



INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES
Tuesday, September 13, 2022

ATTENDING:

	Delegate	Exp		Alternate	Exp	
Australia	John Messina		√	Tony Van der Staay		√
ERNA	Steve Castorani	'22	√	Bill Barnes	'22	
Europe	Tim Lawrance-Owen ¹		√	Ben Gregory		
Japan	Peter Waugh			Hiroaki Ohashi		
New Zealand	Richard Beaumont	'22	√	Antony Toledo		√
SRNA	Laura Miller		√	Brie Arthur	'25	√
Southern Africa	Elsa du Toit		√	Jason Myburgh		
WRNA	Jim McConnel/ Dharam Sharma	'23	√	Gayle Suttle	'25	
Staff	Bob Geneve ³	NA		Katie McDavid ⁴	NA	√
President; VP	Tom Saunders ²	NA	√	Elsa du Toit	NA	√
¹ Chair ² Treasurer ³ Intl Editor ⁴ Intl Director						

MINUTES

- I. Welcome and Call to Order Katie McDavid
Meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Katie McDavid as Tim Lawrance-Owen was having issues with his internet connection. Apologies for absence were received from Dharam Sharma.

- II. Approval of Minutes Katie McDavid
Motion to approve minutes from June 14, 2022 was made by Tony Van der Staay and seconded by Steve Castorani.

Action items will be discussed during later reports.

- III. International Office Report Katie McDavid
Katie noted that AfterShock (our Website company) has been sold to one of the employees; there should be no major changes from this as the employee is the one who has been working on the IPPS website for years.

- IV. Treasurer's Report and Sponsorship Committee Tom Saunders
Tom did not have any major items to discuss. Financially we are as expected. Southern Africa and Europe Regions still need to pay their membership dues (around \$6,500).

Based on input from Katie, we are able to transfer some money from our checking/money market accounts into Vanguard. The investment committee is meeting tomorrow to discuss the amounts to move.

There are no changes in sponsorships; we are hoping to have an additional sponsor for International in 2023.

V. Editor's Report

Bob Geneve

As Bob was not on the meeting, we will get an update on the Proceedings at the next meeting.

Katie presented that a SurveyMonkey will be created for voting on the Open-Access options for the Proceedings. This will allow regions time to discuss and then make a formal vote. Katie reached out to a few previous board members and only received an opinionated response from Alan Jones. Alan Jones stated that the first year for the pay-per-paper raised a few thousand dollars but after that the income was very minor and he recommended we utilize a closed Proceedings for a short period of time (one to two years) and then have the older Proceedings open-access. Katie has been unable to find the specific financial documents from the previous pay-per-paper contract.

Action Item: Katie to create and send out a SurveyMonkey link with information for the Open-Access options for the Proceedings.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Communications and Marketing Committee

Katie McDavid

i. Website

1. India page was created; waiting for information from India regarding payment options, have sent several requests with no helpful responses yet.
2. PayPal recurring payments should be finalized this week; Katie will disperse information to regional secretaries alerting them when it is ready and how to use it (if the region desires).
3. Google Doc Responses:
There was a discussion regarding the additional website options that various regions wanted to get quotes for the site. Decisions were made for the different categories, listed below.
 - a. Membership Additions: Birthdays, Additional Member Information = \$840
 - i. Vote for International to Pay: No
 - b. Membership Additions: Alternate Company Details = \$1,870
 - i. Vote for International to Pay: No

Discussion for both Membership Additions was that the cost did not add enough benefit to membership.

- c. Internship/Job Board Updates = \$375
 - i. Vote for International to Pay: Yes

Tony Van der Staay pointed out that this is mostly for the North American regions but that if it is updated, other regions may utilize it more often.

- d. "Next" Button for Secretaries editing = \$375
 - i. Vote for International to Pay: Yes

- e. Countdown Clock = \$745
 - i. Vote for International to Pay: No

Southern Region was strongly for this previously; Tom Saunders stated they do not feel it is worth the money at this point as they will likely be able to fill the International Tour spots through other advertising avenues. Katie is looking into Facebook countdown clocks for the International and Southern sites.

