

PSO Board of Directors' Teleconference Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2020

The PSO Board of Directors conducted a teleconference meeting with the following members participating: Eli DePaulis, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Vern Gauthier, Frank Haas, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Laura Jackson, Chad Kauffman, Holly Merker, Linda Wagner, Carole Winslow, and David Yeany. Deb called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes – Roger

Roger distributed the minutes of the November 26 meeting prior to this meeting. Vern made a motion to accept the minutes with the condition that an “s” be added to “PSO 2020 All Things Bird(s).” Laura seconded the motion which passed.

PSO 2020 All Things Birds – Vern

Vern reported that things are moving along well for the meeting. The field trips need a little work with the descriptions, and a few leaders are still needed. Speakers have not yet been selected. Evan would like to get a better known speaker at a greater cost with the hope that this would create a greater draw for the meeting. Vern would like to find a company that will take orders from individuals for the meeting merchandise such as hats, mugs, shirts, etc. See Vern's January 27 email for further details about the meeting.

Deb mentioned that Katie Fallon would be this year's banquet speaker. Vern said that he had not been informed that Katie would be the speaker which raised a question if this had been finalized. It was suggested that PSO may want to give her a donation for her rehab center if she is the speaker.

A student poster session was suggested as a possibility for Friday night and possibly also on Saturday. Students could be high school to graduate students. Each student would give a short presentation about the poster. Eli will organize the student poster presentations. He also said that he thought that the trivia contest should be reduced to five rounds on Friday night to allow for the poster presentations.

Vern suggested that PSO give the Lancaster Bird Club a 15% to 20% price break on the merchandise as a thank you for all the work they have done for the meeting.

Student Research Grants – Deb

Students applying for the Student Research Grant need to have their applications in by March 31. A decision on the recipient or recipients will be made by May.

Education Committee – Holly

Holly distributed the Education Committee report by email prior to the meeting. Please see her email dated January 27. The Education Committee will continue to organize the Student Scholarship for PSO 2020. Holly asked the board if PSO could budget for at least two students and maybe three if possible each year. The general consensus of the board was that this would be possible. It was reiterated that the State College Bird Club has pledged to sponsor a student from central Pennsylvania at a cost up to \$500. It was suggested that perhaps the Education Committee could

ask other Pennsylvania bird clubs and Audubon chapters to sponsor a student from their areas. This would include all costs for the student and the guardian. Further discussion regarded who should be able to nominate a student to receive a scholarship to the annual meeting. The result was that the field of those being able to nominate a student should be increased to include Pennsylvania bird clubs, Audubon chapters, conservation organizations, and educators.

Vern made a motion that the wording of the Student Annual Meeting Scholarship application be changed to say that a person may be nominated by a PSO member, Pennsylvania bird club, Audubon chapter, conservation organization, or an educator. Eli seconded the motion which passed.

Holly thanked PSO for their support of the Frontiers in Ornithology program, both with funds and volunteer time. She commented that she hoped that PSO would continue their support this year.

Conservation Committee – Laura and Vern

Vern has created a website for the B4C which includes information as well as the rules for the event. Laura said that the committee decided to highlight the Wood Thrush and the Northern Harrier because they are species of greatest conservation need. Since one is a forest species and the other, a grassland species, the B4C will get more people into these very different habitats. Please see Laura's email of January 26 for more details. Another highlight of her email is that PSO will be partnering with two conservation organizations to which any funds raised will be donated. They will be selected by February 20. Prizes were discussed, and Vern suggested that possibly shirts and other prizes could be ordered before PSO 2020 with the meeting logo on them to advertise the meeting. Laura said that she will create a flyer for the newsletter to advertise the B4C which will include the organizations with which we are partnering and how the money raised will be used. Also included will be the list of prizes.

