video conferencing. Next year will be the 50 year anniversary of The Coastal Society. To prepare, an organizational strategic plan, committee workplans, and a budget were created and are on the website.

Ticco asked the Board to approve the 2023 Annual meeting minutes.

Motion: (Benoit), Second (Mortensen): To approve the 2023 Annual meeting minutes. Passed.

Highlights from the 2023 Annual Report were given. TCS has 89 members, the closing 2023 revenue is \$15,782, event sponsorships was \$3,200, the annual giving campaign raised \$3,365 and there were five student chapters – University of Rhode Island, East Carolina University, UNC-Wilmington, Duke University and Eckerd College. In 2023, TCS produced two Margaret A. Davidson Coastal Career Development workshops, one coastal issues forum in Wilmington, NC, three Coastal Connections webinar series, 12 episodes of the *All Swell?* podcast, 60 subscriptions to the peer-reviewed journal, *Coastal Management*, and 24 issues of the coastal jobs list.

Committee & Workgroup Updates

DEI Committee Update

Ticco presented the DEI working group committee report for chair Eva May. May became chair in 2023 and created the bias report form which will be available for members to use soon. The first TCS demographic survey was completed in 2024. A brief summary of that will be available soon. The committee is also looking at indigenous land acknowledgements to determine whether they would be appropriate to use at our in-person events.

MAD and Development Committee Updates

Chair Jeff Flood presented on the MAD career workshops. One was held in January, 2023 with the TCS Duke student chapter in NC, and the other was held for the Knauss Sea Grant Fellows at NOAA Silver Spring in August, 2023. Another successful workshop was held in Gloucester, VA at VIMS in March, 2024, attended by 50 people. Three workshops are planned for this year. The coastal forum on regional coastal issues in North Carolina held on November, 2023 was also very successful, attended by 75 people. The Development Committee expanded membership and also gained sponsorships in support of the coastal forum and MAD coastal career workshops.

Communications Committee Update

MacLeod presented on the Coastal Connections series under the Communications Committee. It is a virtual webinar series alternating between trending topics focused on relevant and new issues and interviews with coastal professionals. In 2023 two Professional Spotlight webinars were held, one with Larry Cahoon and one with Jill Meyer. The two Trending Topics webinars focused on the 50th year anniversary of the National Marine Sanctuaries program and on Blue Carbon. There is a survey out to identify the topics of most interest. Communications Committee Chair Alexis Maxwell talked about the responsibilities of the Communications Committee and shared TCS's social media accounts for members to follow.

Chapters Committee Update

Ticco stressed the importance of the relationship with the student chapters. Co-Chairs Andrew Wilson and Kyra Hagge reported on the status of the TCS Chapters. The University of Rhode Island Chapter is very active and has been organizing activities in conjunction with other student groups. This model could be used by other chapters. The UNCW Chapter was reestablished last year, is looking for more students to join, and will start holding regular meetings in the fall. The East Carolina University Chapter was very busy in 2023 with two coastal cleanups and monthly social outings. However, they have issues with getting new officers excited about joining TCS. The Duke University Chapter went dormant after the 2023 spring semester, lacking officers and a faculty advisor, but there are plans to reestablish the chapter at the Duke Marine Lab. The Eckerd College Chapter remains dormant after the faculty advisor left the campus and there are no plans to reestablish it. In the future, there are plans to establish regional chapter clusters in the Eastern US (Western Carolina University, Elizabeth City State University, Roger Williams University) and the Gulf region (University of New Orleans, Loyola University, Tulane University, and Nicholls State University). Members who might have connections at universities were asked to reach out to Hagge and Wilson and to help support existing chapters, reinvigorate dormant chapters, and establish new chapters. Via the chat box, several people agreed to investigate a new chapter at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA.

Member Roundtable

TCS Director Cirse Gonzales kicked off the member roundtable asking "What is the biggest benefit of being a member of TCS?" Jillian Eller said one of the biggest benefits of TCS was the nexus of practitioners and academics. Ticco said the networking opportunities were valuable to him when he was a student. Lisa Schiavinato said that TCS has been a community to her for a

long time. She has learned a lot from members, and she has grown from the connections she's made through the organization. Ashley Gordon said she became involved as a student, and it has helped her through every stage of her professional journey. Kyra Hagge said she has learned a lot as a student, then a leader of a student chapter as well as the leadership of the national organization. She wants to help others make connections like she has.

TCS Director Riley Lewis asked members, "What motivates you to continue being a member of TCS?" Lewis said she has joined recently and would like to build it to the way we want to see it. She likes the professional benefits as well. Genevieve Guerry said that after helping Jeff Flood put on an amazing MAD workshop, she saw the students bond and there are a lot of issues in the coastal sphere now and it is good to come together to work on these issues. Schiavinato said that she wants to give back to an organization that has given a lot to her. She is inspired and excited for everything that the organization is doing. Steve Macleod said he likes the diversity of subject areas that we cover.

TCS Awards

Ticco presented the TCS Awards. Jeff Benoit received the Outstanding Service Award. Jeff Flood received the Distinguished Service Award. Riley Lewis received the Robert W. Knecht Award. Emily Vuxton and Alexis Maxwell received the President's Awards.

Ticco adjourned the meeting at 12:58 PM EDT.