

Nominating Committee of the Waterbird Society

2014 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 (jspendelow@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.

2013-2014 Committee Activities: (please provide information on operation of the committee (ie meeting frequency) and accomplishments)

Members of the committee in attendance at Wilhelmshaven met informally to assemble a slate of candidates for Executive Council.

Officers: Chris Custer agreed to stand again for election as Treasurer. She ran unopposed.

Councilors: Holding a meeting in Germany provided the committee with an opportunity to identify potential candidates for council among our European membership, and to lobby/encourage them in person to stand for election. Such a tactic usually is more successful than corresponding by email. From our meeting and conversations with potential candidates, we invited Emmanuelle Cam and Jacob Gonzalez-Solis to run. Ultimately, however, both declined the invitation, forcing us to focus our efforts once again in North America. Eventually, we were successful in assembling a slate of four candidates: Patricia Baird, Larry Bryan, Elizabeth Craig, and Ricardo Zambrano.

Election Results:

Treasurer: Chris Custer was once again elected by unanimous vote (n = 68).

Executive Council: Electronic balloting was used again this year. The number of yeas votes for the nominees were as follows: Elizabeth Craig (n = 57), Ricardo Zambrano (n = 53), Patricia Baird (n = 52), Larry Bryan (n = 31). Following the bylaws of the society, the top three vote-getters, Craig, Zambrano, and Baird, are elected to Council for the three year term 2015-2017, to commence on 1 January, 2015.

2014-2015 Proposed Work of the Committee: (please describe objectives for coming year and anticipated outcomes; include operational logistics (frequency of meeting, mode etc))

Despite a meeting in Germany in 2013, we were unsuccessful in attracting European members to run for Council. This has been a perennial problem and one that has no obvious remedy. We hope to have better success this year at our La Paz meeting in generating interest among our Mexican and Central American members. The Nominating Committee will meet in La Paz where we will attempt to identify

potential candidates among the attendees and attempt to secure at least a few verbal commitments to stand for election during the next cycle.

Concern also was raised about the low number (n = 70) of electronic ballot returns, compared to previous years (Table 1). Electronic balloting in 2013 generated the highest returns for the four-year period, so there appears to be nothing inherently problematic about using this method. A suggestion for increasing participation was to send periodic reminders to vote via email before the deadline.

Table 1. Balloting returns (paper and electronic) from 2011 to 2014

<u>Year</u>	<u>Type of ballot (primary)</u>	<u>Returns</u>
2011	paper	117
2012	paper	111
2013	electronic	137
2014	electronic	70

Requests for Council Action: None; however, the chair (DAS) has served a four-year term and respectfully requests that he be permitted to step down. According to the bylaws, the President will need to appoint a member in good standing to chair this committee and obtain approval from Council.

Respectfully submitted,

David Shealer

14 October, 2014