

Board Meeting of the 41st Annual Sea Turtle Symposium
21 March 2023
Cartagena, Colombia

Meeting Opening

President Diego Amorocho welcomes all attendees and informs observers that they may be asked to step out of the room.

Student Committee

The Student Committee presented their activities and contributions to the Symposium, which include a Workshop on Career Paths, Speed Chatting with Experts, and Evaluations of student presentations.

Nominations Committee

The Board and Chair of the Nominations Committee discussed the challenges in finding candidates to fill the role of President. This year there was one nominee for President and eight nominees for Board of Directors.

Travel Committee

The Travel Chair provided details on allocations for travel grants this year, which were restricted to accommodation (beds). A motion to approve the Travel Chair's report was presented and passed.

Grassroots Conservation Awards (GCA)

The GCA Committee received 85 submissions and narrowed this pool down to 16 presentations for consideration, pending receipt of justification from presentation authors. A motion was presented to approve the GCA report and passed.

Fundraising

The Fundraising Officer discussed fundraising efforts and donations for the Cartagena Symposium. The Board discussed the issue of registration waivers and the need to reduce or eliminate these in future Symposia. A motion to accept the Fundraising Report was presented and passed.

Director of IT

The Director of IT explained the ConfTool system for managing registration and membership payments and the utility of this software for generating Symposium Proceedings and tracking revenue and membership status.

Awards Committee

The Chair of the Awards Committee presented information on the nominations for awards and how the committee selected recipients. The Chair highlighted issues they encountered, specifically that there needs to be more guidance from the Board with regards to the process

and criteria for selecting award recipients. The Board agreed to include this as an agenda item at the 2023 Board Retreat.

President's Overview

The President discussed issues he encountered with “fake” registrants and the issues this raises for budgeting the Symposium, and logistic issues with Workshop sign up and scheduling.

Student Awards

The Student Awards Committee Chair provided information on the number of presentations (68 posters and 54 orals) to be evaluated by the 16 judges.

Treasurer's Report

A motion to seek legal advice on how to deal with deferred registration payments from the cancelled 2020 Cartagena symposium was presented and passed. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was presented and passed. A motion to invest a portion of ISTS money in a Certificate of Deposit (CD) in order to earn interest was presented and passed.

Symposium Frequency and Format

The Board discussed the results of the membership poll regarding preference for Symposium format and frequency. The results of the poll were presented to members at the Plenary Meeting in Cartagena (please see Plenary Minutes for details).

ISTS Small Grants

The Small Grants Committee selected three proposals for funding. A motion to increase the total amount available for Small Grants from \$5,000 to 6,000 USD per year was presented and passed.

President-Elect's Overview

The President-Elect gave an overview of plans for the 2024 Symposium in Thailand.

Board members in attendance: *Diego Amorocho, Nicholas Blume, Richard Reina, Manjula Tiwari, Steve Dunbar, Andres Estrades, Sandra Hochscheid, Daniela Freggi, Andrea Phillott, Amanda Southwood Williard, Mariana Fuentes, Neca Marcovaldi*

Observers: *Terry Meyer, Paul Whittock, Alex Gaos, Ingrid Yanez, Mariluz Parga, Mustapha Aksissou, Matthew Ramirez, Gabriela Arango*