

Teaching
with Small
Boats Alliance
Conference
2017

April 26-29, 2017

Chesapeake Bay
Maritime Museum
St. Michaels, Md.



TWSBA Incorporation; Making Headway as a 501C3 Organization

David A. Helgerson, PE

TWSBA Steering Committee Member

April 29, 2017

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The Basic Challenge

- TWBSA has operated informally since 2010, with great success.
- Most member organizations are 501C3s, for good reasons.
- **Should TWBSA incorporate, or go with status quo?**

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It is a process

- Moving towards incorporation involves decisions and discussion;
- We can establish our own timeframe;
- There are key decision points;
- Exploring 501C3 incorporation will show us the possibilities.

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7 Successful Years; 5 Conferences

- TWSBA Steering Committee established in 2010 at Alexandria Seaport Foundation.
- TWSBA Conferences ; well attended and valuable.
 - 2010 hosted by ASF in Alexandria, VA
 - 2012 hosted by CWB in Seattle, WA
 - 2014 hosted by Mystic Seaport in Mystic, CT
 - 2015 hosted by NWMC in Port Townsend, WA
 - 2017 hosted by CBMM in St. Michaels, MD



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Steering Committee

- Jake Beattie
- Rich Eisenberg
- David Helgerson
- Rich Hilsinger
- Jennifer Kuhn
- Lory Newmeyer
- Scott Rizzo
- Art Sulzer
- Tyson Trudel
- Dick Wagner
- Joe Youcha

Elected initially at 2010 Conference; endorsed at subsequent conferences; for all intents and purposes, Steering Committee Membership is a function of willingness to serve.

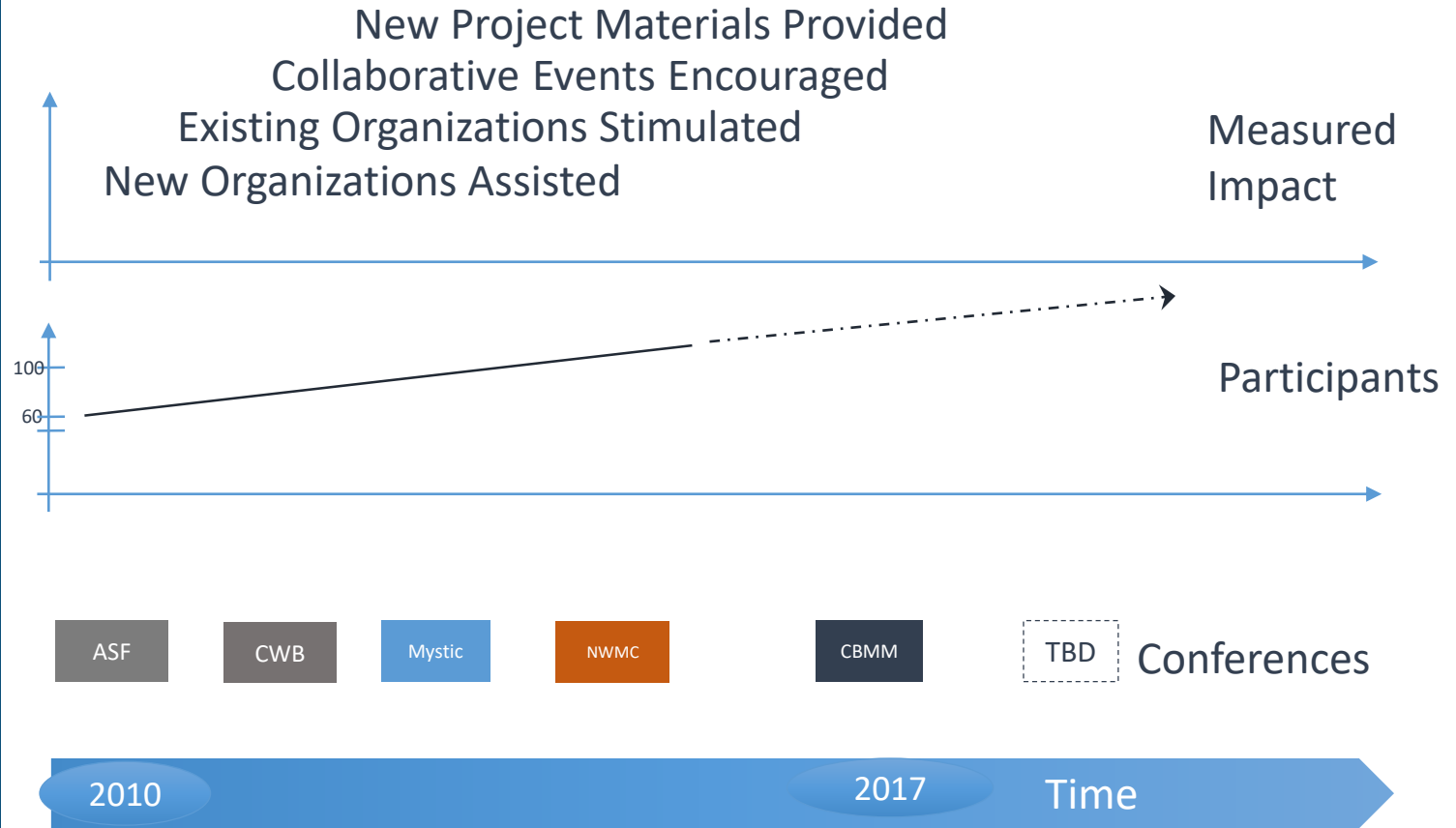
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Our Voyage So Far



