



COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting – Friday 9th August 2013 (Meeting #4)

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 Vesk (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), 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), 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 Vesk (VIC Councillor), Jodie Lia (Secretary), Lyn McCormick (Finance Officer), Gail Spina (Executive Officer).

Apologies: Nigel Andrew (President-elect, Treasurer), Ben Gooden (Bulletin Editor), Blair Parsons (WA Councillor).

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

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

Moved: Glenda Wardle

Seconded: Anita Wild

All in favour: motion carried

1.4 Minutes of Previous Executive Meeting (July 2013) – for noting*

2.0 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Matters Arising from Previous Council & Executive Meetings

The following action items are from the 2013 meetings only. Actions items from prior to this meeting will be distributed in an updated action table when it all becomes available.

Items completed will be highlighted as **green**; others in **yellow** are ongoing, with **comments**.

Person(s) responsible and due dates are indicated.

Agenda Item #	Action arising	Person	By	Comments
Coun_Feb_13_4.1.6	Working group compositions circulated and edited ready for approval	Gail	August Council	Draft working groups attached as at item 4.4.

Agenda Item #	Action arising	Person	By	Comments
Coun_Feb_13_4.2.2	Table showing membership benefits to students on website	Angela	October Council	
Coun_Feb_13_4.5.3	Review current policy on science communications and present any suggested changes	Kris/Council	Council 2014	Postponed until 2014.
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	August Council	Completed. Refer to item 4.1.
Exec_Mar_13_3.2.2	Clarify that the LOC should pay for Council travel on Planning Day.	Lyn	July Exec	Completed. Refer to item 4.1.
Exec_Mar_13_3.2.3	Follow up final draft of the LOC handbook with Eddie Van Etten.	Peter	August Council	LOC draft attached as at item 4.2
Coun_Apr_13_4.1.1	Liaise with INTECOL re display of ESA posters	Gail	July Exec	
Coun_Apr_13_4.1.2	Develop promotional conference Poster for INTECOL and general promotion	Gail/Christine	July Exec	
Coun_Apr_13_4.3.1	Canvas benefits of series publications	Gary	August Council	Update provided below.
Coun_Apr_13_4.3.2	Gauge member interest via e-news & facebook	Gary/Gail	August Council	Update provided below.
Coun_Apr_13_5.1.2	Develop guidelines for cost allocation between conference and ESA	FGWG	July Exec	Refer to item 4.1.
CounExec_Jun_13_3.4.1	Distribute login & instructions for new website to council	Gail, Liz, Jodie	ASAP	Completed via email to Council.
CounExec_Jun_13_4.1.1	Once all four companies have provided proposals, the PCO Review Working Group will select a candidate.	PCO Review Working Group (Gail, Lyn, Kris, Nigel, Christine)	End of June	Update provided at item 4.1.
CounExec_Jun_13_4.1.2	The selected company contract will be provided to Council for review and voting.	PCO Review Working Group (Gail, Lyn, Kris, Nigel, Christine)	August Council	Update provided at item 4.1.
CounExec_Jun_13_4.4.1	Report on potential for a "Board Charter"	Gail	Council 2014 (after ESA becomes	Postponed until 2014.

Agenda Item #	Action arising	Person	By	Comments
	for the proposed ESA Public Company status change.		unincorporated)	
Exec_Jul_13_3.1.1	Contact ConLog to request urgent provision of final conference accounts	Gail	ASAP	Lyn to provide summary to Council ASAP.
Exec_Jul_13_4.1.1	Kris to prepare background policy and process for funds allocation for Council discussion	Kris	August Council	Update provided at item 4.4.
Exec_Jul1_3_5.1.1	Mike to canvas possibility of funding for an early career grant/award as part of contract negotiations.	Mike	October Council	Update provided at item 3.4.
Exec_Jul_13_5.3.1	Gail to submit application form on behalf of ESA nominating representative as listed above	Gail	Before INTECOL	

3.0 REPORTS

3.1 Finance Report – Lyn McCormick*

The balance sheet, cash movement and income statement for the month of June was presented to Council. The income statement showed a deficit carried to the current financial year of approximately \$29,000 which is mostly due to the losses associated with the ESA12 Conference. Overall, the ESA are sitting in a good financial position.

Coun_Aug_13_3.1.1	Send final ESA12 Conference finance report around to council	Lyn	ASAP
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3.2 Hot Topics Update – Don Driscoll

Don has been working with Interlated to iron out the bugs with Hot Topics on the new website. Hot Topics is more or less in place, with just a little more testing and trials to go before it will be ready for the public launch. Don indicated that there will be Hot Topics flyers in the conference bags for ECOTAS13. Both Glenda and Don have had students at their respective institutions working on Hot Topics ideas too.

