

Minutes – Barcelona – 10/30/2007; 9:26 a.m., in Ramon y Cajal Room, Historic Bldg, Univ of Barcelona

Attendance: F Cuthbert (Pres), D Shealer (VP), Xavier Ruiz, B.A. Schrieber, Kathy Parsons, Jennifer Stucker, Ricardo Zambrano, J Spendlow, K Hobson.

Meeting called to order by F. Cuthbert at 0926, 10/30/2007.

Old Business: additions to agenda, 1) electronic discussion of publications and 2) discussion about participation in upcoming international meetings

MOTION: Jennifer Stucker made motion to approve agenda as amended, Chris Custer seconded.

VOTE: 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain

Approval of 2006 minutes: Jeff Spendelow noted several minor editorial corrections

MOTION: Chris Custer made motion that we approve 2006 minutes of Executive Council Meeting, Jennifer Stucker seconded.

VOTE: 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain

Election Results report by Jeff Spendelow

We had 2 candidates for President and Chip Weseloh was elected as President and we had 3 council seat with 5 candidates vying for the seats. John Coulson, Linda Wires, and Becky Harris elected to council. We had a 20% increase in number of ballots this year. Francie Cuthbert encouraged Patty Szcys and Brian Palestis to participate in committees. Discussion on 20% increase in voting and recognition that while that is positive, we are still only experiencing 25% of overall membership participating in elections.

David Shealer presented overview of scientific program: 250 total talks, Xavier confirms that only 8 have withdrawn. There will be over 90 student presentations.

Xavier Ruiz presents overview of non-scientific program (social program). Meeting will begin with entrance party. Each day we will have 2 coffee breaks, am and pm, during sessions. Poster sessions (with refreshments) will be in entrance hall. Field trips on as planned. Boat trip may be cancelled, due to weather, plan b for cancellation. All departures at 7am from historic bldg, all leave together and then split for separate field trips. These will be full day trips, arrive back at 2000. There remain some openings for field trips, but not many seats left. The council informally thanks Xavier Ruiz for his efforts in organizing the meeting.

Officer reports

Finance committee report: presented by B.A. Schreiber. (Comm. Members are E. Urban, S. Bouton, F. Buckley, B.A. Schreiber). The total endowment is ~ \$163,000. Report for the Kushlan and Nisbet funds, currently has \$268,000 and \$41,000 in Nisbet fund.

Kushlan gave us \$25,000, Nisbet \$5,000; added \$26,000 to endowment from extra cash in checking account and proceeds from participation in Veracruz meeting (~\$6600). We

now have over 100,000 in 5 year average, currently at 117,000. B.A. stated now is time to look at possibly withdrawing up to 4% year if we decide, but need to determine what to spend it on?

B.A. Schreiber stated it might be nice to decide on how to spend \$\$ by establishing a committee to decide how best to spend the money. Ideas include perhaps give student financial awards, do we want a color page(s) in journal, or more pages in journal, etc. But all of these ideas could be considered formally thru a committee. Jennifer Arnold is looking at development committee. B.A. recommended we have a ¼ or ½ page ad in journal to encourage members to consider WbS in wills, something to give incentive to members to remember the society. Also, maybe have something on the webpage to promote this too.

B.A. stated that we have lot of excess money in cash account, what to do with this excess cash? Estimated income is ~72,000; we have excess of ~84,000. (see BA's handout). B.A. mentioned that we should get an additional ~\$43,000 in Jan (dues money), which adds up to \$154,000 total. After estimated budget, that leaves us with ~\$84,000 in excess. B.A. suggested we invest in endowment, 35,000 now, 35,000 in March 08. B.A. also stated the council could approve take up to 3% of endowment principal to cover expenses that may come along. B.A. states that we stand to lose money in money market if we keep excess cash there, versus putting it into endowment.

Chris Custer had concerns about B.A.'s figures stating that they were inflated. Part of the cash on hand (~82,000) includes Kushlan \$25,000, plus there is still a sum of money needed for last issue of journal. Additionally, Chris Custer stated that the money market brings back ~4.5%, not ~2.5%.

