

Minutes taken at 2016 Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 20, 2016
New Bern, NC, USA

8:34 Call to Order E. Nol

Welcome by E. Nol, Council Introductions

Moment of Silence and Obituaries by Susan
Jeremy Hatch, Hugh Boyd, Luc Hoffman

Motion to approve agenda Zambrano/Green unanimous

Motion to approve 2015 Minutes Green/Baird unanimous
Thanks to C. Green for 9 years of Secretary Service

Secretary Report, P. Szczys
Electronic voting, New Councilor elections reported

Motion to accept the sec report Green

Amendments required:

***Add to the report announcement of the creation of the diversity

***Add to the report October 5th website motion + October 22 Iceland motion + 4600 for heron symposium. Patty will amend the report and then have council vote electronically

***Add phone vote to have meeting with IOC

Motion withdrawn by Green

Discussion of electronic voting-

Motion to disseminate public results of all voting distributed to all of council of Zambrano/Craig unanimous.

Discussion of electronic council ballots: happy with higher response than previous years- reasons? Earlier ballot?

40th Anniversary Meeting Report, S. Schweitzer

Sara started planning in 2015. We have access to entire convention center for the week. Wednesday fundraiser event was announced on local NPR station (wine and design) we take 25% of profit. Registration opens at 3:00. Welcome reception begins at 7, on veranda weather permitting. 5 hours of 1970s music! Wednesday begins with Plenary and Erica's Welcome, Sara and Clay will make introductions of plenary speakers. MBTA Centennial celebration: Wednesday evening with drink tickets. Ballroom C will house the silent auction all week we will make some adjustments to the ending time for auction. Kayaking on Wednesday evening as well. Thursday morning, 7am breakfast, Stephanie (editor) will meet with students to discuss publishing. Walk to Tryon Palace History Center for evening poster session 5:30-7:30 catered and open bar. Posters can go up about 3:30. We should encourage posters to go up early especially for judging. Registrants will get a unique bird band and door prizes will be given at various venues. Special thanks to Sara and her team organizing this excellent event.

S. Elbin- Joanna Burger has organized a photo presentation plus also some games (baby pics of past presidents)

Discussion of Raffle ticket price for Stephanie Jones's Waterbirds t-shirt quilt. \$5 or 3x \$10.

Scientific Program, C. Green. Numbers are still dynamic 102 oral presentations 69 posters plus 4 plenaries: Felicia Sanders, Walker Golder, Jim Kushlan, Bryan Watts, Kevin McCracken; Kevin McCracken is the inaugural Kushlan Chair in Waterbird Biology and Conservation at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. Many symposia and workshops. Herons of the World Symposium brought people from 19 countries to the meeting. AMBC meeting is a little bit separate for the poster session. Something like 70 student presentations this year.

Future Meetings, C. Weseloh. 2017 is in Iceland; 2018 joint with IOC in Vancouver, still looking for 2019 New Orleans/Louisiana potential perhaps even Cuba. Asian meetings have been problematic due to distance and cost. Gopi Sundar wants to help to organize this type of opportunity. He believes there is great interest. Discussion of meeting with other societies, weakness is the size of the meeting that results. We can always do 3 concurrent sessions on our own, adding another society increases this by 2-3. IUCN specialist groups Storks, ibis, spoonbills, etc. may be a very good possibility. 2019 needs to be east of Mississippi to maintain NA membership. **ACTION ITEM** explore Asia for 2020

Editor's Report, S. Jones. Special Issues AMOY will be out in early 2017. Number of submission is way down, but that doesn't include the special issues. SI takes energy away from the journal, but keeps page numbers up. Can we move to 5 issues / year? Rejection rate is increasing, but overall quality of papers appears higher. Rejection rates for Spanish-speaking countries is high, not a language issue, but rather a content issue. Discussion of special issues. Page charges come from regular issues, but not from SI. Both types generate BioOne income. Special Sections are in the works but following Loons, there are no other SI in the pipeline. Some groups have money for SI page charges. Chris and Steph will explore these options.

