

EFB Environmental Biotechnology Division

Meeting of the Division Board held on ZOOM on Wednesday 22nd February 2023 at 5:00 PM CET.

Present: JSG (Chair), JC (Co-chair), DS, JP, MV, MWK.

1. Apologies for absence and welcome.

Apologies for absence were received via email due to other commitments from FF, CM and PC. DS was warmly welcome to the meeting and to the Board as an observer, focused on the field of Marine Technology. DS presented himself, from his background in marine biology and fish toxicology until his leading work as governmental specialist linked to environmental regulation and legislation concerning marine ecosystems. DS wide network covering the academia, governmental bodies and the industry became evident, which was noted as an important support to the Board activities in the field of Marine Biotechnology.

Difficulties in communication with some Board members were discussed. As a first approach, JP will inquire whether they are still interested in continuing as part of the Board.

2. Minutes of the meeting of the Board on 16th January 2023

The minutes were approved by the Board, with a minor correction concerning MWK surname, including for website upload.

Action: JP will send the minutes to FC for upload in the Division website.

3. Matters arising from the minutes not covered below.

Previously discussed changes in the minutes of the EB Board meeting on 2nd November 2022 were approved; these minutes were considered final and ready for website upload.

A more efficient flow for minutes approval was proposed by JC and approved by the Board: after revision by Chairs, the Secretary will circulate the draft minutes to the Board for appreciation; if no response is received within one week, the minutes will be considered final and will be sent for upload in the website.

A remark was made regarding the Division website fee, which is still to be paid for 2022. Further discussion was postponed to the next Board meeting.

Action: JP will send the minutes of the EB Board meeting on 2nd November 2022 to FC for upload in the Division website. After the chairs' revision, JP will circulate the minutes of the present meeting for approval within one week as agreed by the Board.

4. EB Division event(s) in ACB 2023.

Regarding ACB 2023, no updates were available compared to what was discussed in the Board previous meeting. As there are apparently no immediate actions needed from the Board to support the meeting organization, further discussion was postponed until the next Board meeting.

5. Meeting under the topic of healthy soil at Mutenz in September 2023.

The Board was updated in general by JC concerning this meeting, where the EB Division is an organizing partner through PC and FF. The website is active for registration and a very good response is expected since the fees are very low, promoting participation. The organization is well in place.

The EB Division support through dissemination of the meeting across our networks was re-requested, as has already been done by several members of the Board.

6. Environmental biotechnology meeting in Poznan, in November 2023.

JSG briefly described the organization progress, which has been benefiting from the support of the central office. EW is currently supporting the final agreements and other organization details. The website is ready for circulation (https://www.efbiotechnology.org/green_deal), and reference to the meeting will be included in the February EFB newsletter. The next aim will be to contact potential invited speakers and sponsors. Subject to their agreement, it was highlighted that all Board members would be named as members of the meeting Scientific Committee.

Action: JP will circulate the information on the composition of the Scientific Committee to the Board, requesting agreement confirmation in the short-term.

There are seven main tracks for abstract submission, with different coverage topics within each track. DS confirmed that the two topics in the Marine Technology track (marine technology and products from marine resources) provide a broad coverage of the field of marine biotechnology, hence promoting participation.

The need to define invited speakers was reinforced. JSG will reach the foreign agricultural office of the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw for the facilitation of contacts with high profile American speakers. The proximity to Ukraine was also highlighted as a good context to invite high profile Ukrainian speakers.

An appeal for the involvement of the Board members in suggesting speakers, promoting the event and in participating in the meeting was made, the decreased fees for scientific committee members being highlighted. DS will support the Board in promoting the event by circulating across his networks.

Sponsorship was addressed and JC let the Board know that he collected a significant sponsoring package from Elsevier in exchange of the organization of a joint Special Issue of the two EFB Journals. A high-quality, rigorously handled Special Issue is expected. For that, the appointment of highly competent Guest Editors by the EB Division is a critical initial step. JSG already presented a well-received suggestion and the Board agreed that JC contacts the AFoB for the indication of potential Guest Editors in line with the collaboration ongoing. Second, the recruitment of high-quality submissions is critical (submissions to this Special Issue will benefit from significant APC reduction), and the collaboration of all Board members for that will be asked, particularly profiting from the three meetings that are planned for 2023.

Despite this already secured income, sponsoring recruitment is still a need, and an appeal was made to the Board to collaborate in this regard.

7. Organization of the EB event in the EFB online meeting in March 2023.

JC reported that the meeting programme is nearly complete, although there have been difficulties in confirming titles and participation from AFoB speakers. The current shortage of registrants and abstract submissions was noted. The support of the Board was requested in disseminating this meeting and promoting registration within their networks.

8. Any other business.

MV renewed the request for website verification by all Board members. Identified changes needed should be sent to her.

9. Scheduling of the next meeting.

The next meeting was provisionally scheduled for May 10th at 17:00 CET.

Action: JP will set up the meeting on Zoom and circulate the scheduling information with the corresponding Agenda in due time.