

2018 Council Meeting Minutes 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada

Saturday, August 18, 2018; 8:40 Call to Order and Welcome from Clay Green, President

In attendance: Chris Custer, Clay Green, Patty Szczys, Dave Moore, Pat Baird, Susan Elbin, Jim Fraser, Dale Gawlik, Stephanie Jones, Kate Sheehan, Sean Murphy, Nellie Tsipoura, Susan Elbin, Dan Caitlin, Kate Shlepr

Phone in: Eric Mellink, Ricardo Zambrano, Sara Schweitzer, Chip Weseloh

Move to approve agenda Elbin/Custer unanimous

**Secretary 2017 Minutes:** Amendments to 2017 Council Meeting Minutes: grants deadline  
Move to approve as amended Fraser/Moore motion passes abstain 2.

**Secretary Report:** Four motions were made and acted on by the Council since the last council meeting in Iceland. Will amend typo for 4 not 10 motions.  
Move to approve Jones/Shlepr motion passes; abstain 1.

**Current Meeting:** Pat Baird. Here at SFU Waterbirds sessions on level 1 and level 2. Room change: Butler Plenary will be in 109. IOC name tags are available beginning Sunday morning. IOC Expo WbS booth assignment changed and is now 235. Susan has quilt raffle tickets for Council to sell \$5 each or 5 for \$20 either CAD or USD is just fine. Drawing will be done at business meeting; must be present to win. T-shirts (first nations design) for sale Men's \$30C/\$24US Women's \$35/\$28. We have a number of speakers in the WbS sessions this weekend who are not members of WbS which presents a unique situation for the social events. 104 speakers/27 are not members. Dave Moore sent emails to them reminding them that a WbS membership is an expectation. Discussion of how to deal with this; perhaps just a \$55 charge for the banquet. Pat and Chris will make a final decision for how to implement a solution. Donations will be solicited and Chris can provide appropriate receipts. Council wishes to thank Pat Baird for organizing such a challenging meeting this year!

**Scientific Report:** Dave Moore. Two days with two concurrent sessions. 60 presenters plus workshops. Slightly less than usual (80-90) and no posters this year. Given the joint IOC we think this is still a good size. Rob Butler will give the plenary opening sessions tomorrow. Symposium on Waterbird energetics set for first day along with black tern conservation workshop. Two symposia hosted by WBS as part of IOC "Loss of Tidal Wetlands" and "Wetland Food Webs". Students were given the first option to Chair sessions and they filled all but one session. Council wishes to thank Dave Moore for organizing such a rich scientific program under challenging meeting conditions this year!

**Editors report:** Stephanie Jones. Responding to the 2017 minutes/action items: any issues expressed from working with Painter have been completely resolved. Objection to standardizing the rejection letters sent by the editor because personalizing it to each author is desirable. It is also challenging to have a standardized, hard and fast deadline for resubmitting a

revised paper; flexibility may be really important to our small journal so suggesting a 90-day deadline but that is not a hard cut-off. Discussion. Another concern was raised about rejection rates of papers from other countries. Written English language problems are not the primary reason for rejection from non-English speaking countries. Scientific merit is always the primary concern in the decision. Current Report: Impact factor is 0.94. Remember our taxonomic limitation that Ibis and similar don't face. Citation rate is directly related to number of submissions so it is hard to change quickly. Submission rate is declining but editor feels our journal is doing really well. Geographic diversity is strong. Dale Gawlik: **Perhaps invited papers could serve to increase profile and submission rate. New editor should consider using this strategy.** Review papers are the most cited papers from *Waterbirds* (see publications report) suggesting this really could be a good strategy. The editorial board should be much more involved when doing special issues. These special issues create a large amount of extra work for the editor so Associate Editor(s) should be drawn in. The journal Facebook page is tied to Stephanie and cannot be changed; Stephanie would like to continue to be administrator plus several members of the Outreach Committee. Stephanie and Sandy thank the Council for the opportunity to work with the Society and the Journal.

