



SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL ASTRONOMY  
IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST, INC.  
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**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday January 15, 2018 Teleconference**  
8:00PM EST 6:00PM MST 5:00PM PST

Bryan Bates – President, Tony Hull – Vice President, Ric Alling – Treasurer, Ray Williamson – Secretary, Chris Dombrowski, Beth Jewell and Greg Munson in attendance.

**Call to Order: 18:04; recording began**

**Old Business:**

**1. Bringing records up to date:**

The agenda expressed this concern: “Some of the minutes and/or records of previous meetings are delinquent. If we go for a grant, funding organizations will be reviewing our website and record keeping process.” After a short discussion the delinquent parties agreed to bring their work up to date before the next board meeting.

**2. Treasurer report:**

The president requested that the treasurer and all other committee chairs submit a report one week prior to meeting so members can review and send him questions, if any. Then move to accept Treasurer’s report with short discussion. Treasurer’s report had been submitted in the December Solstice Newsletter. SCAAS has \$13,855 currently on hand, including the Carol Ambruster Fund. \$13,218 (Dec) plus additional funds of \$637 that have come in since. Ray moved that the report be approved. Bryan seconded. All agreed to accept the report.

**3. Status of Spatial Technologies Workshop follow-up/on-line access to materials:**

Ric reported that he had submitted a report in the December Solstice newsletter. Generally, the workshop was a success and the organizers (primarily Chris and Ric) had learned a lot about holding such a software intensive workshop. There will be a follow-up note in the Spring Equinox newsletter. Further, he and Chris plan a webpage devoted to 3-D technology and software. Ric noted that Greg had worked through the software after the workshop with a site called “The Clock” in SW Utah and was able to make a successful 3-D model. Ric suggested that others might do the same with one of their own sites in order to build up additional expertise on the software.

**4. 2016 Conference Publication update:**

Greg noted that pulling the publication together is coming along, but slowly. Articles are being read and edited and where necessary returned to the authors for revisions. Once we have a sufficient set of papers in good shape, we can begin to seek funding for publication. The publication committee (Ray, Bryan, and Greg) feel that it is very important to have a viable publication in hand before approaching potential funders for publication help. We still need volunteers to help the Native American participants in the conference with recording and editing their contributions. Several felt that these contributions would be a

major “sell” for the publication. Ray noted that he had recorded a talk by Dan Simplicio and will be soon committing it to paper for Dan to review.

## **New business:**

### **1. Interim Executive Director:**

Bryan introduced a resolution to create the position of a paid Interim Executive Director to look after the Society’s business. Greg Munson made it clear that he could not continue to carry out the tasks of an Executive Director. His new work position will be rather demanding and not allow him to spend so much time on Society business. Hence, the need to have someone take care of the many tasks that Greg had been doing for the Society.

A vigorous discussion followed, centered largely on how our small organization could pay for such a position. Concern was raised especially over a concomitant proposal to use some of the funds of the Carol Ambruster Memorial Fund (CAMF) to pay for the work until the Society could develop new funding sources. In the minds of some, the fund should only be used to support educational opportunities for members who could not otherwise pay for them. Tony and Beth pointed out that in soliciting contributions for the CAMF, they emphasized the educational aspects of the fund. Nevertheless, the Board resolution that authorized the CAMF does not mention how it would be used.

Ric felt that the resolution was quite premature and suggested that given the small size of the organization we should first examine the list of duties that Greg had been performing and see what can be done by apportioning them to different board members. Tony opined that it would not be too difficult for board members to take on most of the tasks. Bryan suggested that Tony go over the list and suggest what can be done. Ric offered to work with Tony on the list. Ray pointed out that in volunteer organizations the difficulty in asking different individuals or groups to take on routine management duties is making sure that they get done, especially those tasks required by the organization’s nonprofit designation.

### **2. Motion thanking Greg Munson for a job well done in managing SCAAS business for so long.**

Bryan introduced a motion to recognizing Greg’s invaluable, tireless efforts on behalf of SCAAS over the past eight years, which was moved and seconded by all. Thank you Greg!

### **3. Business Plan Committee (BP):**

The question at this point was, how do we proceed in moving the society forward? Bryan pointed out that we had earlier discussed creating a business plan to help us develop the funding base that is needed to 1) keep the society going and 2) to expand its services to members. He also pointed out that part of the duties of a paid Executive Director would be to assist in developing a business plan.

In the business meeting held during the November 2016 workshop, Ric had suggested there might be some help available to create a business plan from his wife, who has some expertise helping non-profits solving funding issues. Some of the resources she has at hand might help, but mostly her work is focused on larger NGOs. Ric asked, “What is our product?”, in other words what are we as an organization trying to achieve? Answers to this and related questions will be needed in order to fully develop a business plan. Further discussion on the business plan was tabled.

### **4. Expanding the Board**

Bryan had one last quick question before adjournment. Do we need to expand the Board? Several suggested that it would be a good idea, especially given the attempt to distribute the various administrative tasks among board members. Bryan asked that current board members suggest possible

new board members and let him know so the subject can be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting, 19 February, 2018.

**5. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was moved and seconded by 19:34.

Minutes submitted by:

Ray Williamson  
SCAAS Secretary  
January 25, 2018

Minutes certified by:

Bryan Bates  
SCAAS President  
January 26, 2018