

OLA Board Meeting 21 April 2021
Minutes

Present: Dreher, Sobota, Eilers, Jansen, Pennington, Tullos, Wille (late), Miller (late)

Absences: Schaedel, Larson

Known absences: Andy Schaedel: look over the treasurer's report he sent.

Desiree will host/chair the meeting as Theo will be traveling and may have unstable connection

I. Attendance (Lara): 4:02

II. Approval of March Minutes (Lara): 4:04- Theo made a motion to approve and Desiree seconded. Unanimous approval

III. Scholarship (Rich): 4:05

- Awardee is Jamila Baig, Univ of Oregon
- Committee needs to expand reach with only one applicant this year
- Desiree suggests building a recruitment list

III. Conference sessions and format for the fall (all) 4:10

- Dates to avoid: WALPA: Oct 20-22, Richland / NALMS: Nov 15-18, Oklahoma City
- OLA conference
 - Session ideas:
 - CyanoHAB session-perhaps with a molecular focus (Dan) or management (Desiree),
 - Reservoir sediment & other management->Sustainable dam operations (Desiree)
 - Have call for abstracts as for in-person meetings
 - Tribal interests: Desiree points out we should not burden them; Ron recommended a tribal liaison person, Steve also worked for tribal company and has connections with; Toni -perhaps if we could have member-it might be difficult-Steve says; Theo -thinks there are specific topical issues that are relevant; Desiree recommends we table this session until we develop relationships -> **We will wait**
 - Urban lakes session (Dan?); Classic limnology?; Other ideas
 - One lead and then put out a request to the rest of the board
 - Dates? With 3 -1.5 hour sessions like last year, dates can be flexible, avoiding the WALPA and NALMS dates
 - Field outing for OLA w/ a long business meeting (Theo) or a civic speaker talk
 - Theo and Rich will draft up an email for inviting abstracts

V. DEI (Diversity, equity, inclusion) and tribal recognition statement (Lara): 4:46

- DEI statement as the mission statement: Toni puts in a motion & Steve seconds to put in the website & other materials after a final review and then an email vote. Unanimous approval.
- Tribal recognition statement:
 - Desiree recommends we work on creating a dialogue about what make sense
 - Lara will reach out to the OSU tribal liaison for guidance
 - Ron Larson and Steve Wille can talk to their tribal members

VI. Lake Wise May newsletter (Theo): 4:50

- We have articles from Ron (SE Oregon lakes status)
- Joe (study on lower Deschutes after dam modifications)
- Rich (scholarship)
- Lara (career conference report)
- Connie (lakes in the news)
- Theo (HABs corner)

VII. Advocacy status: 4:55

- Lake Abert updates-Theo & Trish:
 - Merkley seeks OLA's support of the funding bill for USGS research of the lake-the board all agrees to provide support in a written form, Theo discussed that an advocacy position we take might in some instances be controversial with regard to another of our advocacy strategies; that should be considered but we should follow bold stances if we believe in them. Steve reiterated that we are not constrained in supporting candidates or legislation, and as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization we are legally able to spend up to 15% of our expenditures on political actions. We are registered with the IRS as an "information and education" organization. Our easiest way to avoid any real or perceived impropriety is to not donate money to any politician.
 - Simplot contact discussion: committee had talks with Audubon, OR Natural Desert Association (ONDA) that were helpful, but not productive and OLA will move forward without them for the time being
- HABs
 - Legislation has passed the Ways & Means committee for additional funding for DEQ to study HABs
 - More positions
 - More research equipment
 - DEQ is using the TMDL process to properly fund studying & monitoring HABs, instead of creating a new program-avoids issues raised by critics like the Farm Bureau
- Lead (Pb) bill-Steve says is dead in the water

VI. New business: 5:15

- Career panel mostly went well-some lessons learned; OLA may have it again next year