

**SOCIETY OF CANADIAN LIMNOLOGISTS / SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE
LIMNOLOGIE
BUSINESS MEETING, JANUARY 6, 2012
DELTA BEAUSEJOUR HOTEL, MONCTON**

ATTENDANCE:

Arnott, Shelley
Beisner, Beatrix
Blais, Jules (Vice-President)
Campbell, Christine
del Giorgio, Paul
Guy, Martha (President)
Haig, Heather
Hogsden, Kristy
Korosi, Jennifer
Mercier-Blais, Sara
Patoine, Alain
Prairie, Yves
Quinlan, Roberto (Secretary-Treasurer)
Sastri, Akash
St-Gelais, Nicolas
Taylor, Bill
Vermaire, Jesse
Yan, Norm

Martha Guy presides the meeting. Roberto Quinlan records the minutes of the meeting.

1. Acceptance of minutes of SCL 2011 business meeting (copies handed out to attendees).
 - a. Moved by Norman Yan, seconded by Jules Blais, passed unanimously.
2. President Martha Guy thanked this year's organizers of CCFRR-SCL-CWS (Mark Hanson, Wayne Fairchild, Andrea Locke, Andree LeBlanc, Sherrylynn Rowe, Steven Campana, Jules Blais, Patricia Chow-Fraser), sponsors (NRC Research Press, Canadian Aquatic Resources Section, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Aquatic Invasive Species Network, North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society) and exhibitors (Hoskin Scientific, Dalhousie University Department of Oceanography, Lotek, Advanced Telemetry Systems, Romor Ocean Solutions).

Total registration numbers for the 2012 meeting were 190, with 42 attendees recording their affiliation as SCL. Fifty-one percent of all registrants were students.

3. Rigler and Peters Awards:

Martha Guy thanked the members of the Rigler Award and Peters Award selection committees [Jim Rusak (VP), Antonella Cattaneo (Peters), Gary Sprules (Rigler), and Norman Yan (Rigler)]. The President also thanked Antonella Cattaneo and other SCL members for their donations for the Peters Award. The Peters Award was presented to Jennifer Korosi, who presented in the "Multiple Stressors" session on Friday, January 6th.

Discussion ensued where it was noted that nominations for the Peters award should be advertised more, as not all supervisors may be aware that they can nominate their students' papers. It was also noted that there should be more specific information given to the Peters Award committee on how to rank applicants – this would also require that more information be requested of the individual/supervisor bringing forward the nomination.

4. Clemens-Rigler Travel Fund

- a. Martha Guy thanked donors to the travel fund (CCFFR, Great Lakes Fisheries Commission, DFO, SCL, CARS-AFS, NCD-AFS, Hugh MacIsaac), and organizers of the awarding of funds (Rob Mackereth, Margot Stockwell (CARS-AFS) and Julie Dough (DFO)).
- b. 80 students applied for funding, requesting \$41,000. The Clemens-Rigler fund had a budget of \$16,000. Awards were given based on distance to travel (West, Central, Maritimes) and if past travel awards had been granted.
- c. 11 students declined funding. This was the highest number of declines ever, and is most often due to the student withdrawing from the conference due to high travel costs.
- d. 18 of the awards went to SCL students (compared to 27 in 2011 and 20 in 2010), and SCL made a contribution of \$2500 to the Travel Fund. SCL students received 21% of the Clemens-Rigler funding, while SCL's contribution to the Fund represented 15% of the total funding.
- e. Students need to email or mail proof of registration to Margot Stockwell to receive travel funds. This information should be posted on the CCFFR website.

5. Financial report from the Treasurer:

- a. Roberto Quinlan (RQ) provided a report on SCL finances and membership, by reviewing annual incomes and expenses over the past decade. In eight of the last ten years, SCL was left with a net positive balance in its account. The 10-year net balance for SCL was \$9,484.17. As of November 30th, 2011, the account balance of SCL funds was \$33,239.31.
- b. Of the \$20,000 transferred from SIL to SCL for student travel (following the SIL conference in Montreal), \$5,000 remains for student travel. The SIL money has been spent as follows: a \$5K enhancement to the Clemens-Rigler travel fund in 2007-08 (Halifax meeting); a \$1K enhancement to the Clemens-Rigler travel fund in 2008-09 (Ottawa meeting); \$5K for 2 SIL Student Travel Awards (awarded in Winnipeg, 2009-10); a \$1K enhancement to the Clemens-Rigler travel fund in 2009-10 (Winnipeg); a \$1.5K enhancement to the Clemens-Rigler travel fund in 2010-11 (Toronto); a \$1.5K enhancement to the Clemens-Rigler travel fund in 2011-12 (Moncton).
- c. Total membership in 2011 increased to 97 from 71 (2011), with 30% being student members. This is the highest SCL membership since 2005.
- d. RQ noted the need to contemplate how SCL wishes to spend the remaining \$5K in SIL funds for student travel, and the slowly increasing balance of the SCL account available for spending, as SCL has periodically engaged in initiatives to increase funding for student travel to select venues, including the 2007-08 SCL meeting in Halifax, and the 2010 SIL conference in South Africa.
- e. RQ noted that there is a relationship between attendance of SCL members at conferences and SCL membership. Therefore, in years where there is high SCL

conference attendance [in a central location], there is high SCL membership. Consequently, there is some concern about membership levels for SCL in 2012, given that SCL attendance to the Moncton conference was low. This emphasizes that we must increase notices of SCL membership and renewal, particularly as we may run a negative balance for 2012 if SCL membership goes below ~70.

