

**The Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists Incorporated
La Société Canadienne de Physiologie Végétale Incorporée**

(CSPP/SCPV Incorporated)

**MINUTES
Annual Business Meeting
Rhode Island Convention Centre, RI, U.S.A.
5:00 p.m. Tuesday July 24, 2001**

1. Call to order
President **Gregory Taylor** called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
1. Notice of meeting, and quorum
A notice of the meeting was sent to all members via the electronic Bulletin on April 19, 2001. There was a quorum present of 29 members representing 23 members in attendance and 6 by proxy.
2. Members present
Elizabeth Weretilnyk, Carol Peterson, Hank Bestman, Alan Bown, Annette Nassuth, K. Peter Pauls, Daphne Goring, Hargurdeep Saini, Gregory Taylor, Frédérique Guinel, Marc Fortin, Brian Colman, Jeff Taylor, John Greenwood, John King, J. Derek Bewley, David Gifford, Robert Mullen, George Espie, Norman Huner, John Thompson, Robert Hill.
3. Proxies
Held by Secretary: François Oullet, Bhinu V.S. Pillai, Thomas L. Noland, Paul R. Gorham,
Held by George Espie: Harold Weger
Held by Peter Pauls: Istvan Rajcan
4. Agenda
A motion by **Fortin** to accept agenda was seconded by **Peterson** and was carried unanimously.
5. Minutes
Taylor informed the members that the minutes of the 2000 ABM held in London, ON, were posted on the Society's web site and were available to the members present at the current ABM. The minutes were not made available at the registration desk because of difficulties caused by the joint meeting with the ASPP. A motion by **Huner**, seconded by **Guinel** to accept the minutes was carried unanimously.
6. Reports for CSPP/SCPV Inc & CSPP/SCPV (Charity)
 - a. *President.*
President **Taylor** presented a written report (Appendix A), and specifically highlighted CSPP's involvement in Plant Canada (Federation of Canadian Plant Biology Societies), the progress and projections for the Ann Oaks Scholarship Fund, details of the motions for by-law changes to be introduced later in the ABM, and the arrangements for the 2002 national meeting in Calgary.
 - b. *Treasurer*
Treasurer **Espie** presented written reports for the CSPP Corporation and Charity (Appendix B), and announced that the Society's books were audited by Frédérique Guinel and Barry Shelp. He also pointed out that the Charity now had two separate accounts, one for the Ann Oaks Scholarships and student awards, and the other for general purposes. He noted that the revenue from the meetings was quite variable, but when the Society's awards were factored in, the meetings actually cost the Society. Moreover, as we had not been lately covering our expenses from membership fees, we were having to dip into or reserves. He stressed the need to raise donations for meetings to keep the registration fees low and to be able to support the student travel and other awards. In response to questions from **Robert Hill**, Espie explained that a representative of Nesbitt Burns administers the CSPP investments but does not make decisions; we need to accumulate approximately \$500,000 to start a scholarship, and therefore, we were soliciting donations from members to accelerate the growth of this fund; the Ann Oaks fund will be monitored by a special board of

trustees and the other fund by the Treasurer and a Senior Director of the Society. **John King** asked if the decline in the Society's reserves was steady or occasional. **Espie** responded that it was variable, but the revenues would be low this year because of weak attendance (approx. 100) by Canadian's at the joint meeting.

A motion by **Huner**, seconded by **Gifford** to *receive the Treasurer's report* was carried unanimously.

c. *Auditors*

Frédérique Guinel explained the written report of the Auditors (Appendix B). Responding to Guinel's comment that some items from the London annual meeting were not available for audit, **Espie** explained that this was because university sometimes holds receipts, and we could ask the university to confirm which receipts it was holding. The auditors made five recommendations (last page, appendix B). President **Taylor** responded to the recommendations as follows:

1 and 3: Agreed to act as recommended

2: The issue was discussed in the outgoing executive meeting. The executive found it difficult to impose formal limits on waivers, and decided to encourage local meeting organizers to report the waivers it grants to the executive, and to work with the goal of breaking even.

