

16 March 2011

Waterbird Society Business Meeting

Holiday Inn Midtown, 2503 South Locust Street, Grand Island Nebraska

Meeting called at 1646 by Chip Weseloh (CW)

Patti Szczys motions to approve agenda, Gail Fraser seconds, approved unanimously.

Patti Szczys motions to approve minutes of last meeting, Jeff Spendelow seconds, approved unanimously.

Patrick Jodice delivered the Secretary's Report. The Council Meeting focused on the review of the 2020 document which was previously made available to all members via the web page. The document was reviewed section by section and each recommendation discussed, revised as needed, and voted upon. Jodice also reviewed discussions from the Council meeting pertaining to the Ornithology Exchange and Ornithology Council and The World Seabird Union.

Chris Custer delivered the Treasurers Report. She reviewed the status of our primary revenue sources, primary expenses, and endowment funds (which as of 1 Jan 2011 had a balance of ca. \$634k).

The Editors Report was prepared by Bob Elnor (absent) and delivered by Chip Weseloh. Waterbirds had ca. 117 submissions during 2010 – March 2011. 2011 is lagging behind 2010 in terms of submissions so far. The status of volumes 33 and 34 was reported. The special section on DCCO is being prepared for Vol 34 and the Plover special section is in prep. Bob Elnor will serve through 2012 as Editor and the editorial search committee is active. There was a request from the audience to have the Editor clarify a statement made in his letter about the lag in submissions for the year to date and how that relates to the current acceptance rate.

Jonathan Cohen delivered the Conservation Committee Report. During the Cape May meeting there was discussion about redefining and revitalizing the role of the Conservation Committee specifically with respect to advocacy actions. The first step was to strengthen the relationship between WbS and the American Bird Conservancy (ABC). The Conservation Committee organized the Oil Spill Symposium at the current meeting, and will follow-up with an oil-spill symposium at the November 2011 meeting as well. Jeff Spendelow suggested that the WbS Conservation Committee contact the Chair of the Conservation Committee of the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG; Craig Harrison) to initiate a conversation about the way in which PSG handles advocacy matters (which they have been doing for many years).

Chip Weseloh delivered the Future Meeting Report. There is a goal to increase the planning horizon for future meetings. The 9-13 November 2011 meeting will occur in Annapolis MD. The Society will meet at NAOC in July 2012 in Vancouver, BC. There is a proposed meeting for late September 2013 in Germany (perhaps scheduled adjacent to another avian meeting). Meeting locations for 2014 and 2015 are not set although the Florida Keys (2014) and India (2015) have been mentioned as possibilities (n.b., the second World Seabird Conference may also occur in 2015, location currently undetermined).

Kathy Parsons delivered additional details about the November 2011 meeting. Possible themes/topics for the meeting include the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Patuxent lab, a monitoring and/or tracking workshop, a follow-up to the oil-spill symposium, a session on salt marsh passerines, and a session on transboundary management and conservation issues. There was a request to investigate the possibility of USGS workshops being offered adjacent to the meeting time; this would be another way to tie-in more strongly with Patuxent.

Dave Shealer delivered the Awards Committee Report. There were 14 proposals for the Kushlan Award and 2 were funded. Ten proposals were from outside North America with 4 submitted from Nepal. One award was provided from the Nisbett fund.

Linda Wires delivered the Student Awards Report. There were 16 student travel proposals and all were provided some level of funding, totaling ca. \$3000. The Crane Trust also provided housing for some students. There were 42 student talks and 11 student posters. Linda Wires will be stepping down as Chair and Gayle Fraser will be the new Chair of the Student Awards Committee. Linda was thanked for her years of service as Chair of the Student Awards Committee.

Susan Elbin delivered the Membership Committee Report. We currently have 709 members from 43 countries. The goals and objectives for 2011 include increasing membership and marketing the Facebook page. Dave Shealer mentioned the possibility of memberships being set-up to auto-renew each year, i.e. you remain a member unless you cancel your membership and your credit card is automatically charged. This would be an option, not mandatory, but might serve as a way to retain members. There was some indication that this might occur regularly in some European societies. There was some discussion about the need to increase membership (should we try a membership drive? What is our target membership size? Why work to increase membership if we are financially in the black? Should we target state agency biologists?).

Jeff Spendelow delivered the Nominating Committee Report. The next ballot will include 3 council members and President. Chris Custer will run for Treasurer again. Jeff will be resigning as Chair of this committee and a search is in progress to find a replacement. The Society thanked Jeff for 6 years of service in this position.

Jennifer Arnold delivered a report on Outreach. A Spanish translation for the new brochure is in preparation and an additional translator would be valuable. The Society had a booth at the World Seabird Conference. Jennifer is resigning as Chair and was thanked for her service to this committee.

Bruce Peterjohn (absent) provided a report for the Bylaws Committee which was delivered by Chip Weseloh. The question of whether we could move the 2010 annual meeting to March 2011 was resolved and minor changes were made to the Bylaws. Bruce is resigning as Chair and a replacement is being sought.

Chip Weseloh reviewed the status of Chairs and encouraged members to consider offering their services. Resigning Chairs include Jeff Spendelow (Nominating), Jennifer Arnold (Outreach), Bruce Peterjohn (Bylaws), Malcom Coulter (International Awards), Erica Nol (Publications), Susan Elbin

(Membership), and Linda Wires (Student Awards). To date the only definite replacement is Gayle Fraser for Student Awards.

Dave Shealer reviewed the status of the Strategic Plan, Vision 2020. A draft is on the web. Council approved the document during the Council Meeting on Sunday, 13 March. A revised version will be made available. We will now move into the implementation phase. Suggestions regarding implementation procedures are welcome.

There was a brief discussion about whether or not highlighted articles on the Waterbirds BioOne page should be open access and the membership generally support the idea. Ellen Paul mentioned that there was a section of the Ornithology Exchange (OE) that allows for Research Highlights and Journal Club discussions and suggested OE could also be used to highlight Waterbirds papers.

Jeff Spendelow moved to adjourn the meeting at 1748 and Jenn Stucker seconded the motion.

END

Respectfully submitted

Patrick Jodice

[pjodice@clermson.edu](mailto:pjodice@clermson.edu)

864-656-6190