



COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting – Friday 12th April 2013 (Meeting #2)

Teleconference: commencing 11:00 AEST

[NSW, VIC, ACT, TAS, QLD – 11:00; SA, NT – 10:30; WA – 9:00]

Phone no: 1800 333 803 (622507#)

Distribution list: Kris French (President), Nigel Andrew (President-elect, Treasurer), Brad Murray (Treasurer-elect), Liz Tasker (VP-Public Liaison), Glenda Wardle (VP-Research), Angela Moles (VP-Student Affairs), Michael Bull (Austral Ecology – Chair, Editorial Board), Gary Luck (EMR – Chair, Editorial Board), Ben Gooden (Bulletin Editor), Don Driscoll (ACT Councillor), Luke Collins (NSW Councillor), Christine Schlesinger (NT Councillor), Andrew Hayes (QLD Councillor), Nerissa Haby (SA Councillor), Anita Wild (TAS Councillor), Peter Veski (VIC Councillor), Blair Parsons (WA Councillor), Jodie Lia (Secretary), Lyn McCormick (Finance Officer), Gail Spina (Executive Officer).

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 Chairperson's Welcome and Introduction

1.2 Present and Apologies

Present: Kris French (President), Nigel Andrew (President-elect, Treasurer), Brad Murray (Treasurer-Elect), Angela Moles (VP-Student Affairs), Gary Luck (EMR – Chair, Editorial Board), Don Driscoll (ACT Councillor), Ben Gooden (Bulletin Editor), Christine Schlesinger (NT Councillor), , Nerissa Haby (SA Councillor), Peter Veski (VIC Councillor), Andrew Hayes (QLD Councillor), Lyn McCormick (Finance Officer), Gail Spina (Executive Officer).

Apologies: Anita Wild (TAS Councillor), Liz Tasker (VP-Public Liaison, Michael Bull (Austral Ecology – Chair, Editorial Board), Luke Collins (NSW Councillor), Glenda Wardle (VP-Research), Jodie Lia (Secretary), Blair Parsons (WA Councillor).

1.3 Minutes of Previous Council Meeting (February 2013) – for ratification

Motion: That the minutes of the previous Council meeting be accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved: Nigel Andrew

Seconded: Angela Moles

All in favour: motion carried

1.4 Minutes of Previous Executive Meeting (March 2013) – For noting

2.0 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Action items from previous Council and Executive meetings are as below. Items completed will be highlighted as **green**; others in **yellow** are ongoing with comments indicated below. Person(s) responsible and due dates are indicated.

Coun_Feb_13_3.1.1	New presentation of finance report	Nigel, Lyn, Brad	July Council
Coun_Feb_13_3.1.2	Final Conference Report from LOC and Conlog	Peter	April Council
Coun_Feb_13_4.1.4	Webpages – contact with Interlated and update	Liz & Gail	April Council
Coun_Feb_13_4.1.4	Minutes of December meeting circulated	Gail & Jodie	ASAP

Coun_Feb_13_4.1.6	Working group compositions circulated and edited ready for approval	Gail	April Council
Coun_Feb_13_4.2.2	Table showing membership benefits to students on website	Angela	When new webpage is up and running
Coun_Feb_13_4.5.2	Add a copy of the letter to the ESA webpage	Kris	Ongoing
Coun_Feb_13_4.5.3	Review current policy on science communications and present any suggested changes	Kris	April Council
Coun_Feb_13_5.1.1	Letter for SA Regional Event drafted for approval	Nerissa	April Council
Coun_Feb_13_5.1.2	Update on SA Regional Event	Nerissa	April Council
Coun_Feb_13_6.2.1	Discuss with QLD Regional Councillor in order to seek expressions of interest from QLD ESA members to join the QLD Advisory board.	Kris & Andrew	April Council
Exec_Mar_13_1.3.1	Distribute the November Executive Meeting minutes for ratification by email.	Kris	ASAP
Exec_Mar_13_2.1.1	Action table to be updated from November Exec Meeting and December Council Meeting.	Gail & Jodie	ASAP
Exec_Mar_13_3.2.1	Check with Mark Westoby about whether the Barb Rice sponsorship will cover the net loss of the conference.	Peter	April Council
Exec_Mar_13_3.2.2	Clarify that the LOC should pay for Council travel on Planning Day.	Lyn	April Council
Exec_Mar_13_3.2.3	Follow up final draft of the LOC handbook with Eddie Van Etten.	Peter	April Council
Exec_Mar_13_4.2.1	AERA item to run in each weeks ESA e-news until nominations deadline on April 30 th 2013	Gail & Glenda	ASAP
Exec_Mar_13_5.1.1	Discuss if this sort of request is supported by ESA core goals and objectives at the next Council meeting.	Kris	April Council

3.0 REPORTS

3.1 Treasurer's/Finance Report - Nigel Andrew/Lyn McCormick*

The balance sheet, cash movement and income statement were presented to Council. Agreed presentation of accounts with covering sheet identifying potential issues and clarification of terms very useful.

Lyn advised final conference accounts had been received and Lyn was currently reconciling. Funds will be moved into the conference account once that process has been completed. Royalties are now due for payment by Wiley Blackwell.