John Coulson questioned the policy on endowment. John Coulson cannot see logic in many of the figures, the columns do not add up on excel file. John suggests member of councils look at table and see if it makes sense to them. He stated the totals don't add up, appears to be numerical errors, 5 year average he sums to be 107,000, not 117,000. Dave Shealer raised the question about who produces report. B.A. informed that Emil U does. John Coulson would like confirmation of endowment report, BA Schreiber suggested the president should get a copy too of Vanguard report; Emil Urban currently sends out the report to finance committee quarterly. John reported finding problems in report back to 2000. John Coulson is asking for figures to be checked. Francie Cuthbert recommends since we cannot answer questions here, we need an independent check on these figures, and report should be presented so that it is readable and figures can be verified. Dave Shealer recommended we consider paying someone to manage our accounts, but that is costly. Chris Custer thinks that since Emil Urban is retired, he can fill in the blanks, and present a clearer report.

ACTION ITEM: Francie Cuthbert recommends a conference call between Chris Custer, Francie Cuthbert and Emil Urban to make a plan and go forward. Francie Cuthbert will communicate with council after results of conference call.

Francie Cuthbert had question about setting up Nisbet or Kushlan fund, what is recommended contribution to start. B.A. Schreiber said we need to establish policy, have

society inform members of what we need for an endowment and what areas. We need to establish minimum amount, so that we don't have the problem of not enough \$\$ to generate anything but more paperwork than money. For example, student endowment to provide \$300/year, you could pull it off with ~10,000. Kathy Parsons stated that this gets back to reasons for strategic plan for financial investments, endowments, etc and therefore a need for committee to develop strategic plan.

MOTION: Dave Shealer moved to accept financial report, Jennifer Stucker second. 7 yea, 0 nay, motion passes.

Treasurer's report (Chris Custer)

Chris Custer reports we are in excellent shape. Revenues from BioOne ~\$13,000 and JSTOR \$2200. Also, the \$5 dues increase also increased revenue. Overall, \$8,000 more than last year total. Bioone has steadily increased, up to \$13,000, unsure of when this revenue from BioOne may level off. Also, JSTOR is now a beginning revenue source. Our biggest expense were printing/postage of journal. We printed 150 fewer copies, but USPS had postal rate increase, costs overall remain relatively stable. Many of our regular members selected "paper" or "paper and electronic"; few chose "electronic" only. For students, ~ 50% of students chose "electronic only".

Chris Custer stated total anticipated revenue for this year is ~\$82,000. Chris showed pie charts of revenue sources, membership dues are half of revenue, page charge and electronic access constitute remainder with 72% of costs is journal. Chris Custer mentioned that page charge is voluntary, roughly \$20,000/year.

Chris Custer stated that anticipated total expenses are ~\$67,000; resulting in net of ~\$10-15,000. B.A. Schreiber asked if we should split up OC, OSNA costs and not list them under dues. Chris Custer viewed these costs as "services rendered".

B.A. Schreiber asked is we paid student travel awards; Chris Custer confirmed that we spent about ~\$2,000 on awards for students. Francie Cuthbert stated that the student awards committee asked for additional \$600 from WBS, stated some people have cancelled so probably would not use as much.

B.A. Schreiber asked when are we supposed to do audit, are we supposed to do it every 3 years. Chris Custer stated we are due for one in 2008; B.A. Schreiber asked if it was an extra cost?, Chris stated should be an extra \$500. Chris states she uses a CPA in LaCrosse to do this, will have him do it again in 2008; the CPA generates a report.

Francie Cuthbert had question about page charges, are people paying? Chris Custer says we have been consistently good in collecting page charges, federal/state pay the best; universities pay the worst. Chris Custer feels it is as good as it can get, lots of authors from developing countries cannot paid. Chris Custer stated she bills everybody but doesn't feel much we can do about increasing those who paid. Chris recommends status quo since we don't want to discourage folks from submitting manuscripts because they cannot pay. Jeff Spendelow had question on page charges, sometimes payment comes in a year after journal is out. Chris Custer stated this is atypical but sometimes they come in

1 year later. David Shealer stated that using grants often no budget for page charges, but sometimes pay at end of year when in the black on budget. Chris mentioned that roughly 50% pays some part of page charges.