Editorial board and review should investigate rejection rates by gender country etc. Impact factor is low and may influence submission for some people. Though not abnormal for a highly specialized journal. **ACTION ITEMS: Gopi Sundar diversity issues**

Publications Report, B. Palestis. Cengage-Gale licensing is moving forward. Some discussion of who is chair of the Publications Committee. Brian will chair/co-chair and we will solicit new members at the business meeting. Jim Fraser will serve. Should Publications and Editorial Board have a relationship? Do we even need a Pubs committee? At some point hiring a new editor. Jim Fraser: Open source publication may drive up the impact factor and then feedback to increased submission rate. Could scan meetings and publications and solicit authors/students to consider Waterbirds for the publication. In what form should we send our newest issues to Cengage-Gale? Right now it will be paper copies, they prefer a PDF. We need to preserve our relationship with BioOne. **A number of ACTION ITEMS possible here.**

OSNA Report, B. Palestis. Sean Murphy is our official rep and happened to also serve as President of OSNA. Brian helped out in OSNA discussion because of this conflict of interest. OSNA left Schneider Group we stayed so now we have a strange situation because other societies went with MemberSuite we are sticking with Schneider Group so what is OSNA? Erica spoke with Bonnie at NAOC. How can we stay in OSNA for group mailings? Apparently we can stay for free

for a while to be part of the mass mailings. No longer have common membership form with other societies. OSNA doesn't really know if they will remain OSNA since this split and since OE functions in many of the same ways. AOS is large enough to pay someone to do the work that Schneider Group used to do, we are not. Is OSNA an incorporated entity? Chris- important for us to maintain connections with the other societies. Will we provide another rep after Sean completes his term at the end of the year? OE serves many of the functions that the OSNA so it is likely to dissolve over the next year.

2018 IOC, P. Baird. Met with Bob Elner (IOC convener). Report submitted this morning. International Bird Week in Vancouver that week. Involving the First Nations people. Conservation in the Middle East, with representatives from many countries. We should be the go-to place for PR related to the Waterbird portion. Opening ceremonies by same group as Vancouver Olympics. Society focused activities are in the works, paper session, symposia, student activities, business meeting etc. Rooms are gratis for an extra day of just Waterbirds stuff. We need to think through the silent auction. What are the deadlines for making these decisions? Competition for general session may be really high, so we may want to have our own sessions the day before. Some concern that this set up may self-segregate and not draw in new members, but may also be very good for student participant. Aug 20 is the opening for IOC, so we could have our sessions on Aug 20. Appears there will be high rejection rates. IOC voted that there would be no static posters rather more like lightening talks. Council meeting would be August 19. Pat will lead the organizing Waterbirds activities throughout the week. Pat can get rooms if people would like to convene informal roundtables. Formal workshops within IOC have a deadline for request, Pat will get that deadline. Send a request to all members as soon as we know the deadline. Symposia (pat submitted) already accepted: **ACTION ITEM: NEED TO GET NAMES OF SYMPOSIA Food Webs in Wetlands. See Pat's reports.**

Membership, B. Palestis 585 members, flat for a few years down just a bit from before that. 75% are US but 36 nations are represented. Renewal reminders and welcome emails to new members. Well-received. Letters include link to renewal form. Life member is an option and is separate from emeritus membership. Emeritus seems to be working well, includes electronic access only and retirement is required. 18 emeritus members currently.

Treasurer's Report, C. Custer. We are in excellent financial shape- revenue greater than expenses. All previous reports are posted on the website. Revenue is quite close to last year at this time, expenses are slightly up. Likely to finish the year similar to last year. Membership is plateauing. BioOne and JStor is important income. Cengage-Gale provides about \$600 to Wilson each year, we look forward to a new income stream. ~20K per year comes from page charges. Page charges require lots of follow-up to get the payments made. GoFundMe campaign was not widely successful, but we did collect ~\$1300 for the Heron Symposium this way. Membership rates have not increased in about 15 years so this needs to be discussed at some point. Electronic memberships are cheaper so this accounts for some of this. Journal is our greatest expense. Painter Publishing encouraged us to go digital and helps us to save money. Moving from 3-4 issues got us a better periodical rate. Publisher is very helpful in this regard. Other expenses are mainly smallish maintenance. Expenses now include the special projects funds. Chris will track that alongside the other expenses. Details of special projects are outlined in the report. In total about \$9000 were spent on special projects. About 30% of operating surplus goes to this fund before depositing into the endowment. Meeting proceeds have normally been added to the endowment. We are in a good spot so Chris suggests discussion of using this

