

PSO Board of Directors' Teleconference Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2020

The PSO Board of Directors conducted a teleconference meeting with the following members participating: Eli DePaulis, Mike Fialkovich, Vern Gauthier, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Frank Haas, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Laura Jackson, Chad Kauffman, Wayne Laubscher, Evan Mann, Holly Merker, Emily Thomas, Linda Wagner, Carole Winslow, and David Yeany. Evan called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Minutes – Roger

Roger distributed the minutes of the March 31 meeting prior to this meeting.

PSO 2020 All Things Birds

Evan began the meeting by saying that we need to make a decision at this meeting about whether we should hold PSO 2020 in September. The board members discussed how they feel about having PSO 2020 this year. Mentioned in favor of having the meeting this year were:

1. We have never missed an annual meeting.
2. We could lose the venue if we cancel this year's meeting.

Mentioned against having the meeting were the following:

1. Many people will not attend.
2. The virus may return.
3. There are too many unknowns.
4. New regulations may be in place.
5. Would we be responsible or liable if people got sick?
6. We will lose \$1500 if we cancel and not reschedule.

Vern's opinion is that we should cancel. All board members present at the meeting voted to postpone the meeting until 2021.

Because of the postponement the membership will have to be notified by email. Frank will handle the email notification. Announcement of the cancellation will be included on all social media and in the newsletter. Chad will talk to the field trip leaders, and Evan will notify the speakers.

Education Committee – Holly

Holly will continue as the chair of the Education Committee. Frontiers in Ornithology has been canceled for September of this year and rescheduled for September of 2021. There will be no youth scholarships to the meeting or any bird camp for this year. Vern suggested that the number of both scholarships be at least doubled for next year.

PORC – Holly

The committee is keeping up with all decisions on bird records. Ian Gardner is resigning as secretary, so PORC is looking for a new one. They are asking that whoever takes the job to keep it for several years and that they be tech savvy.

Conservation Committee – Laura

BLM is going to change a large area of western habitat in several state to benefit the sage grouse without regard to how this will affect other species. She will draft a letter to BLM expressing our concern about the lack of public comment on the proposal. The draft letter will be sent to the board for their approval.

Laura asked if we had joined the American Bird Conservancy. Frank said that he had sent the \$100 as approved by the board at the last meeting, but he did not fill out any forms to join the Bird Conservation Alliance which is part of ABC. Laura will contact ABC to get PSO added to the alliance list which will send her notifications on important bird conservation issues.

With no further business to conduct, Vern made a motion to adjourn which Frank seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting end at 7:01.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee, Secretary