

PSO Board of Directors' Teleconference Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2022

The PSO Board of Directors conducted a teleconference meeting with the following members participating: Dan Brauning, Brian Byrnes, Eli DePaulis, Tony DeSantis, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Frank Haas, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Laura Jackson, Chad Kauffman, Wayne Laubscher, Julia Plummer, Emily Thomas, Carole Winslow, and David Yeany. Dan called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Minutes – Roger

The minutes of the November 17, 2021, meeting were distributed prior to this meeting. There were no corrections or additions. Dan said they are approved as distributed.

Awards and Nominations-- Deb

Deb said that it is time to send out requests for the student research grant applications. This announcement will be placed on various social media and applications must be returned by March 31. The committee's intention is to present the Conservation and Earl Poole Awards annually whether we have an annual meeting or not. She will begin working with her committee on these tasks.

Citizen Science – Dan

Dan filled in for Doug who was not able to make the meeting. Dan will recommend to the committee to select the most pertinent ideas on Doug's list and begin implementing them. Please see Doug Gross's email dated January 24, 2022, for his attached report. Dan mentioned again that there will be a third Breeding Bird Atlas. Andy Wilson is currently working on this and is considering some new ideas and protocols. The next BBA will begin in January 2024.

Conservation – Laura

Laura began by reminding everyone to mark their calendars for the 2022 Breeding Bird Blitz June 17 through 20. Vern Gauthier will be updating the B4C website so that teams can begin registering. The committee needs contact information for groups doing habitat restoration or conservation for species of special concern. Applications from the groups to share in the money raised are due February 14. Laura will email the application to all board members. She then thanked all the board members for approving the letters on the Anthracite Ridge Wind Project and the Tongass National Forest. Laura then explained the email voting procedure to the new board members. (See the Board minutes of November 27, 2018, found on the PSO website). See Laura's email of January 25, 2022, for her attached Conservation Committee report.

Education – Tony

Tony said that the Education Committee met twice since the last meeting. They decided to present a webinar series which will occur every odd month on the last Monday of the month. Tony will present a program on Pennsylvania owls this month, Brian will present one on the B4C in March, and there will be a song bird research program in May. As part of the series, local bird clubs will be mentioned, especially the smaller ones that may be struggling. Frank will send out an email to all members with the link to the webinar. Anyone interested will have to register. We will also be using Facebook to advertise the webinar. The program will be recorded and be available for viewing on the PSO website. It was also suggested that PSO should consider creating a YouTube channel.

Events and Field Trips – Chad and Brian

The committee is going to promote the idea of a “county spotlight” which will encourage birders to focus their birding during specific dates on specific under-birded counties. The first two will be Cambria March 4 through 7 and the second will be Adams, April 22 through 25. There may be some specific activities in particular areas, but it is envisioned to be individuals or small groups birding in their favorite areas or the areas of their choice. This will not be a competition but a concentration of effort to increase eBirding reports in these counties. In the fall Cameron County will be spotlighted, maybe in October. Tony will be continuing the state park challenge, both in the spring and fall, which will respectively start May 9 and the last part of September into October. We could promote this for the state parks and hopefully they will promote our efforts.

Brian discussed the possibility of out-of-state trips for PSO members only using professional guides, mainly because no one wants the responsibility of arranging all the logistics of transportation, housing, and food. This was discussed with George Armistead and David Trentley, who both thought this doable. The present thought is to arrange for one or two trips in 2023. A possibility is to include a registration fee to benefit one of our projects. After some discussion, Brian said they will move ahead with this idea.

Treasurer’s Report – Frank

Frank distributed the treasurer’s report prior to the meeting. He reported that we are in good shape financially. See Frank’s email of January 24, 2022, for his attached treasurer’s report.

Also discussed was getting one of the board members to be a cosignatory on the checking account. Frank would like to have someone commit to the position for an extended period of time. If no one else volunteers, Dan will take the position,

Journal – Greg

Things are going well, but Greg still needs more articles. He would like to encourage people to think about writing site guides for any area with which they are familiar and regularly bird, particularly with all the eBird data available now. Deb said that we will be receiving articles from the student grant recipients for the journal.

Membership – Need Chairperson

Dan said that he is not concerned about having promotional activities to promote membership since he feels that all the activities that have been discussed in the meeting will promote membership and he feels that people will join because of our programs. If someone wants to organize the membership committee and do some promotional things, that would be great.

Newsletter – Margaret

Margaret said that things are going well and she always receives several articles from the board members, but she can always use more.

PORC – David

Please see David’s email with his report attached dated January 24, 2022.

Annual Meeting – Dan

Dan would like to have a face-to-face meeting in the fall, probably in Lancaster and he has already contacted the Lancaster County Bird Club to ask them if they would still be willing to lead field trips which they said they would. This would be based around the current Covid constraints and protocols. The board voted with everyone agreeing that we should go ahead with a face-to-face meeting in mid-September in Lancaster. A discussion followed giving the pros and cons of such a meeting and how people feel about things such as field trips and the banquet. It will be a hybrid meeting with both face-to-face and probably a virtual component for

talks or programs. It was suggested that field trip leaders have a webcam so that other people can be on the field trip virtually. An annual meeting committee was formed with Dan, Frank, Chad, and Julia as members and hopefully adding Barbara Hunsberger, Shonah Hunter, and Ted Nichols.

Strategic Planning – Dan

Dan said that he thinks that PSO needs to look carefully at any new programs that we institute to determine if that program is something that the birding community wants and, if so, can we sustain it into the future.

Communication Platform – Dan

Dan brought up the question of what communication platform we should use for the board. One alternative is the use of Slack which has a monthly charge. It was suggested that Dan and David look into it and provide the board with a brief description of it and what the cost would be. The other alternative is to continue using Google Groups.

The next board meeting will be March 16, 2022, at 6:00 pm. Dan would like everyone to think about an in-person board meeting, possibly this summer.

The meeting ended at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee, Secretary