

## **Nominating Committee of the Waterbird Society**

2013 Annual Report

### **Membership:**

Dave Shealer, Chair (david.shealer@loras.edu), Jennifer Arnold (jma25@psu.edu), Susan Elbin (sbelbin@optonline.net), Steve Oswald (steve.oswald@psu.edu), Jeff Spendelow (jsspendelow@usgs.gov), Chip Weseloh (chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca), and Ricardo Zambrano (Ricardo.zambrano@myfwc.com). This committee welcomes new members; those interested in serving should contact the Chair.

### **2012-2013 Committee Activities:**

We did not hold our normal meeting at the NAOC in Vancouver, as several members of the committee did not attend the conference. We began discussions via email in December of 2012 to assemble a slate of candidates for Vice President (President-elect) and Executive Council.

Officers: Clay Green agreed to stand for election to the post of Vice President (President-elect), as did Erica Nol. Linda Wires declined our offer but is willing to consider running in the future.

Councilors: The Committee began with a pool of 10-12 potential candidates, but this list was cropped to eliminate members who had run unsuccessfully at least twice before; a few people were removed from consideration because close colleagues currently are serving as officers or councilors, and the Committee wished to strive to offer a diverse slate with no hints of impropriety. As a result, the final list of members invited to run for Council included Pat Baird, Peter Becker, Rena Borkhataria, John Brzorad, Tommy King, Brian Palestis, Jeff Spendelow, and Ricardo Zambrano. Of these, only Becker, Brzorad and Palestis agreed to stand for election. With only three named candidates, it was decided to include and encourage write-in candidates on the 2013 ballot.

### **2013-2014 Proposed Work of the Committee:**

The Committee obviously needs to do a better job of identifying candidates to stand for election to Council. This is the first election cycle we are aware of that offered only three candidates for Council. Much of the preliminary leg work by the Committee is done at our annual meeting, where we can approach members in person. The chair (Shealer) did not attend the meeting last year (NAOC) so this did not occur). Consequently, we were resigned to using the telephone and email to proffer invitations, which is decidedly less effective. We hope to begin work on the next slate of candidates at the meeting in Wilhelmshaven this September, with an emphasis on trying to generate interest in serving among our European membership.

### **Requests for Council Action:**

None; however, the Committee welcomes suggestions from Council about how to generate an interest among our membership in running for officer or council positions. Our list of potential candidates is

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very small, and is comprised largely of members who have served at least once previously or those who have run once or twice previously but were not elected. We would like to encourage younger members to become involved in the society's affairs, but many of them are reluctant to run for Council. Ideally, a mix of younger and more senior members, with representation from outside the U.S. would be our recommended goal.

Respectfully submitted,

David Shealer

23 July, 2013