4: It was not the perception of the executive that the value of awards exceeded the amounts listed in the by-laws, but the executive would look into it.

5: Opinion of the executive members differed considerably on this matter. The possibility of publishing the directory in alternate years or as a PDF file was discussed and it was suggested that a straw vote of the members' opinion could be taken at the next ABM. **Gifford** suggested that some money could be saved by adopting two-column format, which he would do for the next directory. After discussion of various options, including publishing the directory on Web (obstacles are legal implications and increase in work) and publishing an addendum (impractical because of year-to-year variation in membership), the members expressed near unanimous support through an informal show of hands for retaining the present paper directory.

d. *Eastern Regional Director*

Weretilnyk presented a written report (Appendix-C). In response to a comment by a member that the meeting should be over two days instead of one, **Weretilnyk** said that after the Waterloo meeting last year, she had received mixed comments from members and would, therefore, leave it to the organizers to decide the format. **Espie** pointed out that the last year's one-day meeting was not a policy change but an experiment.

e. *Western Regional Director*

On behalf of the Western Regional Director, **Taylor** reported that the main activity in the west during the year was to give student travel awards for the Providence meeting. The next western regional meeting would be in 2003.

f. *Science Policy Officer*

Fortin presented a written report (Appendix D), and specifically highlighted the moves made to create a Science Policy Committee of the Society. He also informed the members that Peter McCout and he were members of the NSERC reallocation committee, and solicited members' input for the committee's draft presentation due in the fall of 2001. He also explained how the reallocation exercise worked. Various issues related to the reallocation exercise were discussed.

g. *Communications Committee*

On behalf of the Communication Director **Woodrow**, **Gifford** said that there was a need to have a more equitable distribution of communication work. To achieve this, the Communication Director would now be responsible for the Bulletin, the Web Site Coordinator for the web site, and the Secretary for the membership directory.

h. *Education Committee*

There was no report this year from this committee.

i. *Nominations Committee*

Gifford presented the report of the nominations committee, listing the committee's slate of candidates for various positions on the Society's executive and committees (Appendix E).

j. *Meeting Site Committee*

Bown presented the written report of the committee listing the dates and locations of the future meetings (Appendix F), and informed that the meeting sites were confirmed until 2006. **Gifford** said that the organizing committee for the Calgary meeting should be asked to encourage as many student presentations as possible and to organize a Gold Medal address. A proposal by **Bewley** to ask the organizers to include a new presentation-format of 'one-page summary of posters' was supported unanimously by the members in attendance.

k. *Plant Canada*

Peterson presented a written report of the activities of Plant Canada (Appendix G)

A motion by **Gifford**, seconded by **Espie**, to *accept all of the reports (a to k)* was carried unanimously.

7. Election of officers

President **Taylor** invited any additional nominations for the Society's offices/committees from the floor, and none were received. **Gifford** moved that *nominees of the Nominations Committee be elected to the respective offices*. The motion was seconded by **Espie**, and carried unanimously.

8. Discussion on the mandate of the Science Policy Committee

Fortin and **Taylor** asked for the views of the members. Various members expressed their opinions, including that there was a need to generate more publicity for what our Society does, that we should talk to a committee of MPs representing ridings with universities to improve their views of NSERC (which are presently poor) and that we should use the existing liaison officers appointed by NSERC at each university to reach public and politicians.

9. Congratulations to award winners

Taylor listed and congratulated the following award winners:

Gold Medal - John King
C.D. Nelson - Daphne Goring
Gleb Krotkov - Carol Peterson
George Duff - 25 students

He also mentioned that two winners of the Presidents' Awards would be announced at the Clam Bake.

10. Authorization to sign

A motion by **Gifford**, seconded by **Greenwood** to *authorize the President and Treasurer to sign for the CSPP (Inc)* was carried unanimously.

11. Nomination of auditors

A motion by **Espie**, seconded by **Greenwood** to *reappoint Barry Shelp and Frédérique Guinel as the auditors for the CSPP for the year 2001-2002* was carried unanimously.