B.A. Schreiber asked question about International Award. Confirmed that we did not present award so \$3,000 less on expenses.

Ricardo Zambrano asked about auction for student awards, not many folks brought things; what to do with few items – could we do a live auction; should put out announcement to see if any folks brought items. Make announcement at opening about auction

Discussion regarding reducing Allen Press costs. Costs associated with this involve back issues and claims. Council asked pub committee to inquire with Allen Press about costs of storage, destroyed copies, etc. Pubs committee should find out mailing costs, cost of back issues; cut our inventory down to 10 copies of issue. B.A. Schreiber would like breakdown on what we are paying to Allen Press. Chris Custer will get the breakdown info so what we know the specific costs are from Allen Press; estimate \$1,100 to 1,400 to if we remove multiple copies of back issues. Chris Custer says we are currently printing ~50 extra,

ACTION ITEM: Pubs Comm. should decide on how many back issues to keep, Francie Cuthbert recommended we review past years and see how many we have in excess at end of year; Chris Custer says it is variable annually, but could review number.

Chris Custer report on 2008 budget. Budget looks much like 2007, expenses and incomes stay about the same. Budget reflects conservative income from BioOne, JSTOR, assume membership dues stay stable, page charge income stable, estimated budget of \$72,000. Chris Custer will add \$500 to budget for 3-year audit due in 2008.

Chris Custer recommended we establish levels for our 2 awards (intl and student travel), gives committee guidance to plan on amounts to give.

Chris Custer recommends we consider upping from 500 to 600 pages for journal, B.A. Schreiber asked how we calculate extra page costs; Chris Custer uses per page costs from last 5 issues, Chris Custer says doesn't know if we go over certain weight, could cost more postage at USPS. Chris Custer estimates \$2,000 costs; most costs in set-up, only adding 25 pages not much cost.

Chris Custer recommends pubs committee to look into electronic submission of manuscript, look at strategic plan for this. Chris Custer reviewed Scholar One, setup \$2,000, cost \$7,000/year; recommended using operating budget to create account for electronic submission budget. Keith Hobson mentioned using Allen Press for electronic subscription. John Coulson expressed reservations with elect access; not as personal. Keith Hobson stated if all else working as should; would save journal editor time, wouldn't have to hire somebody to do all the paper work. Saves bookwork, excel files, lots of hands-on time that is saved, uses central repository. Clay voice support for Allen

Track, Dave Shealer agreed don't have to bother editor himself. Keith Hobson already tries to use electronic as much as possible, sends out review to authors via electronic; less than 15% send in paper copy, most use electronic editing. Keith Hobson feels it has to ultimately happen.

MOTION: B.A. Schreiber moved that we have pubs comm. investigate costs going to elect submission using commercial body, finding out services available and associate prices for these services and talk to editors about what they like, dislike, and produce a report. Ricardo Zambrano seconded. 7 to 0 in favor.

ACTION ITEM: Council asks if pubs committee could investigate the journal using electronic submission – get prices, details from 3 companies; show breakdown of total costs, savings, etc. Discussed pros and cons of using electronic versus current method including issues related to paperwork, selection of Associate Editors, communications (or lack thereof) with editor, use of server (increase of security), cost/efficiency of either method, and is electronic submission more or less attractive to potential submitters. For now, discussed spending money to add pages to journal in lieu of electronic submission for this year.

Discussion of increasing number of pages in journal. Keith Hobson recommended at least 16 pages an issue, up to 96/year. B.A. Schreiber asked should we consider changing the size of the journal; big complaint is size of figures; increasing page size allows us to increase figure size. Francie Cuthbert asked if we are premature about asking about this, should we wait. Keith Hobson says we could increase page numbers now, consider page size later. Chris Custer unsure of costs associated with page size for overseas, recommends we first vote on increasing page size, then investigate upping page size. Dave Shealer asked if 2008 budget includes upping page number, Chris Custer says no. Dave Shealer made a motion that we table page numbers until editor's report. There was no second, motion was struck from table. Keith Hobson said he could address this now. Journal is currently at 16-18 papers per issue, looking at 50% rejection rate. Keith Hobson said we could have 5 more papers per issue with this page increase.

