

Waterbird Society – Executive Council Meeting, August 11, 2015, Bar Harbor Maine

Present – Kathy Parsons, Susan Elbin, Dave Moore, Stephanie Jones, Peter Becker, Chris Custer, Ted Simons, Clay Green, Jonathan Cohen, Chip Weseloh, Ricardo Zambrano, Erica Nol, Liz Craig, Nellie Tspoura, Patty Szczys, Pat Baird, Jan van der Winden, On Skype: John Brzorad.

Call the meeting to order at 8:34 am

Susan called the meeting to order, started meeting with moment of silence for Ruth Beck and Alan Johnson, Ruth Beck's biography read by Pat Baird, Alan Johnson's biography read by Susan Elbin.

Susan had council and committee chairs do introductions and welcome to new council members

Approval of Agenda: Kathy made a motion to approve the Agenda, Ricardo seconded, Change to Agenda to include Secretary's report. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 2014 Executive Council Meeting Minutes. Stephanie made the motion, Pat seconded, Executive Council Meeting Minutes approved.

Secretary's report (Clay Green): Discussed annual mailout, electronic voting, question about email out to membership, Pat asked if we know about email bounce backs. OSNA (SG) gives report to us for any membership bounce back.

39th Annual Meeting report: John Anderson and Erica gave meeting overview, Erica reported on scientific program for Maine, 118 presentations (29 posters, 89 talks), 31 student presentations. Number of symposia including aquatic passerines, behavior, AMOY group, plenary sessions, Erica recommended that abstract submission needs some formatting, correction, had to do index by hand, recommend practice runs for abstract submission before going live. Future scientific chair to be able to access program directly, Chris said we can work with programmers to get it tweaked to where it needs to be. John A thanked Erica and Patty for their work, anticipate 175 participants, about 100 people for pelagic trip. John talked about having other groups meeting with us. Susan asked about silent auction, it is in room directly behind registration desk. Erica asked room occupancy and financial. Printed programs may not reflect latest changes, Erica will report changes to program at meeting's opening plenary.

Editor's Report (Stephanie Jones): Steph sent around list of papers for Sept issue. Steph talked about submissions, rejections, etc. Steph posed question about who officially approves a Special Issue, does she or Executive Council, Chip recommended a one-page form that is submitted and gets routed and approved. Ted stated that for AMOY special issue, he received all manuscripts for those giving presentations. Question was asked about surveys/status papers inclusion in the Special Issue. Steph is open to surveys/status data papers but maybe more in the note category, does not want to relax standards for quality of writing, quality of work. John B said that you can report/publish data online, will get more info to council on this. Clay asked about rejection rate in Mexico (100%) is this because of quality of paper or non-native English speaking authors. Kathy asked about submissions, does Steph

received too many natural history papers, she said that submissions are down but quality of work seems to be where it should be. **ACTION ITEM: Asked about papers that get accepted but don't follow through with sending in final draft. Chris recommended Pubs committee to look into this. Stressed that it is acceptance with revision, so could be that authors do not follow through with revisions.** Current impact 0.637, down from 2012 but up from last year.

Publication Committee's Report (Clay Green): Steph asked about contract for Sandy. Chris asked if EBSCO conflict with BioOne, Brian will forward previous discussion with EBSCO and then send back out to council. Discussion about if we need online journal, Pat asked if we can already do this with our current journal, discussion about outlet for survey/status data, Keith Hobson has online journal, Pat B will provide info from Marine Ecology. John Brzorad offered to help but asked about differences between online journal and dataset online access. Recommended finding someone to help. Kathy offered to help. **ACTION ITEM: Clay to find point person, will recruit at meeting. Would need prospectus on costs, viability, time, editor, etc. Kathy mentioned the Bulletin is in our bylaws.**

Future Meetings Report (Chip Weseloh): Chip discussed future meetings, will get report from Sara Schweitzer after his report. Chip contacted Iceland contacts for meeting in 2017. Proposal received just prior to this meeting, Chip presented slides of Iceland about natural history, geology, birds, etc. Chip asked about PSG involvement, Kathy asked about scientific program, recommend climate change, marine oscillation, marine birds. Questions about costs of lodging, registration costs, travel, dates of meeting, on campus (dorms, etc), also about meeting with European bird group. Erica will send details from IWG to Chip since they are meeting in 2015.

