I. ROLL CALL (8:59 am)

A) The GB unanimously adopted the proposed agenda.

B) Minutes from the May 2005 Governing Board meeting were adopted with one editorial correction.

II. REPORTS

A) Report of the President (Melillo)

- Plans for the Mexico meeting are falling into place, including major funding from the Ford Foundation.
- Jerry has made initial contact with a regional foundation about the idea of a regional focus for the education campaign.

B) Report of the Executive Director (McCarter) and staff

Lots of good news.

- We have just enrolled our 9000th member, in our 90th year.
- *Frontiers* fund-raising has been proceeding well.
- Mexico meeting plans are going well, including the financing.
- Journals are doing well.
- Registration numbers for this meeting will set a new record.
- Success in all these areas is due to the staff’s outstanding efforts.

For more information, see the extensive Annual Reports in your folders for this meeting.
1) Report on publications (Baldwin)

Submissions to *Ecological Applications* have gone up significantly (about 10% in the past year); the number of pages is going to increase immediately, and the number of issues will increase from 6 to 8, possibly in 2007. The office is now caught up after the recent server crash.

2) *Frontiers* (Silver)

*Frontiers* was ranked by ISI for the first time: number 5 out of 134 in the Environmental Science category, and number 12 out of 107 in the Ecology category. Eight papers have now arrived for next year’s special issue focusing on China. A special issue focusing on Mexico is in the works, and NSF has provided funding to underwrite it.

3) Public Affairs (Lymn)

About 10 out-of-town media people are here in Montreal for the meeting (including *Science* and *Nature*), as well as freelancers. A local publication has just put out an eight-page spread about the meeting.

4) Education (Taylor)

TIEE’s fourth volume was recently published, and a CD is for sale at this meeting. A fifth volume is in preparation. There are 35 SEEDS participants at this meeting (a record number). The Bioscience Education Network will likely receive NSF funding soon; ESA is providing the ecological component for the Science Digital Library that this program will support.

5) Administration (Biggs)

We’ll probably end with about 9200 members this year (8600 last year), and have jumped about 500/year for the past few years). The online database is working smoothly, both for membership and registration for this meeting.

There was some discussion about how to attract additional membership/funding from the nonacademic sector, particularly the corporate world. Hiring of a fundraiser might catalyze this.

6) SBI/Science (Duke)

There is a new program assistant, Devon Rothchild. Dr. Elizabeth (Bette) Stallman will be replacing Rhonda Kranz, who is leaving ESA to pursue new opportunities. Plans are proceeding for the National Agricultural Air Quality workshop in June 2006.

There may be a new Microbial Ecology Section applying for establishment soon.

C) ESA/BES Ecological Society presidents meeting (Melillo)

BES has significant funding they wish to use to help establish ecological societies in developing countries, particularly former Commonwealth countries. There will be representatives here from ecological societies from nine different countries.

D) Report of the Vice President for Finance (Christensen)

McCarter presented the fourth-quarter financial report; the financial picture is quite good (in striking contrast to several years ago), and hasn’t changed much since the May meeting. Fiscal soundness is key to our ability to raise additional funding, and the current reserve is being used to help generate income. We have in hand about half of the $2 million goal for a fiscal reserve to allow us to meet future challenges.

As of 2005 all unrestricted funds and about $500,000 of restricted funds (total about $1.4 million) have been moved to management by Townley Capital Management.

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS
A) Fiscal Year 2005–2006 budget (McCarter)

The change in subscription prices is the biggest budget change. A Development/Fundraising staff position is included for the first time. Devon Rothschild will be a full-time employee in the Science office, and will take on some responsibilities that were previously contracted out.

Carol Brewer asks about the Millennium Fund. Some of it is going to the Development position, $30,000 to Board strategic initiatives. Total is about $86,000 now. There appears to be some confusion among Board members and the membership about the different endowments. A suggestion is made that the funds be pooled, perhaps with a renaming of funds. Norm will bring a proposal to the Board.

