

PSO Board of Directors' Meeting

March 25, 2000

Members present were Arlene Koch, Eugene Zelinski, Frank Haas, Margaret and Roger Higbee, Bob Ross, Katrina Knight, Alan Gregory, Dan Brauning, and Mary Jane Seipler. Alan called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Gene reported that at the end of February there was a balance of \$8,015.23 in the treasury.

Alan has completed the revisions to the PSO brochures and brought copies to be distributed by the members.

Alan advised the board that a lawsuit has been filed in federal court concerning the location of the route of I-99 on Bald Eagle Mountain.

Arlene mentioned that people should continue to nominate IBAs, especially private land and smaller areas. Some people may be concerned that the smaller areas are not being accepted and therefore are not nominating them.

There is concern about the use of ATVs in state forests. Arlene made a motion that a letter from the PSO should be written to the state expressing our concern about their use in the state forests. This letter should be science based. Bob seconded the motion which passed. Alan and Doug will work together to draft the letter.

Frank mentioned the fact that some states such as Wisconsin have brochures which contain contacts for comments on environmental issues. These brochures can be sent to the media so that knowledgeable people are contacted on these issues. Frank made a motion that a similar media guide be produced for Pennsylvania and be distributed to the media. Gene seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Frank volunteered to begin work on it.

The CARA legislation has 300+ sponsors in the House and has enough votes to pass their version of the bill. The Senate bill is modeled after the House bill but does not yet have many sponsors. There needs to be a push to get additional sponsors in the Senate.

There was a discussion on how to increase the PSO membership which now stands at approximately 330 members. Katrina suggested sending all bird clubs in the state brochures to promote PSO. Also, she said that her feeling is that the state organizations with local chapters are the most successful. Dan suggested a list of services provide by PSO. Ideas included a mentoring program and the offering of classes to educate the public to become "Master Birders." Dan and Arlene will serve on a committee to set up criteria for one or the other of these programs. Another idea was to create a website from which the general public could click on a map of Pennsylvania and have a checklist of birds produced for that particular area. This would include habitat, season, etc.

This could possibly be based on breeding bird atlas blocks.

There was a general consensus that PSO needs a website. Frank suggested that the membership be asked if anyone would be willing to construct a website. Katrina will place an announcement in the newsletter. Mary Jane suggested that other states' sites be checked for ideas. It was suggested that everyone check other state organizations' sites and bring to the next meeting several ideas that they like. Gene will check with the State College Bird Club about the cost of their website.

The annual meeting was discussed next. Scott Shallaway will be the banquet speaker. Shonah has contacted several WVU students for possible programs. Dan said that he would present a program on Henslow's Sparrows on surface mined land. Steve Feldstein needs to be contacted to see if he will present an identification program. There will be no vans provided for the field trips, so all transportation will be by carpool. Arlene was concerned about the afternoon meeting room size. It supposedly only holds 50 people. It was suggested that the meeting be publicized in the Ornithologists' Newsletter from now on and be advertised on line this time if possible.

The terms of the officers and directors were discussed. All officers and three directors are up for reelection. The directors are Arlene Koch, John Salvetti, and Rudy Keller. The elections will be held at the business meeting on Friday night. A notice will be placed in the newsletter for nominations and for volunteers. Bob and Dan will prepare a slate of nominations.

The Saturday field trips are set. Sunday's field trips could be to Ohiopyle or Ralph Bell's farm. The possibility of obtaining *The Birds of Pennsylvania* on consignment for the meeting was discussed. The conclusion was that Dan will ask Cornell to ship 25 books for the meeting.

The deadline for the newsletter will be April 1. The possibility of buying clip art for the newsletter was discussed. Frank made a motion that clip art be purchased for use in the newsletter. Gene seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Katrina asked about the possibility of including classified ads in the newsletter as a service to the membership. The possibility of placing commercial ads in the newsletter for a fee was discussed.

Frank then dropped a bombshell on the meeting. The Haases will no longer publish the journal *Pennsylvania Birds* 1 year, 3 months, 6 days from today. They will end with Volume 14, No. 4, in the year 2001. Frank then discussed what will be needed to keep the journal going and passed out a list of responsibilities associated with its publication. He said that current major publication costs are \$2,000 to \$2,500 per issue for printing and \$150 for postage. Another consideration is that it will be necessary to obtain a new permanent address for PSO. Future considerations might be to publish the journal electronically on a website and charge a fee to access it. Volunteers will be needed to publish the journal, and the membership should be made aware of this. An editor will be needed who is independent and knowledgeable of Pennsylvania birds. Katrina volunteered to help with the journal if someone else does the newsletter.

Conducting a 25-year follow up of the Breeding Bird Atlas was discussed. The discussion centered around whether PSO may want to be responsible for conducting it. Some felt that there may

be some negative feelings from some of the members while others thought that this may be a way to increase membership. There are questions which need to be worked out especially how it will be conducted.

This portion of the meeting ended at 3:22 p.m. so that the meeting for incorporation could be conducted. Gene conducted the meeting as chairman and secretary. The PSO was approved as a corporation March 22, 2000. Gene offered and Frank seconded that the board approve the incorporation of the PSO. The motion was approved. Gene then read the articles of incorporation. The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

Discussion centered on PSO's insurance needs. Gene will check on insurance for field trips and for the officers. All meetings ended at 3:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger V. Higbee, Secretary