MOTION: B.A. Schreiber made motion that we increase page number by 96 pages, Jennifer Stucker seconded. Discussion about including word "scientific" pages, Francie Cuthbert asked what would it take to include ads (wills), other ads, how does this fit into our overall pages; Keith Hobson says this will be +/- a few pages, we can accommodate these in each issues. The main thing is we have 596 total pages at end of year, Keith can decide allotment. John Coulson suggests membership may feel isolated from society, might be wise to devote couple of pages to updating members about society in journal, this was lost when no longer had paper copy of members/society updates. Francie Cuthbert stated we could also include Kushlan/Nisbet awards in journal. B.A. Schreiber says AOU includes supplement that has announcements of society. John Coulson thinks it should go in back of journal, back 2 or so pages. Discussion was asked if we had a policy for including what things (minutes, budget, updates). Ricardo Zambrano asked about delays of issues, also being electronic, do most people care and if this is something we should use for journal, how about a newsletter. Jeff Spendelow says we use to have a bulletin and journal, we no longer have bulletin. Members can lose touch with society, how about sending out e-mail; but not every member has e-mail.

Francie Cuthbert asked straw poll if in favor of ~2pages dedicated to members news; upcoming meetings, Kushlan awards; have pubs committee look at this, also investigate how many don't have email. Send out e-mail newsletter, use OSNA to send out these e-mails. Council decided to table electronic voting issue for later.

VOTE on motion to increase page numbers by 96 pages, 7 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain. Motion approved.

ACTION ITEM: Francie Cuthbert ask pubs comm. to look at announcements in journal

Discussion of reducing journal inventory at Allen Press. Chris Custer posed the question of do we want to maintain 50 or less (or more), how many copies? Cost is approx \$100; 25 copies would be a little more, b/c of pulping costs. Chris Custer says we used to sell many, now we don't since electronic copies. Chris Custer recommends we pulp any issues greater than 25 to be pulped; at only 11cents an issue, not a big cost. Keep 25 in perpetuity. Put one year hold on reducing any to pulp. John Coulson reminded it does pay to have some copies available.

MOTION: Chris moved that we put back issues inventory to no more than 25 copies, keep moving wall at 2 years, maintain 25 copies of regular issues and reduce inventory at Allen to no more than 25 copies older than 2 years prior to current year. Dave seconded. Motion carried unanimous, 7 yea, 0 nay, - abstain.

Chris Custer recommended making levels for 2 awards, it is currently difficult for committees to know how much to spend, can they solicit proposals, nominations (int award), could establish minimal amount to take out of operating funds and augment from silent auction. Discussion of whether or not to include in budget, Kathy Parsons stated we should keep in budget to show commitment to these awards. Chris Custer agreed, recommends we do this to ensure it's in the budget. Noted that Intl award already in budget for 2008; we need to put student awards there since we don't have an auction this year.

Francie Cuthbert discussed student travel awards for this year; this year strategy has been to spread money around, cannot fund any student completely. 10 awards were given for \$200 each, all but 1 accepted. Noted that \$200 went a long way for each student. Francie Cuthbert recommend \$1,000 budgeted and then add from surplus, auction, etc. Kathy Parsons asked if we had standing expense for \$1,000 student awards, is this responding to Chris Custer's recommendation; Chris Custer expressed concerned if we had a financial disaster, how do we make our books balance; if we make these awards not discretionary to ensure we budget for them. This would tell the committees the head-ups that they have the money so they can plan accordingly; prevents time spent and then told sorry we don't have any \$\$\$. Jeff Spindelw stated that we vote on a budget each year, this gives treasurer guideline for minimum amount to include so committees at least know to plan. B.A. Schreiber stated we voted on intl committee, authorized \$1500 per person;

