

**SCL Business Meeting, 04 January, 2020  
Four Points Sheraton, Halifax, NS**

**Attendance**

Nathaniel Bergbusch, Matt Bogard, Linda Campbell, Christine Campbell, Kristen Coleman, Brian Cumming, Sydney Emmons, Kerri Finlay, Paul Frost, Caleb Hasler, Andrea Kirkwood, John Lark, Jerome Marty, Eric Pederson, John Smol, Josh Thienpont, Brianna Wyn

Kerri Finlay (SCL Vice President - Anglophone) presides the meeting. Joshua Thienpont (SCL Secretary-Treasurer) records the minutes of the meeting. Commenced 11:58.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

Agenda was modified to move item 8 (relationship between SCL and CCFR) to the end of the meeting, now item 11. Approved by Andrea Kirkwood, seconded by Jerome Marty. Carried unanimously.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of January 4, 2019 (London) (posted on website).**

Approved by Jerome Marty, seconded by Brian Cumming. Carried unanimously.

**3. SCL President's remarks**

Kerri Finlay delivered remarks on behalf of Bjoern Wissel. Bjoern thanked the SCL officers for their service over the past year(s), and encouraged others to get involved / join the board. He added special thanks to Michael Rennie, for serving as English communications officer for the past nine years. Bjoern thanked the chairs and members of the awards committees, and the sponsors of the awards. Bjoern also thanked Kristen Coleman and Cecilia Barouillet for organizing and hosting the student Early Career Researcher Workshop. Bjoern looks forward to working with everyone in the coming year, good collaborations, and recruiting new members into the SCL community.

**4. Peters and Rigler Awards (Kerri Finlay)**

Kerri offered congratulations to Brian Cumming on winning the Frank Rigler Award, and Kyra St. Pierre for the Peters Award. Kerri commented on the excellent quality of the submissions for the Peters Award this year, a great indication of the state of limnological research in Canada. Kerri indicated the decision of the SCL Executive that the deadline for the awards would be moved up in 2020 (for the 2021 awards), as writing nominations, and adjudication is rushed with the current end of August deadline. This results in decisions only occurring late into the fall, making travel planning a challenge. The new deadline will be the end of April, with the executive soliciting nominations in the late winter. Jerome Marty offered thanks to CJFAS for supporting the Rigler Award, and Antonia Cattaneo for her long-term support of the Peters Award.

## **5. Financial Report from Treasurer (Josh Thienpont)**

Josh reviewed annual incomes and expenses over the past fiscal year (commencing 01 October each year). Details are included as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

Total membership in 2019 (01 Oct 2018 to 30 Sept 2019) remained steady at 119. The 2019 membership is in line with the 5- year average (124). In 2018 29% of the membership was students / postdocs, which is slightly below the 5-year average of 33%. Student membership will continue to remain low to encourage membership. Regular members should continue to encourage their students to join the membership.

SCL had a modest deficit of \$1038.32 in 2019. Expenses were in line with previous years, as were income sources. The SCL supported student travel for the GLEON21 meeting for four SCL members, at a cost of \$1620.00. This resulted in the 2019 deficit, but is in keeping with the goal of supporting student initiatives and activities outlined by the Executive.

Following best practice accounting practices for non-profit organizations, where 2.5x annual operating costs should remain in reserve, SCL's current account balance is substantially above the recommended reserve. This continues to suggest the society can explore new and expanded endeavours, such as supporting the GLEON conference, or student travel to the SIL meetings.

Matt Bogard moved to approve the financial report, seconded by John Smol. Carried unanimously.

## **6. CCFR / SCL Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee (Cecilia Barouillet)**

Kristen Coleman delivered remarks on behalf of Cecilia Barouillet. Cecilia is co-chairing this committee with Christina Semeniuk (CCFR). Cecilia outlined the initiatives incorporated into the 2020 conference, and planned for future meetings. She outlined the composition of the committee, thanking them for their commitment.

## **7. Student / ECR Workshop Update (Kristen Coleman)**

Kristen summarized the ideas for holding workshops on different topics of interest to SCL members who are students or ECRs. At the 2019 (London) meeting a panel style was chosen. In 2020 a workshop on science communications with presentations by Jerome Marty and Josh Thienpont was carried out. A topic / style for 2021 has not been decided on but will be planned. Kerri thanked Kristen and Cecilia for their work on the workshops.

## **8. Upcoming CCFR Meetings**

- a) Venue 2021 – Winnipeg – (Central)
- b) Venue 2022 – Vancouver – (West)
- c) Venue 2023 – Toronto – (Central)

## **9. Election of a New Communications Officer - English**

Kerri Finlay outlined the position for English communications officer (3-yr term), circulated for nominees prior to the meeting. Prior to the meeting, Andrea Kirkwood indicated her willingness to stand for nomination. Nominations were solicited from the floor (none received).

John Lark motioned to close nominations, seconded by Jerome Marty. Carried Unanimously. Andrea Kirkwood will serve as the English communications officer.

#### **10. Election of an Early Career Research Officer**

Kerri Finlay outlined this (new) position on the SCL Executive Board (3-yr term). No nominations were received prior to the meeting. Nominations were solicited from the floor. Matt Bogard indicated his willingness to stand for nomination.

Josh Thienpont motioned to close nominations, seconded by Jerome Marty. Carried unanimously.

Matt Bogard will serve as Early Career Research officer.

#### **11. Relationships between SCL and other organizations (Jerome Marty, Kerri Finlay, and Kristen Coleman) – Discussion and Motion of support in principle**

Jerome, Kerri, and Kristen outlined the highlights of the discussion paper (chaired by Steve Cooke) regarding a potential merger between SCL and CCFFR distributed to the membership Dec. 17, 2019, to form a new society focused on aquatic science in Canada.

John Lark outlined the motion, passed by CCFFR at their business meeting (Jan 3, 2020) which indicated:

It is moved that the Board of CCFFR take steps to create a Canadian Society for Fisheries and Aquatic Science, options should include linking with SCL or other relevant Canadian organizations. The Board is asked to have a formal proposal including mission, membership, disposition of assets and transition by the Annual General Meeting in January of 2021. A draft proposal should be circulated to CCFFR participants and members by October of 2020. This will include a clear mission and vision. It is important to keep the core commitment to students and Post Docs and the core elements including the Stevenson and Rigler Lectures. A WEB based information sharing option would be an important tool. Board should engage interested parties.

Jerome read the statement of purpose of SCL, which also is focused on promoting freshwater research in Canada, and supporting students and postdocs, pointing out there is a great deal of similarity in the two organizations.

The members present discussed the concept, and what would need to be considered in order to pursue this going forward.

John Smol raised the importance of maintaining the identity of SCL within the new organization, potentially as a chapter of the new society.

Several members raised the importance of the choice of the name of the new society.

It was concluded that because such a small number of members were present to contribute feedback, with Executive Board would reach out to the broader membership for feedback, early in the year.

It is moved that, based on a positive and constructive discussion, and recognizing the long-standing successful collaboration with CCFFR, the Executive of SCL will reach out to the membership with a survey to discuss the working document circulated in December on a potential merger with CCFFR, and the future of some joined aquatic society.

Motion to approve by Josh Thienpont, seconded by Jerome Marty. Carried unanimously.

## **12. Other Business**

No other business was brought forward.

## **13. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Andrea Kirkwood, seconded by Josh Thienpont. Meeting adjourned at 12:55.

**Thank you for attending the SCL Business Meeting!**