

PSO Board of Directors' Teleconference Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2021

The PSO Board of Directors conducted a teleconference meeting with the following members participating: Eli DePaulis, Mike Fialkovich, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Frank Haas, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Laura Jackson, Chad Kauffman, Wayne Laubscher, Holly Merker, Emily Thomas, Linda Wagner, and David Yeany. Also present were probable new board members Dan Brauning, Brian Byrnes, Tony DeSantis, and Julia Plummer. Deb called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Presidential Candidate – Deb

Deb announced that after talking to Dan Brauning, he considered for 24 hours then told her that he would be willing to accept the position as president of PSO. Everyone thought that this was fantastic news and congratulated her for her coup.

Dan's Role in PSO – Dan

Dan joined the meeting to give the board his take on what he would like to see PSO accomplish. One of the primary goals would be to advance bird knowledge in the state. He feels that PSO needs to link up the knowledge, passion, and expertise of its members to the broader issues of birding and bird conservation in the birding community in general. He would like to see us expand our vision and influence. This would be through other organizations who have more of an activist role such as Audubon, Sierra Club, and Penn Future who have a larger member base. PSO's strength is our members' knowledge and passion for birds. He would also like to push education and try to get the PGC, as well as other organizations, to promote more bird knowledge. We promote the knowledge through the website, field trip leadership, the magazine, etc. What we do we do well, and the membership will come to us. When we give a broader purpose to the things we like to do, it is a win-win situation. He thinks Lancaster would be the place to hold our next face-to-face annual meeting since we already basically have the meeting set up. Dan said to email him at Dan@theBraunings.com if anyone has questions or comments.

Treasurer's Report – Frank

We still have money and nothing unusual has happened. Membership is down slightly from 459 to 438 members. He has not analyzed the reasons for this. See Frank's email dated July 26, 2021, for the complete report attached to the email.

Annual Meeting(on line) – General Discussion

It was generally agreed that by having a virtual meeting we will probably have some people attend who either can't travel to a meeting or don't want to. Some discussion centered around the format that should be used for the meeting, but whatever the format, everyone should be able to see each other and interact. We will also need to be able to mute everyone when the speaker is making his presentation. It was also mentioned that webinars should be planned throughout the year in addition to the annual meeting. David said he would help with the webinars.

Annual Meeting – David (Specifics)

Matt Young will give the program for the annual meeting on the Finch Super Flight. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 29. David already has the program description and bio information for the newsletter. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. with the business meeting first followed by the program. The business meeting will include an announcement of the results of the election of officers and board members, a recap of the B4C, a treasurer's report, and the student scholarship awards. An agenda will need to be put together for the meeting. It was suggested that we could possibly have breakout rooms after the meeting if the people who are attending would like smaller discussion groups, possibly focused on specific topics. Julia was added to the annual meeting committee to help with the planning.

David has the ballot ready for the election which will include a short bio for each new prospective member to give the membership some information about the candidates. It will be a simple listing of the people recommended for the offices and a “yes,” “no,” or “abstention” for the entire slate of candidates. We need to send the membership an email to let them know that the email ballot will be coming some time before the meeting. All members have email except 37 who will have to be sent paper ballots. Frank said that he can take care of sending both the email and the paper ballots.

Further discussion was centered around the paying of an honorarium to Matt and making a donation to the Finch Research Network. It was decided that a \$200 honorarium for Matt and a \$500 donation to the Finch Research Network would be appropriate. Frank made a motion to give Matt Young a \$200 honorarium and donate \$500 to the Finch Research Network. Laura seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Extra Board Meeting in August – Deb

Deb would like to have a board meeting in August to make sure everything is set for the September annual meeting. We could try the breakout rooms as mentioned above at this meeting. Dan may be busy on Tuesday evenings so we may need to find another night for our board meetings. Emily will take care of setting up a Doodle poll to see when everyone is available. It was recommended that we try for Wednesday, August 25, for the meeting.

B4C Recap – Laura

Laura provided a recap of the B4C. Twenty-two teams, included 89 birders covering 30 counties, participated. The initial goal of \$5000 was reached fairly quickly, so the goal was finally raised to \$10,000 which was exceeded. The final amount raised was \$10,645. Sighted by the teams during the four-day period were 152 species.. Frank moved to distribute the money raised to the participating partners. Mike seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Laura said she will draft a letter to send with each check to the partners. PSO covered all expenses, including \$272 for PayPal and \$280 for the cost of the website for two years, so that the entire \$10,645 will be distributed. Laura said that the Conservation Committee would like to sponsor the B4C again on June 17 to 20, 2022. Frank made a motion which David seconded to have the B4C next year on June 17 to 20, 2022. The motion passed unanimously. Laura asked if PSO would pay for the expenses for next year. Frank made a motion to cover all expenses for the B4C in 2022. Mike seconded the motion which passed unanimously. See Laura’s email dated July 27, 2021, for the more detailed attached report.

Minutes – Deb

Deb asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2021, meeting which Roger had distributed prior to the meeting. Frank made the motion which Linda seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PORC – Frank

Frank said that he has nearly completed an overhaul of the PORC voting system. It will include a searchable database with the last two years of records available. The public will be able to input sightings on the appropriate forms for review and voting by the PORC members. He has been working with Tessa Rhinehart to make sure that all forms are available and as they should be for input.

PORC – David

David gave a brief update of PORC’s recent activities:

Twenty-six new records were reviewed – 13 traditional through the website and 13 eBird expedited reviews. Of the traditional records 8 were accepted, 4 need full review, and one was rejected. Nine of the eBird records were accepted, and 4 need a full review.

Newsletter -- Margaret

Margaret asked if we should move the October newsletter to the beginning of September so that the annual meeting can be advertised. One board member commented that this would be a good idea; no one else responded.

Board Communication Platform – David

David asked if it would be wise to try another communication platform since there has been so much trouble with Google Groups lately, and it is difficult to find past communications. He suggested that Microsoft Teams might be a better way to go. Julia said that people would have to be educated on how to use it as some don't know how to use all the features that are available. David, Julia, and Eli will look into changing from Google Groups to another communication platform.

With no additional business to conduct, Frank moved to adjourn, and the motion was seconded by Margaret at 7:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee, Secretary