

Final Final Final

**Desert Tortoise Council
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**

**20 August 2016
DoubleTree Hilton, Ontario, California**

The meeting was called to order by Bruce Palmer at 10:05 a.m. **Action items are in blue, with responsible parties in red. Motions made, seconded, and approved (or not) are shown in bold red font.**

Attendees: Kristin Berry, Peter Woodman, Ken MacDonald, Cristina Jones, Maggie Fusari, Mari Quillman, Bruce Palmer, Michael Tuma, Becky Jones, Joe Probst, Chris Noddings. **Absent:** Ed LaRue, Scott Abella, Jason Jones. **Guests:** Larry LaPre.

A. Introductions and Announcements. The Board welcomed guest Larry LaPre.

B. Michael Tuma acting as Recording Secretary in Ed LaRue's absence.

C. Review agenda. Bruce Palmer briefly discussed the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting.

D. Board Meeting Minutes of 4 June 2016 and Annual Business Meeting of 19 February 2016. Ed LaRue prepared draft minutes at the last Board and Annual meetings in Ontario, California and Las Vegas, Nevada, respectively, which were distributed, reviewed, and were approved today as final with several changes to the Board minutes of June 4, 2016. **Motion made (Ken MacDonald), seconded (Cristina Jones), and unanimously approved to accept the draft minutes as amended to be final.**

E. Review of Board Actions since Last Board Meeting. None discussed.

F. Establishing dates for upcoming Board meetings. Bruce Palmer discussed the possibility of providing phone conference/webinar access for future Board of Directors meetings so that Board members who are traveling or otherwise unable to attend in person could participate in the meetings. The possibility of meeting in Las Vegas or other meeting places rather than Ontario was also discussed. Bruce proposed, and the Board accepted, a date and location of October 22, 2016, and January 7, 2017, both in Las Vegas for the next Board meetings.

G. Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report was distributed at the Board of Directors meeting by Joe Probst. As of 18 August 2016 the Council has \$7,019.84 in the checking account, \$187,810.37 in the money market account, and \$71,680.57 in the Edward Jones Account, for a total of \$266,510.78. **Bruce suggested a revision of the budget in the next Treasurer's Report to account for increased costs and overspending, and Joe Probst agreed to do so. Motion made (Ken MacDonald), seconded (Mari Quillman), and unanimously approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as final.**

H. Corresponding Secretary's Report. Becky Jones reported receipt of several recent correspondences, including an offer to purchase/manage land, a question about donations, and concerns about accessibility during training workshops.

I. Membership Coordinator's Report. Mari Quillman reported that Council membership currently stands at 375 active members, with renewals starting to come in for 2017. She reported there being no resolution toward being able to offer simultaneous registration for annual symposia and renewing membership on Wild Apricot. A "glitch" allowed some people to renew their membership without paying if they did not complete the PayPal transaction. Mari suggested purging them from the membership list if they do not complete payment within 90 days. **Mari Quillman will work with Mary Cohen to ensure that the website provides adequate instruction so that members have a clear understanding of the registration process and separate membership renewal process.**

J. Awards Committee Report. Bruce Palmer asked Kristin Berry if she would serve as the Awards Committee Chair, and she accepted. The Board discussed the process of the Awards Committee and the idea of adding additional information about the awards and the awards process to the Council website. **Kristin Berry will work with Mary Cohen to update the website with these details.**

K. Nominations Committee. There are currently six Board vacancies, and the Board discussed needs for Members at Large who have expertise in fundraising, grant writing, marketing, legal and regulatory aspects, Ecosystem Advisory Committee assistance, social media, facilitation, and an academic (in particular, a restoration specialist would be great). The Board discussed ways to identify potential members with the skillsets that need representation on the Board. **All Board members will reach out to their personal contacts seeking interest in a Board position that would bring a specific skill (e.g., fundraising).**

L. Ecosystems Advisory Committee (EAC) Report. In Ed LaRue's absence, Maggie Fusari presented the EAC report. **Maggie Fusari discussed the Gold Butte situation and will draft a letter of support for protection of natural and cultural resources to the BLM and Senator Reid.** Maggie also discussed a proposed I-11 Highway project in Arizona that would be constructed through tortoise habitat. **Maggie Fusari will keep her eyes on the situation and work with local scientists and managers to ensure that tortoise populations and habitat are considered.** Ed LaRue provided the EAC report via email in advance of the Board of Directors meeting, and Bruce reminded the Board of Ed's good work in encouraging San Bernardino County Supervisors to dismiss the Soda Mountain project. Ed also submitted meeting minutes on the MOG meeting to the Board of Directors via email prior to the Board of Directors meeting, and Christina Jones provided a summary of the minutes, noting important changes in personnel on the MOG.