**Action Item: Publications Committee should explore (with incoming and outgoing Editor and Editorial Board) the policy for selecting an AE for special issues.**

**Move to approve agenda Gawlik/Moore unanimous**

**Future Meetings:** Chip Weseloh. Email discussion started regarding 2021 in South Africa. Stephanie: following international meetings the journal receives more higher quality papers from that region (La Paz, MX and Germany). What about NAOC 2020 participation in San Juan Puerto Rico? Extensive Discussion. Council seems to be a bit split on NAOC 2020 so: **Action Item: Clay will draft an email to the NAOC organizing committee to ask some questions about logistics for organizing ourselves within the larger meeting.** Clay and Chip have been making connections with Gulf Coast folks for the possibility of a 2020 meeting in Galveston which perhaps could be pushed to 2021. The August schedule for NAOC may be another sticking point for many members. Other locations being suggested: Buffalo, NY, Indiana, W&M in VA, Niagara, Ontario (near Detroit), Mackinaw Island, Pt. Pelee in Ontario (across from Cleveland). The most important aspect is the willingness of a local host!

Ellen Paul and Bill Bowerman called into re: 2019 in Maryland. Wednesday Nov 6 – Saturday Nov 9, 2019 in Salisbury, Maryland. Near Blackwater NWR in lower east shore. UMES host, a historically black institution. This would be the first ornithological society meeting at an HBU. 3900 biology students; Marine Estuarine and Env Sci MS/PhD plus toxicology PhD programs. Nov 6 Council meeting and evening icebreaker with three days of two simultaneous sessions. President of the University is heavily involved; the meeting is a university-sponsored event. Shared a list of formal speakers for Diversity Day from many areas of wildlife/ecology universities and agencies. High potential for NSF funding for this event. Parking for those bringing cars is no trouble- registration page will have a question about transportation so that the number of required busses can be estimated accurately. Budget should be adjusted to account for a smaller meeting. Council suggests that activities (netting, binos, something hands-

on) should be considered rather than only the lecture-style workshops suggested as outreach to students.

Discussion: Diversity Component presents an opportunity to advertise/market the Society and there should be a big push to reach out to the young and diverse demographic.

**Move to approve the 2019 meeting proposal Catlin/Fraser motion passes unanimously**

Discussion about the potential for a South African meeting a few years out. We are not ready to commit but there is strong interest so Council wishes to explore the possibility in the future. It could be a good opportunity for capacity-building for Waterbird biologists in Africa. Council is reminded of the model of two-meeting years as was done for Taiwan.

**Archives Report:** This committee is in a maintenance mode to keep archives current and up-to-date. Three projects in the works: (1) Council Meetings etc. on our website; (2) 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary interviews: work study student has been hired to transcribe and then share with interviewee before dissemination; (3) What types of artifacts need to be preserved. Lots of communication on OE that should be maintained. Discussion about how to retain the essence of the people of the society (letters, emails, etc.) versus official documents (minutes, reports, etc.) and living committee documents (each committee has a folder of procedures, reports, etc.). Regarding demographic data of the membership; there has been some breakdown in transfer of data from OSNA, Schneider Group, etc.

**Action Item:** Google Drives seems to be a good option that the Council encourages committees to use in order to share and preserve living documents. Patty will share a Google folder of 2018 Meeting files as an example. Kate will email committee chairs and council once each year to ask for items appropriate for the official archives.

**Conservation Report:** Susan Elbin for Jonathan Cohen. 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: Schulte, S. A. and T. R. Simons. 2016. Hurricane disturbance benefits nesting American Oystercatchers (*Haematopus palliatus*) *Waterbirds* 39: 327–337 **Action Item:** We will work with the Student Activities committee to establish guidelines and criteria for a new student paper award for outstanding contribution to conservation, a priority from last year that we did not act on.

