

## IAPB Executive Committee Meeting

### MINUTES

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<b>Date -</b>	Thursday, 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2013
<b>Time -</b>	13:00-14:00 London time
<b>Venue -</b>	Tele-Conference
<b>Attending -</b>	Chair: Bob McMullan (BM)  Member(s): Abdulaziz AlRahji (AA); Adrian Poffley (AP); Kathy Spahn (KS); Serge Resnikoff (SR)  Apologies: Johannes Trimmel (JT)  In attendance: Peter Ackland (PA); Blandine Labry (BL); Alessandro Di Capua (ADC)

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#### 1. Financial Update

PA referred to the attached paper, in particular to the recent announcement that BHVI would not be able to honour the final payment of its five year grant agreement to support the IAPB development team.

He noted that the impact of this \$200k gap in the 2014 budget was partially mitigated by recent successes in fundraising activities. As a net result, the unrestricted close balance for 2014 was now forecasted as \$466,782, about \$40k less than what was predicted prior to the communication of BHVI's withdrawal, and below the agreed \$500k threshold for unrestricted reserves.

He noted that, as usual, the budget was based on conservative assumptions and did not take into account income in the pipeline which had not been secured.

Discussion ensued, including the following points:

- It was noted that the withdrawal of funding had not been caused by any dissatisfaction on the part of BHVI about the performance of IAPB's development team, but rather depended on internal budgeting reasons (which had impacted on other activities as well and not only on IAPB);
- It was noted that perspective income currently in the pipeline included applications to members for regional grants that would free up unrestricted funds, sponsorship deals with some of the 9GA supporters, ongoing discussions with former corporate supporters to come back into membership and the possibility that the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust would contribute to some of IAPB project costs;
- It was noted that current costs for IAPB fundraising salaries and related activities stood at around \$300k;
- It was noted that the contribution from BHVI to IAPB fundraising activities was always meant to be time-bound and this unexpected announcement ultimately only brought forward the time of looking at alternative ways to finance the work;
- The Executive Committee accepted that, under the latest forecast for 2014, reserves would fall below the indicative target level of \$500k.

The Executive Committee noted the situation and requested PA to provide regular updates on the matter. It was decided that no critical decision was needed at the moment, but the Executive Committee would be looking at its next meeting to recommend a plan to the board as to how to bring the reserves back to the agreed threshold and how to fund in the medium/longer term the net unrestricted budget deficit, currently forecasted at \$223k for 2014.

**ACTION:** PA to submit paper on options as to how to fill deficit at next Executive Committee meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

## **2. Approval of Van Lansingh's Move**

PA referred to the attached paper providing a comparison of costs between the two options of keeping Van Lansingh in Miami and moving him to Mexico City.

He noted that, overall, the move was cost neutral, however by moving to Mexico City we would be saving the costs related to keep a branch office in Florida, without the need to open one in Mexico as Pedro Gomez, the regional co-chair, had offered to employ Van Lansingh and second him to IAPB.

It was also noted that Van Lansingh's salary and benefits package in Mexico would remain the same, while at the same time enabling him to access a more affordable and suitable medical care for his family needs.

The Executive Committee unanimously approve Van Lansingh's relocation.

### 3. BOT March 2014 – Dates and Location

PA referred to the proposed dates and locations for the Board meeting in March 2014, which had been set in order to enable attendance to the concomitant WOC in Tokyo and the VISION 2014 meeting in Melbourne.

All agreed on the proposed dates:

March 27<sup>th</sup> - Executive committee (am); Audit Committee (pm)

March 28<sup>th</sup> – Advocacy Committee (am); BOT (pm)

March 29<sup>th</sup> – BOT (am + pm to say 16.00)

The proposed location of Singapore was also agreed given that it was en-route to the other meetings, easy to access and that a local member organisation (SERI) had offered to help hosting the board. The option of Bangkok, similarly convenient travel-wise, was kept as a back-up in case costs of holding the meeting in Singapore would prove excessive.

### 4. BOT/COM September 2014 meeting – location

PA referred that the plan to hold the BOT/COM September 2014 meeting in Durban alongside the WCRE had now fallen through given the cancellation of WCRE. He noted that we were liaising with the Regional Chair to ascertain whether there were other opportunities in the region, but that currently none seemed likely.

Given the idea agreed at the last board meeting that IAPB Council meetings should be built into more significant events that piggy backed on existing major meetings, the Executive Committee was asked about any major meeting in September/October 2014 that would serve as such an opportunity. The following ideas were put forward:

- The 2014 European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ESCRS) annual meeting in London on September 13-17 and the Euretina Congress in London on September 11-14.
- The European Association for Vision and Eye Research (EVER) 2014 Congress in Nice on October 1 - 4.
- The American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) 2014 annual meeting in Chicago on October 18-21.

**ACTION:** PA to canvass more suggestions about possible parallel meetings and prepare paper with benefits and costs for each relevant option for the next Executive Committee meeting on 5 September.

**5. BOT/COM 2013 – Approval of Agendas**

BM informed the committee that due to unavoidable prior commitments with the EBRD he would be unable to attend the board and council meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The committee regretted this clash, but all agreed that the Vice-Chair would provide a perfect back-up.

PA referred to the attached draft agendas for the Board and Council meetings in Brighton. Several suggestions were made which were incorporated in the second draft.

**6. AOB**

As there wasn't any other business the meeting was closed.