MOTION: B.A. Schreiber made a motion to add \$1,000 student awards line item in 2008 budget, Ricardo Zambrano seconded. VOTE: All in favor, 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

Discussion on surplus of \$62,000 at end of 2007, income coming in of 74k, total of 65k in excess. B.A. Schreiber expressed concern keeping excess cash in 4% money market account. B.A. Schreiber recommends \$30,000 now and \$30,000 in March in endowment, that way we could start taking out 3% (~4.5k) by next year from endowment. Chris Custer stated endowment is for handling market in the long term and added if WbS going to go electronic with commercial company, we use surplus to offset costs, risk-free, to meet these needs. Chris reminded that market corrections put us in hole in 2001, if we go electronic, short-term investments for short-term needs like electronic submission. Discussion continued on management of our endowment, stock market, whether or not we losing money by not putting more into endowment, concern expressed over upcoming expenses. B.A. Schreiber recommends invest most (surplus) in endowment, Chris Custer preferred we wait until end of year to balance books, come up with accurate excess cash to decide on keeping and then to invest, other expenses, etc. Dave Shealer stated we need to vote to abolish \$100,000 average in order to use to these expenses if we need to use them for elect sub, other expenses. Jeff Spendelow asked how do we handle Kushlan and Nisbet, B.A. Schreiber stated 4% a year. Francie stated we need to resolve issue of endowment, can we dip below 100k; need some \$ in less volatile accounts. Kathy Parsons asked for clarification if this discussion is speaking for investment committee or for yourself. Recommended that put this to the committee so they can send us a recommendation. Chris Custer says we think we'll have \$14,000 in excess, we can decide how to spend once we look at pubs comm. actions related to elect submissions. ACTION ITEM: B.A. Schreiber will go to Finance Committee to decide how best to spend \$\$, Chris Custer will send out final amount by early Jan to give us amount of excess cash. Decide then on endowment and/or short term investments (elec sub).

MOTION: Francie Cuthbert asked if we can accept the treasurer's report. Ricardo moved to accept the treasurer's report. Jennifer Stucker seconded, VOTE: All in favor, 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

Editor's report

Keith Hobson reported 110 manuscripts submitted so far this year, should be around 130 manuscript by end of year with a ~50% rejection rate. Symposia/special publications include Chesapeake, Wood Stork, Rice and waterbirds, Cormorant; also approached by folks with Harlequin duck research. All of the special pubs in varying stages of development. Journal needs a book editor, Ian Nisbit mentioned he might be available for this. Discussion of Rice and Waterbirds special pub, Kathy Parsons stated lead for that is Chris Elphick, co-editors are Kathy Parsons, Chris Custer, and Lourdes Muica; plans to pub by 2nd half of 2008

Keith Hobson stated 3rd issue being mailed out now; December target date for Chesapeake Spec Pub. Discussion pertained to what is protocol for rejecting/accepting manuscripts for special publications; do we normally have special publications that weren't involved in WbS meeting? Kathy Parsons recommended drawing MOU on special publications issues to include page charges, postage, quality of scientific articles, Chris Custer says we have something available in draft form. Dave Shealer mentioned symposium on spatial-temporal seabirds and population genetics going elsewhere to other journals.

MOTION: Dave Shealer moved to accept Editor's report, Jennifer Stucker seconded,
Vote: All approved, 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

Publications Committee report.

Electronic access seemed to have gone fairly smoothly, no reports of any real problems. Request new assignments for pubs committee. Discussion of special issues, 2 issues not available electronically on JSTOR/BIOONE. EO Painter has archival copies for electronic online of special pubs; discussion on how we get the two that aren't available online. The cost of making special publications available would be \$1500 for BioOne – Swan and Integrated Waterbird Management. Francie Cuthbert stated she thinks it's important that we are consistent, but it is also expensive.

MOTION: Dave Shealer made a motion to put Swan and Integrated Waterbird Management available on BioOne for max of \$1500, Chris Custer seconded; call to question if \$1500 would cover the expense.

