

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Waterbird Society

07 November 2009

1. The meeting was called to order by the President at 17:12.
2. Approval of minutes from 2008 (SPI), Dave Shealer cleared up some confusion from the 2008 business meeting minutes about endowment and % withdrawal.
 - a. Motion: Joanna Burger made motion to approve the 2007 Business meeting minutes, Peter Frederick seconded. Motion carries unanimously
 - b. Motion: Jeff Spendelow made motion to approve the 2008 Business meeting minutes, Joanna Burger seconded, Motion carries unanimously
3. Introduction – Dave Shealer
 - a. Endowment, sufficiently healthy, have moved our endowment to Parsec financial, more to come from BA Schreiber
 - b. 2020 – Strategic Planning committee (Mike Erwin), available to all membership, more to come from President on status of plan
 - c. Updated website, Patty Szczys, allows control of our own website, try to correct out-of-date information, allow committee control of specific webpages to keep them up-to-date
4. MOTION: Joanna Burger made Motion to adopt agenda , Jeff Spendelow seconded, motion carries unanimously
5. Secretary's Report (Clay Green) – recap of Executive Council meeting; MOTION: Mike Gochfield made a motion to approve the Secretary's Report, Francine Buckley seconded, motion passes unanimously
6. Treasurer's Report (Chris Custer)
 - a. Gross revenue was 90k, expenses 70k;
 - b. Original treasurer's report on website
 - c. Reviewed expenses – printing and mailing, BioOne, editorial expenses, BioOne is absorbing some of our costs which has led to decrease in BioOne expenses
 - d. Reviewed incomes – membership dues, page charges, BioOne/JSTOR income; unsure if JSTOR/BioOne is leveling off, but seems to be strong.
 - e. Gail Fraser asked if IRS tax-break for page charges, yes
 - f. MOTION: Ian Nisbet made Motion to approve Treasurer's Report, Francine Buckley seconded, Motion passes unanimously
7. Editor's Report – by Dave Shealer for Bob Elner
 - a. Transition between editors went smoothly, some issues with authors and acceptance of ms, Dave Shealer dealt with these personally and all issues are smoothed over
 - b. Thanks to all members that reviewed papers in Bob Elner's first year as editor
 - c. Summarized submission/acceptance statistics of manuscripts, reviewed manuscripts from international (non-North American) authors.

- d. Acceptance rate declined from 54-38%, due to more submissions, and some papers needing rewritten for standard of English; Don McCrimmon commented that when he served as Editor he often send out papers as review even if English poorly written, but encouraged these papers to be reviewed b/c the science may still be sound and worthy of publication.
 - e. Dave Shealer discussed offering electronic based journal that could accommodate status updates, surveys, etc that could be an alternative to submissions not sufficient for Waterbirds but still deserving of publication.
 - f. Peter Frederick requested to see trends in submission over time to better understand submission rates, acceptance rates
 - g. Don McCrimmon said that the electronic based journal that dealt with status updates, population surveys would be very beneficial, and worth further pursuing.
 - h. Paul Buckley asked if refereeing standards would be the same for electronic based journal; Joanna stated that the Waterbirds should still publish really good status updates/surveys continue to be included and accepted in journal. Paul Buckley also brought up the idea of supplementary information online for the electronic versions of the journal. Mike Erwin asked if Bob Elner will publish Editor's note every year, strong support by membership for Editors note, at least on website, if not in journal. Paul Buckley asked about advertising opportunities for the journal, Dave Shealer said that not sure our journal would attract many advertising
 - i. MOTION: Peter Frederick made motion to approve Editor's Report, Ian Nisbett seconded, motion passes unanimously
8. Nomination: Jeff Spendelow's report – reviewed election results, already have 6 candidates for 2010 election.
 9. Membership: Susan Elbin's report – 711 members, 110 student members, 50 life, 539 regular members, large international members 42 countries,
 10. Conservation: Jonathan Cohen newest chair of Conservation Committee, goal to become more active in between meetings, in addition to supporting symposias, special issues of waterbirds; had conservation meeting during WbS annual meeting, discussed putting together listserv. Goals of – develop/disseminate info, develop/disseminate support of conservation, use of science and policy; rebuild conservaton database of membership to offer expert opinion, perhaps conservation awards (in and out of meeting),
 11. Future meetings (Chip Weseloh): Chip stated that we do not yet have location for 2010, Proposal for UK but no local committee, waiting on more info from Nebraska/Platte River, have talked about meeting with Intl Crane Working Group, possibilities with Costa Rica, Cuba, cruise ship.
 12. MOTION TO ADJOURN: Joanna Burger made the motion, Peter Frederick seconded, meeting adjourned at 17:55