Chip discussed possible meeting in Louisiana for 2018, will follow up with Michael Seymour in a few months since he is organizing SEPIF meeting this year. Erica recommended Caz Taylor be contacted as well. Discussion about possibly in Lafayette or New Orleans

Sara Schweitzer presented overview for 2016 meeting in New Bern. North Carolina. Hotels and convention center are adjacent, both downtown on the waterfront. Convention center is flexible to have concurrent sessions, separate room for auction, working with sponsors to sponsor specific event (e.g. break, reception, etc). Pat asked if dates flexible, move closer to NAOC dates, but the contracts are already signed and dates set in stone. Airport is only few miles away, Sara is working on shuttle options to/from airport. Ricardo asked about forum for students to exchange info about travel, coordinate shuttles, rental cars, roommates, recommended this for future meetings. Sara talked about registration options, ability to check options for guests (e.g. spouse, child, guest). Field trips including evening cruises, paddling club (kayaks), reserved Saturday field trips (1 day, 2 day trips). Sara asked about 40th anniversary ideas, Susan said she would get with Sara on this. Pat asked about range of costs for banquet, ~\$30/person, since 40th anniversary. Ricardo asked about field trips on Friday (break in between) since affords fed /state employees to attend meeting and include field trips within meetings. We agreed to keep it with current format (Wed-Fri, field trip Sat). Sara asked about other group(s)

meeting with us. Clay asked about other groups meeting with WBs during our annual meeting, what kind of support is required of groups that jointly meet with us. Groups that formally meet with us versus use our meeting venue to get together. Chris recommends a cut off date (e.g. 9 months) for a group to formally meet with us. Kathy recommended that we reach out to the group to invite ahead of time. Erica mentioned concerns that some could register for one meeting (AMOY) but attend both without registering for second meeting.

Membership Report (Brian Palestis): membership declining, down since 2012, questions about why not up from Baja meeting but Chris stated that Cipamex was cheaper in registration, opted for that instead of WbS and therefore did not gain new Mexican members. European members declined except for Germany, Spain, UK. Almost half (48%) of our members are >10 year members, rest are made up of new members (< 2, < 3, < 4 years, etc). Pat asked about any sort of membership benefits associated with our society, perhaps reduced costs on equipment, supplies, etc. Clay reported membership was ~630 in 2007, not down by that much in 2015. Ricardo asked about survey out to membership, why do you stop attending. Much discussion about benefit of survey or email of querying the lapsed members, is it worth it. Would there be any difference as to why they failed to renew versus other societies that are seeing the same problems. Chris recommended having student travel awards "required" to work some hours for the local committee (gives students a chance to help out society but also meet others). Jonathan encouraged students to come to the WbS business meeting, promote mentor luncheon, Liz will officially help/chair mentor-student luncheon. **ACTION ITEM: Kathy asked if any new members receive official welcome letter, Clay asked when would be good time for that info from OSNA to be sent to Brian and Membership, mid-January would be good time for initial list to go out that shows who is new member, welcomes the new members.**

Susan asked for motion, Chip moved, Liz seconded, to approve all committee reports from morning. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion about quilt made by Stephanie Jones for the Silent Auction: will offer raffle for quilt, begin selling tickets today, will promote selling. \$5/ticket, \$10/3 tickets. Proceeds will go towards student travel (50%) and AMOY special issue (50%).

Archives Report (John Anderson): John proposes oral history data collection at the New Bern meeting, using video/audio recording from early founders, history of society, invitation out to past presidents, other members that we want in New Bern to be interviewed. John also requested pictures from past meetings. **ACTION ITEM: John will set up drop box to collect pictures.** John B asked if oral history was video or audio, can be both. There was a discussion about possibly offering financial support for past presidents to travel if needed.

