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**Desert Tortoise Council,  
Minutes of Annual Business Meeting**

**17 February 2012  
Sam's Town, Las Vegas, Nevada**

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order by Maggie Fusari at 08:02 a.m. in the Virginia City room at Sam's Town, Las Vegas, Nevada. **Motions made, seconded, and approved are shown in bold red font.**

**Attendees:** Becky Jones, Mike Bailey, Kristin Berry, Bruce Palmer, Dan Pearson, Glenn Stewart, Maggie Fusari, Sid Silliman, Pete Woodman, Ed LaRue. **Elsewhere:** Tracy Bailey was at the registration table and Joe Probst was organizing the photo contest table. **Guests:** There were approximately 10 Symposium attendees at the business meeting, who as members, participated in the votes described herein.

**A. Introductions:** Maggie introduced the board to those in attendance.

**B. Review Agenda:** No new items were added to the agenda.

**C. Meeting Minutes of 7 January 2012:** Ed produced minutes for the last board meeting, which were distributed to the board electronically in mid-January and slightly revised in response to comments from Tracy and Glenn. There was no formal motion to accept the minutes today, so including Glenn and Tracy's comments, the minutes are considered to be final.

**D. Bylaws Revisions:** Our sincere appreciation to Bruce Palmer for revising existing Bylaws, soliciting comments from board members, and providing the draft Bylaws that are being voted on this morning. Bruce provided copies of both the existing and revised Bylaws for those in attendance. Substantial changes will require more in depth consideration; minor, editorial changes can be implemented this morning. Bruce then described each article and the changes that were made in the revised Bylaws. Glenn provided minor editorial proposals, with additional input today, changing "wild" to "represented throughout its historical range," and two other minor editorial changes, which were captured by Bruce and are not reiterated herein. **Motion made (Glenn), seconded (Maggie), and unanimously approved by board members and others in attendance to accept the revised Bylaws (with minor modifications identified) as the final Bylaws.**

**E. Elections of Officers:** As Recording Secretary, Ed facilitated elections and distributed a handout listing existing board members and nominated officers. Tracy Bailey was nominated as Corresponding Secretary, Mike Bailey as Treasurer, and Bruce Palmer as Chairperson-elect at the 7 January 2012 board meeting and are considered in today's vote. **Given these nominations and no new nominations from the floor, Tracy Bailey, Mike Bailey, and Bruce Palmer were unanimously elected to Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and Chairperson-elect, respectively, as per the terms of office given in the newly adopted Bylaws.**

## **F. Annual Reports:**

**1. Treasurer's Report:** Mike Bailey distributed the report to those in attendance, showing among other items, an increase in \$49,109.76 in the Council's net worth during 2011. The Council's net worth (excluding 2012 Symposium costs) is \$229,859.65. The Council made some profit at the 2011 Symposium, with the Workshop being the Council's main source of income. The 2012 budget is included at the end of Mike's report. The Treasurer's Report was approved in January so no need to formally accept it this morning.

**2. Ecosystems Advisory Committee's (EAC) Report:** Sid provided a brief overview of EAC's activities in 2011, which is the entity addressing conservation issues and serving in an advocacy position. He gave a brief summary of 2011 actions, which are captured in recent EAC reports that are attached to board minutes.

**3. Chairperson's Report:** Maggie indicated she will be presenting this report as part of the Symposium this afternoon, so there was no formal presentation this morning.

**G. Guidelines for Grant Proposal Requests:** Dan briefly described the grant proposal request guidelines, which are currently being considered by the board, and will be discussed at the April 2012 board meeting.

**H. Using the Internet:** Glenn informed attendees of proposed webpage revisions to clarify the Council's intent and function ("who we are and what we do") on behalf of the two desert tortoise species. **Motion made (Glenn), seconded (Becky), and unanimously approved by board members and others in attendance to accept Glenn's suggested changes to the webpage.**

**I. Additional Reports as Time Allows:** Someone commented that all reports are supposed to be available at the Annual Business Meeting, to which Maggie responded that all annual reports will be posted on the webpage.

**J. Next Board Meeting:** The next board meeting is scheduled for 14 April 2012 in Ontario, California at the Doubletree Hotel.

**K. Additional Items and Comments from the Audience:** Al Muth introduced himself as a current member of the BLM's Desert Advisory Council. He referred to the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) as ongoing and would appreciate feedback from the EAC on this planning effort.

**L. Adjourn to Opening the Symposium:** Maggie adjourned the Annual Business Meeting at 08:59 a.m.

These final minutes were recorded and respectfully submitted by Ed LaRue, Recording Secretary.

