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

**20 February 2015  
Sam's Town, Las Vegas, Nevada**

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order by Bruce Palmer, Chairperson at 08:05 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, Joe Probst, Chris Noddings, Mari Quillman, Kristin Berry, Bruce Palmer, Cristina Jones, Jason Jones, Joe Probst, Glenn Stewart, Maggie Fusari, Michael Tuma, Pete Woodman, Ed LaRue, and Scott Abella. **Guests:** There were approximately 15 Symposium attendees at the business meeting, who as members, participated in the votes described herein.

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

**B. Review Agenda:** Item D.3. was added to the agenda at the end of the meeting.

**C. Officer and Committee Reports:**

**1. Chairperson's Annual Report:** Bruce Palmer will present a more extensive report on Sunday morning. There were four Board meetings during 2014-2015, and a Strategic Planning Retreat in June 2014 to look at organization, function, and goals of the Council.

**2. Treasurer's Report:** Joe Probst distributed a formal report, which included our total assets of \$282,016.56. **Motion made (Ken MacDonald), seconded (Maggie Fusari), and unanimously approved to accept the Treasure's Report.**

**3. Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Becky Jones reported receiving registration forms for both the Symposium and memberships. We received \$1,000 check from Sylvia Morafka for the David J. Morafka Memorial Research Award. There were also a few donations (including one offering land near Ridgecrest), and a comment letter on the Old Dutch Cleanser Mine near Red Rock Canyon State Park in Kern County, California.

**4. Membership Coordinator/Membership Committee Report:** Mari Quillman reported that the Wild Apricot software is working well (with a few glitches) for coordinating membership. The data base includes 1,668 names and 510 active members (as of yesterday), which is a record.

**5. Information, Outreach, and Social Media Committee Report:** Chris Noddings reported recent accomplishments with social media, which includes Twitter, LinkedIn, and a Facebook account, which was established earlier this week, and within 48 hours had more than 270 "friends."

**a. Newsletter:** Michael Tuma is the current newsletter editor, distributing three issues in 2014 to about 600 members. He has been working to enhance content, including copyrighted materials from authors. In 2015, Michael plans to have four quarterly issues and is looking for newsletter sponsors.

**b. Website:** Mary Cohen plans to make the website user-friendly to multiple formats, including phones and tablets.

**6. Ecosystems Advisory Committee Report:** Ed LaRue provided a summary report for 2014 indicating that we received 44 notices, commented on 31, attended 7 public meetings, and 1 interview. These included 18 projects in California, 10 in Nevada, 3 in Arizona, and 1 in Utah

**7. Awards Committee Report:** Glenn Stewart distributed the awards committee report several days ago, which includes Ed LaRue for the Kristin H. Berry Annual Award; Ken Nagy and seven associates for the Robert C. Stebbins Research Award; Allan Muth for the James St. Amant Special Award; Mary Cohen for Pat von Helf Award; and Glenn R. Stewart Special Awards are presented to David Carr, Molly Peters, Parr Singhaseni, Ray Bransfield, Larry LaPre, Judy Hohman, Denise LaBerteaux, and Bruce Garlinger. The David J. Morafka Memorial Research Award is being presented to Jacob Daley, a Masters student at University of Georgia.

**8. Workshop Committee Report:** Maggie Fusari reported there were two Workshops in Ridgecrest in 2014, with 144 students in attendance. The 2015 Workshops will be on 2/3 and 4/5 November 2015 (first time not on a weekend), with registration available as of July 2015.

**9. Grants Committee Report:** Glenn Stewart distributed a report several weeks ago for 2014 describing grants awarded to Dr. Berry Sinervo, Dr. Jeff Lovich, Dr. Scott Abella for their respective research projects, and \$3,000/year for each of the next four years for the *Desert Report* published by the Sierra Club. The Council also developed a list of seven priorities for future grants requests, which have been posted to the website.

**10. 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium Local Host Committee and Program Committee Report:** Ken MacDonald (Host Chair) reported there was a well-received reception/mixer last night, which will be repeated next year. Kristin Berry (Program Chair) reported there are 14 sessions and a very full agenda running into the early evening on Sunday.

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

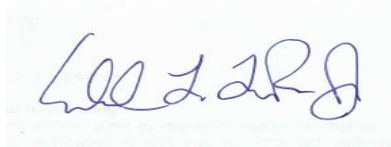
**1. Proposed Revisions to the Bylaws:** Bruce Palmer distributed proposed revisions to the Bylaws, including globally changing “goal” to “mission,” and clarifying the duties of Corresponding Secretary and the Information/Outreach/Social Media Committee. Doug Duncan recommended eliminating “and/or” from the wording relative to the Corresponding Secretary, which was adopted as recommended. **Motion made (Ken MacDonald), seconded (Mari Quillman), and passed to accept the proposed revisions to the Bylaws.**

**2. Election of Officers:** Because 2015 is an odd year, Corresponding Secretary Becky Jones conducted the elections. Michael Tuma was nominated as Chairperson-elect, Ed LaRue as Recording Secretary, and Mari Quillman as Membership Coordinator. **Given these nominations and no new nominations from the floor, Michael Tuma, Ed LaRue, and Mari Quillman were elected as Chairperson-elect, Recording Secretary, and Membership Coordinator, respectively, as per the terms of office given in the Bylaws.**

**3. Miscellaneous Costs:** Glenn Stewart reported the cost for producing the 40<sup>th</sup> annual awards was \$574.56, and Kristin Berry spent about \$1,900 on programs and abstracts. Reimbursements will be provided once receipts are submitted and do not require a formal vote.

**E. Adjourn to Opening the Symposium:** Bruce Palmer adjourned the Annual Business Meeting at 08:45 a.m.

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

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

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