
12 August 2005

Montreal, Canada

Members present:

Nancy Grimm (President), Jerry Melillo (Past-President), Alan Covich (President-Elect), Gus Shaver (Vice President for Science), Bill Parton (Vice President for Finance), David Inouye (Secretary), Shahid Naeem, Dee Boersma, and Dennis Ojima (Members-at-Large), Richard Pouyat (Vice President for Public Affairs)

Staff present:

Katherine McCarter (Executive Director), Cliff Duke (Director of Science), Elizabeth Biggs (Director of Finance), Sue Silver (Editor), Jason Taylor (Director of Education), Nadine Lymn (Director of Public Affairs), David Baldwin (Managing Editor)

Guests: Matt Jones and Jim Reichman

I. INFORMATION

A) Welcome by President Nancy Grimm

Thanks to the staff (especially Ellen) for the successful meeting.

B) Organizing for the year

What's going well that we want to keep pursuing? The field of ecology is entering an era characterized by larger, more collaborative, and interdisciplinary research with outreach efforts. So what should ESA's role be in this context? We can provide support for such research with the Annual Meeting and other efforts to foster communication. Another role is to play a big part in helping to build and represent the community of ecologists. Nancy would like to see progress this year on:

1) The regional communication initiative: identify a pilot region and establish a structure for it.

2) International outreach: e.g., hosting people at the Annual Meeting, and meetings in other countries.

3) Hiring a development officer.

In addition, several new or recently initiated projects should receive attention:

1) Continue development of plans for a national data archive (beyond registry).

2) Find ways to support existing community development efforts, e.g., NEON.

3) Revitalize the sustainability science issue; devote some time at the October Governing Board meeting to revisiting the priorities identified from comparison of the Visions report with other long-range ideas previous Boards have had. Explore possibilities for outreach to other disciplines.

4) Charge the Professional Ethics and Appeals Committee with re-examining the code of ethics. Maybe have a session at the next Annual Meeting on ethics in ecology.

5) Revamp the ESA web site. The Publications Committee will be asked to help with this task.

Jerry Melillo suggested that the Federation of the Americas initiative will need continued attention. The Merida meeting will help in this regard, but we should continue to nurture this effort.

A couple of Board members have heard feedback at this meeting that some ESA members are concerned about the potential for NEON to draw funding away from smaller-scale research. What will be transformational about NEON? The network structure? Development and deployment of new kinds of sensors and instruments? How can we help educate the membership about the potential benefits to ecological science

of NEON? How can we contribute to ensuring that NEON does not result in a reduction of resources for basic ecological science?

C) 2005–2006 meeting dates

A date of 20–21 October 2005 in Washington, D.C., was chosen; new Board members will have an orientation beginning at noon on the 19th. Board members will be polled about dates for the May 2006 meeting.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Data registry. Presentation by Jim Reichman of results of discussion of the Publications Committee, with a presentation by Matt Jones.

This is a project of the Knowledge Network for Biocomplexity (KNB; <http://knb.ecoinformatics.org>), a national network intended to facilitate ecological and environmental research on biocomplexity. Data will be archived in two places. Reviewing entries for acceptability will probably require about 1 person-month/year.

A motion tabled from the May 2005 meeting is revived. The ESA has approved the data registry at NCEAS and strongly encourages all authors of papers accepted in ESA journals to use this or another ESA-

approved registry for data in their papers. Data registration will become a requirement for papers submitted for ESA journals beginning in 2006. The motion is amended: **The Governing Board has approved an ESA data registry and strongly encourages all authors of papers accepted in ESA journals to use this registry for data in their papers. Data registration is encouraged on a voluntary basis as of January 2006, and will become mandatory in the future.** Seconded, and approved unanimously.

B) Translations of Issues in Ecology

Water in a Changing World, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Function, and Human Alteration of the Global Nitrogen Cycle are suggested as the top three priorities for translation into Spanish. We will look for volunteers, but may have to pay something.

C) Feedback

The number of people registered for the meeting was 4493 (based on present data). There were many student activities this year. The only negative comment received concerned scheduling the Opening/Awards Ceremony opposite regular sessions. This should be avoided in future.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 :48 am.

20–21 October 2005

Washington, D.C.

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Nancy Grimm (President), Jerry Melillo (Past-President), Alan Covich (President-Elect), Gus Shaver (Vice President for Science), Bill Parton (Vice President for Finance), David Inouye (Secretary), Richard Pouyat (Vice President for Public Affairs), Dee Boersma, Dennis Ojima

(Members-at-Large). Carol Brewer, (Vice President for Education and Human Resources) joins the meeting in the afternoon.

Staff present:

Katherine McCarter (Executive Director), Cliff Duke (Director of Science), Elizabeth Biggs (Director of Finance), Sue Silver (Editor), Nadine Lymn (Director of Public Affairs), Jason Taylor (Director of Education)