**Treasurer Mid-year Report:** Chris Custer. Our Society is in great financial shape. Our expenses and revenues are both changing in tandem, and we are maintaining a positive gap between the two. The revenue line has exceeded the expense line since ~2005. Based on revenue and expenses to date (July 15) and a comparison to the same expenditures and revenue at this same time last year, we will finish the year similar to previous years, i.e. in excellent financial shape with a decent surplus. Our three main sources of revenue have now stabilized with our electronic revenue sources (BioOne & JSTOR) being the largest of the three. Our largest expense is still to print and mail our journal followed by editorial office costs. Our costs to print and mail the journal is now the same as in 2000 because we are printing and mailing fewer

paper copies and because our printer, E.O. Painter Printing Co., raises costs only modestly, if at all.

**ACTION ITEM:** Chris will instruct Schneider Group to completely eliminate the paper mailings for those individuals whose membership has lapsed.

The Society may need to absorb some cost of the IOC meeting because of some decisions beyond our control (high-end hotel contracts) and AV equipment for our meeting. The Sunday evening mixer was cancelled. It is likely that we will only break even with little or no profit that would have rolled into student travel to the 2019 meeting, however we have enough slush fund to support 3k for student travel.

Grant award levels are 3% of the 5-year running average of the endowments (Nisbet and Kushlan).

**Move to approve the Treasurers Report Jones/Fraser unanimous**

**Strategic Plan:** No written report but Patty Szczys gave update. Committee reviewed previous strategic plan (most goals met) and made plans to move forward but without a chair that did not go far.

**ACTION ITEM:** Clay, Dave, and Patty will reach out to senior members who may not be members of council at this time (e.g. Dave Shealer, Stephanie Jones, and others).

**ACTION ITEM:** Social media needs to be an important part of the strategic plan (Dan Catlin); i.e. World Twitter Conference etc.

**Bylaws Report:** Chris Custer for Jeff Spendelow. Requests for interpretations were made this year but no bylaws changes were made.

**Publications Report:** No representative present. Written report submitted. New Editor signed contract and has been working with Stephanie during the transition time.

**ACTION ITEM:** Committee and Editor should work to find opportunities for "online early" options to facilitate highlighting "in press" papers by providing professional PDF proofs upon manuscript acceptance.

**Membership Report:** Jim Fraser and Pat Baird. PPT file submitted, not a PDF narrative report. Currently we have 472 members after a steady decline from ~700. Strategic plan should address this issue of maintaining membership in Europe and increasing in Asia and others. We need to study retention of student members and also what draws members (meetings or journals, etc.). We should use membership numbers to plan for meetings e.g. California with 40 members, why don't we meet in California?

**ACTION ITEM:** Explore opportunity to do social science [special projects funding?] investigation of these membership issues. Get long term data from Schneider Group for a data-informed approach to membership recruitment and retention.

We should continue to work out funding to bring non-North American scientists to further the goals of membership and activity in the society. Chris Custer has been heading this up.

**ACTION ITEM:** Check with Schneider Group to find 3- or 5-year membership option.

**Recognition Report. No Report. ACTION ITEM:** Solicit nominations early and widely.

**Grants Report.** Nellie Tsipoura. **ACTION ITEM:** Provide not only the maximum grant amount but also the 'typical' award amount in grant announcement. Jim Kushlan and Ian Nisbet would like to know if the research grants result in publications. Add a request/requirement for a report of outcome from all awardees.

<b>Kushlan (\$8804)</b>			
<b>PIs</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Martinez, Marisa	Predicting Wading Bird Foraging Habitat and Prey in Dynamic Intertidal Systems	\$7,000.00	\$6,000
Chimalakonda, Deepthi	Patterns and processes in wetland bird diversity: A study of the waterscapes in Telangana, India	\$3,072.00	\$2,800
			\$8,800

<b>Nisbet (\$5000)</b>			
<b>PIs</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Byerly	reproductive success of Caribbean ROTE	\$953	\$564
Dayton	genetic basis of migratory behaviour in terns	\$971	\$971
Ellis	pollution & reproductive energetics of ARTE	\$2,805	\$1,000
Fuirst	anthropogenic pressure on foraging and microbial community of HERG	\$1,000	\$565
Marsh	BLTE nest success in response to invasive plants	\$1,000	\$1,000
Snyder	seasonal phenotypic plasticity of young LAGU: environmental and maternal cues	\$900	\$900
			\$5,000

