

OLA Board Meeting 21 July 2021 Minutes

Present: Dreher, Larson(late), Jansen, Miller, Wille, Tullos, Pennington, Schaedel

Absences: Sobota

I. Attendance (Lara): 4:02

II. Approval of June Minutes (Lara): 4:05 -Andrew made a motion to approve and Desiree seconded.
Unanimous approval

III. Treasurer's Report (Andy): 4:06

- Just one membership renewal received since April (with another in the mail)
- Balances are good - \$9,432 in the operating fund
- \$25,069 in the scholarship/outreach fund.
- Steve-asks if the scholarship amount is raised, what amount should we be aiming for in terms of endowment -> Andy says we can re-evaluate

IV. Fall conference sessions: Abstracts due August 1: 4:10

- Only one abstract from Theo & one maybe submitted for the Wallowa Lake session
- Desiree has 2 confirmed speakers for the Reservoir session
- Need more speakers
- Rich has reached out to the Nez Perce contact-Jim for the Wallowa Lake session; waiting for a response
- Will need to start earnest program planning after the abstract deadline has passed.

V. DEI (Diversity, equity, inclusion) and tribal recognition statement (Lara/Desiree): 4:13

- Review of the tribal recognition statement
 - Steve thinks **Goal 2**) tribal rep-could scare people off- what about increased membership/participation for OLA? & Theo suggests we say welcome tribal board members instead of recruit.
 - Theo & Toni -combine **Goals 1 & 2**
 - Desiree-need to show active commitment to increased tribal participation in OLA
 - Theo-make clear to the Commission we are aware of both sides & recognizing the strong indigenous ties to lakes
 - Theo-what about adding OLA being a source of support for lake issues? ->Toni -does not seem OLA has a public resource mechanism
 - Rich will link Desiree/Dan/Lara with Jim about presenting statement at the Wallowa Lake session
 - Theo- not sure about commitment of scholarships-can discuss as a future opportunity- rest of board members suggest other ideas to present with the commission
- Desiree,Lara and Dan will move forward with talking to the commission as the rest of the board approves the statement with moderate revisions

VI. Board membership for 2021-22 (Theo): 4:48

- 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)
- We have lost Joe Eilers from the board
- It is time for a new president-Theo would like to step down
- Potential candidates: Andy suggests one person with long time participation in Lake Watch
 - Desiree suggests we work on diversifying our board
 - Toni suggests we find an agency member that has been at recent conference
 - Theo- Tammy Wood might be a possibility
 - Lara-Mark Rosenkranz might be another possibility

VIII. Advocacy status: 4:50

- Lake Abert (Trish, Theo, Ron): Updates
 - Trish and Rheo talked to Brandy Wilson, Sustainability Director at Simplot-she said Chewaucan conservation and ranching enterprise is not a priority for Simplot sustainability efforts, given their other activities; but she was open to further discussion and will consider a request for help.
 - Legislature- \$500 million in water funding recently made available, including for voluntary non-use of groundwater in Harney Basin, supports development of locally led water planning. Mark Owens is the legislative representative for the region and is a rancher dependent on ground water-supports discussion for water conservation as wells are running dry so is part of an Oregon Integrated Water Resources Strategy collaborations with TNC and state government departments to study and recommend a way forward for sustainable water use. (see link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YTC_f8rIjifTNi9Gpden7LtaV8m2mS9L/view?usp=sharing)
 - A request to Simplot might be in the form of support for establishing an Oregon Integrated Water Resources Strategy collaboration for the Chewaucan valley
 - Ron's report-see handout on status of Lake Abert, which is almost all crystalline salt except for wehrer springs from Abert Rim aarae able to support some birds
- Pb and fishing (Theo, Steve)-no updates

IX. Membership categories (Rich): 5:00

- Two membership forms: individuals and corporations/organizations
- Suggests we have a third family membership-at least 2 people
- Suggests corporate has up to 5 members instead of 1
- Suggest non-profit also increases number of members covered
- Sustaining members-individuals who contribute more than membership dues -> Theo suggests rename to 'membership with donation'
- With corporate membership-should we vary the number of members based on the levels- Bronze, Silver and Gold?
- Rich will send around membership ideas and current levels for review
- Toni worries about adding too many categories and benefits-overcommitment-keep it simple

Rich will circulate proposals for decision-making by email.

X. New business: 5:08

- NALMs does have expanded support for affiliate groups in relation to DEI programs