

39th Board meeting of EBCC in Cáceres (Spain), 22 March 2010

Present: Richard Gregory (RG, chair), Anny Anselin (AA, BCN Editor), Ruud Foppen (RF, Vice President, Treasurer), Åke Lindström (ÅL, Delegate Officer), Hans-Günther Bauer (GB, Secretary), Juan Carlos del Moral (VE, JCM, Conference Organizers 2010), Lluís Brotons (LB), Petr Voříšek (PV, PECBMS), Jana Škorpilová (JŠ), David Noble (DN, Observer BTO), Ian Burfield (IB, Observer BirdLife International).

Apologies: Svetoslav Spasov, Alexander Mischenko, Sylvia Barova, Frédéric Jiguet.

TOP 1: Chairman's welcome to the Cáceres meeting.

Chairman welcomes all Board members and observers. Special thanks go to JCM and his team for hosting and arranging this meeting and the EBCC Conference.

TOP 2: Minutes of 38th Board meeting, checking back on Action points

Proceedings of the Chiavenna Conference will be printed in April. Hopefully all authors will have seen their proofs until then.

JCM gives an overview on the state of the conference preparations. The final programme has been distributed, some conveners are still missing. The question of session and plenary chairs was solved during the Board Meeting.

The official Conference opening will take place at 7 p.m. on Monday with several selected speakers, maybe including some of the sponsors. The Spanish Environmental Minister will visit the conference on Wednesday 6 p.m., coinciding with the Annual General Meeting.

Working Group Reports:

The New Atlas Working Group will meet on Monday over lunch to prepare the atlas workshop taking place at the Conference. The summary on Atlas projects in European countries is finished and was sent around prior to the Board meeting.

The Climate Change Working Group, or better: Discussion Platform, should be launched in conjunction with RFs talk at the conference on Friday.

Francesc Sardà will join the SCALES project in March for the next 2 years; he will be at the Cáceres conference to discuss priorities of his work in the upcoming year. The second general meeting of SCALES took place in Barcelona in February 2010, discussing various aspects of the project. The "bird traits database" currently isn't very complex, but data on habitat structure are good. Any major new development will be reported on by LB in due course.

Discussion arises on the national project leaders with respect to contributing data to the SCALES project. EBCC could help in providing the national groups with a letter of endorsement, stating that it approves of the project and encourages data provision.

The minutes of the 38th Board Meeting are agreed upon unanimously.

TOP 3: Financial Report and Annual Commission Report

A special situation arose for EBCC since for the period 2007-10 there are two kinds of financial reports due to the legal change of EBCC in 2008; IV/07 to XII/07 covers the first period, to be

followed by full financial years 2008 and 2009; only the latter ones need to be judged under Dutch financial law.

EBCC had a very good financial year 2008 due to lots of data supply charges, but in 2009 there was virtually no income (more collaborations rather than supply charges), but still some expenses, so in total a financial loss accrued.

Projects such as SMOG and others EBCC is engaged in should cover some of EBCC's costs, by including an overhead charge/administration fee or a consultation fee in the project costs.

The capital of the Association currently stands at 7000.- €.

The treasury commission (Frank Saris, Koen Devos) is happy with the financial report; it will step down, so there need to be two replacements.

TOP 4: Bird Census News

The second issue of 2009 with 40 pages was published in December. AA's institute has again thankfully covered all expenses. For the issue 1/2010 so far only 1 paper is available, but over 30 participants of the Cáceres conference are prepared to send their papers in for publication in BCN rather than Ardeola (which in turn promises to be very fast in processing the conference papers, as contact with authors will be taken up immediately after the conference; according to current plans, the papers will have to be supplied by July 2010).

TOP 5: Delegates List & Newsletter

ÅL informs Board that there are going to be three changes in the Delegates list at the AGM. For Italy and France there is an exchange of Delegates, both stemming from the same national NGOs as the previous national Delegates, they are Guido Tellini Florenzano for Italy and Nidal Issa for France. Additionally, there is a new candidate for Serbia, Dragan Simic.

