

2017 Council Meeting Minutes 41st Annual Meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland

Tuesday, August 8, 2017; 8:37 Call to order and Welcome from E. Nol

In attendance: Erica Nol, Kathy Parsons, Chris Custer, Clay Green, Patty Szczys, Dave Moore, Ricardo Zambrano, Juliet Lamb, Liz Craig, Pat Baird, Susan Elbin, Jim Fraser, Brian Palestis
Unable to attend: Sandra Bouwhuis, Dale Galwik, Erik Mellink, Sara Schweitzer, Stephanie Jones

Move to approve agenda Ricardo/Clay unanimous

Secretary 2016 Minutes: Amendments to 2016 Council Meeting Minutes: under scientific program “Add specifics here” | Joanna without the “h” | Bylaws: did the updates and posted on website | add attendance

Discussion of new grant award will be on agenda for today

Move to approve Chris/Jim unanimous

Secretary Report: Ten motions were made and acted on by the Council since the last council meeting in New Bern, NC. Check with Sara Schweitzer regarding electronic Motion #4: did the letter get sent?

Move to approve Kathy/Liz unanimous

Scientific Report: Clay. At writing, 92 oral, 24 poster, and 2 plenary presentations, some withdrawals so perhaps now down to 88-89. Wednesday, Gull Symposium follows Gull Plenary by Stefan Garthe. Thursday Vicki Friesen gives the Genomics Plenary. Puffin Symposium on Friday is scheduled in 40 minute blocks. Posters. Students are marked in the program, one was missed but has been contacted and student presentation judges (Gail Fraser) are aware. 37 student presenters this year. Thanks to those who helped to organize a symposium. Student Dave Essian helped to format the abstract booklet; a huge help! Discussion of volunteer opportunities for reduced cost to students. We paid Dave’s registration this year. Perhaps this should be up to the local committee, but council generally supportive of the idea. **ACTION ITEM: add student volunteer for reduced cost opportunities to the local committee meeting handbook.**

Move to approve Patty/Chris unanimous

Editors report: Erica for Stephanie. Submissions appear down, number of articles also down ~40% rejection rate. Discussion about electronic submission, editor is not interested at this time. Editor may be interested in taking over as “special issue editor” if she was not asked to continue in the Editor position. Some concern that the copy editor at Painter has retired and new person is on a learning curve. Students appreciated the “Meet the Editor” event at the New Bern meeting and this is something council would like to see done in the future. Perhaps even a webinar would be very helpful. Publications committee should remain proactive about Editorial terms. Discussion will continue during the Publication Committee report. Correction to report: 112 not 102 for 2016 meaning that it wasn’t actually down.

Move to Approve Susan/Liz unanimous

Future Meetings: Susan. We are here in Iceland! Council remembers several past meetings where Icelanders attended. Sigga has done a nice job with the organization. Next year we meet with the IOC led by Pat Baird representing us on the planning committee. More about that later. 2019 meeting: we are fairly certain will be on the Eastern Shore of Maryland headed by Bill Bowerman. Use of the campus is a possibility but timing of the meeting is still TBD. Committee recommends meetings are in October. Western Hemisphere Shorebirds just met at Chincoteague field station J. Fraser says the facilities are nice and this could be a possibility to explore if needed. Several other options are being considered by the committee. Cuba, Cruise, Caribbean, and Louisiana are all possibilities that could be explored by the committee and were endorsed through discussion. There is much enthusiasm for a Caribbean location in 2020. Committee does take into account cost for students when planning. Puerto Rico and USVI could be a possibility to keep in it the US to facilitate Federal funding through PI grants. **ACTION ITEM: Number of attendees and number of students at each meeting should be added to the table included in Future Committee Report for planning purposes. ACTION ITEM: Clay will follow up on Cuba and Louisiana, Juliet for Puerto Rico, and Ricardo USVI and Cuba, Susan will look into SUNY. ACTION ITEM: add student volunteer opportunities to the local committee meeting handbook.** Extensive discussion regarding a travel company host while not having a member in charge of a strong local committee. Communication was difficult for website and organizing. No theme with stickers, t-shirts, mugs etc. Details like participant titles on name tags, search for less expensive accommodations, lack of local buy-in meant very few Icelandic participants so we won't have the Barcelona Bump. Council discussed the meeting budget and we expect to have no profit after working with the travel agency. [****Subsequently, Officers met with Sigga before the business meeting to discuss this and she assured us that any profit, and she expects some, will come to the society and not to the travel company**] Much discussion regarding the balance of inexpensive (accessible) meetings vs. small profit that funds future student travel. **ACTION ITEM: if working with a travel agency for future meetings we need to have more input into the budget and suggest a strong contact or core of local Waterbird people to serve as the local committee; add something about this to the meeting handbook.** This meeting follows the outstanding meeting in New Bern; Sara Schweitzer did such an outstanding job of organizing (even home stays for Heron Symp. Attendees) it is hard to compare and perhaps match in the future.

