

TDWG 2006

Hosted by the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A.

15 - 22 October 2006

Minutes of the Business Meeting

TDWG 2006 was the largest ever annual meeting, attracting more than 160 delegates from 94 institutions and companies in 22 countries. It marked a transition from a majority of *ad hoc* presentations and emphasis on working groups to a structured conference-style meeting with themed sessions and better organised side meetings.

During the 8 days of the meeting there were 87 verbal, poster or computer demonstration presentations. Abstracts of the presentations were circulated (as a downloadable PDF document), edited by Lee Belbin and Adrian Rissoné, and a final version made available as the first publication of the new Proceedings of TDWG. After the meeting Anna Weitzman volunteered to become the lead Editor of the Proceedings for 2007.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of TDWG 2005 Business Meeting (available online)

The minutes were adopted on a show of hands with no amendments.

2. Result of the ballot on changes to the TDWG Constitution and Infrastructure

Stan Blum, supported by Lee Belbin, described the changes to the Constitution and infrastructure resulting from the TDWG Infrastructure Project funded by the Moore Foundation. The result of the ballot was unanimous in favour of the changes (25 valid votes cast).

3. Election of Officers for 2007

Jim Beach was appointed Election Officer and successfully canvassed nominations for all officers and regional secretaries with the exception of Africa. There being only single nominations in each case the nominees were ratified by a show of hands of members present.

Chair: Walter Berendsohn
Treasurer: Stan Blum
Secretary: Adrian Rissoné

Regional Secretaries:

Africa:	None
Asia:	Nozomi (James) Ytow
Europe:	(held by the Secretary per the Constitution)
Latin America:	Renato De Giovanni
North America:	Gerald (Stinger) Guala
Oceania:	Alex Chapman

4. Report from the Chair (including brief statements from Conveners)

Walter Berendsohn reported on TDWG activities since the St. Petersburg meeting in 2005. By far the most important activity has been the TDWG Infrastructure Project. The new Interest Group and Task Group structure is beginning to emerge and efforts on numerous fronts are being integrated into the TDWG Architecture. This work will continue throughout the remaining 14 months of the Project. Subgroup Conveners reported on the state of their groups and the activities being undertaken. Some groups are being reorganised and merged into the new Interest Groups and Task Groups. Where possible the new groups will foster

relationships with other standards setting bodies and interest groups (e.g. the Geospatial Interest Group will form links to the OGC). Walter reminded delegates that the Groups must have clear aims and the Task Groups must be developing definable products.

5. Proposed changes to the operation of the Secretariat

Lee Belbin outlined a target structure for the operation of the Secretariat, creating specific roles designed to improve the operation of the Secretariat and ensure the TDWG is a high quality organisation. The roles would include outreach, web editor, Journal editor and Annual Conference Manager. It is possible that some or all of these roles may be added formally to the Executive in the future but this would require an amendment to the Constitution. There is a perceived need for a paid, probably part-time, secretarial assistant but this cannot be achieved without an increase in regular income from membership fees.

6. Report from the Treasurer

There was an increase in TDWG's assets in 2005 but there is likely to be a decrease in 2006. The overall level of finances is good, in historical terms, with comfortable working capital. It was noted, however, that the TDWG Infrastructure Project team believes that additional resources will be required in the future to ensure the stability of the organisation and enable it to support essential progress in several directions.

7. Report from the TDWG Infrastructure Project (TIP) Manager

Lee Belbin gave a very full report on the progress and achievements of the Project, including a roadmap for the remaining 14 months. He emphasised the significance of the new infrastructure and the importance of outreach and building participation of and membership by institutions worldwide. The priority is to get Interest Group Charters finished. Newly ratified standards such as ABCD, SDD and TCS should go through the new standards process before tackling the backlog of standards in development and prior standards. The next priorities are the Technical Architecture and the documentation of the web site.

Outreach is a vital part of the remaining work of the TIP. Lee needs input from key people and will produce a brochure (to be available on-line and distributed on paper). The prime target of outreach is Institutions.

The second round of TIP funding (ca. 250000 USD) will be allocated soon. Proposals covering the priority areas and the most important aspects of the project were encouraged.

8. TDWG Annual Conference 2007 and 2008

There are two main contenders to host TDWG 2007 (Montpellier, France and Bratislava, Slovakia), with a possible third in discussion with the Executive. The Secretary will seek to obtain formal proposals from the contenders to be discussed by the Executive as soon as possible. For 2008 there is one fairly firm expression of interest (Perth, Australia) and a request from another country for information about hosting the Annual Conference.

9. Other business (to be announced) notified to the Secretary before the start of the Business Meeting

No other business was notified to the Secretary and none was put forward at the meeting.

Adrian Rissoné

Executive Secretary