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Reviewing the Situation

- TWSBA has done remarkably well.
- **Your participation has brought incredible results!**
- The status quo may result in future conferences; or perhaps we'll catch a crab and need to regain our rhythm.
- (doing a lot)/(zero budget \$) = ∞ efficiency!
- At worst, burnout and lack of financial resources could put website maintenance in jeopardy and impact probability of future conference success.

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Desired Functionality

	<u>Demonstrated Performance</u>	<u>The Future</u>
• Plan and convene TWSBA Conferences	☀️☀️☀️☀️☀️	?
• Maintain Website	☀️☀️⊙⊙⊙	?
• Invest in worthy projects	☀️⊙⊙⊙⊙	?
• Persistence	☀️☀️☀️⊙⊙	?

What about:

Avoiding Burnout

Improving Development

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Why Incorporate?

- Leadership processes that improve persistence.
- Financial Autonomy.
- Ability to take donations directly.
- Carry-over funds to support the next conference planning effort, website, and publicity.
- Increased collaboration with others.
- Liability protection.
- The down-side?
 - Incorporation requires work and commitment.
 - The charm of doing great things with a high degree of informality would be lost.



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A Way Ahead

1. Propose a Board Structure.*
2. Propose Election Process for initial slate and future officers.*
3. Continue with Steering Committee doing what they do; plus acting as interim Board.
4. Interim Board to select slate of initial Officers to take office upon incorporation and election.
5. Prepare organizational documents.*
6. Discuss Pros & Cons
7. Vote
8. If endorsed, implement
9. If not, carry on with status quo

*with pro-bono assistance from Drew Englund;

Drew@nonprofitlaw.com

<http://www.nonprofitlaw.com>

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Possible Board Structure

- TWSBA Chair
- TWSBA Vice Chair
- TWSBA Secretary
- TWSBA Treasurer
- TWSBA Board Members (5)

Total of 9 Board Members (odd number)

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Mission & Objectives

Vision: Educational Boatbuilding organizations provide sustainable, persistent, and effective educational opportunities to a range of students through hands-on learning.

Mission: Promote the interests of the Educational Boatbuilding community.

- Highly inclusive membership; marine/maritime organizations providing educational opportunities to their local communities, generally as non-profit organizations, but not exclusively.
- Including associated organizations that are supportive or collaborative with other member organizations.

Objectives:

- Plan and conduct conferences on an approximately bi-annual or potentially more frequent basis.
- Maintain and develop helpful materials and make available to all member organizations.
- Maintain a website to facilitate communication and document management.
- Promote collaboration; local, regional, national, and international.
- Promote CTE.
- Document best practices.
- Promote leadership diversity and youth involvement in TWSBA.
- Measure performance.
- Conduct development to support TWSBA activities; manage a budget suitable to achieve the mission objectives.

