

2021 Secretary's Report—Waterbird Society

Annual mailing

On Aug. 10, 2021, the Schneider Group sent out the electronic ballots to the membership for a change in bylaws (to add a second Student Councilor seat), Vice President, Student Councilor (2nd seat) and three Councilor positions for the 2021-2023 term. Mail-in ballots were available upon request. Voting closed on Oct. 18, 2021. Clay Green and Erica Nol, Co-Chairs of the Nominating Committee, led all communications with the Schneider Group.

Council motions

5 motions were put forth during the Nov 2020 Council meeting (1st Virtual due to COVID-19 pandemic) and were recorded in the meeting minutes. Motions that passed that directly impacted the operating budget included an increase in the contribution toward research grants (3% to 5% for each endowment annually), an increase in the amount to be used on Special Projects (30% to 50% of current year's net income), and an increase in Ornithological Council allocation (\$5,000 to \$6,000 annually).

13 motions were put forth during the mid-year Council meeting (virtual) in April 2020 and were recorded in the meeting minutes. Most of these motions were related to converting the 2021 annual meeting into a second virtual event due to COVID-19 and a DEI consultant proposal presented by the Diversity Committee. The only motion that passed that directly impacted the operating budget (2021 only) was a one-year free student membership to a cap of \$1,500. [Note: by email discussion, Committee members and Officers agreed to extend the free membership offer to students who had already paid their 2021 dues in 2022.]

The following 8 motions were held electronically. Those that passed that directly impacted the operating budget are noted by asterisk (*). Through September 2020, Councilors emailed their vote to Dave Moore (President) and Kate Shlepr (Secretary). Votes on the final two motions (October 2020) were compiled using SurveyMonkey, an online, anonymous survey tool, and the final result was recorded by Kate Shlepr. **QUESTION TO COUNCIL: Continue with SurveyMonkey? Advantages: more user-friendly than email, transparent; Disadvantages: limited quality control (i.e., cannot prevent double-voting/check who voted except by total count).**

Motion 1. I move to add a two-year student seat to the Waterbird Society Council. For the purposes of Council, "student" is defined as someone currently enrolled or within 2 years of their most recent degree at the time of the election. This new seat will alternate election years so that each year one student seat will be included on the election ballot. The first election will occur in 2022 with the term beginning in January 2023. The Bylaw amendment requires a vote of the membership. The ballot will be distributed to the membership no later than July 1, 2021 and remain open for 60 days.

Specific bylaw language to be amended:

2a. The Society is governed by an Executive Council. The Executive Council shall consist of all officers of the Society, the two most recent past Presidents who remain in good standing, nine

councilors elected for three-year terms with one third elected each year, **a two** student councilors elected for a two-year term **with one elected each year**, and Editor of the Journal, who is a Council member ex-officio with full voting rights. All Council members must maintain their membership in good standing.

Date: 8 Jun 2021

Motion by Patty Szczys, Seconded by Kate Shlepr

Motion Passed 15 yea, 0 nay, 1 abstain, 1 no response

***Motion 2.** I move that we appropriate up to \$3500 to engage DRYFTA as the Virtual Meeting Platform for 2021.

Date: 11 Jun 2021

Motion by Patty Szczys, Seconded by Erica Nol

Motion Passed 15 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain, 2 no response

Motion 3. I move to accept the Conservation Committee's recommendation of Carle et al. (2019) for the 2021 Outstanding Contribution to Conservation Award.

Date: 25 Jun 2021

Motion by Kate Shlepr, Seconded by Clay Green

Motion Passed 12 yea, 0 nay, 1 abstain, 4 no response

***Motion 4.** I move that the Waterbird Society subscribe to the ScholarOne editorial management system, for a one-time set-up cost of \$2500, and a maximum annual subscription fee of \$4,000.

Date: 16 Jul 2021

Motion by Patty Szczys, Seconded by Clay Green

Motion Passed 16 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain, 1 no response

Motion 5. I move:

- We open registration for the next annual virtual meeting on August 15 and communicate this in an email to membership starting the week of July 12.
- Registration fee will be \$75 for professionals /\$20 students (=below the fees of World Seabird Conference and The Wildlife Society) [friendly amendment by Patty Szczys from an original suggestion of \$100/\$25].
- We will charge a \$5 late fee for non-students registering after October 15.
- We will allow waiving /reducing fees if it represents a barrier to participation.

Date: 16 Jul 2021

Motion by John Anderson, Seconded by Danielle D'Auria

Motion Passed 14 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain, 3 no response

Motion 6. I move to formally adopt the 13 Sep 2020 draft of the Waterbird Society Code of Conduct Policy.

Date: 28 Jul 2021

Motion by Gopi Sundar, Seconded by Kate Shlepr

Motion Passed 12 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain, 5 no response

Motion 7. I move to accept the Editorial Search Committee's recommendation of Dr. Paige Byerly as the new Managing Editor of *Waterbirds*.

Date: 10 Oct 2021

Motion by Gail Fraser, Seconded by Kate Shlepr

Motion Passed 15 yea, 0 nay, 2 abstain/no response

Motion 8. I move to recognize Erica Nol as the 2021 recipient of the Robert Cushman Murphy Prize.

Date: 15 Oct 2021

Motion by John Anderson, Seconded by Clay Green

Motion Passed 15 yea, 0 nay, 2 abstain/no response

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Shlepr, Secretary

22 October 2021