<b>WbS (\$5000)</b>			
<b>PIs</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Goodenough, Katharine	Nest site selection of river beach nesting birds in the Peruvian Amazon	\$3,000	\$1,525.00

Harrity, Eamon	Dispersal behavior of Yuma Ridgway's rails	\$2,560	\$1,525.00
Stantial	PIPL habitat use/migration	\$1,950	\$1,950.00

\$5,000.00

**OC Report:** Ellen Paul. Business as usual with the OC; Scientific issues not conservation advocacy. Bi-monthly news briefs rather than annual reports; sent to Officers and posted on birdnet.org.

**Waterbird Coordinator of The Waterbird Conservation of the Americas Initiative, Sara Schweitzer update:** Vacant position since Jennifer Wheeler stepped down. Ducks unlimited has offered to contribute \$10,000 toward hiring the position and has challenged other groups to also contribute funding. WbS should write a letter of support for the position expressing concern that the position has remained vacant. **ACTION ITEM: Clay will write a letter on our behalf.**

**Student Activities Report.** 12 poster, 29 oral presentations were judged in 2017 (Iceland). Only Oral presentations during WbS 2018 will be judged this year. Poster presentations were part of IOC. \$4225 was allocated for 12 student travel awards this year. One withdrew so only \$3900 was spent. 7 US, 3 CA, 1 German and 1 Australian student.

**Communications/Outreach Report:** Nellie Tsipoura. FB and Twitter followers have drastically increased. Strategic plan for going forward is essential. Content should be contributed by Council and Committees. **ACTION ITEM: See above for strategic planning initiative related to social media....**

**Diversity Report:** No written report. Susan Elbin update: 2019 Diversity focused meeting will provide many opportunities for the committee to work with the local meetings committee. The committee welcomes suggestions from the council, committees, and membership. **ACTION ITEM: Committee can draft a statement and/or policy for increasing membership and participation of underrepresented groups.**

**Nominating Report.** Susan Elbin. 135 ballots received. Election Results: Danielle D'Auria, Miyuki Mashiko, and Gopi Sundar, Councilors; and Patty Szczys, Secretary. Committee welcomes nominations and suggestions.

**Finance Report:** Ricardo Zambrano. Stock returns in 2017 were quite high. In January of 2018, the market reached record highs but then dropped dramatically in what economist label a "correction". Most economists feel that the stock market usually corrects itself every ten years. The market started recovering in 2008 after the Great Recession and we have now had 10 years of constant increases and record highs. Our financial advisor, Parsec, does not expect an outsized year of stock market returns similar 2017 but they remain cautiously optimistic for 2018. Parsec believes that the gradual increase in interest rates from historic lows, low

unemployment, moderate inflation, good projected corporate earnings, and improving economic growth in the U.S., Europe, Japan and emerging markets will outweigh any potential negatives.

Discussion regarding moving to “green” “responsible” investments.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ask Parsec to transition to SRI funds when available for new investments. Council can consider strategies for long-term transition of current investments.

**Motion to approve all committee reports Fraser/Elbin unanimous.**

**Treasurer Special Projects update.** Chris Custer. Special projects to include obtaining funding for travel support for non-North American scientists, to improve the social media presence, and to support a social science study of membership and demographic trends, and conservation activity budget for next meeting. **ACTION ITEM:** fundraising letters should ask for (i.e.) \$5000 with a promise of match from Society funds.

**Treasurer Draft Budget 2019.** Chris Custer. Details in Written Report. Set aside additional \$1000 (for a total of \$4000) to student travel grants for 2019 meeting.

**Move to approve 2018 Budget as amended above Szczys/Sheehan unanimous**

No New Business

**Move to Adjourn Fraser/Catlin unanimous**

5:03 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patricia Szczys, Secretary

Approved 11062018 Council Minutes