revenue stream to support travel for the next meeting. This would require council action. Schneider group costs will be up to \$6000 for the transition from OSNA to our own database. We will not pay OSNA during the 4th quarter since we are already out on our own. Profit and Loss report is very consistent year-to-year. Student travel awards are 2500 this year. Chris outlined all details found her report. Net income is likely to be ~20k at the end of the fiscal year. **Kathy suggests that we consider a specific policy special issue page charges. Publications committee needs to discuss this ACTION ITEM.** Brian: Why does cost to print and post vary so much? Chris explains that the format of papers, tables and figures, changes the cost drastically. Chris double-checks the bills with high variance. Discussion of Bio-One revenue trying to explain a linear increase in revenue. Summary of Society, Kushlan, and Nisbet endowments come later in the agenda, but the outlook is good. Kushlan gave a few large deposits early, hence flat, Nisbet makes annual contribution, hence growth.

MOTION to accept Treasurers Report. J. Fraser/C. Green unanimous

Bylaws Report, J. Spendelow. How do we handle a tied election? This does not need to be handled by this committee at this time. Jeff deals with questions. **Bylaws maybe need to be update on the website, they don't appear to be the most recent. ACTION ITEM. Secretary should bring a hard copy of the bylaws to each meeting. ** remember to do this**** 2013 appears to be the last vote of change to bylaws according to Jeff. This was likely minor changes to the previous large changes to them following the strategic plan. Clay, Jeff, and Patty will get this together.

Archives Report, J. Anderson. Electronically documenting all history. Archiving all electronic messages (!). May be searchable in the future. Council, please participate in the video archive project. The Archive will be stored at CoA for now, but goal is to get it on the website for long-term access. John is covering a lot of this work at CoA with work-study students. Panel of Past-Presidents will be a good opportunity at lunchtime on Friday for recording. Dropbox is available for photo contributions.

Recognition Awards, J. Anderson. Less active over several years, so we are making a renewed effort and both awards will be awarded during this meeting. **ACTION ITEM Mike Erwin is stepping down in December. Gopi and Sara K are ending terms and John is ending in 2017. We need to find new members. Sara K could chair Patty will join if needed.**

Student Activities Report, J. Lamb. Report includes details of last year's winners. Photos haven't been submitted, we need timely photo publishing. 2015 Student Mentor Luncheon was a great success we have 35 students signed up for this year so we need some additional mentors. 24 travel awards funded mean award \$100. 54 student presentations. Events: Student-editor breakfast, roommate matching successful, AV support for sessions gets them involved, diversity lunch. Discussions for continuing the momentum of student activities- we are off to a great start. Bowling, button game, past-presidents passport etc. to get students integrated. Liz Craig is a new member of the committee. Strategies for getting students onto committees.

Conservation Report, S. Elbin. Selected a paper in Waterbirds that illustrated conservation ethic- our first award. Jonathan has been in discussion with Ellen Paul re: political action, but not much in the area of Waterbirds came up this year. Working with Student Activities for creating a paper presentation award for outstanding contribution to conservation. This will be developed for

2018. Clarification needed for what the awards are, monetary or books like other awards.

ACTION ITEM: Need to make a headline on the website of the Conservation manuscript award.

LUNCH BREAK

1:49 rejoin

Grants Committee Report, D. Moore. Kushlan award to a Tanzanian scientist ibis schizosome relationships and application to human health \$7000. 2nd award reddish egret population viability \$600. Two awards remain within 3% of 5 yr. running average. Nisbet award UC Santa Barbara western gull foraging behavior \$1100. Indian biodiversity society survey of gulls and terns to fill information gap \$950. Consolidating grant and financial reports for the endowment donors. Logistics are being ironed out for this round. Goal is to pull together for the year-end report. Partial report is required for Kushlan, December 1st at the latest. Will do for both endowments. 33 Kushlan and 8 Nisbet submissions. Review requirements are becoming more challenging. There is a grant service that was an intermediary for some of the applications this year. This made for a lot of extra confusion. **Dave will circulate the name of this service and we will update the website to reflect that we are not associated with this service. Only submissions directly to Dave Moore as indicated will be reviewed, or similar language will be developed.** **ACTION ITEM.** Cover page part of application will be updated so that excel can harvest data automatically. Awards will be announced at the business meeting. "Instrumentl" is the grant service.

