

14 August 2012 – University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Waterbird Society Meeting—Executive Council

Present – Bob Elnor, Chip Weseloh, Felipe Chavez-Ramirez, Kathy Parsons, Brian Palestis, Susan Elbin, Gail Fraser, John Anderson, Dave Moore, Peter Becker, Stephanie Jones

On Skype – Chris Custer, Patty Szczys, Jennifer Arnold, Jorge Correa-Sandoval, Dave Shealer, John Brzorad

Meeting called to order by Kathy Parsons at 09:14

Kathy Parsons – welcome to everybody, thanked Bob Elnor for his work. Introductions by everybody present and on Skype

Kathy Parsons – thanked Erica Nol, Gail Fraser, John Anderson and Bob Elnor for their service and welcome Stephanie Jones as incoming Editor.

Kathy Parsons asked for a moment of silence for two long-time WBS members, John Ogden and Jorge Saliva, who passed away recently.

Bob Elnor – Local Committee report, provided meeting overview, WBS exhibition booth set up will start Wed morning, booth will be manned at specific times throughout day. WBS lunch is on Thursday, WBS business meeting at 1700 on Thursday, Saturday banquet at Museum of Anthropology.

Approval of Council Agenda

- Add Secretary's Report in between ByLaws and Archives

MOTION – Chip Weseloh moved to approve the council meeting agenda; Gail Fraser seconded –
MOTION PASSED

Minutes from previous meeting (Annapolis 2011)

No comments

MOTION – Gail Fraser moved to accept the minutes from the 2011 Council meeting, Felipe Chavez-Ramirez seconded – MOTION PASSED

Outreach and Communications Committee– Nellie Tsipoura

Website needs some updating, website does not link into Journal table of contents. **Action Item:** Kathy Parsons would like O&C to look at WBS 2020, 4 specific recommendations from WBS 2020 for the O&C to take for actions. Nellie asked for assistance from council to bring to the attention of O&C for any errors, updates needed on WBS website. Look at ways O&C and Membership committee could work together in preparation for Germany 2013 meeting. Dave Moore would like to join O&C committee.

MOTION – Dave Moore made motion to approve the O&C Committee report, Susan Elbin seconded, MOTION PASSED.

Conservation Committee – Jonathan Cohen

Susan Elbin gave report for Jonathan. Charlie Clarkson has been acting as Co-Chair. Biggest activity was depredation order for DCCO. Current work on Panama Bay wetlands, letter to President of Panama urging protection of wetlands in Panama. Committee asked for council and members to bring conservation matters to their attention. Committee plans to look at several conservation issues in Germany and Europe in preparation for 2013 meeting. Chip Weseloh asked if we knew anything about Deepwater Horizon effects on waterbirds, recommend we have symposia in future about conservation issues and potentially even special publications. Gail Fraser mentioned that pre-spill data needs to be in place to assess post spill. Data may never become available due to legal constraints. **Action Item:** Recommendation for workshop, symposia, etc to discuss oil spill studies, lessons learned, data, bring in NERDA, get suggestions from council and membership to conservation committee for workshops, symposia. **Action Item:** Kathy Parsons asked committee to develop plan for awarding best conservation-oriented papers.

Briefly discussed 2013 meeting and urging suggestions for Symposia submissions and recommendations.

Dave Moore asked about 2020 recommendations, partnering with NGOs to look for overarching similarities between society and NGOs. Society should look at conservation issues more broadly, think strategically, instead of piecemeal approach to focus on specific species. John Anderson concerned about conservation movement as main focus, versus the study of waterbirds; recommends we make sure we remain study of waterbirds, piecemeal approach for conservation can work, not forgot our main focus. Stephanie Jones likes piecemeal approach because we can use energy/efforts focused on species, it makes something happen. Kathy Parsons said we can take broad outlook but also have focus on specific issues.

MOTION – Felipe Chavez-Ramirez made motion to approve the Conservation Committee report, Dave Moore seconded, MOTION PASSED.

Jonathan Cohen came on via Skype, Kathy Parsons brought him up to speed on discussion of committee

MOTION – Gail Fraser moved to appoint Charlie Clarkson as co-chair of the Conservation Committee, Chip Weseloh seconded, MOTION PASSED.