VOTE: 0 yeas, 7 nays, 0 abstain. Motion failed unanimously.

MOTION: Jennifer Stucker made motion to put Swan and IWM issues on BioOne for maximum of \$2,000, Dave Shealer seconded; Motion discussion: this is much money, but will generate hits, unknown on Swan interest, but IWM symposia maintains interest.

BioOne has generated money beyond expectations. \

VOTE: 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain. Motion carried unanimously. Funds will come from this year's budget.

Membership comm. Susan Elbin (presented by Francie)

The society has 80 new members, 634 renew, did not have part of registration for NAOC. We did sign up 14 new members at NAOC, but unsolicited. Discussion about how we recruit new members, general comment at OSNA meeting was OSNA form allows multiple memberships to sign up simultaneously.

Membership is 80% north American, student members has increased in past years, static at 120 student members; 6 new life members, also had 125 lapsed memberships. Susan Elbin and committee e-mailed lapsed members about why dropped membership (based on 14% response), reasons included budget cuts, career changes;

Chris Custer suggested contacting lapsed members by March, reminder for renewal. SG should be able to provide e-mail to send out to, Chris asked about temporary BioOne access for potential members, lapsed members, we should put this to pubs comm.

Question about Taiwan meeting, was it set up the same way – no. Kathy Parsons recommended that Membership committee track members, send out e-mail reminder.

MOTION: Dave Shealer made the motion that membership committee track members, send out e-mail reminders to lapsed members, Jennifer Stucker seconded,

VOTE: motion carried unanimously, 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

Nomination Comm (Jeff Spendelow)

Policy of Nomination Committee has been adhoc, do we think we should have some way to bring back past presidents, council members, to council to get them involved. Francie Cuthbert asked how difficult to get people to run; Jeff Spendelow stated more difficult for officers, not as hard for council members. Discussion about names for Nom Committee; Kathy Parsons asked if the committee looks at different geographies, different taxa, and

Jeff Spendelow indicated the committee tries to find diverse candidates; informs them that they are expected to serve 3 years, come to meetings, be involved, etc. Discussion about keeping experience on committee versus getting new people, recruiting members from Europe, and expanding cohort to 4 councilors, expand wider coverage geographically, 4 council for 3 years. Francie Cuthbert stated that this could reach out and get more coverage, but also concerns about reaching a quorum. There are additional concerns that International meetings the council may not make a quorum. Discussion about whether past councilor could vote for someone else in abstencia. B.A. Schreiber and Jeff Spendelow expressed concern because would have someone voting who wasn't elected by membership. Jeff Spendelow recommended expanded council. Kathy Parsons recommends this is way to grow society; if we do want to advance international aspect of society, we need to include this in strategic plan (e.g. fund foreign council members). This is all part of strategic plan for WbS that needs to be developed. For this year, Nominating Committee needs to elect treasurer (Chris Custer) and 3 council members; Jeff Spendelow recommended new members on committee, Ricardo Zambrano volunteered for Nom. comm. Francie Cuthbert stated Dave Shealer as President will tackle strategic plan, consider idea of expanding council. Kathy Parsons expressed concern about too many members on council may make for long council meeting. MOTION: Jennifer Stucker made motion to approve Nominating Committee report, Chris Custer seconded. VOTE: All in favor, 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain. Motion carried unanimously.

Conservation Committee (Kathy Parson)

The committee is working on rice/waterbird, under auspices of Waterbird for Americas plan; Chris Elphick has headed this up. Symposia at Barcelona will be full day events, also go to Ebro delta. Kathy Parsons discussed about climate change affects on waterbirds, adaptation for waterbirds to make it thru climate change, affects on Gulf Coast, organize symposia for upcoming meeting.

The Rice symposia proceedings have raised 50% of money so far, looking to have special publications come out by mid 2008. Jennifer Arnold is point person for advocacy, but has not gotten any requests this year. Clay Green mentioned wind turbine issues in Texas, Ibis had special publication issue on wind turbines, potential to grouped with Climate Change

MOTION: Dave Shealer moved to accept the Conservation Committee report, Jennifer Stucker seconded.