- f. Audience Setting changes = \$185
 - i. Vote for International to Pay: No

- g. PDF of invoices = \$1,120
 - i. Vote for International to Pay: No, for the time being. If the regions interested in this option (ERNA, SRNA, Southern Africa) feel strongly, it is suggested the secretaries explain why it is necessary or helpful and why International should pay for it.

Brie Arthur pointed out that even though the email is sent as HTML, it can be downloaded from most email servers as a PDF by the user. This would assist the users who want a PDF.

- h. Regional Payment Additions/Options = \$745
 - i. Vote for International to Pay: Yes

Richard Beaumont stated they would prefer another payment option, and would consider paying for it by themselves as they currently pay several dollars per member transaction for PayPal payments. Finding another method that is cheaper would save them significant amounts of money.

Tony Van der Staay recommended International pay for this option even just as a future option to allow regions the option to add other payment methods.

Tom Saunders stated he didn't want to pay for anything on the website for the future if no one would be utilizing it now.

Overall consensus was to have International pay for this option now as it will help New Zealand now and potentially save other regions money on their membership fees in the future.

- i. Switching PayPal to Bank Transfers first = \$185
 - i. Vote for International to Pay: No

There were four regions who wanted PayPal listed first, three who wanted bank transfer listed first, and one region that abstained from the vote. Based on membership numbers for the respective

regions, it was almost 50:50 to those who wanted PayPal first to those who wanted the bank transfer first. The decision was made to save the money and keep PayPal first.

Action Item: Katie to contact AfterShock to start the coding process for the above items that were approved for payment by International.

4. In regards to a previous question during a board meeting about what our “monthly hours” are utilized for and why they cannot be used for the website upgrades:
 - a. 8 Hours server support includes:
 1. Weekly update of released system software patches.
 2. Daily update of critical system patches
 3. Daily backup of website data (30 days retention).
 4. Daily download and update anti-spam database.
 5. Daily download and update anti-virus database.
 6. Weekly log analysis (Check for system breaches)
 7. Daily rootkit scan
 8. Existing regular requests such as last-minute changes for donations systems, statistics for proceedings, adding abilities for region editors, adding additional email addresses, etc.

- ii. YouTube Merge

Katie presented that the YouTube merge was started and the Eastern Region YouTube channel was renamed to the IPPS (International Plant Propagators Society) to allow people searching to find the channel easier. This name also allows us to have a custom web link (IPPS is used by other organizations and so and IPPS only custom link was already taken). Eastern Region, Southern Region, Europe, and a few other regions have or are in the process of adding their videos to the main site. Additionally, there are a few links on the Proceedings pages that need updated to our new YouTube channel, as well as the main YouTube link on the website. Katie will also create a video or page that can be loaded onto the “old” YouTube regional channels to direct followers to the “new” channel. Once the videos are uploaded and links are updated, an email will be sent around to notify the regions of the updated site.

Action Item: Katie to continue working with region representatives to create and update the YouTube channel.

VII. Other Reports**a. Report on 2023 International Tour and Meeting, Southern Region NA**

Brie Arthur and Tom Saunders reminded everyone that the tour will start in Washington, DC on October 18th, 2023 and end on October 28, 2023 in Durham, NC. Costs and information for a short-option tour (October 23 – 28) will be provided soon.

An International Board Meeting will occur on Monday, October 23, 2023 with time available for an additional meeting, if necessary, later in the tour.

b. Discuss date for 2024 International Tour, Southern Africa Region

Katie mentioned that there is a proposed Future Tour list for International Tours on the Google Drive. The Southern Africa tour in 2024 is proposed for early March, which is only about four months after the Southern Region of North America Tour. The Board discussed and decided the short turn-around would not be an issue as the locations are vastly different and Elsa du Toit stated that early March is the best time to meet.

Elsa du Toit stated the first part of the tour will run February 23 – March 1, 2024 through the Western and Eastern Cape. A post-tour will run March 2 – 8, 2024.

Brie Arthur and Laura Miller will work to advertise the Southern Africa International Tour when promoting the 2023 Tour as well.

VIII. Closing Comments**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.