3.3 Long Term Plan for Ecosystem Sciences – Glenda Wardle & Kris French*

ESA, in collaboration with TERN and AAS members, is involved in developing a long-term plan for ecosystem science in Australia. This task was in our five year strategic plan under the heading of “Vision for Australian Ecology” The plan will look at how science should be supported and what arrangements for support need to be in place for the next 20 years or so. An soft e-Launch and website are planned for September 2013, followed by a workshop on 24 Sept 2013 of around 20 invited people to begin the process. A workshop should also be taking place at ECOTAS13 as the first on many public forums for consultation.

3.4 Austral Ecology Editor Report – Mike Bull*

Mike explained that the current publishing agreement for Austral Ecology with Wiley Blackwell will conclude at the end of 2014. If ESA are to change publisher for AE they must advise the current publisher 12 months in advance – so it must be considered before the end of 2013. Wiley has produced a publishing proposal for 2015-2019 for consideration by ESA council, with Mike’s comments in support of the proposal attached. The agreement is to be reviewed by the review panel and presented to Council for formal review, followed by a signing ceremony at the December Planning Day.

MOTION: That the ESA Council accepts Wiley as the publisher for another 5 year term, and that we start with their Financial Model 1, continuation of the current practice.

Moved: Mike Bull
 Seconded: Gary Luck
 All in favour: motion carried

MOTION: That the ESA Council set up a small review panel to suggest possible revisions to the agreement document that the managing editor negotiates with Wiley, before the document is formally reviewed by the ESA Council.

Moved: Mike Bull
 Seconded: Peter Vesk
 All in favour: motion carried

Coun_Aug_13_3.4.1	ESA review panel for the new Wiley Publishing agreement to review document and supply for formal review to council.	Mike, Gary, Kris, Nigel, Gail	October Council
Coun_Aug_13_3.4.2	Council to formally review the Wiley Publishing agreement to be ready for signatures in December.	Council	December Planning Day

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS (Discussion and/or Voting)

4.1 PCO Contract 2014-2016 – Kris French*

The current Professional Contract Organiser agreement expired in December 2012. The working group delegated at the June Council meeting has considered the company Kaigi Conferencing and Event Management as the best candidate for the next PCO agreement for ESA Conferences. A number of minor edits were proposed during the meeting, such as; increasing the expected maximum delegate number from 700 to 800; further clarifying sponsorship responsibilities between the LOC and PCO also to flag sponsorship at the right time of year to align with government budget cycles. Further edits and changes to the agreement are invited. Gail also indicated that there is an annual review process so there is opportunity to negotiate changes to the agreement at that time.

MOTION: That the contract for Conference organisation services with Kaigi Conferencing and Event Management as tabled be accepted and approved for action.

Moved: Christine Schlesinger
 Seconded: Liz Tasker
 All in favour: motion carried

4.2 LOC Conference Guidelines – Kris French*

The latest version of the Local Organising Committee Guidelines was presented to council. Kris noted that it still needed a bit of work however it is in an operational format, ready for Christine and the ESA14 LOC to use. As he was a member of the ESA12 LOC, Peter agreed to review the latest version, providing updates to Kris, Gail & Christine within the next fortnight ready for the ESA14 LOC meeting on September 12th. It was noted that there should be an action item for each April Council that the previous year's LOC present an amended LOC Guideline document to council. As it is a working document, feedback is critical and encouraged now and at any time via executiveofficer@ecol社.org.au

MOTION: That the LOC Guidelines be accepted as an interim policy document pending feedback from Council members.

Moved: Peter Vesk
 Seconded: Anita Wild
 All in favour: motion carried

4.3 Nature Conservancy Applied Conservation Award – Angela Moles*

The Nature Conservancy Applied Conservation Award has been a successful joint venture between ESA & TNC since 2010 and represents one of ESA's flagship student awards. TNC has offered to renew the agreement for a further three years and has presented the attached contract for consideration. The only edit noted by council was that a renewal/termination clause should be included in the agreement.

MOTION: That the new Nature Conservancy Applied Conservation Award agreement between ESA and TNC as tabled, with the proposed renewal/termination clause be approved by Council and signed by the ESA President.

Moved: Angela Moles
 Seconded: Mike Bull
 All in favour: motion carried

4.4 Working Groups & Regional Councillor Role Transition – Kris French*

Kris presented and spoke about the transition from regional councillors to directors with portfolios as initially presented at the 2012 Planning Day. The proposal was discussed with regard to the geographical location of the new director roles and whether there would be a slow shift toward council members being located in the east coast population centres and that it might disadvantage regional members. It was agreed that there should be an amendment to the by-laws with regards to equity in director positions and allocation of regional funding. Peter also considered whether the LOC would be disadvantaged if there wasn't regional representation under the new director with portfolio arrangement.

MOTION: That the proposed constitutional amendments for the Regional Councillor transition to Directors with portfolios be accepted and ratified by council.

