In attendance: Karla Van Leaven, Colin McLaren, Ralph Garono, Lizbeth Seebacher, Yvonne Vallette, Leandra Cleveland

- Call to order by the President (Colin)
- Determination of a quorum
- Introduction of guests and visitors
- Remarks by the President (Colin)
- New business
  - Sister Chapter Concept – Colin/Ralph

Ralph: Solving the problem of recruiting and obtaining international members and chapters. Free membership for 2 year blocks repeated twice. Matching international chapters with national chapters, sisters. Circulating ideas. Pick up a few members, pay for membership fee, face time with electronic media on how to start a chapter. Allow them to connect with events to build local interest in starting and building a chapter. Starting with the PNW chapter.

Colin: 1) Identify individuals to support and 2) Help them establish a chapter.

Internationally, there are no strong chapters?

Ralph: Sponsor travel to international students for meetings.

Yvonne: Only two or three people per country so it's hard for them to feel connected. South America=25 members. 25% not paying. $4/member therefore no resources to start a chapter. 36 gratis SWS members. Focus outreach efforts on those going through 2\textsuperscript{nd} or 3\textsuperscript{rd} gratis term. Language barrier complications? Earn less than $20,000. Have to have 25 members to be considered a chapter.

Ralph: Don't have the resources to travel to the States. Activation energy to help start chapter. SWS using internet technology to reach out to current membership roll into this initiative. Identify individuals, expectations of the chapter, have them Skype, email, etc., mentoring relationship with scientific students to form the chapter (how chapter works, meetings, etc.).

Colin: What do you need from us.

Ralph: Money, personal contact as liaison.

Yvonne: Continuing to sponsor them financially.

Ralph: How and when to move forward, the mechanics, how can we support the individual, international members. Already international chapter, but want to break up due to language barriers, currency, etc. Pot of money for transporting students and scientists. Call or email with questions.

Karla: Continue sponsoring efforts

Yvonne: From Portland $1,345 total $900 raffle (goal $1,000), remainder merchandise, still have shirts and caps which Yonne has

From a 2016-06-10 Email

"DRAFT ---

Society of Wetland Scientists
Sister Chapter

Chapter Mentoring Program

**Goals:** To promote understanding, conservation, scientifically based management and sustainable use of wetlands throughout the world by (1) fostering the development of international SWS chapters and (2) increasing the participation of scientists and students from multiple cultures.

**Problem Statement:** The activities of the Society of Wetland Scientist are carried out by its members and committees. For examples, the Membership Committee provides gratis 2 yr memberships, which include access to *Wetlands*, to international scientists and students. The Human Diversity Committee seeks to increase the diversity of the SWS membership by creating opportunities for students from underrepresented populations. A group of SWS members have started an “Internationalization” campaign to increase membership from areas outside of North America.

Although supported by the actions of the Society, many recipients of SWS’s gratis memberships fail to renew once the gratis membership expires. Actions outlined below are intended to close the loop on the progression of

The purpose of this proposal is to outline several actions that build upon the successful efforts of the various SWS committees to develop a SWS Chapter Mentoring Program that supports the mission of the SWS. It is our intention to draw on existing components of established SWS committee activities.

**Action 1.** Use the Membership Committee to identify promising international members whose gratis membership have expired or are due to expire, or existing international members who would benefit from networking opportunities from within SWS.

**Action 2:** Identify SWS Chapters willing to foster and mentor the international scientists and students. These chapters would then be asked to financially sponsor these members (currently at $25 per yr) and, more importantly, regularly communicate with these members using email, social media, and VoIP technology (e.g., Skype, Google+). For example, international members could connect to Chapter Board Meetings or Events using Skype.

**Action 3:** Engage the soon-to-be established SWS IT committee to develop platforms to connect SWS members as described in Action 2.

**Action 4:** Broaden the scope of the Human Diversity Committee to include international students. Currently, the Human Diversity Mentoring Program, funded by an NSF grant, is limited to US citizens. The SWS Board and HD Committee can work together to explore alternative funding mechanisms that could be used to bring international scientists and students to SWS meetings.

**Action 5:** Use SWS Committees and the business office to track participation within SWS of international members supported by this program. This will allow the SWS Board to monitor the program’s impact on increasing diversity and “internationalization” of the SWS.

---

**2015 Meeting – Colin/Lizbeth**
Lizbeth: Survey Monkey finalized and then emailed out to the chapter. Would like more topics. Lizbeth get to Karla to email to List Serve.
Colin: Will discuss results during next meeting.

**Chapter Elections – Colin/Leandra**
Colin: If meeting in fall, elections before, if in spring, during the meeting.
Yvonne: Bylaws let us stay in positions until a meeting.
Leandra: September is 2 years for term, treasurer position needs to be shadowed. If September 2015 at meeting, would be 3 years. 5 people interested in being on the board at Portland will send email. Katrina and Karla.
Yvonne: Have people show interest by volunteering to help organize our meeting. During business meeting vs. online.
Karla: Leandra prepare list serve blurb for Karla to email
Lizbeth: Survey Monkey response by: 1 week reminder (11th), 2 weeks total (20th)
  Other?
Karla: Motion to approve the 2014-04-17 Minutes. Yvonne Seconded. Approved. Email to SWS Michelle Czosek.
Lizbeth: Student invasive species control and impacts projects/workshops.
Yvonne: $15.
  • Next Meeting – September 2nd (tentative)
  After survey monkey results.
  • Adjournment