

Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution
2014 Annual General Meeting, Montreal, Quebec
Thursday, 29 May at 12:00-13:30

The meeting commenced with 58 members present, meeting the requirement for quorum.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Judy Myers

MOTION (B. Lalonde, D. Morris) to accept the agenda as proposed.

PASSED

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 15 May 2013, Kelowna

MOTION (S. Heard, P. Leavitt) to accept the minutes of the meeting as previously posted.

PASSED

3. President's Report

Judy Myers

- a. Judy opened her report with thanks to members for attending the meeting despite its being scheduled during lunch hour.
- b. As will be detailed in the upcoming discussion re: By-laws and Standing Rules, elections for Council will be held in Spring 2015. All members are encouraged to consider standing for Council elections. Nominations should be forwarded to Jeremy Kerr, CSEE Vice President and Chair of the Nominations Committee.
- c. The submission deadline for the summer 2015 Bulletin will be 16 June.
- d. 2015 Conference – the Local Organizing Committee for the 2015 meeting in Saskatoon gave a brief presentation on their plans for the next meeting.
- e. Judy thanked the organizers of the Montreal Genomes to Biomes meeting for their huge efforts in organizing a joint meeting among the three societies (CSEE, Canadian Society of Zoologists, and Society of Canadian Limnologists). The G2B meeting included two outreach talks, one of which was by National Geographic photographer Paul Nicklen. Attendance at this talk included 150 members of the general public.

4. Secretary's Report

Miriam Richards

The Secretary's report to Council is attached to this document.

Miriam gave a brief summary, highlighting membership patterns in the last several years. Several members commented that it would be useful to assemble the membership information since the Society's inception, in order to assess whether or not membership has stabilized at current levels.

ACTION: the Secretary will attempt to assemble membership data to present at the next Annual General Meeting.

5. Presentation of Proposed By-laws and Standing Rules

Miriam Richards

The proposed By-laws and Standing Rules were made available to members on the CSEE website prior to the meeting.

As mandated by changes to federal legislation governing not-for-profit corporations, the original CSEE Constitution must be replaced with a set of By-laws setting out the legal structure of the Society. The By-laws pertain only to those aspects of the Society governed by the new legislation. Parts of the old Constitution which describe how the Society operates are to be replaced with the proposed Standing Rules. The proposed Standing Rules also includes several updates to the Society's operating principles. Approval of the By-laws requires approval of two-thirds of members present at the meeting.

MOTION (S. Heard, S. Otto) to accept the By-laws as proposed.

Passed unanimously

Prior to calling for a motion to approve the proposed Standing Rules, Miriam briefly outlined some proposed changes to Council positions. Terms for the Secretary, Treasurer, and Councillors will be shortened from 4 years to 3 years. Additional, terms will commence right after the annual conference, rather than on 1 January. A second student councillor position will also be created. A new election schedule will be proposed after approval of the new Rules.

MOTION (B. Beisner, L. Lachowsky) to accept the Standing Rules as proposed.

Passed unanimously

6. Treasurer's report

Julie Turgeon

The Treasurer's report to Council and to the general membership is attached to this document. The report was presented by Miriam Richards, as Julie was unable to attend in person. Several major points were highlighted.

- a. Council has adopted a budgeting practice whereby the Treasurer proposes an interim budget for the next fiscal year January-December at the autumn Council meeting (held in November or December each year). The annual budget is finalized at the spring council meeting held at each year's conference. Thus the budget presented to the membership for approval at the AGM is the final budget for the current fiscal year.
- b. As required, the annual financial statements have been audited, and the report is available should members wish to see it.
- c. The major source of income for the Society is membership fees, and it should be noted that a large proportion of fees come from the many student members. Much of the asset balance we currently hold (\$96,742) arose because of a massive GST rebate on the many foreign conferees attending the 2012 Ottawa meeting, together with the surplus from the Kelowna meeting. The annual meeting budgets are asked to be able to provide \$10,000 in profit for the society.

- d. For several years, the Society has been operating at an annual deficit of about \$3000, a gap that Council proposes to close in 2015. Miriam noted that for the last two years, the annual deficit has been about the same amount as the total fees unpaid by members who attend the annual conference but neglected to renew their memberships.

MOTION (B. Lalonde, H. Proctor) to accept the 2014 CSEE budget as presented.

Passed

Further discussion ensued. It was pointed out that meeting “profits” are turned back into future conference activities, and should therefore be regarded as surpluses, not profits. Some members commented that they would be willing to pay a little more for annual meetings if it would help the Society to engage in additional activities. A comment was made about the apparently low amount of money spent on student activities, but it was noted that many of the student activities are supported by outside funds that do not appear as student items in the CSEE budget. In response to a question about whether the annual CSEE membership fee could be raised from \$5000 to \$8000, Miriam pointed out that doing so would deepen the structural deficit.

7. Presentation of nominations for Lifetime Honorary Members Locke Rowe

As outlined in the new Standing Rules, CSEE has created Honorary Lifetime Memberships. This award is meant to honour and highlight the lifetime achievements of outstanding and influential Canadian ecologists and evolutionary biologists. The three nominees are Chris Pielou, Buzz Holling, and Harold H. Harvey (see attached notes from CSEE Bulletin #16, Summer 2014).

MOTION (A. Mooers, G. Bell) that the membership approve the nominations of Chris Pielou, Buzz Holling, and Harold H. Harvey for Lifetime Honorary Membership, in recognition of their contributions to ecology and evolution scholarship in Canada.

Passed unanimously

8. Other Business

- a. D. Morris expressed thanks for the financial contributions of previous conference LOC's to the current meeting. Other members concurred.
- b. NSERC funding report - Hugh McIsaac

Hugh presented a brief summary of the 2014 competition results and other news. In general, he noted good news and bad news. Good news included a recent announcement that an extra \$15 million had been allocated for the Discovery grants programs, so some 2014 Discovery grants might be adjusted upwards. Additional allocations included an extra \$10 million dollars for Research Tools and Instruments and for Highly Qualified Personnel. This might result in a temporary increase to

post-doctoral awards and or increases in the numbers of USRA awards to small universities. Bad news included the fact that the Canadian Common CV is here to stay, despite the loathing for this document expressed by most university researchers. Some small improvements have been made and it is hoped that in future, it will be further improved. A more serious bit of bad news is that Discovery grant success rates have declined substantially and disproportionately at small and medium universities, to the point where there will soon be almost nobody with Discovery grants at small institutions. This may have a particularly serious impact on ecology and evolution research, which has traditionally been a strength at small and medium institutions.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 13.30.