Outreach and communications, N. Tsipoura & P. Szczys. Website overhaul and investment in social media. @waterbirdsociety Icelandic Brochure in the works. GoFund Me campaign raised about \$1000. Should be now converted to other ventures such as student travel to Iceland. Needs to be a personal story, discussion about strategies to maximize donation but retain flexibility. Patty is resigning so we need to find volunteers to work predominantly on the web. Amanda Moore may be an excellent candidate.

2017 Meeting Proposal- Sigriou Hronn Gunnarsdottir. 8-12 August 2017. Accommodations will be arranged for a variety of budgets. University of Iceland. Pre-tour and 2 post-tours are arranged. Council meeting 8 August. 1.5-2-hr mid week tours. Boat tour Thurs 10 August. Saturday 12 August, 3 options for full day field trips. Registration Site is set up for the event already. icelandtravel.artegus.com registration site and for booking tours etc.

OC Report, S. Elbin. Ellen Paul provided a detailed report. She also is very keen to facilitate ornithologists through the permitting process. American Bird Conservancy used to be our go-to for conservation issues. Susan gets ABC and Audubon alerts and brings them to committee. **ACTION ITEM: Susan suggests that someone (young professional) could take over her position if needed.** Small Grants program is available through OC.

Diversity Report, L. Craig and J. Lamb. Very first report of the diversity committee formed earlier this year. Committee formed in response to the HB2 issue with our NC meeting place. Susan and Liz are co-chairs with 10 additional members. Special fund to support travel to NC and the statement made to the membership seems to have influenced willingness to travel and meet in NC even under HB2. Stickers are colored logos to represent diversity. Stickers will be given at registration. Panel discussion related to diversity on Thursday at lunchtime. Discussion of broadening the focus to ethnic and other diversities. Discussion of what this committee may do

in the future and how to be proactive rather than reactive. Can we do community outreach at our meeting site. This committee should work with the Nominating and Student Activity Committees to make headway.

Nominating Report, K. Parsons. Slate of five council candidates- balloting was very successful this year. Proposal to amend the bylaws to designate a student representative. General agreement so discussion ensued regarding logistics of implementing. Committee will discuss and bring a motion to council. Kathy and Susan are co-chairs of this committee going forward.

Finance Report, C. Custer. Professional investment company, Parsec, takes care of this for us 0.6% of value is the fee. The allocations are made to ensure long-term stability. 2015 was not the best year in the stock market, but the funds are doing well. Committee is carefully managing the take for awards from endowment earnings. **ACTION ITEM: This committee really needs additional members.** Jennifer Stucker is stepping aside as chair at the end of the year but will stay on as a member. She recommends that Ricardo Zambrano take over as chair after several years of membership on the committee. Financial procedures policy from ~2011 is posted on the website. New members are Jim Fraser and Nellie Tsipoura.

Motion to appoint Ricardo as Chair of the Finance Committee effective Jan 1, 2017. Szczys/Elbin unanimous

Special Projects Report, C. Custer. Updated projects list is included in full reports. To add a new project, justification is needed for how it will impact membership, journal, meeting, or general society. If the request is made each year it no longer really is a “special project” and should be accounted for on the operating budget. Discussion of student travel funding. Cannot just waive the registration for students due to local budget for meetings. Discussion of how to increase funding and to leverage this for best use to meet society goals of diversity and membership. General support for increasing funding, discussion of logistics.

Motion to allocate annual meeting profits to student travel rather than being invested in the endowment. Jones/Brzorad unanimous.

Motion to allocate proceeds from quilt raffle be allocated to student travel awards. Szczys/Baird unanimous

2017 Budget Proposal, C. Custer. Detailed proposal attached Table 2. ~\$99k income ~\$76.6K expenses, projects another year in the black. minimum available for special projects is between 4 and 5k perhaps up to 10K.

Motion to approve 2017 budget proposal. Brzorad/Zambrano unanimous

Motion to approve Committee Reports exclusive of Secretary’s report Craig/Brzorad unanimous

New Business. Stephanie Jones. 40th anniversary celebration in the journal? Any suggestions? 40 years of species trends? Guest editorial future of waterbird research.

Motion: to provide electronic membership to international researchers who could not come to this meeting because of expense, this includes about 12 individuals. Weseloh/Jones unanimous

ACTION ITEM: Explore the opportunity to use webinar technology for international researchers in the future.

ACTION ITEM: S. Elbin. Past Presidents cannot currently vote in council, can we change this and do we want to?

Motion: to Adjourn Liz/Brzorad unanimous. 4:51pm