

**Minutes of the American Bamboo Society
Board of Directors Meeting
29 and 30 September 2021**

The Meeting was called to order by Vice President Ian Connor on 29 September 2021 at 1130h at the Lewis Farm in Hawkinsville, GA, as well as a Zoom connection.

Directors and Officers Present by End of Meeting:

Luc Boeraeve	President, International Director (via Zoom)
Ian Connor	Vice President, PNWC Director
David King	Secretary, NCC Director
Bill Hollenback	Co-Treasurer (via Zoom)
Carole Meckes	Co-Treasurer, At-Large #1 Director
Shanti Pierce	FCC Director
Judge Edwards	LGCC Director
Landy Banks	SCC Director
Daphne Lewis	SEC Director
Robert Saporito	At-Large #3 Director
Kristen Comstock	At-Large #4 Director (via Zoom, later in person)

Directors Absent:

Harry Simmons	TBSC Director
James McCormick	At-Large #2 Director

Others Present:

Nancy Oberschmidt	Ned Jaquith Foundation Secretary
Jenni Li	Guest (FCC)
Stephen Szabo	Guest
George Palis	Guest (NCC)
Maurice Nichols	Guest (SEC)
Nico Vara	Guest

Quorum: A quorum (>7) of ABS Directors was determined to be present. Count = 11.

Approval of the 2020 Board meeting minutes: Unanimously approved.

Agenda: One addition (Judge Edwards): Membership Retention (see "Membership Issues")

Consent Agenda: The following items were included in the Consent Agenda: Digital Publications and Email Report; Species/Source List Report; Nominations Committee Report; Bamboo of the Americas Report. These are **attached to these minutes**.

The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously on a **motion** by King, second by Edwards. Chapter and International Reports (as available) are **attached**.

President's Report: (Luc Boeraeve) – **attached**.

Treasurer's Report: (Carole Meckes) -

The YTD income/expense report through 31 August and the proposed budget for 2022 were presented, and the latter is **attached** to these minutes. YTD: Income \$17,366.38; Expenses \$14,393.90.

The bank balance is \$23,914.19, plus \$9,227.12 in PayPal and \$62,806.19 in the TDAmeritrade brokerage account, making the ABS net worth \$95,947.50.

BOTA is a "special project" of the ABS; its accounts are figured internally and are not included here.

\$5000 for grants was allocated for 2021 and forwarded to the Ned Jaquith Foundation.

The annual audit of ABS accounts by the Secretary was accomplished by comparing recent bank statements to the amounts in the Treasurer's reports. No discrepancies were found.

The final 2022 budget and discussion appear under New Business below.

A **motion** (King, second by Edwards) to approve the Treasurer's Report **carried** unanimously.

Management of Funds in Brokerage Account: (David King) The funds currently are in 1 mutual fund, several exchange-traded funds and cash, and are doing well since inception in the spring of 2013. David King rebalances the investments from time to time to maintain diversification and a moderate risk allocation. Volunteers to help with the account would be welcome.

Membership Report – Membership Report (Carole Meckes): There are currently **299** voting ABS members, and Carole presented the breakdown among chapters. Thus the quorum for the Annual General Meeting will be 30 or more ABS members.

Secretary's Report (David King)

A summary of Board actions YTD is **attached**. These meetings were conducted on Zoom, to which the ABS has a subscription.

At-Large #2 Director for 2021-2024 term: Election results to be announced at the upcoming Annual General Membership Meeting.

International Director for 2021-2024 term: Election results to be announced at the upcoming Annual General Membership Meeting.

Currently Recognized US Chapters (9 total):

Qualifying for a Director – FCC, LGCC, MSC (New, no Director yet), NCC, PNWC, SCC, SEC, TBSC

Not Qualifying for a Director (based on membership count) – HC

Directors Selected by their Chapters for 2021-2024 term:

LGCC: Judge Edwards

PNWC: Ian Connor

TBSC: Harry Simmons

Ned Jaquith Foundation (NJF) Grants: (Nancy Oberschmidt) Grant application deadline is 1 October and decisions should be made by 15 October. Any applications received by the ABS are forwarded to the Ned Jaquith Foundation, which is now the body which reviews and approves grant applications received by either organization. There is a need for a volunteer to follow through on grants given, since sometimes no report or presentation is returned by the grantee. Donations are solicited, as always, especially with the inability to hold an in-person fundraiser during 2020-21.

Arts/Crafts: (Shanti Pierce) As the new A&C Coordinator, she has formed a committee which has run a 2021 competition. There were about 20 adults and 10 children submitting their work. Winners will be announced at the General Membership Meeting, and the top winner will be asked to be an "Art Ambassador" for the ABS. An article for BAMBOO Magazine is pending.

