

## Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Waterbird Society

08 November, 2008 – South Padre Island, Texas

1. The meeting was called to order by the President at 15:47. Chris moved to accept the agenda, Jeff seconded. Motion passed unanimously. President David Shealer welcomed attendees, introduced his council, and reviewed the agenda.
2. David Shealer introduced and spoke on few subjects
  - a. Appointment of new editor, Bob Elner
  - b. Undertaking of WbS 2020 Strategic Plan (Erwin chair), based on 5-year running average of ~100k in endowment.
    - i. Mike Erwin spoke about strategic plan, hope to have draft available on runnings of society, the council, make-up of committees, draft not completed, but progress is continuing. Committee feels they are 2-3 months from presenting draft strategic plan, first go to council, and then to general membership.
  - c. Chip Weseloh presented scientific program overview, 25% student oral presentation, 50% student poster presentations.
3. Secretary's Report – provided by David Shealer and included highlights of the 2008 Executive Council meeting as follows:
  - a. Financial & Investment committee overview, decided that best to have endowment managed by professional financial firm, council voted to go with firm, charged committee with finding firm/person that we will go with, will require council vote.
  - b. Wording of endowment, 5-year 100k, original wording was to draw 4%, since we don't want to draw from more than 50% of S&P 500; we will now draw ½ or less than that of S&P500.
  - c. Going electronic, now offer electronic membership, discussions about going electronic submission process. Council voted last spring to approve the journal going electronic submission. Will not go immediately since Bob wants to feel his way first and then consider.
  - d. Contact with membership, council voted to move to electronic access (voting, meeting mailout, etc). Will still offer paper copy for those without electronic access.
  - e. Raising money for society, biggest is thru page charges, call on membership to pay your page charges, critical to keeping society in the black.
  - f. Website committee and outreach committee looking at ways to promote, increase, advertise about gifting to society – look for something soon. Have discussed way to set up endowment for student travel for future years' meetings.
4. Treasurer's Report – 2008 was good year, will finish in black, looking at ~15k in black. Reviewed main revenue sources (dues, page charges, BiOne/JSTOR), main expenses is print/mail journal, operational expenses are stable, new editor expenses (\$16k), BioOne expenses stable too. 2009 budget, project revenue \$81.3k, expenses 81k, in black < \$250.

5. Editor's report – increase from 500 to 600 pages per year, roughly 16-18 articles per issue. V31(3) in the mail, V31(4) come out in Dec/Jan. Several special issues coming out as well, they are revenue neutral. Journal receives 170-200 ms/year, roughly 54% acceptance rate, disproportionate acceptance rate skewed to N America, acceptance rate lower in other counties.
6. Committee reports:
  - a. Jeff Spendelow reports working on nominations for 2009 election, all candidates lined up except president position
  - b. Jeff Spendelow reports on OC, permitting issues, use of wild birds in research, call to consider donation to OC to continue to operate OC.
  - c. Susan Elbin reports on Membership committee, track membership, send out reminders to renew, new efforts to get more students involved, working with Linda Wires (Student Awards) to encourage more student participation. Membership continues to grow, need to continue to find ways to keep members and attract new members.
  - d. David Shealer discussed ways to keep membership, discussed involvement in European and other countries, our desire (or if not) to be an international society.
  - e. Kathy Parsons (Cons committee chair), talked about mission of Cons committee (charged by the EC), discussed climate change seminar in 08 and rice seminar in 07, rice working group in final stages of special issue on "waterbirds and rice". Comm wants to involve members, chair is committed to putting info on website to foster comms, now time to start thinking about Cape May, also announcement of John Cohen as co-chair.
  - f. Future Meetings – Cape May, NJ for 2009 meeting, tentative plans to meet in Europe in 2010 (offer from Germany, considerations for UK, Netherlands), looking at Midwest or Caribbean in 2011, and confirmed NAOC in Vancouver for 2012.
  - g. Cape May (2009): Nellie Tspoura presented overview of 2009 Cape May meeting, supported by NJ Audubon Society, discussed activities of NJAS, seawatch will be in swing when meeting occurs next year, good birding trip opportunities, Nov 4-8, 2009.
7. Jeff moved, Chip seconded, Membership voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 16:50.