

July 16 2008  
Annual Members Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology  
Chattanooga Convention Center, Chattanooga Tennessee USA  
Meeting Minutes

Called to order by Georgina Mace at 4:07 PM. A quorum was present. President Mace described the agenda, and highlighted two major events since our 2007 meeting in South Africa. SCB now owns its own office in Washington DC, has launched a new journal, *Conservation Letters*. The annual report for 2007 was distributed at the door, outlining other activities in 2007.

1. Erica Fleishman moved, Mike Mascia seconded that we approve the minutes from the 2007 Members Meeting in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Motion carried, 0 opposed.
2. Paul Beier moved, Reed Noss seconded that we approve the single bylaws change to require members of SCB chapters to be members of SCB. Motion carried unanimously, 0 opposed or abstained.
3. Alan Thornhill provided a financial report on behalf of David Johns. We received a clean audit report. For full details see the Newsletter in August 2008.
4. Alan Thornhill provided the Executive Office report, highlighting the Smith Fellows. He introduced the staff of Executive Office, representatives of the Sections, Working Groups representatives, and committee chairs. He called attention to SCB's e-publication *NeoCons*.
5. John Fitzgerald summarized first 18 years of the policy office. Minnesota Chapter helped change the Lacey Act as part of the recent Farm Bill. Africa Section developed a position statement on biofuels. North America section in concert with other professional societies helped convince FWS to revise Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan. We also helped sponsor a workshop that informed discussion on wolf recovery in the US.
6. Kent Redford led a discussion on membership. Our membership, especially among students, has declined somewhat as on-line access to our journals has expanded. Attendees offered the following comments and suggestions: Try to reduce barriers to foreign currency transactions. Hold a membership drive. Publicize the great things we are doing (policy, building international capacity for conservation, setting an example of responsibility for environmental impacts) on our website. Organize campus outreach via faculty. Create and distribute posters for posting on campuses and elsewhere. Offer multi-year memberships to students. Continue and expand sponsorships for members in developing countries. Offer scholarships to students in under-represented groups. Hold a biennial North American conference to keep North Americans engaged. Other suggestions were also offered. A large membership can serve two purposes (generate revenue, or serve our mission to be a global community of conservation professionals).
7. Graham Kerley announced that SCB will meet in Beijing China 11-15 July 2009. The Marine section, European Section, and Australasian Section are holding meetings in 2009. We will meet in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in 2010, and Australasia in 2011.
8. Georgina Mace thanked the outgoing Board Members, and welcomed the new ones. Nominations are due by 1 October 2008 for 3 open board positions.
9. Adjourned 5:11 PM.

/s/ Paul Beier, Secretary