6. CJFAS Update

- a. Don Jackson provided an update on CJFAS.
- b. Submissions to the journal have dropped a bit over the last several years. There is not yet enough data to determine if this is a trend. This may possibly be due to uncertainty with the future of the journal related to NRC Research Press being privatized. The acceptance rate is almost unchanged from previous years, along with the ratio of fisheries to aquatic sciences articles. Aquatic science articles comprise roughly one-third of the journal's articles.
- c. From a 'fish perspective', CJFAS is the top-ranked fish journal in the world. From an aquatic sciences perspective, CJFAS is not as highly ranked, so the editorial board sees potential to improve this, through initiatives such as making key important papers available via Open Access. One of the benefits of privatization of NRC Research Press is that approval from the Prime Minister's Office for media releases is no longer required to publicize articles in CJFAS. The journal's impact factor continues to vary around a value of 2.

7. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. CCFFR-SCL 2013 – Windsor
 - i. The next CCFFR-SCL meeting will be held in Windsor.
- b. CCFFR-SCL 2014 – Yellowknife
 - i. There were continuing concerns about Yellowknife as a conference destination in January. The main concerns were: cost, travel time, and the possibility of travel delays due to weather.
 - ii. John Lark had spoken with Martha Guy before the business meeting and indicated that the cost of flying to Yellowknife is not as expensive as it used to be, with travel costs comparable to having a meeting in a coastal location such as Victoria or St John's, and that CCFFR recognizes that the Yellowknife meeting will be a smaller meeting.
 - iii. There was a suggestion on whether to allocate a larger amount of the remaining SIL funds to increase funding for student travel to Yellowknife, however no motion was put forward.
- c. Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution 2014 – Montreal
 - i. Beatrix Beisner discussed how the upcoming CSEE meeting in Montreal in May 2014, co-hosted by the Canadian Society of Zoologists (CSZ), might be an excellent opportunity for Canadian aquatic ecologists to increase their national profile. Beatrix suggested that SCL become a partner in the CSEE conference, and indicated that there is a quite low chance that the conference will lose money and expose SCL to financial jeopardy if we become a full partner, as an attendance of approximately 1000 is anticipated.
 - ii. Another option is to be involved as a supporter/sponsor, which would not entail any financial risk, however there would be a lot less exposure for SCL, and we may only be able to organize a single session within the

conference. Both Beatrix and Alison Derry are involved with the CSEE and would be able to act as liasons between CSEE and SCL.

- iii. It was discussed whether or not SCL should promote attendance at 2014 CSEE, as this may result in many SCL members not attending the Yellowknife CCFFR meeting due to this alternative within the same year. It was noted that this is likely not going to be an issue, with few SCL members looking at CCFFR vs CSEE as an “either or” choice; SCL members who chose not to go to Yellowknife would likely make that decision regardless of the existence of the May 2014 CSEE conference.
- iv. There was a suggestion to shift some traditional SCL activities (e.g. Rigler Award plenary, Peters Award etc) to the CSEE 2014 meeting in May 2014. There was a fair amount of discussion on these issues. However, no motions were introduced on whether or not to promote SCL attendance and activities at the 2014 CSEE conference.
- v. Norman Yan introduced a motion for SCL to be a full partner in the 2014 CSEE conference, seconded by Roberto Quinlan. The motion was carried.
- vi. There was a fair amount of discussion on these issues. However, no motions were introduced on whether or not to promote SCL attendance and activities at the CSEE conference at the expense of the CCFFR conference in 2014.

8. Other business

- a. While now having memberships payable via PayPal may increase membership due to increased convenience, as with other electronic transactions (credit, debit) there is a small percentage charged by the transaction vendor (PayPal). RQ indicated that SCL is likely going to incur an operating cost of a couple of hundred dollars associated with PayPal fees. Norman Yan forwarded a motion to increase SCL membership fees by \$5, seconded by Beatrix Beisner. The motion was defeated. We will use 2012 as a pilot year for PayPal, and examine 2012 costs at the 2013 meeting to further discuss if we need to increase membership fees to help absorb this cost.
- b. A SCL member inquired if we would adopt an Emeritus rate for membership, similar to SIL’s membership structure. RQ forwarded a motion to change SCL membership fees to include an Emeritus rate, seconded by Martha Guy. The motion was defeated.
- c. There was some discussion on making SCL student membership mandatory to receive funds from the Clemens-Rigler fund. It was noted that some difficulties in organizing this may arise from the Clemens-Rigler fund being managed by non-SCL personnel. It was also noted that this issue has been raised before, without resolution.
- d. SCL is developing a new website hosted at a new location, spearheaded by our communications officer Mike Rennie. This includes designing a new logo as a website banner. Several logo designs were distributed amongst the meeting attendees. We will soon be generating an online survey to get feedback from the membership on preferred logo design.
- e. Partnership Group for Science and Engineering (PAGSE) co-hosts (with NSERC) the “Bacon and Eggheads” monthly breakfast meeting where parliamentarians are updated on recent advances in science and engineering. A motion to continue SCL membership in PAGSE was put forth by Paul del Giorgio, and seconded by Beatrix Beisner, and was carried.

9. Election of new President and Vice-Presidents

- a. Yves Prairie was nominated by Beatrix Beisner, seconded by Shelley Arnott, and unanimously elected as Vice-President (Francophone).
- b. Alison Derry was nominated by Beatrix Beisner, seconded by Shelley Arnott, and unanimously elected as Vice-President (Anglophone).
- c. Jules Blais was nominated by Paul del Giorgio, seconded by Beatrix Beisner, and unanimously elected as President.
- d. Roberto Quinlan, on behalf of the SCL membership, thanked Martha Guy, Jules Blais and Jim Rusak for their service on the SCL executive.

10. Meeting adjourned.