



World Sturgeon Conservation Society Board Election

The World Sturgeon Conservation Society (WSCS; herein referred to as the Society) has the pleasure to announce the call for candidates for the 2023-2027 election of the Society's Board. The aim of the call is to seek persons with expertise in the field of sturgeon research and conservation who have previous experience working on the governing board of a professional society and are able to invest time and effort into the development of the WSCS to further increase the recognition and performance of the Society and sturgeon conservation in general. Each candidate must be a member in good standing of the WSCS and must have experience as a member of the WSCS or an affiliated or similar society.

The descriptions for the different positions and the qualifications sought are summarized in the Call for Candidates (Appendix A). The Board is comprised of 7 positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary General, and three Board Members at large. The new term for the Board will be 2023–2027 and will start 15 March 2023 (6 weeks after the official closure of the election period; 1 February 2023) to allow for a smooth transition of tasks between the old and the new Boards.

To ensure sufficient influence of the principal regions within the range of sturgeons (Europe, Russia, Middle East, China and Far East, and the Americas), the Board could invite representatives of those regions not represented on the elected Board as permanent guests to the Board. The unrepresented region also could nominate a representative for the Board to consider.

Appendix A

The specific duties of WSCS Board Members include:

(1) Attending all Board meetings and the General Assembly. Regularly scheduled Board meetings must be attended by each Board member (e.g. monthly virtual meetings). The Board member's employer should agree that you will be provided with at least the time to go abroad for approximately 2 meetings (3-5 days each) a year. The Society prefers (although does not mandate) that your employer also provide (at least partially) the financial resources to travel to the meetings.

(2) Committing to take responsibility to accomplish the tasks assigned to the Board position to fulfill the objectives of the WSCS. These responsibilities may change, and duties will be distributed by Board decisions.

3) Committing to substantial time to accomplish the tasks assigned to the Board position to fulfill the objectives of the WSCS. If the Board member is employed, their employer would be required to agree to the employee's dedication of substantial time to the WSCS Board position while being permitted to use institutional infrastructure (e-mail, phone, printer and preferably commitment for minor travel support). If the Board member must use their own resources, partial reimbursement may be granted.

4) Serving on the Board as a voting member.

5) Assuming the liability of participation. Board members are personally liable to third parties if they cause damage negligently or intentionally in the course of their board activities. Although the law governing associations (Section 31 of the German Civil Code; BGB) applies here, the Board is nevertheless also liable as is the Society as a whole.

The responsibilities associated with each Board position are:

President: The President is the external representative of the WSCS and serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors. The President facilitates the strategic development of the Society and is responsible for international affairs through coordination of WSCS activities and serves as the liaison between international governmental, non-governmental organizations, affiliates, and regional groups. The President conducts official correspondence for the Society, presents reports of Society activities at the annual meeting, and makes such appointments and performs other duties and functions as are authorized and necessary. The President will delegate duties to the other Board members as well as to the standing and technical committees.

This position requires a major commitment in terms of time and resources and the willingness and ability to travel frequently. Participation in all Board meetings is mandatory as well as participation in the major events organized by the WSCS (e.g. International Symposium on Sturgeons).

Vice President: The Vice President is the internal representative for the WSCS and facilitates communication with the WSCS members. The Vice President assists the President on specific tasks and/or assumes the duties of the President when he/she is temporarily or permanently

unable to act. The Vice President serves as a liaison to partner organisations, affiliates, and regional groups; coordinates the activities of the Board and standing and technical committees; presents reports of the WSCS activities at the annual meeting; and drafts the budget proposal with the Treasurer for upcoming fiscal years.

This position requires a major commitment in terms of time and resources and the ability to travel frequently.

Secretary General: The Secretary General assists the President and Vice President in organizational matters and logistics and facilitates communication with membership and outside organizations on a regular basis. The Secretary General manages the official records of the Society submitting minutes of the Board meetings and the General Assembly within 30 days after the annual Society meeting. The Secretary General manages the Society's membership list in collaboration with the Treasurer, conducts internal correspondence for the Society, and presents reports of the WSCS activities at the annual meeting. The Secretary General facilitates intersessional correspondence between the Board members and conducts and supervises elections.

Treasurer: The Treasurer assumes full responsibility for the accounting on a regular basis. This requires continuous handling of the WSCS financial matters in close cooperation and agreement with the President, Vice-President, and the Secretary General while preparing the fiscal account balances and the budgets. Specifically, the Treasurer collects and is the custodian of any fees or assessments authorized by the statutes or funds allotted to the Society; disperses funds only as authorized by either the membership or Board; represents the Society at court/fiscal administration; and supports the Board in record keeping of transactions and regular business. The Treasurer submits the year-end report for the previous fiscal year, a comparison of approved versus actual income and expenditures for the current fiscal year, and submits a record of receipts and disbursements at the annual Society meeting. The Treasurer establishes necessary banking arrangements and prepares and files necessary tax returns and other official documents necessary to keep the Society in good legal and financial standing.

Governing Board Members at Large: The Governing Board Members at Large are responsible for a number of duties assigned by Board decisions or by ad-hoc decisions made by the President. These duties may include collecting and assembling content for the news section of the website; promoting the Society's journal; developing promotional materials; soliciting membership, sponsorship and financial support; developing and supporting the student involvement in the WSCS; assisting with annual meetings and the International Symposium on Sturgeons; supporting and interacting with regional members; and informing the President and the Board of new developments as related to sturgeons and paddlefish.

A short (less than 1 page) biography should be submitted by November 15, 2022 to the current Secretary General (Molly_Webb@fws.gov) for inclusion on the ballot. The biography should identify the position for which you are applying and address your scientific background and experience with leadership, international committee work, specific tasks assigned to the Board position you are applying for, as well as travel permission and institutional support.