Carol asks the Board to consider some allocations from the Board strategic initiatives fund: Printing and distribution of the WAMIE II report ($2000–3000); analysis and report of the undergraduate education survey ($3000); translation of some of the *Issues in Ecology* into Spanish in time for the 2006 Mexico meeting (about $1000 each; total perhaps $3000).

1) Approval of the proposed budget. A motion is moved, seconded, and approved: The Board approves the proposed budget of $5,893,028.

2) Committee funds will be available for four meetings of seven people each receiving travel funds. Three standing committees (Science, Education and Human Resources, and Public Affairs) typically receive funding, with $5600 reserved for an additional meeting (possibly related to the Development position). All three VPs would like to reserve funding to have the option to meet during the coming year.

3) Long-Range Planning Grants: A subset of the Board (the three Members-at-Large) is appointed to review and approve proposals from the sections, chapters, and standing committees.

4) Discussion of the presentation of the budget to the Council

A motion is moved, seconded, and approved: The Board approves use of most of the uncommitted Millennium Fund funding ($5000) to print the WAMIE II report, and for analysis and publication of the undergraduate education survey. The Board also approves the process of having Board members make proposals at the May meeting for use of strategic initiative funding.

B) Biodiversity statement (Powers/Lynn)

This position statement is currently under review by the Public Affairs Committee. David Hooper will send it to Board members soon for approval.

C) Nuclear energy statement (Melillo)

The Council of Scientific Society Presidents inquired of its member societies if they had a position on nuclear energy. There is consensus that this is an important and timely issue. Rich Pouyat will chair a longer-term effort to develop an ESA position statement about nuclear energy, and perhaps energy issues in general. Norm Christensen will help, and Rich is given suggestions of several people or groups who might be appropriate to help with this effort.

D) Regional Initiative concept (Melillo, Lymn, Taylor)

Nadine Lymn summarizes the concept paper for an ESA initiative to inform environmental decision-making at a regional level. We might want to have some ESA staff in place in any region where such an effort is going on. We want to be honest brokers of environmental concerns. Could we regionalize the rapid response teams? Can we use chapters for regional leadership, or the NEON groups? We may need to be careful about whom we partner with; e.g., many foundations may already have adopted advocacy positions. This effort may help to organize and energize the ESA.
E) Public Policy Priorities for the year (Lymn)

Priorities are not drastically different from the previous year; trying to predict what will be the important issues before policy makers this year. Invasive species, endangered species, forest management, marine issues, climate change, ecosystem services. Not meant to be an exhaustive list, as other hot topics may arise. Some discussion of the intelligent design/evolution controversy, and how ESA might be appropriately involved.

F) NEON update (Brewer, Palmer, Michener)

Michener presentation: They are halfway though the 20-month design process, and have held three meetings so far. Traceability matrices are shown for demonstrating linear connections between science and other areas. There will be both science and education missions. Twenty different climate regions have been identified. In most, an urban-to-wildlands gradient will be studied, with managed ecosystems in between, and new kinds of sensors and sensor arrays to be deployed among them. This will provide insights into coupling of human and natural systems. Terrabytes of data will be generated by these sensors, ranging from terrestrial to aquatic systems. One array will be present in each of the 20 climate regions, and another set will be mobile to take advantage of transient events. NEON Inc. will be incorporated as of January, high-level funding request will go to NSF in November, requests for prospectuses will come out next, with a panel to review them. Cyber infrastructure will be built first, with all nodes; then build-out will occur one at a time as sensor arrays become available. Node site selection will probably occur through NSF.

G) National Data Center (Grimm)

Could this piggyback on NEON? Will resources devoted to this then be lost from what was available for field work? Will research itself be discouraged by a requirement for data registry and archiving? Should we talk to NSF about funding a Center? The Board will vote on Friday on the Vision statement.