The election of new Delegates at the AGM will be introduced and carried through by ÅL.

There should be a participants list available at the AGM and cross-checked with the Delegates list to make sure that the voting processes are not jeopardised. Passing a participants list around at the AGM, where people can tick a box, should be sufficient and not require too much time.

The upcoming Newsletter will be the first following a conference, so ÅL envisages that it will be easy to gather material and news items to be included in the next Newsletter.

TOP 6: EBCC website

PV reports that Alena Klvaňová is back in the PECBMS project and among other things will be responsible for work on suggestions for potential updates and changes for the PECBMS aspects of the website. For example, a better coordination between country reports and PECBMS will be supported by this, but not a complete restructuring and updating process of the whole website, which will be required in the long run. All new information accruing at the Cáceres conference should be included on the website in due course.

TOP 7: Recent Data Requests

A summary of recent data requests will be stated in the Chairman's report; this report will be distributed among Delegates. No other actions are needed.

TOP 8: Short report on Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme PECBMS

The main achievement of PECBMS is the production of new indices, which are now fully computed and are supposed to be published in summer (June is envisaged). Preliminary checks have been made, but there have to be more to make sure that these indices are flawless.

TOP 9: Chairman's report

RG prepared this report and circulated it among Board members for commenting. As soon as it's finalized, the report should be distributed among members and Delegates. The overview is based on the Strategic Discussion paper Boards discussed during the last meeting. It is suggested that this should be dealt with as the first issue under the heading "The EBCC, past, present and in future" or the like. After appropriate changes the report should be ready for dissemination at the conference.

In future, a complete list of publications with EBCC affiliation should be collated so these could have a running number. Some of the most important publications in recent years are listed at the end of the current Chairman's report.

TOP 10: Final planning of the Conference

Some 41 Delegates from 21 countries are present at the conference, and might attend the AGM.

The draft of the AGM, disseminated shortly before the Board Meeting, contains the following items: (1) Introduction, (2) Apologies for absences, (3) Mentioning the Minutes of the last "AGM" (called Board Meeting at the time), (4) Chairman's report, (5) Financial report (a number of copies made available at the entrance), (6) Delegates list and Delegate elections, (7) Elections of New Board, formal nominations received for the following ten people:

1.	Ruud Foppen, NL	W	for Chairman
2.	David Noble, UK	W	for Vice Chairman
3.	Hans-Günther Bauer, D	C	for Secretary
4.	Åke Lindström, S	N	Board Member
5.	Anny Anselin, B	W	Board Member
6.	Lluís Brotons, E	SW	Board Member
7.	Henning Hjelldberg, DK	N	Board Member
8.	Oskars Keišs, LV	N/E	Board Member
9.	Verena Keller, CH	C	Board Member
10.	Mikhail Kalyakin, RUS	E	Board Member

(8) Conference declaration, (9) EBCC Award (DN will accept the award on behalf of the Award winner Jeremy Greenwood), (10) timing and venue of next EBCC conference (preliminary proposal from Romania received), (11) any other business.

TOP 11: Date and venue for get together in Cáceres and full meeting in autumn 2010

New Board should meet just after the AGM.

A discussion ensues on future observers or groups that should be represented by an observer. At least four groups/projects should be represented, i.e., BI, RSPB, SMOG and PECBMS. Other groups such as EURING or Wetlands Int. could be invited on an ad-hoc basis.

Observer for BirdLife International

Observer for RSPB

Observer for PECBMS (representing EBCC)

Observer for PECBMS (representing EBCC)

Observer for SCALES

Ian Burfield, UK

Mark Eaton, UK

Jana Škorpilová, CZ

Petr Voříšek, CZ

Francesc Sardà, E

TOP 12: Any other business

- New Board Members have to be officially registered at the Chamber of Commerce in The Netherlands.

RG closes the Board meeting at 17.15 on Monday.

Richard Gregory
Chairman

Hans-Günther Bauer
Secretary