Treasurer's Report (Chris Custer): Chris reported the society was in excellent financial shape, expenses and revenues are increasing but at about same rate. The gap between expenses and income continues to be good, and widening some. While it only August, we are projected to be in good shape this year and end well within the black. Three revenue classes, page charges, membership, BioOne/JSTOR (Fig 3 in report). Chris discussed decline from 2013-2014 in BioOne revenue but appears to increase for 2015; overall seems to be a plateau of revenue. BioOne has been limiting which journals join BioOne which benefits us as our percentage is based on number of journals, number of pages, etc. Page charge revenue is variable, payment not mandatory, but recommend we continue to keep it voluntary. Chris does recommend we think about what it means to be a member as being a member is probably not b/c of journal, but for other reasons. Fig 4 is main sources of expenses. Print/mail journal costs variable but not affected by student members as those are electronic. Digital printing with Allen Press. BioOne/JSTOR costs have gone down, other expenses creeping up slightly (e.g. credit card fees, security fees,). Special projects that we feel will enhance the society, meeting, etc. Will discuss more later, at end of year, surplus goes towards endowment after special projects are spent for FY. We generally have ~\$10k/year for special projects. Chris reviewed breakdown of expenses for 2015 (Table 1 in report). Chris mentioned that at Erica's request, two possible services to consider. First service is V-cube that captures/archives meetings, estimate \$6k for 2 day meeting, assume this not include concurrent sessions. Chris asked if we could generate revenue from this? Could this affect our membership, attendance at meetings, could be negative, but could be positive for members outside NA that cannot attend but would view video. Nellie asked if this included live streaming and archiving, answer is yes. Second service is App for meeting, shows scheduling changes, updates, announcements. Pat talked about TWS meeting, app used to tweet about meeting, current talks, gathering. Others voiced support for something like this, use of Twitter account for meeting, etc. John B recommended we talk to students at this meeting about finding someone to organize this, query use of social media. **ACTION ITEM: Pat B, Nellie, Erica, Patty, Jonathan, John B, Liz, will discuss further to explore options. Nellie recommended explore App options. Recruit student at luncheon to lead/head/join this group.**

Kathy asked about liabilities on the treasurer's report, everything from special issues, to advances for meeting deposits (New Bern), or current meeting revenue (that will decrease as the meeting pays the expenses). Discussion about SG possibly no longer serving as managing group for OSNA, Ted will report at OSNA report.

Steph made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Jonathan seconded, Motion passed unanimously.

Outreach (Patty and Nellie): working on website, receive updates to website, post meeting wrapup, summary would be good to post on website. Post student awards. Erica would like to see archives of previous meetings (abstracts, program, etc). Recommend we have an official FB website for society, have link between FB and our webpage (news feed). John B asked about archiving ppts from meeting on

website, concerns about use of these presentations, permissions from authors, not yet published. Nellie recommended that maybe we get this from plenaries, save as PDFs so cannot be edited. Could possibly record plenaries for archiving. Sara S mentioned software for ride share (Griffin Groups), Pat talked about PSG chat room. Delete student FB site, creat official FB site. Kathy asked about exploring Instagram as opposed to FB. **ACTION ITEM: Create WbS Facebook site, investigate other social media outlets (Twitter, Instagram, etc).**

Student Activities Report (Kathy for Gail): Kathy summarized report, asked about luncheon which is scheduled for Thursday. Liz is added to committee. Erica asked about committee structure, should it be student-run, Chris recommended we add students, do we need a second committee. Clay recommends co-chair, one student, one professional for the committee.

Recognition Awards (Mike Erwin, report by Susan): No nominations received for 2015 meeting. Question asked about nominations, should they be annual, are we getting the nominations we need. Chris recommend that we don't necessarily need one every year, but there should be an annual request for nominations. Request for second international committee member to join committee. Kathy asked about Past Presidents serving on committee (after Nomination). Erica recommended that we increase the frequency, if not yearly at least every few years.

Grants Committee (Dave Moore): committee met at end of July, 2 candidate recipients for Kushlan and Nisbet each. The committee doesn't always nominate two candidate awards per grant but felt good on the quality of submissions. ~\$7600 (Kushlan), ~\$2100 (Nisbet), Committee will notify successful candidates, also announce at banquets. Dave stated that Jim Kushlan asked to track past recipients, if grant led to publications, historical report, Jim K would like annual report to him that tracks financial report on his endowment, previous award winners (and outcomes), current award winners, etc. Dave would also like council to consider funding projects that are survey/status/conservation focused project, especially in areas of world where some species may be critically endangered. **ACTION ITEM: Discussion about a third research award, Chris recommended that Ian Nisbet and Jim Kushlan be reached out to to confirm okay with. Recommend third research award, for all waterbirds,** Erica mentioned members could contribute to this award if it becomes more than from our operating funds. Jonathan will discuss in Conservation report about a conservation award, could use this criteria for the new research award. Kathy asked about Jim's intent on criteria, we have deserving proposals that are status/surveys but may not get published (also a criteria of the grant). Discussion about possibility of publishing these types of research in our journal. Should we fund their travel here, or at least encourage their participation. Pat asked that membership be required, discussion, propose 1-year electronic membership to society to grant recipients. Susan commended the committee for doing this during field season, getting the proposals reviewed and ranked.

