

PSO Board of Directors Meeting
Teleconference Meeting
March 26, 2019

The PSO Board of Directors conducted a teleconference meeting with the following members participating: Vern Gauthier, Greg Grove, Deb Grove, Frank Haas, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Laura Jackson, Chad Kauffman, Wayne Laubscher, Evan Mann, Andy McGann, and Emily Thomas. Evan called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Internet Business Prior to the Meeting

On February 19, 2019, Laura sent an email asking the Board if she could have permission to sign PSO on to a letter with the Center for Biological Diversity and the Defenders of Wildlife encouraging the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee to significantly increase the funding for endangered species conservation and recovery starting in FY 2020. A majority of the Board voted, by email, in favor of this request. Several Board members did not vote.

Minutes – Roger

The minutes were distributed prior to the meeting via the internet. No corrections or additions were required. Vern made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed. Andy seconded the motion which passed.

Treasurer's and Membership Reports – Frank

Frank distributed his Treasurer's and Membership reports prior to the meeting. He explained some of the entries on his reports and fielded questions on several other items. Evan asked if there is any way on the website to give a gift membership. Frank said that there is not currently, but he will add a way to do so. See Frank's email dated March 24, 2019, for the full reports.

Education Committee – Holly Merker

Evan called everyone's attention to Holly's Education Committee report which she emailed everyone before the meeting. It is an update on the *Frontiers in Ornithology: A Symposium for Youth*. Please see her email dated March 21, 2019, for details.

Records Committee - PORC – Holly Merker

Evan called everyone's attention to Holly's Records Committee report which she emailed everyone before the meeting. Please see her March 21, 2019, email for details including the minutes of the 2019 PORC Annual Meeting. Two items in Holly's report were discussed. They were the request for funds for room rental and other expenses and a stipend for the PORC secretary. Frank made a motion which Laura seconded to budget \$100 annually for room rental and other expenses. The motion passed.

Vern made a motion which Laura seconded to table the request for a stipend for the PORC secretary. The motion passed with no dissenting votes. Some of the reasons were that the board has no background information on the duties of the secretary or how much time is required to perform the duties. Also, how does this position differ from other positions in PSO which require many hours to

perform, yet others are not compensated for their time. Is the stipend for costs or time? Evan will contact Holly for more details about the PORC secretary's job and why he or she should get a stipend. Andy will contact several other state records committees to determine if their secretaries are compensated.

Conservation Committee – Laura

Laura informed us that the Conservation Committee would like to hold a bird-a-thon to raise money for conservation. Vern suggested that the Breeding Bird Blitz and a bird-a-thon might be combined which would hopefully increase the amount of breeding bird data and also raise money for conservation. Laura said that the Conservation Committee would come up with a proposal for its implementation.

The next item of business was the method to confirm the board's approval of any sign-on letters. Laura suggest that the Conservation Committee review any such letter first, and if they agree with it, to then have the president or the officers only approve it instead of the entire board. After some discussion, it was decided to use Vern's motion of November 27, 2018, which allows email votes and to use 10 votes as the minimum needed to agree to the sign-on. The board recommended that Laura ask board members to look at the email immediately when they receive it and that she include a cutoff date and time to respond; this time frame should not be greater than two days as specified in Vern's motion.

Laura asked about the best way to let people know what the Conservation Committee is doing. The response was to use Facebook and the newsletter. Also, Frank said that he can add anything to the website that Laura wants.

At their last meeting, the Conservation Committee voted to ask the Board to donate \$500 to the Delaware Ornithological Society for the acquisition of land in Delaware to protect the area that Red Knots use to feed during migration. Because the Conservation Committee voted to ask the Board for the donation, it is considered a motion and a second. The proposal was discussed after which a vote was taken. The motion passed.

Laura asked the Board if they would consider supporting a bird-a-thon team for the Red Knot land acquisition. The Board thought this was a good idea, and suggestions for possible team participants were made. The participation dates are May 4 to 12. Frank said that if we get a PSO team together, he can put a link on the website for donations to the bird-a-thon team.

Please see Laura's email of March 25, 2019, for the Conservation Committee's complete report.

Evan thanked Laura for the committee's work.

2019 Annual Meeting Update – Wayne

Wayne told us that the hotel information is confirmed. The meeting will be held September 13, 14, and 15 at the Holiday Inn Express in Williamsport. Rooms will be \$99 including a full breakfast. He also got the same deal from the nearby Hampton Inn. All the field trips are set up, but he needs descriptions for two more and some additional leaders. The colors for the T-shirts this year will be blue and olive. The shop where the T-shirts are to be printed has already made samples. Wayne will photograph the fronts and backs of both colors so the board can see what they look like. Vern will compile and arrange all the information for the meeting since he will set up the registration site for the

meeting. He will then disperse the information to Frank, Margaret, and Chad for the website, the newsletter, and social media respectively and to anyone else who needs it. Dan Brauning and Doug Gross have been scheduled as afternoon speakers. If other speakers are needed, it was suggested that possibly someone from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology could come. It was also suggested that the Lycoming Audubon Society be considered for the Conservation Award.

Emily asked if the board wanted to have the trivia quiz again on Friday night. The board agreed that it would nice to do it again. Emily said that she would like to have some help setting it up which Chad agreed to do.

Awards Committee – Evan

Nominations for the Poole Award and the Conservation Award were mentioned.

Potential New Board Members

David Yeany II, Carol Winslow, and Eli DePaulis responded with background information that was requested of prospective board members. The potential Board members and their qualifications were discussed. Vern made a motion which Margaret seconded to recommend to the annual membership meeting this fall the above three persons for membership to the Board. The motion passed.

With no further business to conduct, Andy moved to adjourn, and Frank seconded the motion which passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee, Secretary