Research Awards Committee – John Brzorad

Discussed the proposals received for the Kushlan and Nisbet research awards. One group of proposals are scientific, research, experimental design and the second groups are from other countries, tend to be inventories, surveys, the latter are of conservation value but different categories than the first group. Committee proposed rubric for consideration. Committee wants feedback from council on rubric as well

as proposed new research award since Nisbet and Kushlan awards are taxon specific . Council needs to discuss and decide on idea for working with developing countries before we proceed. John Anderson put in plea for monitoring data and for the society to support this, needs to be rigorous monitoring but important to support. Chip Weseloh recommended we have a grant that preferentially focuses on developing countries for monitoring, conservation, thesis research. Clay Green stated that we still need to keep funding awards of quality scientific research, regardless of location, on equal footing, Jen Arnold concurred with funding studies on equal footing. John Anderson asked that we consider monitoring and inventory studies as valuable and worthy of funding.

Dave Moore reported on proposed 2012 awardees for Nisbet and Kushlan, Rogers Makau (Kushlan) and Kyle Elliot (Nisbet).

MOTION – John Anderson made a motion to withdraw funds for research awards, Chip Weseloh seconded, MOTION PASSED.

Action Item: Kathy Parsons asked committee to develop rubric, make recommendation on new award, balance between scientific rigor, impact of Nisbet/Kushlan awards (how successful have we been), engaging developing countries.

Jen Arnold volunteered to track past recipients (pubs, results, etc) and also volunteered to serve on committee for Recognition Committee

MOTION – Gail Fraser made motion to accept Research Committee report, Chip Weseloh seconded, MOTION PASSED

Recognition Awards – Dave Shealer

International award has not been given in many years, neither has been Distinguished Service (since 2005). Need to publicize these awards to solicit nominations. Clay Green and Dave Shealer recommended International award recipient for next year's meeting. Chris Custer recommended we consider funds for the International Award. **Action Item:** Kathy Parsons seconded Clay Green's suggestion to have International Award by next meeting. Jeff Spendelow recommended Mike Erwin as possible chair for committee. Need someone with history of society, international contacts, etc. Identify and give distinguished "impact" award for Germany meeting, change name to something holistic, consideration of honorary member award, distinguished service award.

MOTION – Dave Moore made a motion to accept the Recognition Awards committee, Chip Weseloh seconded, MOTION PASSED

Nominating Committee report – Dave Shealer

Dave Shealer reviewed list of candidates for Council (5 candidates with the passing of Jorge Saliva). 2013 plan to get council slate and election before Sept 2013 meeting.

MOTION – Felipe Chavez-Ramirez made motion to approve the Nominating Committee’s report, Clay Green seconded, MOTION PASSED.

Bylaw committee report – Chris Custer

Chris Custer asked that any questions about bylaws can be sent to Jeff Spendelow and committee can meet to discuss, review bylaws. Kathy Parsons stated committee should be re-active as questions arise about bylaws and proposed changes.

MOTION – Motion to approved Kathy Parsons, Dave seconded, MOTION PASSED.

Secretary’s Report – Clay Green

Clay Green reviewed motions voted on since Annapolis 2011 meeting. First motion was 11 to 5 votes, Clay Green will be liaison with OSNA, sit in on quarterly conference calls. Clay Green will also work with Ellen Paul and Chris Merkford for OE forums.

Action Item: Kathy Parsons discussed finance roles of Treasurer, Finance Committee, etc. In that document includes tasking of Secretary to manage page charge process, working with Secretary on page charge incomes, improve documentation. Clay also discussed 2013 plan for an electronic ballot, spring mail out.

MOTION – Gail Fraser made motion to approve the Secretary’s Report, Dave Moore seconded, MOTION PASSED.

Archives Committee – John Anderson

John Anderson mentioned that the committee has not been functional committee for some time. No committee report received. Roger Clapp is chair of record for the committee, John Anderson has been talking with Arcadia NP about archiving process, something we may do as well. Archiving is lot of work, menial work, need to get paper copies scanned, John Anderson asked society what do we want archived, Kathy Parsons asked John Anderson to serve and chair, and then have committee come together with recommendation of what specifically to archive. Advantages of housed at Smithsonian is documents are stored in archival vaults. Kathy Parsons asked John Anderson for what council needs to do, additional resources, what does society need to preserve and what documents should we preserve.

Action Item: John Anderson will put together plan to send to council. Dave Moore recommended that John Anderson be listed as co-chair of committee.