Frank suggested that the Membership and Outreach Committee would be the logical place to start to get other bird clubs to help PSO advertise the B4C. The committee would need to create a list of organizations to which the information would be sent. Vern said that he thought that whoever takes on this responsibility should be someone other than the president due to the amount of time that would be necessary to devote to this job. This would probably need to be a long term commitment by someone to develop relationships with other organizations to relay information back and forth between organizations. It was finally decided to start a database which would contain the names of other organizations and their contact information, so that PSO could make them aware of what we are doing. David said he will set up the spreadsheet and everyone can contribute to it. Vern stated that PSO should advise these other organizations that we are willing to add their news to "The PSO Pileated." This would be the job of whoever takes the position of being the contact between PSO and the other organizations.

Treasurer's Report – Frank

Frank sent out the treasurer's report by email on January 27. Please see his email for details. He said that we are doing well and have as much money now as we did at the beginning of the fiscal year. Ordinarily the funds are down at this time of the year. He has not done an analysis of why this is true and will do so in the next several months.

PORC – Holly

Please see Holly's PORC report which she emailed on January 27. She summarized her report by saying that things are going well, and she posted an update on the PA list serve and on Facebook. Highlights include reviews are up to date; Mike Fialkovich completed the 2018 report; the PORC

bylaws have been revised; eBird has helped to streamline reviews; and a new member will be elected in the next several weeks. PORC will be having a meeting on February 15 to elect a secretary and chairperson.

Citizens Science Committee – Vern

Vern began a discussion concerning the future of the Pennsylvania Migration Count and how eBird has made it obsolete. Not many counties participate in the count now with all the data going into eBird. It no longer serves a purpose to gather data that does not contribute to eBird. Greg said he thinks that PAMC takes time away from other things the CSC could be doing. David reminded everyone that the Global Big Day takes place the same day as the PAMC would take place, so perhaps we should promote it instead. After further discussion it was decided that PSO would no longer sponsor the PAMC and will instead encourage people to participate in other bird data gathering efforts such as the Global Big Day or the B4C. Vern said that he will write an article for “The Pileated” to explain this to the PSO membership.

Vern suggested that we put a link on the website for the Citizen Science Committee and list links to various projects in which people can get involved. If anyone has any ideas, please contact a member of the committee.

Other Business

Chad commented that 300 people say on Facebook that they are coming to PSO 2020. The capacity of the banquet room was questioned. Vern said that he will check on it.

Greg suggested that PSO add its name to the list of organizations that support the American Bird Conservancy. Several other board members voiced the same opinion. Vern made a motion which David seconded that PSO add its name to the list of organizations that support the American Bird Conservancy. The motion passed.

Laura mentioned that it might be appropriate to make a monetary donation to the ABC. Other board members agreed. Laura moved that PSO make a \$100 donation to the American Bird Conservancy. Vern seconded the motion which passed.

Roger questioned whether discussions on the internet between meetings need to be recorded the same as motions and votes. Vern said that it is only necessary to record the votes, and that the votes should be recorded in the minutes and affirmed at the next board meeting.

Frank made a motion that all the votes that were taken on line and were recorded in the November 26, 2019, minutes be confirmed. David seconded the motion which passed.

With no further business to conduct, Deb declared the meeting to be at an end at 7:38.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee, Secretary

Laura wanted to inform the board of actions taken because of the motions that were approved and noted in the last meeting's minutes but not mentioned during the meeting. She asked that they be added to the minutes.

One was that Frank sent a check for \$500 to help fund Doug Raybuck's Cerulean Warbler research in Columbia after he was mugged and lost his data. The other was that she signed PSO as a signatory to the letter supporting the Migratory Bird Protection Act, HB 5552. Please see her email of January 29, 2020, for full details.

There has been one motion since the January 28 board meeting.

Vern suggested that PSO cover the costs of the donations for the B4C. This would show our support for the project by allowing all the money raised to be used for its intended purpose and not for covering costs.

Roger made a motion that PSO cover the donation cost of the B4C which Margaret seconded (the second came to Roger only.) The motion passed.