VOTE: All in favor, 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain. Motion passed unanimously.

International Awards committee (Malcolm Coulter), Francie Cuthbert presented.

Unsure as to why no award for this year, may be due to restructuring of committee. Malcolm Coulter is stepping down as chair, still on committee. Guy Morrison is new chair, Peter Becker, Mike Erwin, Marou Fasola are on committee. WbS was supposed to give award at Barcelona, didn't happen; not sure exactly why. Changes in restructuring of committee, committee will press forward.

Student Awards (Linda Wires)

The committee has no report for 2006 because we met in Veracruz, no awards given. This year, \$1400 to spend, 10 students applied; decided to maximize student involvement. Also working with local committee, so we wanted to fund all students, offer each student \$200 (\$600 came from society). 9 accepted, 1 sick. Wide variety (US, Dutch, Argentina, India, Canada, UK); 87 student presentations, roughly 56 are presentations; For judging, we have 13 judges, worked with European to get European judges too. Jorge Saliva worked with Linda Wires on judging criteria, reduce subjectivity. Francie Cuthbert suggested looking at judges as potential committee members. Request for judges to go to as many papers as possible to have better opinion of all presentations/posters.

MOTION: B.A. Schreiber moved to accept the Student Awards report. Jennifer Stucker seconded. Discussion: Kathy Parsons said we need to expand committee members, find out how to get more students involved in society; this is the only committee that only looks at students. Discussion also about auction, should that be Student Awards committee job, or someone else. Decided that should be separate job. Francie Cuthbert requested room at Texas meeting for silent auction; question from Linda Wires about \$1,000 dedicated to student travel, this is not only money to use, but is at least minimum from society. Discussion about soliciting funding from agencies, NGOs, for travel for meetings (local committees, etc).

VOTE: 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain. Motion approved, unanimously.

Research Awards Committee (Francie Cuthbert for Mike Erwin)

Research Awards committee received 15 applications for Kushlan award and 3 applications for Nisbet Award. Nisbet was not awarded this year as no application was deemed worthy. Two awards given from Kushlan to researchers at Cornell and Texas State. Francie Cuthbert asked how do we better advertise these awards? Discussion about something besides web advertisement, should we send out e-mail announcement to student members, recommend Research chair send out e-mail to members, soliciting proposals. Discussion on how the money is spent (on research), and if we inform donors of research, post results, recommend generating retrospective of Kushlan/Nisbet funds, how money spent, publications generated, etc.

MOTION: Jennifer Stucker made motion to accept the Research Awards Committee report, Dave Shealer seconded.

VOTE: All approved, 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain, motion carried unanimously.

Outreach Committee (Francie Cuthbert for Jennifer Arnold)

Two main goals of the committee are 1) reformat/update of brochure and 2) soliciting donations. Brochure produced in English and Spanish version but need to revise since the current brochure is dated. B.A. Schreiber stated that a conference call occurred, will pass the English brochure around committee, send to council for comments. The Spanish version of the brochure is more up-to-date. The committee is also working on ads for journal for wills, etc.

MOTION: Jennifer Stucker made motion to accept the Outreach Committee report, Ricardo Zambrano seconded,

VOTE: 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain, motion carried unanimously.

Future Meetings (Francie Cuthbert for Chip Weseloh)

Clay Green gave report on Texas-South Padre Island meeting in 2008. Chip Weseloh stated WbS is still looking for 2009 meeting, perhaps Maine, last half of Sept, early Oct timeframe but may be too early in fall.

