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

**24 February 2017  
Sam's Town, Las Vegas, Nevada**

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order by Bruce Palmer, Chairperson at 08:00 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:** Larry LaPré, Maggie Fusari, Ken MacDonald, Becky Jones, Joe Probst, Mari Quillman, Bruce Palmer, Cristina Jones, Jason Jones, Chris Noddings, Joe Probst, Michael Tuma, Pete Woodman, and Ed LaRue. **Guests:** There were approximately 23 Symposium attendees at the Annual Business Meeting (including Glenn Stewart, attending his first Symposium as a recently retired founding member), who as members, participated in the votes described herein.

**A. Introductions:** Bruce Palmer introduced the Board to those in attendance.

**B. Review Agenda:**

**C. Officer and Committee Reports:**

**1. Chairperson's Annual Report:** Bruce Palmer will present a more extensive report during the Symposium.

**2. Treasurer's Report:** Joe Probst read his report, which included our total assets of \$290,702.85 as of 12/31/2016. **The membership in attendance unanimously approved to accept the Treasurer's Report.**

**3. Corresponding Secretary's Report/Recording Secretary:** Becky Jones provided a written report. Correspondence included questions about captive tortoises, biologist approvals for projects, donating desert tortoise habitat, registration, and checks for workshops, Symposium, and membership. The few NEPA and CEQA documents were forwarded to Ed LaRue for Council consideration and comment. As Recording Secretary, Ed records minutes for all official Board meetings and works with the webmaster to post those minutes on the Council's website at deserttortoise.org.

**4. Membership Coordinator/Membership Committee Report:** Mari Quillman reported that there are 564 Total Members and 365 Active Members as of 2/23/2017. There are 1,722 names in our contacts list.

**5. Chairperson-elect/Nominations Committee Report:** Michael Tuma reported that we will have elections of new officers this morning (Agenda item D2). The Recording Secretary and Membership Coordinator positions are nominated for continuing in their positions. Michael Tuma works closely with Bruce Palmer to identify prospective Board members, as we will be losing Jason Jones and Scott Abella at the end of this Symposium.

**6. Information, Outreach, and Social Media Committee Report:** Chris Noddings reported we are up to 950 “likes” on our Face Book page. He works closely with Bianca Cirimele, who is doing wonderful volunteer work helping post social media in several formats.

**a. Newsletter:** Michael Tuma produced one newsletter this year, and hopes to have three copies distributed in 2017. Everyone is encouraged to send him news-worthy articles.

**b. Website:** Our web person, Mary Cohen, is doing a wonderful job but will not be able to be here this weekend.

**7. Ecosystems Advisory Committee Report:** Ed LaRue provided a summary report for 2016 indicating that the Council received 43 notices, commenting on 24, attending 4 public meetings, participating in 1 interview, representing the Council at The Wildlife Society meetings, cosigning 5 letters, and signing 1 petition. Environmental projects included 23 in California, 8 in Nevada, 6 in Arizona, 2 in Utah, and 3 national issues.

**8. Awards Committee Report:** The Awards Committee distributed the awards committee report several days ago, which includes Ann McLuckie for the Kristin H. Berry Annual Award; Scott Abella for the R.C. Stebbins Research Award; Eric Goode, Judy Hohman, and Mari Quillman for the James St. Amant Special Award; Tim Shields for the Pat von Helf Award; and the Glenn R. Stewart Special Award is presented to Bob Parker. No applications were submitted for the David J. Morafka Memorial Research Award and the Student Award for Best Paper will be determined before the end of the Symposium. Thanks to Mari Quillman for producing the award plaques this year.

**9 Workshop Committee:** Maggie Fusari reported there were 73 in attendance at the Techniques Workshop in Ridgecrest, and that we are scheduled for the next workshop the first weekend in November 2017.

**10. Health Assessment Training (HAT) Committee:** Cristina Jones reported that we cooperate with several state agencies and USFWS to perform the Health Assessment Training workshops.

**11. Grants Committee Report:** There have been no recent grants requests. The Student Travel Award was given to Sarah Venezuela, who is travelling here from Mexico to present her paper.

**12. Agency Coordination Committee:** Cristina Jones reported that our first meeting was several years ago with agency biologists in California and we met with Nevada agency biologists early last month to discuss the Council’s cooperation with them in recovering tortoises in Nevada.

**13. 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium Local Host Committee and Program Committee Report:** Tracy Bailey has done a wonderful job as the Host Chair. Due a serious chest cold, this is the first Symposium that Kristin Berry has missed in 42 years. Otherwise, we are here and ready to go.

#### **D. Old/New Business:**

**1. Proposed revisions to the Bylaws:** As required by the Bylaws, the following changes have been posted on the website for the minimum of 30 days (actually about 45 days). The proposed revisions are shown in red on the handout Bruce Palmer distributed during the Business Meeting.

- a. Adding *Gopherus evgoodei* to the complex referred to as desert tortoise;
- b. Providing consistency in officer responsibilities regarding Board nominations and voting procedures; and,
- c. Providing clarification that the term of service for Board Members at Large is based on the calendar year.

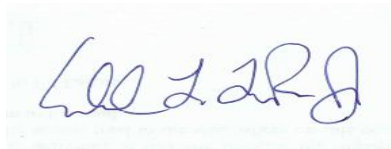
**Changes to the Bylaws as summarized above and specified in Bruce Palmer's handout to the attending membership were unanimously approved by those at the Annual Business Meeting.**

**2. Election of Officers:** The two current nominations are Ed LaRue as Recording Secretary and Mari Quillman as Membership Coordinator. **Given these nominations and no new nominations from the floor, Ed LaRue and Mari Quillman were unanimously elected as Recording Secretary and Membership Coordinator, respectively, as per the terms of office given in the Bylaws.**

**E. Comments from the Membership:** There will be an Executive Board Meeting in the adjacent meeting hall at lunch today.

**F. Adjourn to Opening the Symposium:** Bruce Palmer adjourned the Annual Business Meeting at 0825 a.m.

Draft minutes were recorded, later distributed and modified with Board member review and input, then approved in a formal vote, and now respectfully submitted as this final version by Ed LaRue, Recording Secretary.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed LaRue, Jr.', is centered on a light blue rectangular background.

Edward L. LaRue, Jr.  
Desert Tortoise Council, Recording Secretary