M. Grants Committee Report. The Board discussed compiling a list of potential projects that it would like to fund. **Michael Tuma is preparing the Glenn R. Stewart Student Travel Fund procedure and application and will circulate that to the Board early next week.**

N. Information, Outreach, and Social Media Committee Report. Chris Noddings presented information about the Council's recent activity on social media, and discussed the ideas of increasing our social media visibility with paid services. Michael Tuma suggested planning a budget for paying for this service by first developing a list of annual announcements that would be slated for periodic paid promotions. **Ken MacDonald motioned that \$240/year be provided in this budget, seconded by Kristin Berry, and unanimously approved.** Kristin Berry suggested adding a links page to the Council website, and will work with Mary Cohen on it.

O. Newsletter Editor's Report. Michael Tuma summarized publishing of the latest Newsletter in late July. He asked Board members to be on the lookout for potential contributors for future newsletters. **Michael Tuma plans to get the next issue out before November 2016.**

P. Web Master's Report. The Board discussed how to announce the Symposium prior to publication of the next Newsletter, and decided to use email, social media, and website to get the word out to the Council membership, with detailed information on the Symposium sessions to be included in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Q. Agency Coordination Committee. Cristina Jones proposed dates for the next agency coordination meeting. Cristina is working with Jason Jones to determine which target agencies/personnel to invite. The meeting date/place will depend on who from the agencies can attend, and the October and January Board meetings were discussed as possibilities. Bruce Palmer proposed January 7, 2017 for the January Board meeting, and Cristina proposed coordinating with agencies for an agency coordination meeting to be held on January 6, 2017. **Ken MacDonald motioned to cover Board member lodging expenses for the meeting, seconded by Joe Probst, and unanimously approved.**

R. Workshop Committee Report: Maggie Fusari discussed logistics for the November Techniques Workshop session. Because Ed LaRue will not be able to attend the next Workshop, he has arranged for Kathy Simon to present the materials normally given by Ed and she has agreed. Maggie will emcee, including organizing the Ask-It-Basket event. The Techniques Workshop is scheduled for November 5 and 6, 2016 with an option to add a second session if there is enough demand (though it looks like there will be only one session offered this year).

Cristina summarized the most recent Advanced Health Assessment Workshop in Arizona.

Peter Woodman discussed the Advanced Techniques Workshop, now to be called "The Authorized Biologist Workshop." The training will include some materials provided in the basic Workshop, supplemented significantly with demonstrations and participations in field techniques. LSTS near Gene, Nevada and Ivanpah Valley, CA (Mojave National Preserve) are potentially good locations to hold the workshop. The workshop would probably include 1 day in the classroom and 2-3 days in the field, concluding with a written test in the classroom. Peter is considering the week of October 10th for the training. The Board discussed eligibility of workshop participants, processes for recruiting, approving, and registering participants; logistics for and composition of instructors; cost of workshop attendance; equipment needed; and attendance/evaluation by Board members. **Peter Woodman will develop a syllabus, finalizing the workshop location, and organizing logistics in the coming week.**

S. Annual Symposium. Kristin Berry hopes to announce the 2017 Symposium on the Council website, email to membership, and social media on September 1, 2016. Vern Bleich is organizing a mule deer session. Amy Fesnock is organizing a renewable energy session. Michael Tuma is organizing an evolution session. The Host Committee will have specific duties during the 2017 Symposium. Kristin is planning for dinner and keynote speakers. This year, Kristin will include guidelines to presenters for good and bad slides that they will need to abide by.

T. Bren School Update. Chris Noddings provided an update on the Bren School desert tortoise project. Board reviewers will provide feedback on Bren School work plan by late September 2016. Leslie DeFalco will be providing a habitat restoration lecture to the Bren School group on October 3, 2016.

U. Environmental Defense Center. Chris Noddings identified this non-profit as a potential partner in offering legal advice to the Council.

V. Fund Raising Filming. Ken MacDonald reported that he has identified a field site for the video (Lake Mead area) and is obtaining approvals now.

W. Best Management Practices. Ken MacDonald has developed a preliminary document that compiles terms and conditions from various Biological Opinions that may be helpful in developing the Council Terms and Conditions BMP. Michael Tuma and Kristin Berry met in July to discuss the Translocation BMP and that document is in preparation. **Larry LaPre agreed to assist with preparation of the Translocation and Habitat Connectivity BMPs.**

X. Policy/Operations Manual/Bylaws. Not discussed.

Y. Miscellaneous Items and Updates.

1. New Board Member at Large. Kristin Berry invited Larry LaPre to attend today's Board meeting. After participating in the Board discussions throughout the day, Larry expressed an interest in joining the Board. **Kristin Berry motioned to accept Larry LaPre's request to join the Board, which was seconded by Michael Tuma, and unanimously approved.**

2. Council materials in storage in Las Vegas. Jason Jones expressed to Bruce Palmer and Cristina Jones that the Council materials in his storage unit would need to be moved. **Bruce Palmer will coordinate with Jason Jones to find options for the material storage.**

Next Meeting. The next business meeting of the Board will be 22 October 2016 between 10:00 a.m. and approximately 4:00 p.m., at a location to be determined.

Z. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson, Bruce Palmer, at 4:00 p.m.

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



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

Ecosystems Advisory Committee Report DTC Board Meeting of 20 August 2016

Note: The table attached to this report on the last page follows the **bold red** numbered outline given below.