Moved: Don Driscoll
 Seconded: Luke Collins
 All in favour: motion carried

Coun_Aug_13_4.4.1	Present the RC role transition working paper and policy document to Council for approval including amendments to by-laws	Kris	October Council
Coun_Aug_13_4.4.2	Provide an update on the RC role transition to ESA members via e-news.	Liz/Gail	Next edition of e-news

Also attached are the proposed working groups that align to the current ESA Strategic Plan identifying potential initiatives and directors (regional councillors) that might undertake this role. Councillors should identify their interests in particular roles by the October Council meeting. Student members are particularly welcome.

Coun_Aug_13_4.4.3	Directors (Regional Councillors) nominate areas they wish to focus on.	All	October Council
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5.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (For Noting or Information Only)

5.1 AGM Reports – Gail Spina

AGM reports are due from ALL Council members and staff for inclusion in the AGM report to members. Any problems with this deadline or not sure what to say then please see the past AGM minutes (available on the website) or contact Gail Spina executiveofficer@ecolsoc.org.au

Coun_Aug_13_5.1.1	Council member AGM reports to be given to Gail.	All	COB Friday September 13 th
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5.2 SA Regional Event Workshop Report – Nerissa Haby*

Nerissa spoke about the ‘Introduction to publishing: natural history to restoration’ workshop that was held on Friday 2 August in Adelaide. All went well with 7 out of 8 invited editors attending along with 20 attendees on the day. Nerissa has enquired about where to store the presentations for ESA member access to the workshop with it being agreed it would be best placed in the ‘events’ area of the website. It is intended that Nerissa’s preparation materials for developing a regional event will be made available to ESA Councillors and/or Research chapters.

Coun_Aug_13_5.2.1	SA Regional Workshop presentations to be uploaded to the ‘Events’ area of the new website	Nerissa, Liz, Gail	December Planning Day
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5.3 Callout for ESA Representative for INNGE at Intecol – Andrew Hayes

The INNGE working group (including myself) were hoping to be able to get a researcher from ESA to give an Australian perspective at INTECOL. The goal of this talk is to communicate in an enthusiastic manner all the exciting activities that ESA(Australia) is currently doing and planning to carry out in the future, and how those relates to early career researcher opportunities. Mark Westoby was suggested with Andrew to follow it up.

6.0 LATE AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Book Publishing Deal with Wiley Blackwell – Gary Luck

Gary provided an update to the April Council report on a book publishing deal with Wiley Blackwell. Gary contacted prolific authors to canvas support and opinions on the benefit to ESA members following the April meeting. The general consensus was that of support, however pointing out that it will not be a money maker – this has already been acknowledged by council. Gary will now contact Wiley Blackwell for more details on how the proposal might work canvassing the option of e-books. It was suggested that lining up a few interested authors so that should this deal go ahead, the first issue would have contributors ready to go. Gail will organise an advertisement for this project in the next issue of e-news.

Coun_Aug_13_6.1.1	Contact Wiley for more detail about how a book deal would	Gary	October Council
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	work, including the option of e-books.		
Coun_Aug_13_6.1.2	Provide a paragraph on this project to Gail for inclusion in the next e-news.	Gary	ASAP
Coun_Aug_13_6.1.3	Include the potential for a Wiley book publishing deal in the next e-news	Gail	By next e-news release

6.2 Update on ESA Public Company status change – Gail Spina

Gail confirmed that the formal application has gone to ASIC to unincorporate the ESA. There has been some delay in the process due to some back and forth from ESA lawyers and ASIC however Gail believes we are getting closer to a decision.

6.3 Website Progress Update – Liz Tasker

Website is still delayed with small bugs in the system being worked on and various pages missing content. Gail and Liz are compiling lists of jobs to do with regards to content and will schedule a working bee (with Liz, Gail, Kris, Luke & Ben) in the next fortnight to get critical jobs done. Website will be live before ECOTAS13.

6.4 Succession for Council positions in 2014 – Kris French

Kris requested that council members consider their plans for next year, whether they intend on renominating themselves in their current position or are considering having a break.

Coun_Aug_13_6.4.1	All council members to indicate their intentions to remain on council for 2014	All	October Council
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6.5 ESA Web Officer position – Kris French

Kris referred to her email to council stating that they have received all the applications for the new ESA Web Officer position. She now requires an extra person to help cull applicants with the view to interviewing applicants in September.

6.6 Planning Day 2013 – Kris French

If you haven't already done so, Council members are to organise flights and accommodation for this year's Planning Day in Auckland with Gail ASAP. Nigel and Kris are also working on the Planning Day agenda.

7.0 NEXT MEETING

Next Executive Meeting – 13th September 2013.
Next Council Meeting – 11th October 2013

Meeting closed at 12:41AM (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.