H) Mexico meeting update (Duke)

We’re within a few thousand dollars of the target goal for general meeting support. Ford Foundation has provided $100,000 for travel awards for students from Latin America. There will also be scholarship funds for U.S. students. Planning is proceeding well. Board members are encouraged to help recruit students, both national and international, to attend the meeting, and to attend themselves.

I) Annual meeting schedule (McCarter)

A quick review of meetings that Board members should attend this week.

Executive session followed, and ended about 6 pm.

Continuation of Board meeting on 7 August, 8:30 am. Paul Ringold and Kiyoko Miyanishi (current and next year’s Program Chairs) joined the meeting, as did Steve Chaplin.

J) Montreal meeting (Ringold)

There were 25% more abstract submissions this year than last year, which was itself a record. A significant change is the number of organized oral sessions. One of the most difficult organizational tasks was putting 1200 abstracts into 200 sessions.

K) Memphis meeting (Miyanishi)

Lord Robert May is suggested as a keynote speaker. The Board suggested some other possible speakers.

L) Future meetings (Chaplin)

Meetings in 2009 and 2010: the committee likes to
work about 5 years ahead, as most other large societies also do, and this gives us the best chance at good rates and preferred dates. The size of the meeting is becoming a significant factor in restricting the number of possible cities. Pittsburgh and Albuquerque (site of 1997 meeting) are suggested.

**A motion is moved, seconded, and approved:** The Board approves the selection of Albuquerque for the 2009 meeting. A motion is moved, seconded and approved: The Board approves the selection of Pittsburgh for the 2010 meeting.

**M) Motion to amend the By-laws (Christensen)**

Norm suggested that we replace the Finance and Investments Committee with an Audit Committee (in part to satisfy the Sarbanes-Oxley requirements), and add a Development Committee. This proposal must go to the Council, which will have 2 months to consider it, and vote.

**N) Talking points about the importance of having and growing operating reserves (Christensen)**

Norm described some of the reasons why it is important for ESA to continue to develop its operating reserves. (Our current goal is $2 million.)

**O) Publication program review (Baldwin)**

David presented a brief history of ESA journals (e.g., *Ecology* began as a continuation of the Brooklyn Botanical Garden’s journal *Plant World*), and the revised mission statements for the publications in general and for each journal individually. ESA has been an early adopter of electronic publishing and access (e.g., online journals, participation in JSTOR, online submission/review, production innovations, PDF proofs and reprints). Issues for the near future include: pricing of library and individual subscriptions (print vs. online); pay per view or mini subscriptions; data registries and archives. Issues on the horizon: open access, the future of print, publication of volumes and issues (vs. individual papers), archiving (an ESA responsibility, or a library issue?). The “Brown Committee” report brought up some issues that could be reconsidered in the future, such as a preprint server, and making reviews and commentary publicly available. The future role of journals in the overall financial picture of the ESA needs to be monitored, including issues such as open access, the trend for declining subscriptions, and covering the costs of innovations such as *Ecological Archives* and the proposed Data Registry/Archive. Some of these topics will have to be considered in detail at future meetings.

Some data trends: submissions are up (300% since the mid-1980s); acceptances are down (acceptance levels 22–25%); paper lengths are down (the Don Strong effect); pages published are going up; 41% of manuscripts are rejected without review; mean time to first decision is under 2 months. Some papers are being published within 6 months of submission, and most reports are being published in less than a year.

A question for the Board that would help to provide guidance to editors and the Publications Office: In the face of increasing submissions, do we want to continue to become more selective, or publish more papers?

**P) New business**

Brewer — do we want to pursue translation of some *Issues in Ecology* to Spanish before the Mexico meeting? Board members are asked to bring suggestions for particular issues to the meeting on Friday. Nancy Grimm reminds Board members about the November meeting in China that at least three Board members will attend. An issue from yesterday’s Executive Session: redesign of the ESA web page should be a priority for the coming year.

**Q) Thanks to departing Board members Norm Christensen, Margaret Palmer, Sunny Power, and Bill Schlesinger.**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.