

Board of Directors Meeting

February 26, 2005

Boalsburg, PA

The board of directors of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology met on February 26, 2005. Persons present were Nick Bolgiano, Greg Grove, Frank Haas, Margaret and Roger Higbee, Deuane Hoffman, Shonah Hunter, Rudy Keller, Flo McGuire, Mark McConaughy, Nick Pulcinella, Carmen Santasania, and Linda Wagner. Greg called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Mark moved and Carmen seconded a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous directors' meeting. The motion passed.

Frank gave the treasurer's report. The society as of 02/26/05 has \$11,999.01. Mark moved and Deuane seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted. The motion passed.

Frank informed the board that the PSO did not receive the expected money from the PA Game Commission, and he does not know why. This has caused the cost of our journal, *Pennsylvania Birds (PA Birds)* to be higher than expected. The total target cost per copy is \$5. The average cost over the past 7 issues has been greater than this, so Frank feels that it is time for the editorial board to meet to discuss the alternatives for meeting the cost of publication. The alternatives are to increase dues or reduce the size of the journal. The cost was reduced by using a new cheaper printer, but this has not solved the problem. The board generally agreed that cost-cutting measures need to be instituted before there is a dues increase. One way to reduce the size of *PA Birds* is to put the tables on the web site.

Frank will have new checklists with the name changes, splits, and correct taxonomic order printed and ready for sale by the annual meeting.

Randy Phillips paid the farmer with the Sedge Wren in his field not to mow the field. PSO donated \$100 toward this effort which was successful.

Carmen informed the board that he received several responses from interested members who would like to become board members. Two of them were Sandy Lockerman and John Fedak. It needs to be stressed to potential board members that it is imperative that they have access to email.

A discussion then ensued regarding the number of board members that the by-laws permit at any time. This is not clear as no one seems to have a final copy of the revised by-laws as submitted for our nonprofit status. It was agreed that the board should review the by-laws and the articles of incorporation to determine what they are and if they need changed. All board members should check to see what information they

have on these items. This also includes past motions that affect the composition of the board and the PSO in general.

Linda informed the board that the insurance will renew without a problem. She also reported on T-shirt sales which have been profitable. Everyone liked the new blue shirts. She recommenced continuing to carry the green and blue ones and phasing out the beige.

The annual meeting was then discussed. Three speakers have agreed to make presentations in the afternoon which leaves room for one more. Jake Kubel has been contacted by Greg and will let him know this week. The other speakers will be Scott H. Stoleson, Nick Bolgiano, and Bob Mulvihill. Jake will be last if he agrees to come. If Jake cannot make the meeting, Rudy offered to do a presentation on plants. Nick Pulcinella agree to give a short update on PORC. Doug Gross will be the evening's speaker. A digital projector will be needed for the speakers. Shonah offered to make sure that one will be at the meeting.

There will be a Friday afternoon field trip to the Piney Tract led by Mike Leahy.

The evening banquet menu has been set as prime rib at \$23, seafood at \$19, and vegetable lasagna at \$17. These entrees will be listed on the registration form with the corresponding prices. There will be at least three restaurants open at 5:00 a.m. for breakfast each morning. Saturday lunch will be "on your own." The afternoon break will include both coffee and soda with caffeine. Shonah needs two persons to help her with registration and the silent auction. There will be a cash bar for the banquet. The hotel needs to sell \$200 worth of drinks, or PSO will have to make up the difference. Vendors have been solicited and will have their displays in the foyer which is the only way to get to the meeting room.

The young birder scholarship will again be offered to a birder who is 18 years old or younger. The particulars will be placed in the newsletter.

Shonah would like anyone with silent auction items to e-mail her to tell her what the item is and its approximate value. Items should be bird related.

There was a discussion concerning a pin for this year's meeting as no one had heard from Nancy Dennis. (Unknown to the board at the time of this meeting), Doug Gross has already contacted Nancy who has agreed to design a pin for this year's meeting.

Rudy discussed the Poole award. The committee was comprised of Dan Brauning, Doug Gross, Frank Haas, and Bob Ross. The committee agreed that Margaret Buckwalter should be honored this year. The board approved the selection of Margaret as the Poole award recipient.

It was decided that the Poole award winner should be announced in the newsletter prior to the meeting so that any of the friends of the recipient can be present to see the award

presented. The vice president will present the Poole award. It was also decided that instead of limiting the person the recipient is permitted to bring to a "spouse," that the wording should be changed to "guest."

Rudy then discussed the possibility of creating a conservation award for a group or individual that has been instrumental in advancing the conservation cause. The board agreed. Mark made a motion that the PSO establish a conservation award, not necessarily to be awarded annually, but when a deserving group or individual should be recognized for their work in the conservation field. The recipient will receive a monetary contribution and a letter of recognition for the work they have done. The vice president will have the responsibility of finding a deserving nominee and present the nomination to the board for approval by the board. The vice president may delegate this responsibility to others if he wishes. Shonah seconded this motion, and the motion was approved.

Rudy then made a motion that the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society be honored with the conservation award for their work in getting the Game Commission to purchase the Piney Tract. Mark seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The award this year will be \$100 and a letter of recognition for their work. The president of the PSO will sign the letter. The PSO will not pay for any of the expenses of the person receiving this award for Seneca Rocks. This award will also be announced in the newsletter.

The board decided that these two awards need to be added to the by-laws.

The annual meeting will be at Powdermill Nature Reserve next year. Bob Mulvihill needs to be contacted on several issues and questions.

Shonah will write a short article for the newsletter about the silent auction, and Rudy will submit articles about the Poole Award, this year's recipient, and this year's conservation award. Mark will take photos of the annual meeting for the June newsletter.

The supply of PSO brochures seems to be depleted. Carmen volunteered to revise it.

The meeting adjourned at 2:24.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger V. Higbee, Secretary