1. Arizona DOT Construction of I-11

6/17/2016 – Ed LaRue receives this notice on **6/17/2016** and forwards it to Maggie Fusari, Bruce Palmer, and Cristina Jones on **6/18/2016**. Maggie writes the comment letter, which is distributed to the Board on **6/28/2016**. Maggie's final draft is circulated to the Board by Ed on **6/29/2016** and sent to ADOT on **7/1/2016**.

2. Camino Solar Plant

6/2/2016 – Ed LaRue receives a notice from Jeff Aardahl of Defenders of Wildlife with a link to a public notice that BLM intends to consider a variance application for a 360-acre site located west of Rosamond in Kern County, CA. On 6/28/2016, Ed distributes a draft comment letter to the Board on **6/28/2016** that is to be submitted to BLM by 15 July 2016. Letter sent on **6/7/2016**.

3. Nissin Food Petition

6/16/2016 – Ed LaRue receives a petition from Adeline Fischer of Pro Wildlife on **6/16/2016** asking the Council to join the group of entities asking Nissin Foods to eliminate turtle powder from their products. Hearing no feedback, Ed redistributes the petition on **7/1/2016**. Let Adeline know to include us on **7/6/2016**.

4. Yellow Pine Solar Project

7/6/2016 – Jeff Aardahl sends an email to Ed LaRue indicating that an application has been filed for this 3000-acre site that overlaps the Stumps Spring tortoise translocation area. Ed sends the previous two comment letters on Stump Springs to Jeff Aardahl on **7/6/2016**. Maggie Fusari sends Ed the Basin and Watch notice on **7/9/2016** asking what we may do. Find out from Jeff that this project is not likely to go to scoping until sometime in December, so no action for now.

5. BLM's Intent to Reduce Public Comment Period from 90 to 60 days

6/22/2016 – Ed LaRue receives an E&E Story notice from Kristin Berry regarding BLM's consideration of reducing the comment period on projects on BLM lands from 90 to 60 days. Ed drafts a letter to BLM Director, Neil Kornze asking that the public comment period not be reduced, which he distributes to the Board on **7/26/2016**. Having received seven endorsements, Ed sends the comment letter to Director Kornze on **7/30/2016**.

6. Soda Mountains Solar Project

8/4/2016 – Ed LaRue drafts a letter for San Bernardino County Supervisors Ramos and Lovingood to deny a well permit for this project, which was distributed to the Board on this date. After receiving the three requisite endorsements and one recusal, the letter was sent to the supervisors on **8/10/2016**.

7. San Bernardino County General Plan Renewable Energy Element

8/9/2016 – Jeff Aardahl of Defenders of Wildlife sends Ed LaRue a copy of the above-referenced project, indicating that comments are due by 9/29/2016. The pdf of the document is distributed to the Board on **8/9/2016**.

**Ecosystems Advisory Committee
Summary Table from 6/4/2016 to 8/20/2016**

Current date for this latest table revision is: 8/17/2016

No.	Reference	Dates (2016)				Board Member Responses													
		Rec'd	Dist.	Due	Sent	Codes: Y = Vote of Yes; N = Vote of No; PI = Provided input; Blank = No Response; R = Recused; A = Authors/Lead Board member; NA – Replied they were not able to respond by indicated date													
						BJ	BP	CJ	CN	EL	JJ	JP	KB	KM	MF	MQ	MT	PW	SA
1	Arizona DOT I-11	6/17	6/18	7/8	7/1	Y 7/1		Y/PI 6/28		Y/PI 6/28				Y 6/29	A/PI 6/26	Y 7/5			Y 6/29
2	Camino Solar Plant	6/2	6/28	7/16	7/6	Y 7/1		Y 6/29		A/PI 6/28						Y 7/5			
3	Nissin Food Petition	6/16	6/16	??	7/6	Y 7/6		Y 7/5		Y 6/30					Y 7/1	Y 7/5			
4	Yellow Pine Solar	7/6	Nothing for now; may go to scoping in December 2016												PI 7/9				
5	BLM reducing comment period from 90 to 60 days	6/22	7/26	None	7/30	Y 7/28	Y/PI 7/26		Y/PI 7/26	A/PI 7/26		Y 7/27		Y 7/28	Y/PI 7/28				Y 7/30
6	Soda Mtn Solar	N/A	8/4	8/12	8/10	R 8/5				A/PI 8/4		Y 8/4			Y 8/5	Y/PI 8/5			
7	SB Co. Renewable Energy Element	8/9	8/9	9/29															

BJ = Becky Jones, **BP** = Bruce Palmer, **CJ** = Cristina Jones, **CN** = Chris Noddings, **EL** = Ed LaRue, **JJ** = Jason Jones, **JP** = Joe Probst, **KB** = Kristin Berry, **KM** = Ken MacDonald, **MF** = Maggie Fusari, **MQ** = Mari Quillman, **MT** = Michael Tuma, **PW** = Pete Woodman, **SA** = Scott Abella