Conservation Committee (Jonathan Cohen): Jonathan reviewed activities of the committee since past meeting. Criteria for Publication Award for contribution to conservation, put forth three criteria (test of management actions, species of conservation concern with clear management recommendations, and little-studied/at-risk bird with new knowledge/future actions). Dave asked if for Waterbirds only, answer is yes from previous council discussions. Nominations by committee would go to Pubs Committee and Awards Committee, Chris and Erica recommended meeting to meeting timeframe, suggestion of issues 3 & 4 (year XX), issues 1 & 2 (year XX+1). Clay recommend calendar year issues (1-4) are eligible, Steph said Conservation Committee can have final issue (4) to the committee by ~Sept, in time to review and make decision ~6 months before meeting. Discussion about funding travel for winner (one author, primary, corresponding, etc) to encourage recipient to attend. Chris recommended recipient is invited to apply for travel grant. Steph said we need to report all award winners in the journal. **ACTION ITEM: Jonathan will work on changes and send to Council. Steph would like all award winners, travel, cons paper, etc posted in last issue each year.**

Jonathan discussed conservation award, best student talk in conservation. Will work with Student Activities committee to include on judging, etc. Chris recommended talking to Gail. Discussion about criteria, how to distinguish this student award from others that we already present. Recommend we change it to oral or poster so either presentation is eligible. Council in favor of both of these suggestions.

OC Report (Clay for Ellen Paul): Reviewed report, Susan encouraged members to reach out to Ellen and OC for help.

OSNA Report (Ted S): Gave overview, Sean is incoming Pres/rep for OSNA society as it was WbS' turn for officer. Ted reviewed what OSNA (SG) does including membership, renewal reminder, keep database update, quarterly conference calls. Upcoming call for OSNA to potentially have new management partner (not SG), but AOU/COS has made it clear they will not be with SG in a year. Pat will send info on what PSG uses in case OSNA goes away. Concerns about the ripple effect from AOU/COS actions. Brian and Clay expressed good relations with SG, Erica said it is not bad that a RFP could promote best business to manage our database, meetings, etc.

ByLaws (Jeff Spendelow): Nothing new to report, as Bylaws were recently revised, no recommended changes to Bylaws. **ACTION ITEM: Chris asked that the most recent ByLaws changes be on website**

Nominations Committee (Chip reported): current past Presidents serve as Nominating Committee, 3 candidates for VP/PE, 2 candidates for Secretary, 5 candidates for Council. **ACTION ITEM: Pat asked**

about how ties are handled in elections, work to do for ByLaws Committee. Results will be announced at Business Meeting.

Finance Report (Chris for Jennifer Stucker): Request for more people on committee, especially someone with experience and/or interest in finances. Mixture of stocks/bonds, overall moderate performance but conservative mix of investments probably good in this volatile period. Kathy, Erica recommended we inquire more about Green energy. ACTION ITEM: Jennifer Stucker to contact Lenore Fahrig (Erica will send contact info, Greenchip Financial Group) about investments in Green energy.

Liz made a motion to approve all afternoon Committee reports, Steph seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Budget (2016): Kathy asked where \$\$ is shown that following end of calendar year, surplus of \$\$ goes to general endowment. Question about if this is reflected in both Finance Committee and Treasurer's report. ACTION ITEM: Chris will reflect in final statements for year to show movement of funds between checking and financial. We need to have this in our report.

Discussion on "new" special projects: Drop box fees (~\$500), increased to \$2,000 for professional fees. Susan recommended we increase \$500 to our annual contribution to OC.

Ted S recommended we use AMOY website builder for new WbS website, we can seek RFP to update our website.

Chip made a Motion to pass budget 2016 (include \$500 increase in dues to OC, \$500 increase for dropbox). Brian seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Pat B – for 2018, IOC is meeting (19-26 Aug) in Vancouver, BC. Bob E can offer free meeting space, facilities, to participate in meeting. Loan and percent of profit. For example, we donate 10%, make 10% of profit. Decision not due immediately. ACTION ITEM: Pat will share info with Chip and Future Committee meeting. Chris said if we are going to contribute, need to be involved so we can contribute, organize symposia, etc. Chip and Pat will discuss.

Add to Business Meeting, discussion about 40th anniversary planning.

Chip made a Motion to adjourn the meeting, Liz seconded, Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 17:11 pm