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Typical “Voyage Plan” After Incorporation

- Operate on similar tempo to informal Steering Committee actions.
- Tempo driven by conference planning.
- Seek direct donations and establish account to ensure timely planning and conduct of special projects.
- Semi-annual Board Meetings by teleconference or other means; conference planning by conference committee following current practice.
- Semi-Annual or more frequent newsletters to membership with summary of accounts and status report.

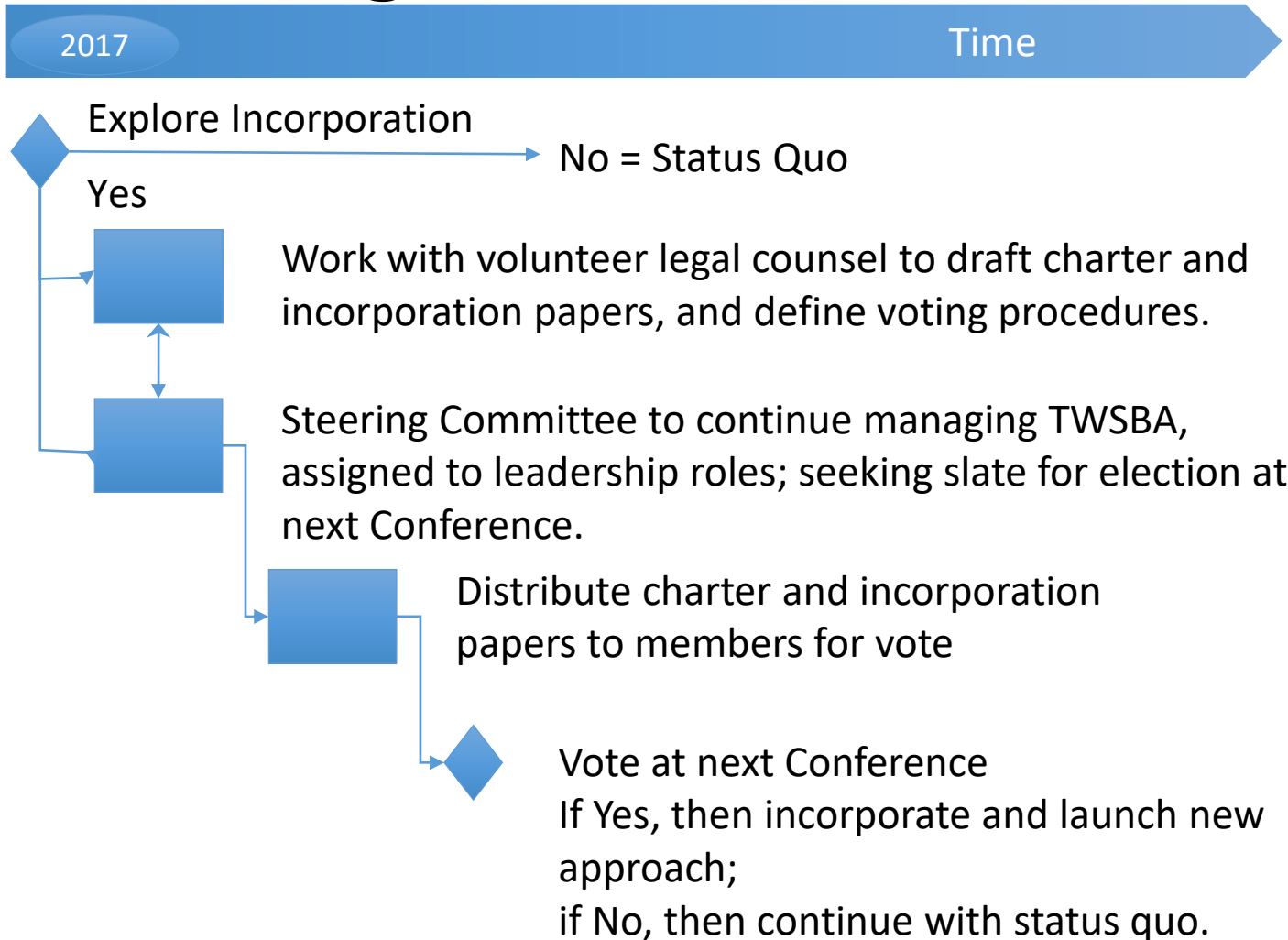
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Planning Process



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Questions

- What additional questions come to mind?
- What suggestions?

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Thank you!