MOTION – Kathy Parsons moved that we appoint John Anderson as co-chair of the Archives Committee, Susan Elbin seconded, MOTION PASSED.

Felipe Chavez-Ramirez mentioned use of graduate student (historian) to begin archiving process. Dave Moore asked about what data needs to be provided to archiving for the future.

MOTION – Chip Weseloh made a motion to approve the Archives Committee report, Gail Fraser seconded, MOTION PASSED.

Society for Ornithology discussion - Kathy Parsons

Latest news on SFO, Susan Elbin gave report, push to be more international, SFO may want to take over some/part of role of OC. Some momentum has been lost, vote for SFO will probably not occur in Vancouver. Discussion of federation brought back, but not pushed forward. Wilson, RRF, others are out. Kathy Parsons stated we have remained neutral b/c we have not learned everything about SFO to make an informed decision. WBS is not locked out of joining, but we are not currently in discussions of SFO. Wednesday night discussion on SFO to be held during Vancouver meeting. John Anderson feels that SFO is solution to problems that our society is not experiencing as much as others. John Anderson recommends that we as a society respectfully withdraw from all further consideration of formation of SFO. Kathy Parsons states that the collation of information about society woes and how we as WBS could use those to help us. Clay Green recommended that we make a decision as a society and tell SFO that we want to remain independent. Kathy Parsons would like us to let membership know the council stance and report to the membership the pros/cons and encourage membership response. John Anderson stated that SFO goes against our mission of being an international society (e.g. North American). Kathy Parsons asked question on how much of our membership knows about SFO. Concerns listed in SFO plan align with our concerns in 2020 so Kathy Parsons asked we look at our strategic plan and think about the 2020 recommendations and envision scenarios for the future. This will help us in reaching out to general membership about our reasons and encouraging them to remain members of WBS.

Chip Weseloh asked if we need a vote by council on our stance on SFO, Kathy Parsons asked why do we need this now since we have not been asked by SFO, John Anderson asked that SFO give us real facts on how SFO would be beneficial for us to merge/join. Be prepared at business meeting for question fielded about SFO, council is investigating the details and requests feedback from membership before we proceed.

Future meetings – Chip Weseloh

Peter Becker gave report on Germany 2013 meeting including estimated registration costs, field trips, 3-4 plenary sessions, estimated 250 -500 at meeting. Chris Custer mentioned we had 200 non-members attend Barcelona so feel that we can make 250+ at the meeting. John Anderson asked if we could suggest more symposia.

Felipe Chavez-Ramirez went over meeting proposal for 2014 to La Paz, Baja California Sur. Proposed venue Hotel Perla for rooms and meeting space. Chip Weseloh recommend approval of La Paz proposal. Dave Moore asked if we would be competing with tourists during time of meeting.

MOTION – Chip Weseloh moved that we approve proposal to hold our 2014 annual meeting in La Paz, John Anderson seconded, MOTION PASSED.

Jen Arnold asked if we had alternate in the states. Chip Weseloh recommended that we put 2015 in Eastern US since three meetings have been away from our base. John Anderson would like to see East coast meeting in near future and offered to put in proposal for 2015 in Maine. Kathy Parsons stated society is committed to 2015 Atlantic coast meeting.

MOTION – Chip Weseloh made a motion to approve the Future Meetings report, Bob Elner seconded, MOTION PASSED.

Student Activities – Gail Fraser

At Vancouver, WBS will hand out 2 awards, one oral and one poster, as waterbird papers. Gail Fraser asked question about one example of student doing waterbird paper but joined AFO b/c it was cheaper. Can we have cheaper student membership fee, electronic only. WBS awards will be grad students only. John Anderson added that his students did receive travel awards, as did Gail Fraser's, from NAOC so that is positive. Kathy Parsons asked how many WBS members attending NAOC are students? Kathy Parsons went thru 2020 plan and reiterated having Student Activities committee look at the plan to see about trying to implement. Clay Green mentioned the lunch idea with professional like AOU did in Seattle 2000 meeting.

MOTION – Felipe Chavez-Ramirez made motion to approve the Student Activities Committee report, Susan Elbin seconded, MOTION PASSED.

Editor's report – Bob Elner and Stephanie Jones

Bob Elner and Stephanie Jones will be getting together during meeting to discuss turnover of editorship.

