

## **PSO Board of Directors Meeting**

Boalsburg, PA  
November 3, 2012

The PSO Board of Directors met with the following members present: John Fedak, Mark McConaughy, Shonah Hunter, Marjorie Howard, Wayne Laubscher, Mike Fialkovich, Ramsay Koury, Mike Lanzone, Flo McGuire, Emily Thomas, Scott Stoleson, and Tom Kuehl. John called the meeting to order at 11:48 a.m.

With 12 of the 21 board members in attendance, John questioned whether it was a good idea to choose the meeting date so far ahead of time. The consensus was that we had a "good" turnout, many of our members prefer to set the date well in advance, and we should continue to do so.

### **Minutes - Roger Higbee**

The minutes of the July 21, 2012 meeting had been distributed prior to the meeting. Mark moved that they be accepted and Scott seconded. The motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report & Membership Report - Frank Haas**

In Frank's absence, copies of the Treasurer's Report and Membership Report were distributed. There was some question about why we have a \$100 expense under "Contributions".

It was noted that membership has increased, probably credited to our Facebook presence and the ability to join/renew online. Mark moved to accept the reports and Marjorie seconded. The motion passed.

### **PA Birds - Geoff Malosh**

In Geoff's absence, John read Geoff's email regarding the payment currently paid to the data technician. It was noted that no other positions/officers are paid a stipend. Another pertinent factor is that we will be eliminating data tables after Fall 2012, which is a large portion of the technician's present workload. Tom moved that we give Geoff and the editorial board the authority to renew the technician's participation at up to \$500 per year. Mark seconded, and the motion passed.

The editorial board will meet at Mike Lanzone's home on Dec. 8. Two primary topics are: the creation of a formal recommendation to compilers on how to use eBird data in county reports; the future of the role of the data technician. Any PSO board member is welcome to attend.

### **Committee Reports**

**Awards - Mike Lanzone**

Mike has been thinking about some special recognition for Nick Pulcinella as he leaves the PORC board after 12 years.

Scott noted that the 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas of Pennsylvania will soon be out, and as it is “the best breeding bird atlas ever done”, we should recognize the three authors, Dan Brauning, Andy Wilson and Bob Mulvihill in some way at the annual meeting.

John asked for approval of a Certificate of Appreciation for Carole Winslow, who is currently sharing a Rufous Hummingbird in Clarion County. Mark moved to approve it, Tom seconded, and the motion passed.

John suggested that hummingbird banders should nominate the homeowners who have hummingbirds for COAs.

Tom suggested that the Publicity Committee post COA recipients on the PaBirds Listserve, also that they be listed on the website and in the newsletter.

### **Nominating Committee - Tom Kuehl**

Tom noted that Carmen and Ramsey’s terms are expiring after this year. They have both agreed to stay on the board.

Tom did some analysis of the board members and PSO members by region, with the state divided into 6 regions. He suggested that we look for more possible board members from the East, and noted that we have a shortage of members in the NorthEast.

	<b>Board</b>	<b>PSO Members (approx)</b>
SouthWest	8	65
SouthCentral	3	75
SouthEast	1	150
NorthWest	3	25
NorthCentral	4	40
NorthEast	1	10

Tom also did some “unverified” analysis of the board by gender and age; he suggested we seek female and younger candidates in the future, for a more diversified board. Also, to increase PSO membership, we might ask those who post on the PaBirds Listserve and are not members, to join PSO.

Mike L. suggested a young birders’ group within PSO, possibly at a reduced membership rate of \$5. The cost of the publication is a consideration. Something to

think about until our next meeting: these young birders could have only on-line access to the newsletter and journal.

John read an email from Doug Gross, guest from PGC, who was unable to attend. Doug mentioned a young birder's club based at Nescopeck State Park in Luzerne Co., not far from Wilkes-barre, and suggested involving these young birders in the next PSO annual meeting.

### **Publicity/Outreach - John Fedak**

Flo noted that the brochures are ready to go. We need to decide how many to print and how to distribute them. Mike L. offered to check with the printer who gave a good price for items for the 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas. Carmen has said that he may be able to print them, depending on how many we want. We should ask Frank how many to print.

There was some discussion about PSO posters which could be ordered from our website and printed on demand. Mike L. offered to create a poster. After getting input from Frank, we can vote on-line about this idea.

### **Newsletter - Margaret Higbee**

It was noted that Margaret needs articles.

### **Research and Conservation - Scott Stoleson**

Concerning speakers at the Annual Meeting, Mike L. suggested student presentations of 10 - 12 minutes each, also a time for members to share. He will get together with the Research and Conservation Committee and propose a format in the next several weeks.

Scott reported that he and Mike L. were talking about a one to two page article for the journal - a research round-up, including short accessible articles readable by lay people. They will contact various researchers around the state for reports, then edit and abstract them. Mike L. will put this on the agenda for the Dec. 8 Editorial Board meeting. Mike L. moved that we incorporate a short section of research articles for the journal. Tom seconded, and the motion passed.

Scott noted that some ideas they should consider include wind power and loss of habitat. There was some discussion about white papers - should each white paper be taken before the board? Mark noted that committees are independent - they should prepare something and ask for board approval.

### **Records and Data - Mike Fialkovich**

Mike reported that Holly Merker joined the committee as an ebird liaison.

Drew Weber has taken all the PORC records and organized them on the website. All rare bird records are searchable, and PORC voting is all on-line.

Tom will send Drew a Thank You.

### **Field Trips - Ramsay Koury**

Ramsay thanked Chad Kaufmann for his involvement with this committee. They have had two trips, Waggoners' Gap, with 15 - 18 in attendance, and Hawk Mountain, with 12-13. Both of these included new people.

The next outing will be to Allegheny Front on Sunday, November 11.

Ramsay had no responses of field trip ideas from his newsletter article.

A pelagic trip is being considered with Brian Patteson, at Hatteras, Virginia Beach, or Delaware. Mike L. suggested inviting young birders on a pelagic trip.

Wayne Laubscher has been asked to do a winter Ontario trip, possibly in mid-February. He said that the bird sighting reports are starting to look promising for this trip, including Pine Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings.

### **Annual Meeting - Shonah Hunter**

The next Annual Meeting will be at the Quality Inn, 880 Kidder St. in Wilkes-Barre, from May 31 through June 2, 2013.

Possible outings are Ricketts Glen, Bear Creek, Kirby Park, Susquehanna Wetlands. Doug (by email) offered to lead an outing to Ricketts Glen.

John has asked Chuck Tague to be the keynote speaker but this is not yet confirmed. Other suggestions are Terry Masters from East Stroudsburg and Robert Currie from Villanova if Chuck Tague doesn't work out.

### **New Business**

Wayne suggested we sponsor a Fall hummingbird contest starting next year. Lycoming Audubon has held one for 5 years and it has been very successful, not only helping researchers, but also informing the public that the Ruby-throats will still migrate if feeders are left up. We should think about prizes and possible overlap with other contests. Anyone who has a hummingbird that is not a Ruby-throat, and allows a bander to attempt to capture and band it, will be a "winner". Anticipating a lot of winners, one suggestion is to have a small prize for each winner, and a drawing of all the winners for one larger prize.

Mike L. noted that someone, probably the chairman, from PORC should have an honorary spot on the PSO board. Mike L. made this motion, Mark seconded, and the motion passed. Drew Weber, the PORC chairman, will be an honorary member of the PSO board, with voting privileges.

Ramsay moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 pm, and Marjorie seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Flo McGuire,  
Acting Secretary