

## **OLA Board Meeting 18 August 2021 Minutes**

**Present:** Dreher, Jansen, Miller, Sobota, Willie, Tullos, Pennington (late)

**Absences:** Schaedel, Larson

I. Attendance (Lara): 4:03

II. Approval of July Minutes (Lara): 4:03--Theo made a motion to approve and Dan seconded. Unanimous approval

III. Fall conference sessions (Rich): 4:04

- 15 submissions in total for the general sessions
- Wallowa Lake session:
  - 6 possible talks are proposed
  - Jim Harbeck (Nez Perce) and the others would like a date in November
- Need to divide submitted talks for the general sessions into topics (e.g. CyanoHABs)
  - Dan-Cyano; Desiree-insufficient for reservoirs-may need to be more general
  - Others can chair
- Theo and Rich will lead the conference organization; aiming for final session topics by end of August with publication in the September Lakeline
- 1.5 hours per sessions with 4 talks -20 minutes-15 minutes w/ 5 minute questions

IV. DEI (Diversity, equity, inclusion) and tribal recognition statement (Lara/Desiree/Dan): 4:17

- Desiree had a conversation with Allison Davis White-Eyes at OSU, CIS may not work out (no response); Allison recommended reaching out directly tribes to come speak-Desiree has some connections with the Siletz tribe
- Desiree- Ensuring a welcoming environment for discussions; recent comments made at last meeting were not in line with being an inclusive/safe environment; please be respectful and mindful
- Theo-CIS would be ideal to get more an overall idea of what would be appropriate for multiple tribes, but that might not be feasible due to the diversity of tribes; What would be better? -> Working with select tribes-like Desiree said
- Review the document on actionable goals: Discussion
  - Conferences-inviting tribal members and attending tribal-led conferences-OLA could be a sponsor and attendee
  - Desiree: Finances- sponsoring conferences vs travel awards-balancing financial commitments

- Toni: Two parts-statement to be inclusive; then actions come second-understand what their needs are first, before we get too specific -> Desiree-how do we find out?-going to tribal-led conferences to learn-> Dan- we should treat this as slow ongoing process
- Toni, Theo thinks the full document should just be internal for now as we figure things out

V. Proposal from WALPA for a joint meeting in 2022 or 2023 (Theo): (4:54)

- Push for 2023 for an in person meeting
- WALPA will likely lead in Vancouver

V. Board membership for 2021-22 (Theo): 4:55

- The terms of Dan,Lara, Ron, Steve, Rich are expiring;
- all are invited to continue with a new term; term start in October (traditional time of the fall conference)
- Rich will be stepping down, but will help with transition, esp. In running the website
- Steve will be stepping down
- It is time for a new president-> Potential candidates?
- Toni-Lori Campbell-might be open to a board director position
- Toni- next steps: send an email to ask for her formal interest

VII. Advocacy status: 5:02

- Lake Abert (Trish, Theo, Ron): brine shrimp and flies are being productive around the springs-supporting the birds; Trish and Theo met with the sustainability director of Simplot-see previous meeting minutes-director said they could ask something of them; Trish and Theo have an upcoming meeting with OR High Desert Institute group and others to decide what to ask Simplot to do in support of Lake Abert. One option is to ask for support of the Saline Lakes bill funding research on the Great Basin Lakes; another might be to ask for recruiting the Chewaucan watershed into the Oregon Integrated Water Resources Strategy program headed by OR Water Resources Dept. A collaborative groundwater management program in the Malheur/Harney region is currently a trial run for that program, and it has support from local legislator Mark Owens and from TNC, USGS, others -looking at what water usage exists and issues in shortages-place based project; over the next 2 years the project will be studied for best management practices to be applied in other regions in the future. ->ask Simplot to support this work and prioritize Chewaucan valley as a future Water Resource Program.
- Pb and fishing (Theo, Steve): no updates

VII. Membership categories (Rich): 5:10

- Need the new categories to go through by-law changes

- Toni & Rich-need a whole membership vote once we decide the by-law changes
- Plan over the next two months to propose bylaw changes that were not installed ~2 years ago (adding a student director) as well as the changes to membership categories. Rich has circulated the proposed changes.