Move to Approve Chris/Jim unanimous

Council would like to see a serious effort on the part of all committees to include young members and for co-chairs to work toward continuity of the committee as membership rotates.

Motion: Council strongly recommends that all committees have co-chairs.

Jim/Clay unanimous.

Archives Report: No Report. Council is curious about the 40th Anniversary video project. Is it accessible? Can it be put on the website?

ACTION ITEM: Minutes from All Council Meetings should be posted on the website. John Anderson and Nellie Tspoura should work to make this happen.

Conservation Report: Susan for Jonathan. The committee selected the recipient of the second “Publication Award for Outstanding Contribution to Conservation.” The award is intended to recognize papers in *Waterbirds* that further our Society’s mission to promote conservation based on sound science. The award went to: Ellis K.S., J.F. Cavitt, and R.T. Larsen. 2015. Factors influencing Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*) nest survival at Great Salt Lake, Utah. *Waterbirds* 38:58-67. The student activities committee will work with the conservation committee to develop criteria for a new student presentation award for conservation. Discussion regarding monetary v. book awards for student presentations.

ACTION ITEM: Council requests immediate action to set guidelines and criteria for the student presentation for conservation award by Oct 31, 2017 so that Council can vote to approve before the end of the year.

Treasurer Mid-year Report: Chris. Three revenue streams show the society is in good shape for the year. Revenue streams have stabilized. Special issues of the journal do not cost the society anything. 8-10K is cost for the special issue, this is normally covered by the author institutions. No page charges are collected from authors for these special issues. BLOONE revenue is increased by having special issues. Publisher sets the cost based on the particular issue and the group signs contract directly with Painter for these. Editorial assistant is paid by these groups for her time on the special issue. Editor is not compensated. This should be revisited in the future if there are special issues since the Editor’s time should be compensated. Discussion about whether time spent on special issues by the editor is taken from time that should/could be spent on the journal. Further discussion postponed to Publications Report. CENGAGE is a new revenue stream which is still to be determined as it is so new. Membership dues have not been raised for some time, but increased revenue is not essential at this time. Special projects funds have been well-used (website and student travel). Move to Schneider Group from OSNA has been fine. Endowment withdrawals for awards will increase every three years. Discussion of sustainability of the BLOONE revenue as OpenAccess becomes the norm. Should we include a statement in our journal and on the website about why we are not OpenAccess? Discussion of how to encourage page charge payment and need to think to the future of the revenue streams. We are in good shape for the near future. **ACTION ITEM:** Council needs to consider a mentee for Chris so that the learning curve can be surmounted long before Chris wants to vacate the position. Chris has no plans to vacate, but we need to be proactive about this important position. Potentially the Finance Committee could be more involved. Perhaps a spouse has an accounting background that would be willing to take a position. We will need to have a transition year of a new person working with Chris, but also an annual calendar of duties to begin a Duties Manual. Many suggestions were made and all agree that we will need about 3 years to prepare for a transition.

Move to approve Pat/Jim unanimous

Strategic Plan: Erica Nol. Need to put together a committee to look over the previous strategic plan (most goals met) and to then make a plan to go forward. **ACTION ITEM:** Volunteers for the committee: Dave, Patty, Kathy, Susan, Pat. Should serve as a steering committee that will reach

out to other committees and to the membership. New Council Member will also be approached to serve. **ACTION ITEM: patty send email to these members.**

Bylaws Report: Chris for Jeff. One bylaw change; to add a student councilor, seat won by Kate Shlepr.

