

## Entomological Society of America

### **Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting Conference Call September 21, 2017**

#### **Participants**

Susan Weller, President  
Michael Parrella, Vice President  
Bob Peterson, Vice President-Elect  
Gary Brewer, North Central Branch Representative  
Timothy Schowalter, Southeastern Branch Representative  
David Ragsdale, Southwestern Branch Representative  
Livy Williams, International Branch Representative  
Paula Shrewsbury, Eastern Branch Representative  
Douglas Walsh, Pacific Branch Representative  
Carol Anelli, Physiology, Biochemistry & Toxicology Section Representative  
John Oswald, Systematics, Evolution & Biodiversity Section Representative  
Christopher Geden, Medical, Urban & Veterinary Entomology Section Representative  
Lina Bernaola, Student Representative

#### **Staff**

C. David Gammel, Executive Director  
Rosina Romano, Director of Meetings  
Debi Sutton, Director of Membership and Marketing  
Neil Willoughby, Director of Finance  
Lisa Junker, Director of Publications and Communications  
Chris Stelzig, Director of Strategic Initiatives  
Nikki Olin, Executive Assistant

#### **Guests**

Melissa Willrich Siebert, P-IE  
Rayda Krell, P-IE

#### **Not in Attendance**

May Berenbaum, Past President  
Michelle Smith, Treasurer  
Sujaya Rao, Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section Representative

1. **Welcome and Agenda Review** – President Susan Weller convened the meeting at 2:05pm. The agenda was reviewed and left unchanged.
2. **PIE Field Tour** – Weller introduced P-IE representatives Melissa Willrich-Siebert and Rayda Krell to give an overview on the P-IE Pollinator Tour held in Mississippi. The Science Policy Field Tour: *'Balancing Pest Management and*

*Pollinator Health*, was held in cooperation with Mississippi State University on August 22-24, 2017 in the Mississippi Delta. The event brought together ESA members and key stakeholders representing 22 states and the District of Columbia. Stakeholder groups included representatives from federal and state public science agencies, policymakers, NGO's, beekeeping organizations, and crop protection and commodity groups. The field tour enabled hands-on understanding of pollinators and the many issues on which they intersect, including: pollinator habitat, pests of pollinators, beekeeping practices, insect pests of economic importance, and row crop production and management. The field tour enabled candid discussions with the goal of learning from the experiences of Mississippi stakeholders that were instrumental in the development of the Mississippi Honeybee Stewardship Program, which is one of the first programs developed nationally. Willrich-Siebert and Krell praised ESA's Becky Anthony for her help coordinating and planning of the tour.

3. **Governing Board June Minutes** –

A MOTION: Approve the June Governing Board meeting minutes.  
**Motion passed.**

4. **Ratification of Executive Committee Minutes** –

A MOTION: Ratify Executive Committee Minutes from July and August 2017.  
**Motion passed.**

5. **2017 Annual Meeting Update** – Rosina Romano, Director of Meetings, gave an update on the 2017 Annual Meeting progress thus far:

- a. At the time of this call, the meeting currently has 3,145 registrants. This is the first time that registration has been over 3,000 after the early bird cut off. 3500 attendees are expected in Denver.
- b. Extension codes have been created for those who were impacted by hurricanes Harvey and Irma to register with the early bird rate by October 31st. ESA will extend the same courtesy to those impacted by Maria or any other subsequent weather events between now and the Annual Meeting.
- c. Revenue is currently just under \$1.2M with \$225k to go in revised budget.
- d. Housing is at 75% sold with 10 hotels participating.
- e. The exhibit hall has been completely sold out but Romano is able to add 4 additional spaces if needed.

6. **Science Policy and Advocacy** – Chris Stelzig, Director of Strategic Initiatives, gave the science policy report to the Board, using a prepared report from Lewis-Burke Associates, ESA's government relations firm. Berenbaum reported that this has been a very busy period for the Society with a lot of uncertainty in Washington D.C. right now on many policy fronts. The Society's activities fall into three primary areas:

- a. **Conducting Federal Outreach to Congress and Funding Agencies.** Examples of this include drafting comments regarding the National Institute on Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) National Monitoring Plan for Monitoring Bees, discussing the *Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2017* with Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), identifying and promoting ESA's priorities for the *2018 Farm Bill Reauthorization*, thanking Reps. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA) and Rodney Davis (R-IL), Co-Chairs of the newly established Agriculture Research Caucus for their efforts to advocate for sustained federal investments in agriculture research, and working closely with ESA leadership to draft a letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions opposing the Department of Justice's decision to discontinue the NCFCS.
- b. **Engaging Membership on Policy Issues.** Examples of this type of activity include nominating ESA member Tom Mather for the recently-established Tick-Borne Disease Working Group (HHS), developing the new mosquito management fact sheet (and others that remain in process), and preparing to host the second and third cohort of ESA Science Policy Fellows for the fall trip on October 16-18.
  - i. **Bolstering Presence in the Scientific Community.** ESA continues to maintain close ties with members of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Coalition and the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) to advocate for the agricultural priorities. Another example of this type of engagement includes drafting a letter to Sens. Richard Shelby (R-AL) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, urging them to reject a recent proposal that would cut funding for forensic science programs at the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST)

7. **ESA Publications Report**– Lisa Junker, Director of Publications and Communications gave an update on the recent ESA publications data analysis and Publications Council Charge Letter. ESA has long seen its journals as first and foremost a home for ESA members to publish their work. The board's decision to eliminate page charges for ESA members beginning in 2015 was intended to both increase the value of ESA membership and make the journals more attractive to members as a publication venue. Recently, ESA staff conducted a data analysis that shows that less than 20% of ESA members published in ESA journals in 2015 and 2016. These findings were discussed at the editorial strategy meeting, which took place on Aug. 18. The editors-in-chief agreed that this data raised important questions about whether ESA's journals are successfully meeting their goal of providing a publishing home for ESA members. The editors asked ESA staff to conduct additional research to answer several key questions:

- a. What percentage of ESA's membership publishes work in scholarly journals? Is the percentage of ESA members publishing in ESA journals significantly lower than the percentage of members that publish in journals at all?

- b. What decision factors are most important to ESA members when deciding where to publish?
- c. What factors are keeping ESA members from publishing in our journals more frequently?

Staff have developed a plan to gather information from the membership via a survey that will be fielded in September/October. The results of the survey should be ready to report to the Governing Board and Publications Council at the Annual Meeting in Denver. During the Publications Council meeting, Vice President Michael Parrella, Treasurer Michelle Smith, and VP-Elect Bob Peterson will discuss these findings with the council and present them with a charge letter to develop recommendations for actions the publications program can take to better serve member needs.

8. **Executive Director Review Process and ESA Staff Professional Activities** – Weller stated that it is the duty of the Governing Board to give annual feedback to ESA’s Executive Director, David Gammel. Requests for input will be sent out by Weller on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> with a due date of Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Gammel then briefly discussed the professional activities of the ESA staff with the Board.
9. **Membership Committee Hiatus** – Director of Membership and Marketing, Debi Sutton, requested to place the Membership Committee on hiatus for one year due to a lack of meaningful tasks for the committee. The ongoing governance review project needs to be completed as well. Gammel stated if there are committee members who want to continue ESA service in some capacity while the committee is on hiatus, he and Sutton will work to place them in other roles that need volunteers.
10. **Adjourn** – With no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 3:06pm.