Bob Elner's report: 2011 had 109 submissions, should end year with over 120 submissions for year. Uncertainties with other ornithological journals may have resulted in increased submissions. Bob Elner indicated we have enough submissions to complete 2011 journal issues. Reviewed submission and acceptance rates from across the globe, submissions from over 30 countries but lack submissions from Europe, Mexico, New Zealand, Australia. Acceptance rate ~65%, up from 2008-2010. Bob Elner is working with Chip Weseloh for DCCO special issue, out by October.

Kathy Parsons thanked Bob Elner for his service and performance

Publications Report – Chip Weseloh (for Erica Nol)

Erica Nol offered to look into online journal for inventory/monitoring papers that are fit for the Journal. Kathy Parsons asked how special pubs impact our readership, what is their value? Rice, Harlequin ducks, plover special pubs have done well. Kathy Parsons said that special pubs are great venue for our society, increase our appeal. Stephanie Jones asked if Editor was member of Pubs committee and Erica Nol requested that Pubs committee be made a standing committee in WBS.

Action Item: Kathy Parsons asked the Publications Committee to review the Strategic Plan for tasks specific to the Publications Committee.

MOTION – Kathy Parsons made a motion to approve the Publications Committee Report, Gail Fraser seconded, MOTION PASSED.

Membership Committee report – Brian Palestis

Gained and retained members from NAOC Veracruz higher than from Barcelona.

Kathy Parsons asked if we have surveyed membership for what they want, what could we do differently, explore ways to enhance, retain membership and/or what is the appeal of WBS to maintain membership. Gail Fraser stated PSG might be a good model for engaging students as members.

Kathy Parsons will make pitch to all membership to participate in society, ask Dave Shealer to find way to bring more students into council/committees,

Action Item: Kathy Parsons asked the Membership Committee to review the Strategic Plan for tasks specific to the Membership Committee.

MOTION –Kathy Parsons made a motion to approve the Membership Committee report, John Anderson seconded, MOTION PASSED.

Treasurer's Report – Chris Custer

- Equal revenue stream from membership dues, page charges and BioOne
- Timely manner of journal has helped our revenue from page charges and BioOne
- $\frac{3}{4}$ of our students, $\frac{1}{4}$ of regular members are electronic only, saves us ~\$4k in postage, etc
- Kathy Parsons asked about editorial costs for Stephanie Jones when she takes over editorship, Stephanie Jones said it should be similar to costs under Bob Elner. Chris Custer said she budgeted \$16K for editorship.

MOTION – Felipe Chavez-Ramirez made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Susan Elbin seconded, MOTION PASSED.

2013 Budget

Estimate \$106.5k revenue and \$81.3k costs.

New budget item is abstract/registration handling costs for software and/or services (\$2k), Chris Custer recommends we put a line item in for this.

Color plates in journal with picture for Jorge Saliva (Dec issue) and John Ogden (Sept issue), would be additional \$1,600 for color plates. This would go on 2012 budget. Vote to approve \$1600 expense for 2012.

Vote to increase student award to \$600 (from \$300)

MOTION – Chip Weseloh made a motion to increase 2012 budget by \$1900 (\$300 award, \$1600 color plates), Clay Green seconded. MOTION PASSED.

Discussion about stipend/travel costs for International Award (Kathy Parsons suggested we put in \$2k line item for this award) and another Research Award.

MOTION – Gail Fraser made a motion to add line items: \$2k (software), \$2k (intl award) to 2013 proposed budget. Motion to approve 2013 budget with added line items. Dave Moore seconded. MOTION PASSED.

Finance Report – Chris Custer

Chris Custer stated Parsec has done nice job

Clay Green asked about Kushlan endowment, can we give more money from Kushlan fund. Chris stated that we do not want to spend any more than ~4% of 5-year average return.

Kathy Parsons asked if Finance committee could help guide society to draw off endowment towards new research award, conservation grant, etc. Chris Custer recommended conference call to discuss use of endowment with Don McCrimmon, Jen Arnold, etc to look at recommendations to council.

Action Items: Kathy Parsons requested that the Finance Committee inquire about 1) Parsec providing more feedback on stock options, 2) pursue financial plan/policy in accordance with 2020, and 3) endowment recommendations.

MOTION – Clay made a motion to approve the Finance Committee report, Dave Moore seconded, MOTION PASSED.

MOTION – Chip Weseloh made a motion to adjourn the 2012 Executive Council meeting, Felipe Chavez-Ramirez seconded, MOTION PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 16:14

