1. **Welcome, introductions, and agenda review** – President Alleyne convened the meeting shortly after 1:00 p.m. and welcomed the attendees. Quorum was established and the agenda was reviewed and approved. Ruberson was acknowledged as the parliamentarian. The elements of the 2023-2025 strategic plan were briefly reviewed.
2. **President’s Report** – Alleyne began her remarks by lamenting the impact that recent natural disasters have had on our members and colleagues. She reviewed recent executive committee meetings and decisions, updated the board on her recent trip to Capitol Hill, and provided updates on the plans for the November Annual Meeting.

3. **Consent Agenda** – The consent agenda was reviewed, and the following reports were pulled for additional discussion later in the meeting:

   - Education and Outreach committee report
   - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee report

   At that point the remaining items on the consent agenda were approved. Any motions included in the reports were also approved and are noted below. The approved reports and agenda items were:

   - AMT EIC Selection
     
     *(Approved motion: Based on the recommendation of the Arthropod Management Tests Editor-in-Chief Search Committee, the ESA Governing Board approves the appointment of Dr. Donald R. Cook as editor-in-chief of *Arthropod Management Tests*, with a term to run January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2027.)*
   
   - Early Career Professionals Committee report
   - April 2023 Executive Committee minutes
   - May 2023 Executive Committee minutes
   - June 2023 Governing Board minutes
   - July 2023 Executive Committee minutes
   - August 2023 Executive Committee minutes
   - Summer 2023 Cyber Minutes

4. **Headquarters Update** – Stelzig provided a presentation which included updates on personnel, the recent ESA elections, ESA’s year-to-date financial performance, 2024 dues levels, and several other departmental updates. He also informed the board that the Networks program was being shut down due to low usage. Light discussion ensued.

5. **Publications Strategy** – At the start of the discussion, McEwan joined the meeting. The board reviewed three items related to the summer 2023 Publications Strategy Day: the final report from the consultant, their notes on the meeting, and a staff summary report. It was noted that all three items had been previously reviewed by the Publications Council. Hudson provided the council’s perspective through a short
presentation. Discussion focused on the continuing research being done to gather needed information before decisions can be made. Expectations are that the next several board meetings will include robust discussions on publications strategy, which will culminate in a Request for Proposal at the June 2024 board meeting. Resources to support a publications consultant will be a part of the 2024 budget request reviewed later this year.

6. **Publications Council Report** – Henke presented a report from the council which included two recommended updates to the Society’s policy manual. Light discussion ensued and as it wound down, McEwan left from the meeting.

7. **Education Task Force Report and Proposal** – The task force presented a proposal for establishing rules for how new ESA Sections would be established. This proposal was drafted to address the concerns regarding the needs of educators but, if approved, would also become precedent for future groups seeking Section status. Discussion was wide and varied, including a request for more sunk cost discovery in the proposal and the need for a process by which low-performing Sections would be wound down. A motion from the task force was considered, which read “Move to accept the proposal for forming new Sections within ESA as recommended by the Presidential Task Force on “Serving the needs of scientific educators within the ESA governing structure”. The board rejected the motion.

The discussion then moved to consider the specific needs of the educators group. After further discussion, a second motion was proposed, seconded, and approved: “Move to follow the proposal suggested by the task force on education as a pilot project for consideration of a new Section of ESA focused on the needs of educators and move to approve the Formal and Informal Teaching group suggested by the ESA Education and Outreach Committee into Phase One, as soon as the requirements are met.”

As the discussion wound down, the board took a short break of approximately 15 minutes and then continued the meeting.

After reconvening, the board approved an additional motion: “As the Governing Board concludes their work, we thank the Presidential Task Force, chaired by Melody Keena, on “Serving the needs of scientific educators within the ESA governing structure” (The Education Task Force), for their excellent work in guiding the FIT proposal to move forward.”

8. **Artificial Intelligence and ESA** – Stelzig reviewed a brief submitted to the board which discussed some of the various ways that artificial intelligence (AI) technologies could
impact ESA’s business models in the years to come. Several examples were shared of technologies that ESA has already begun to use that utilize AI. Discussion focused on whether the board, the staff, or a combination of both should take the lead on developing policies to guide ESA’s adoption and use of AI technology. As the discussion concluded, no consensus was reached, and Alleyne promised to continue considering the matter.

9. **Financial Updates** – Oi and Willoughby reviewed year-to-date financial performance of the Society. Net income is significantly higher than the year prior, due to strong performance of the investment portfolio coupled with the increase in the valuation of the agreement with the CDC. Most business lines were performing well for the year with respect to budget. Ongoing uncertainty related to political factors, however, warrants continued caution and the investment portfolio remains somewhat conservatively invested as compared to historical norms.

10. **Governance Review** – Henke presented an agenda item which summarized the recent board discussions related to societal governance. Whereas governance review is part of the 2023-2025 strategic plan, she announced plans to focus the 2024 strategy day on governance. She requested that board members alert her of specific governance-related topics that should be considered as part of the review. Resources to hire a consultant will be part of the budget approval process.

11. **Science Policy** – Stelzig and Cadwalader presented a summary of the Society’s impacts through the science policy program over the past decade. The board discussed these and spent time considering what the future of the Society’s advocacy might look like. Four motions were presented by staff for consideration:

   - Move to acknowledge the work of prior members who built ESA’s science advocacy program of today, including past presidents Brown, Wiedenmann, and Zalom.
   - Move to charge staff to determine the most efficient way to continue investing in the programming to advance ESA’s strategic principles.
   - Move to create a Science Policy Programming Fund.
   - Move to charge staff to negotiate a new multi-year contract with Lewis Burke Associates to support ESA’s science policy efforts through at least the terminus of the current strategic plan.

   A motion to consider all four motions at once was made and seconded. A friendly amendment motion to consider one of the charges separately was briefly entertained,
but after further discussion, withdrawn. Following that, Alleyne called the vote on the motion to approve the four motions with the board voting to support the motion.

12. Revisit Consent Agenda – The board revisited the items previously pulled from the consent agenda.

- Education and Outreach Committee Report:
  The director who pulled the item originally withdrew their objection and a motion to approve the report was promptly approved.

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Report.
  The board discussed the recommended equity definition provided by the committee. Further discussion focused on specific elements of the committee’s proposed policy manual with some language edits suggested. While the board supported the committee’s desire to create a manual, they had enough questions about the contents to prevent adoption. The motion made by the committee (Move to accept the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee Procedure and Policy Manual) was defeated. Staff will collate recommended edits to the manual and encourage the committee to resubmit it for approval at the November meeting.

  The board then made, seconded, and approved a motion to approve the committee’s report.


14. Topic Review – Alleyne asked if there were any topics discussed during the meeting where board members might require additional guidance on how to discuss. Light discussion was held regarding the pilot Section approved for educators.

15. Adjourn – Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.