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS (Discussion and/or Voting)

4.1 INTECOL 2013 – Kris French

ESA's level of engagement with INTECOL 2013 was discussed. As previous hosts, ESA is entitled to a number of promotional opportunities but agreed difficult to resource and benefit to ESA may be limited. Agreed promotion of upcoming conferences, EcoTas13 & ESA14 in Alice Springs would be of benefit. Nigel Andrew agreed attending so able to place posters if suitable location can be found. Gail to liaise with Christine Schlesinger (ESA14) & NZES LOC (EcoTas13) to develop poster promoting both events. Agreed smaller posters could be distributed to Council members for broader promotion of conference events.

Coun_Apr_13_4.1.1	Liaise with INTECOL re display of ESA posters	Gail	June Council
Coun_Apr_13_4.1.2	Develop promotional conference Poster for INTECOL and general promotion	Gail/Christine	June Council

4.2 Endorsement of Research Projects – Kris French*

Kris outlined requests received for ESA endorsement of individual research projects for purposes such as grant applications. Agreed this was not current ESA policy and not within the scope of ESA current activities. In addition the Society does not have the resources to effectively evaluate individual projects for the purpose of scientific endorsement. It should be noted however that the Society does support specific research themes through the Hot Topics initiatives to which all members are invited and encouraged to contribute.

4.3 Book Publishing Deal with Wiley Blackwell – Gary Luck

Gary presented a report on opportunity to produce a publication series under ESA brand. Publishing models exist which represent minimal workload for Council through sourcing series Editors who take responsibility to source authors and peer review, and publisher (Wiley Blackwell) manage schedules and publication. Difficulty lies in sourcing the editors and keeping to a timeframe.

Need to actively manage a first edition or two as example – perhaps initial editor from Council or with close links to Council.

Initiative would not be a significant revenue raiser but considered of value to members (particularly if available at a discounted rate, and generally an indicator of a maturing Society).

Suggested contact prolific authors (eg David Lindenmayer, Richard Hobbs) to canvas benefits to members and Society of series publications and report back to Council. Also gauge member interest via e-news and facebook – Gary to provide Gail with blurb.

Coun_Apr_13_4.3.1	Canvas benefits of series publications	Gary	June Council
Coun_Apr_13_4.3.2	Gauge member interest via e-news & facebook	Gary/Gail	June Council

4.4 ESA14 and potential collaboration with Australian Rangelands Society – Christine Schlesinger*

Christine presented preliminary outcomes of discussions with ARS re conference collaboration. Agreed collaboration need to ensure both events retained individual identity for respective members particularly given difference in delegate numbers and not all members align with the other Society’s objectives.

Suggested to offer combined social events and field trips, include option of a session at other conference with registration, combined mixer. Important to maintain separate registration processes and catering and to maintain separate budgets. Agreed could be flexible with days to find a mutually suitable schedule eg including a weekend as part of ESA conference schedule.

Coun_Apr_13_4.4.1	Continue discussions with ARS based on separate events with overlap where benefit to both parties and advise outcomes	Christine	June Council
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5.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (For Noting Only)

5.1 Final Report for ESA2012 – Peter Vesk

Pete ran through final Conference report. Feedback from delegates was positive. Delegate numbers were down but still healthy. Sponsorship difficulties represented the main cause of incurred loss. Field trips and conference dinner undersubscribed – considered that perhaps dinners at large venues not ideal and perhaps consider a cash bar. Budget reporting a little difficult to track across conferences as different models used to allocate costs and separate ESA activities and Conference costs. Agreed to revisit past conferences with Conlog and use consistent approach to remove ESA costs so that a relative comparison of can be made of bottom lines. Agreed need to develop clear guidelines identifying costs borne by conference and those charged directly to ESA and build these into next PCO contract.

Congratulations offered to the LOC for a great conference in difficult economic and political times. Some memorable new additions such as the coffee cart and wifi which may become future traditions.

Coun_Apr_13_5.1.1	Relative comparison of past Conlog conferences to accurately compare bottom lines	Lyn/Nigel	August Council
Coun_Apr_13_5.1.2	Develop guidelines for cost allocation between conference and ESA	FGWG	June Council

5.2 Update on SA Regional Event Planning – Nerissa Haby

Item noted

6.0 LATE AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Austral Ecology Open Access Publishing and New Publishing Agreement – Mike Bull*

- 1) The publishers of Austral Ecology (Wiley) are responding to new regulations on open access publishing with some amended copyright forms

- 2) The five year publishing agreement we currently have with Wiley ends on Dec 31 2014, but we are obliged to start discussion of arrangements about that agreement in the first half of 2013

The attached recommendations have been approved by the Austral Ecology editorial board.

Attachment 1: Letter from Wiley outlining the new Open Access policy and asking for the ESA response to three questions.

Attachment 2: My report on a meeting with Wiley on 26 March, with recommendations a) for our response to the three questions; b) for the process of developing a new publishing agreement for Austral Ecology

MOTION: That the ESA Council accept the recommendations about Austral Ecology in the documentation.

Moved: Mike Bull

Seconded: Nigel Andrew

All in favour: motion carried

Meeting closed at 12:39am (AEST)

* Papers related to this agenda item are attached, or were circulated via email prior to the meeting. Copies can be obtained on request from the ESA Secretary.