12. Business arising

The outgoing President **Taylor** thanked the executive for its work.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Gregory Taylor
President

Hargurdeep Saini
Secretary

The Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists (Charity)
La Société Canadienne de Physiologie Végétale (Charité)

(CSPP/SCPV Charity)

MINUTES
Annual Business Meeting
Rhode Island Convention Centre, RI, U.S.A.
6:30 p.m. Tuesday July 24, 2001

1. Call to order
2. President **Gregory Taylor** called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
3. Notice of meeting, and quorum
 A notice of the meeting was sent to all members via the electronic Bulletin on April 19, 2001. There was a quorum present of 28 members representing 22 members in attendance and 6 by proxy.
4. Members present
 Elizabeth Weretilnyk, Carol Peterson, Hank Bestman, Alan Bown, Annette Nassuth, K. Peter Pauls, Daphne Goring, Hargurdeep Saini, Gregory Taylor, Frédérique Guinel, Marc Fortin, Brian Colman, Jeff Taylor, John Greenwood, John King, J. Derek Bewley, David Gifford, Robert Mullen, George Espie, Norman Huner, Robert Hill.
5. Proxies
Held by Secretary: François Oullet, Bhinu V.S. Pillai, Thomas L. Noland, Paul R. Gorham,
Held by George Espie: Harold Weger
Held by Peter Pauls: Istvan Rajcan
6. Agenda
 A motion by **Bown**, seconded by **Greenwood**, to *accept agenda* was carried unanimously.
7. Minutes
 A motion by **Huner** to *receive the minutes of the 2000 ABM held in London, ON* was seconded by **Fortin** and carried unanimously.
8. Reports for CSPP/SCPV Inc & CSPP/SCPV (Charity)
 See Appendix A - G
9. Change to CSPP By-Laws and Charter
Taylor explained the motions 1 to 3 as outlined in the prior notice of motions sent to the members (see Appendix H for detailed motions).
 Motion-1 by **Huner** to “*name the Chair of the Education Committee to the executive of the CSPP/SCPV*” was seconded by **Espie** and adopted unanimously.

 Motion-2 by **Espie** to *amend the Clause V of the Charter of the CSPP/SCPV Inc to “The place within Canada where the head office of the Corporation is to be situated is: the address of the Treasurer of the Corporation”*, seconded by **Guinel**, was carried unanimously.

 Motion-3 by **Peterson** to “*strike the By-Law 2g from the By-Laws of the CSPP/SCPV*” was seconded by **Huner** and was carried unanimously.

Espie introduced the Motion-4 to *change the Article 4 of the CSPP/SCPV to harmonize it with the creation of Ann Oaks Scholarship Fund* and briefly explained its purpose. **Bewley** introduced a friendly amendment to the

wording of the proposed changes (noted in Appendix H). The motion, as amended, and seconded by **Guinel**, was carried unanimously.

Espie introduced the Motion-5 *“to create a new By-Law 16 of the CSPP/SCPV”* pertaining to the establishment of the Ann Oaks Scholarship Fund. **Bewley** introduced a friendly amendment to change some of the wording of the paragraphs “e” and “f” (noted in Appendix H). The motion, as amended and seconded by **Gifford**, was carried unanimously.

- 10. Accept Directors
A motion by **Huner**, seconded by **Fortin**, to *“accept the current Directors of the CSPP/SCPV Inc as the Directors of the CSPP/SCPV Charity”* was carried unanimously.

The outgoing President **Gregory Taylor** passed the gavel to the incoming President **Norman Huner**.

Huner chaired the subsequent proceedings.

- 11. Thanks
A motion of thanks to the organizing committee by **Huner** was seconded by **Greenwood** and was carried.

A motion by **Huner**, seconded by **Weretilnyk**, to *thank the outgoing members of the executive (Peterson, Woodrow, Gifford and Taylor)* was carried.

- 12. Confirmation of the Executive’s actions
A motion by **Weretilnyk**, seconded by **Gifford** to *confirm the actions of the past Executive* was carried unanimously.

- 13. Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Gregory Taylor
Outgoing President

Norman Huner
Incoming President

Hargurdeep Saini
Secretary