We need to discuss two upcoming meetings: the World Seabird conference in Vancouver (2010) and North American Ornithological Congress in Vancouver (2012). David Irons circulated e-mails asking if WbS would support World Seabird Conference and discussion followed if this would be our formal meeting; could we have a broader set of papers (e.g. waders, shorebirds, etc), unsure of willingness by WSC to have non-seabird papers at meeting. The council did not commit to having a meeting there, but WbS is supportive of it. Question posed to council if we want to meet there, do we want to be formal participant, also does this affect our participation in 2012 in Vancouver, do we want to meet them twice in 2 years. Jeff Spendelow expressed concerns about federal employees traveling to meeting(s) in Canada, experienced similar difficulties for Veracruz meeting. We discussed lessons learned from participating in NAOC, did it increase membership in WbS? Jim Kushlan (as President of AOU) requested discussion about our involvement and whether we would participate in future NAOC meetings. WbS Council expressed concern of having two meetings in Vancouver one year apart is not good strategy. Jeff Spendelow requested we should inquire with membership at business meeting, on whether they would attend if not includes other waterbirds; need more info on this before proceeding.

Council also had discussion about frequency of meetings outside of US/Canada. Chris Custer recommended going outside of US every 3 years; Jeff Spendelow and Dave Shealer concurred; Dave Shealer was going to ask Peter Becker about another Europe meeting for future date.

MOTION: Jennifer Stucker made a motion to accept the Future Meetings report, Dave Shealer seconded.

Discussion: Council provided answers to Chip Weseloh in regards to 2009 meeting: September better than October; find out if own agenda at Vancouver; and hold a straw poll at Business Meeting about participation in WSG or NAOC meeting (or both). Which meeting presents better opportunity to draw in new members, WSG or NAOC? Council preferred international meetings as every three years; but outside N. Am every 3-5 years.

VOTE: 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain. Motion passed unanimously.

OC update (Jeff Spendelow)

OC thanked WbS for increasing support. Discussed new restrictions about government members serving on outside boards, National Park Service has policy that any research done on parks is part of park collection, not museum collection. OC has been working on this, but no word yet. Revising of guidelines for use of wild birds in research.. The OC has picked Editor-in-Chief and editor is in process of picking associated editors for these guidelines. OC also investigating new policy for government employees and research B.A. Schreiber expressed concern about no audit of OC account, how are they spending money, wise use, etc.

Discussion of new chair for OC, Jeff Spendelow indicated he will not run for vice-chair again. Question on three groups OC is paying money to: all groups deal with treatment of animals for housing and during research.

OSNA update (Francie Cuthbert)

OSNA newsletter is now offered electronically, since the cost was high for paper, if want paper, member must pay \$5 extra. Savings will be reflected back to each society, ~\$600 for WbS. SG is running elections for other groups, something to consider for WbS. Consistent issue with about 10% of OSNA members not providing or not having e-mail. Council discussed mailing of postcard as election reminder, but must consider mailing costs. Discussion about using postcard to direct membership to website where all info would be available. We could still use paper if requested. Francie Cuthbert offered to handle elections, Clay Green and Jeff Spendelow can look at postcard option. The real problem has been not getting mailed received, or mail lost, but unsure of frequency of lost/delayed mailings. There would be costs saved with postcard over standard mailout. Look at EO Painter to print up postcards.

BioOne (Francie Cuthbert for Jennifer Wheeler)

No issues related to BioOne, WbS is pleased with performance of BioOne and revenue generated from hits/downloads of journal articles.

Website (Francie Cuthbert for Alex Wilke)

WbS has person who does website for free, (A Wilke, TNC) but need web designer if we want to revise website. Discussion about new fresh look for WbS website, Francie has several grad students to revamp site, change font issues, will present to council.

If items needed to be added to website, contact Alex Wilke.

Discussion about who should have authority to update website, how to update website, who should do this. Revamp of website will provide opportunity to update names

Discussion about having parts of website in Spanish and French.

Unfinished Business

Kathy Parsons asked about Distinguished Service committee. No nomination for this year, not actively solicited, plan to award in 2008. Dave Shealer has made request to step down, if someone interested. Is it clear that membership can participate in these processes.

Comm committee – to handle these sort of announcements in OSNA

- announcement in OSNA by VP and local committee.

MOTION: Jennifer Stucker made a motion to adjourn the annual council meeting of the Waterbird Society, Dave Shealer seconded

VOTE; 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain, Motion approved, meeting adjourned at 18:07.