Move to approve: Clay/Susan unanimous

Publications Report: Brian. Should page charges be made for special issues? Committee is unanimous in 'no' as discussed above during treasurer report. Council reaffirms the current policy of no page charges for special issues. There have been critical "tweets" of editor and of the journal; how shall this be handled in the future? Publications committee should be investigating electronic submission options for cost and ease-of-use. Considerable discussion about raising the submission rate to our journal, increasing the size of the issues (no. of issues?) and for OpenAccess options. We need to know if the OpenAccess option would still generate the revenue to BIONE.

Motion: to form a search committee for the Editor position to begin January 2019. Brian on behalf of the Publications Committee/Clay unanimous

Discussion regarding standardizing the editorial communications for our journal. Discussion of the potential for a special issues editor in the future.

Erica Nol will join Brian Palestis as the co-chair of Publications Committee.

Council feels that an excellent way to increase the journal's impact factor is for our core members to commit to submitting their best work to the journal.

Publications Committee ACTION ITEM: Council is requesting draft acceptance and rejection letters as a move toward standardization of all communication to authors. Council suggests deadlines for revisions in an effort to increase the number of manuscripts published in a timely fashion and toward bigger issues.

ACTION ITEM: Volunteers for the search committee: Brian, Juliet, Jim, Erica, and then Pat will reach out to Bob Elnor to see if he will serve as a past Editor. Chris notes that we have money in the Budget to advertise the position. [later in the week the search committee was formed: Brian Palestis, Chair, Jim Fraser, Peter Frederick, Juliet Lamb, Erica Nol, and Chris Somers]**

Search Committee ACTION ITEM: Job description, investigation of salary for similar journal editors, electronic submission and social media expectations.

Move to accept report: Liz/Pat unanimous

Membership Report: After several years of decline, we are leveling off and we have a slight increase. Move away from OSNA appears to have no trouble for membership renewal. Schneider Group sends three paper mailing to each non-renewal (\$900 this year) so we wonder if one paper mailing would be sufficient. **ACTION ITEM: check with Schneider Group about a 3-**

year option. Reduce the paper mailings to 1 rather than three for those whose membership has lapsed. Erica will ask Sean Murphy to co-chair and relieve Brian's workload. Pat Baird will write the report for this committee. [**** later in the week Pat Baird and Jim Fraser agreed to co-chair this committee. Brian will remain as a member**]

Move to accept report: Jim/Ricardo unanimous

Recognition Report. No Report. Sara Karpanty will chair the committee. We should endeavor to give awards next year. We need to present these big awards at the IOC next year.

ACTION ITEM: Solicit nominations early and widely.

Student Activities Report. Gail. 35 student presentations this year. Should students be eligible for an award after winning previously? Discussion regarding purpose of student presentation awards. **ACTION ITEM: Committee needs to discuss the possibility of providing feedback to student presenters. Liz will join this committee.** Student-Mentor Lunch is more informal this year. Lunchtime on Wednesday.

Move to accept report: Kathy/Susan unanimous

Grants Report. Dave. Need new members and a new Chair. Nellie and Liz will join the committee and Nellie will Chair the committee as Dave steps down. 15-20 Kushlan applicants 5-10 applicants for Nisbet award.

Kushlan (\$7642)			
PI	Country	Topic	Amount
Drs. Simone Santoro & Alejandro Centeno	Spain	Population genetic structure and connectivity of Glossy ibis	\$5,250
Nisbet (\$2190)			
PI	Country	Topic	Amount
Dr. Kimberly Maute	Australia	Impact of bacterial pathogens on the breeding success of silver gulls	\$1,000
Andrew Tongue	U.K.	Gulls as Bioindicators of Flame Retardant Emissions from Landfill	\$1,000

Need for baseline information on endangered birds (inventory, status, monitoring) that are not competitive for these awards, the new Conservation Grant may be able to help serve this need. Timing of the grant applications should be reconsidered. Dave did analysis to show that July 15 is really not a good time and that early spring.

Motion: to move the application deadline to Jan 31 with awards made by March 15.

Dave/Pat pass with one abstention.

Discussion of new Conservation Grant description and award amount:

The Grant will be up to \$3000 annually. Limits should be placed restricting consideration of a project for only one WbS grant per year. The committee will rework the description following discussion with Council regarding types of submissions that will be competitive for funding.