NEW BUSINESS –

Annual Review of Electoral Number (David King): The number of primary ABS members which a chapter must have to be represented by an ABS Director is currently 25. Twenty ABS members are needed to form a chapter. Chapters which are not large enough to have their own Director are represented by the four At-Large members or may share a Director with one or more other Chapters.

A **motion** (King, second: Edwards) to maintain the electoral number at 25, **carried**.

Membership Issues:

ABS-only membership for US residents: Officially not allowed but with chapter dissolution, happens in a *de facto* fashion. Comstock pointed out that there are often too few volunteers willing to be meeting organizers at the hosting chapter level, increasing the need for participation by the national ABS in the organization of annual meetings. Discussion only, no action taken.

A **motion** (Connor, second by Saporito) to require all who join ABS under a business name to join at the \$300 Commercial level **failed** on a unanimous vote.

A **motion** (Connor, second by Meckes) to include a chapter membership in the \$300 Commercial level **failed** on a unanimous vote.

A **motion** (King, second by Pierce) to make the payment of dues a recurring auto-charge, with the option for the member to opt-out at any time, **carried**. Shanti Pierce volunteered to compose an email to be sent to members regarding these recurring charges.

Judge Edwards led a discussion of member retention by chapters: retaining the ABS chapter system, having a presence at garden club functions to recruit new members, a personal first contact with new members, and increasing the "fun factor" at events.

Advertising: (Carole Meckes for James Clever)

James Clever has called all past advertisers and is chipping away at the sources in the ABS Species Source List to obtain new or renewing advertisements for the website and printed publications.

Website Issues: (Meckes, Comstock)

The "aMember" membership management system is now the ABS membership software and database. It is adequately modifiable and automatic renewal notices and acknowledgments can be sent to members. Carole Meckes has worked long hours to convert member records from the previous database. The Board previously approved \$80/year for aMember tech support.

Portions of the previous ABS Statement on Bamboo Invasiveness appearing on bamboo.org require updating; Ian Connor and James Clever produced an update. With minor changes in wording and the suggested inclusion of images, a **motion** (King, seconded by Pierce) to accept the update **carried**.

Social Media Management:

Facebook – The "ABS Members" Facebook group is available to paid ABS members only. After discussion, the Board agreed that the group should remain open to current members only. If a group member's ABS membership expires that member should be removed. Saporito suggested that a yearly review would probably be enough.

Instagram – Started by a volunteer, there is some activity seen.

Shanti Pierce suggested looking into outside management of social media for the ABS, as is done in many other organizations.

ABS Internal Funding Requests: (For final figures, see line entries in **attached** budget.)

Websites - \$80 for aMember, Zoom \$150, possibly \$\$ for event software. \$500-\$1000 suggested.

BAMBOO Magazine – no change.

Species Source List printing – Approximately \$2000.

Arts/Crafts - \$100 admin costs, \$2000 prizes.

Advertising – none.

APPROVAL of the 2022 ABS BUDGET (All Directors and Officers): A budget (**attached**) was **approved** on a **motion** by King, seconded by Connor.

Announcement of International Events: *Luc Boeraeve*

2022 – The 4th World Bamboo Workshop will be held in Vietnam 16-20.Sep 2022.

2023 – The location of the next World Bamboo Congress has yet to be announced officially.

Future ABS Annual Meeting Planning:

2022 – Florida Caribbean Chapter, Probably Sebastian, FL in early-mid October.

2023 – Louisiana Gulf Coast Chapter, Location to be announced.

2024 – (Need hosting chapter.)

Future ABS Board Meetings: Will be continued virtually as needed throughout the year. This has worked out well during the pandemic.

Approval of the 30 September Annual ABS General Meeting Agenda was by consensus.

Item continued until the Board reconvenes:

The election of officers of the ABS.

Recess: A **motion** to **recess** the meeting of the Board until 30 September 2021 gained unanimous approval.

Board Meeting Reconvened

at the Lewis Farm
30 September 2021
1345h

Election of Officers of the ABS: A quorum was present. The following slate of officers was nominated and unanimously elected by the Board to serve until the conclusion of the ABS Annual Meeting in 2022:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Co-Treasurers

Luc Boeraeve (International)
Ian Connor (PNWC)
David King (NCC)
Bill Hollenback (PNWC) & Carole Meckes (TBSC)

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Bamboo Society carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



David King
Secretary, American Bamboo Society
secretary@bamboo.org