ACTION ITEM: VOTE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 15. To codify the description after minor revision.

Move to approve: Patty/Juliet unanimous

2018 Meeting with IOC Report. Pat. IOC 19-26, 2018 Coincides with International Bird Week. First Nation will be involved and a Bird Art Festival. NGS has declared 2018 the Year of the Bird. Open to the Public so we should have high profile. Waterbirds Council meeting would be the 19th and the 20th is for Waterbirds papers while IOC starts on the 21st. Registration Fees have not been decided. Must decide if we will need concurrent paper sessions. Posters will all be electronic. Our Waterbird sessions will be separate submissions from the IOC so that we do our own abstract submissions and presentation schedules. We need to get the word out very quickly so that members know that waterbirds is early. We need to iron out details to prevent possible abdication of Waterbirds if IOC accepts their abstracts. Two symposia have been accepted: (1) Loss of Tidal Wetlands Worldwide - direct anthropogenic effects and sea level rise and (2) Wetland Foodwebs - the importance of long-chained fatty acids for shorebirds and seabirds. We will still have ice breaker and student-mentor luncheon. Details to be determined.

ACTION ITEM: plan a plenary.

Communications/Outreach Report: Nellie. Lots of student participation in social media. Challenge to keep up with the Iceland Travel site for this meeting. Amanda provided statistics for social media impact. All are positive trends. Discussion of how to incorporate more people contributing. Council recognizes quick response to post information.

Move to approve Chris/Liz unanimous

OC Report: Susan. Ellen Paul does a tremendous amount of work on behalf of ornithology. We contribute to OC (\$3000/yr), but there is discussion regarding increasing support for OC going forward as support has AOU and Cooper merger may result in reduced support by AOS which has not decided upon its budget. Funding has been proportional to society size in the past.

Move to approve Susan/Clay unanimous

Diversity Report: Liz. Lots of work in preparation for the NC meeting in 2017 but the committee is considering purpose going forward; how best to facilitate inclusion? How to highlight what we are already doing diversity-wise? Committee welcomes suggestions and input.

Male/Female/other should be a checkbox on the research grants. Committee could work with other committees to increase geographic diversity to promote inclusion. Code of Conduct for meetings could be drafted. Community Outreach could be possible in appropriate meeting venues. Committee needs to have a meeting. 2019 have another World Symposium modelling the heron symposium that was a huge success and brought much diversity in terms of participants attending the meeting.

Move to approve Jim/Kathy unanimous

Nominating Report. Susan. 150+ votes out of 581 members. Election Results: Dave Moore, President-elect; Chris Custer, Treasurer; Dan Catlin, Sean Murphy, and Kate Sheehan,

Councilors; and Kate Shlepr will serve as our first Student Councilor. **ACTION ITEM Should include a statement: if you are reading this email you are a member of the Waterbird society and you should vote on this ballot.**

Move to approve CLAY/LIZ unanimous

Finance Report: Ricardo. See detailed report. As of today more than \$1 million in assets. +\$25000 since July 1. Parsec manages our Fidelity investments. They charge 0.61% which appears very reasonable. Jim: Do we have a sense of how active Parsec has been in buying and selling? Chris believes they do a reasonable job but are not overly reactive. We agree that it is good to have a manager separate from the investment company. Discussion regarding “green” or “ethical” investing. **ACTION ITEM request from Parsec a green rating and ethical ratings and note that it is a priority. Investigate nonprofits that already have this info.**

Move to approve Jim/Juliet unanimous

Treasurer Special Projects update. Chris. Special projects to now include Editor Search. Teleconference ability enhancement has not been met and should be a priority. Archiving is still a work in progress.

ACTION ITEM: set aside \$3000 for 2018 plenary travel expenses. IUCN groups can be good connections for international participants for symposia (heron one went that way). Pelicans can be a good starting point since Juliet is involved there.

Treasurer Budget 2018. Chris. Details in Report. Added \$3000 for Vancouver Plenary Speaker. Dues change 12k to 14k

Motion: to increase OC contribution to \$5000/year from \$3000

Susan/Clay 8 Y 2 N 0 Ab

Move to approve 2018 Budget as amended above Kathy/Pat unanimous

No New Business

Move to Adjourn Clay/Liz unanimous

5:02 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Szczys, Secretary