

# PSO Board of Directors' Teleconference Meeting Minutes

August 31, 2022

The PSO Board of Directors conducted a teleconference meeting with the following members participating: Dan Brauning, Brian Byrnes, Tony DeSantis, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Frank Haas, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Laura Jackson, Chad Kauffman, Wayne Laubscher, Julia Plummer, Carole Winslow, and David Yeany II. Dan called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 p.m.

The question of liability insurance for the meeting and for the directors will be taken up by the Finance Committee which will be formed tonight.

## Minutes – Roger

The minutes of the July 13, 2022, meeting were distributed prior to this meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without corrections.

## Annual Meeting – Dan

Dan thanked everyone involved in the planning of the annual meeting. He would like to have a moderator for the meeting. Julia volunteered to do that for both the Friday night and Saturday afternoon meetings. Brian told the board that the tree planting will take place at Middle Creek and is ready to go. Deb will coordinate the Friday night business meeting. Three people have agreed to run for the position of board member. They are David Barber, the Senior Research Biologist at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary; Doug Wentzel, program director, instructor, and naturalist at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center; and Carolyn Hendricks who is currently serving on the boards of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and NatureServe. Dan said he would reach out to Keith Russell of Mid Atlantic Audubon to see if he is interested in becoming a board member. Eli DePaulis's term is up, and Dan is trying to convince him to be reelected. Brian Byrnes has agreed to run for vice president. Dan mentioned that we will also take nominations from the floor for any position. Chad said that he has the birding trivia game setup for after the business meeting. Dan recommended that we provide refreshments for Friday night. Deb made a motion which Laura seconded to allow \$250 to be spent for food and drink. The motion passed unanimously. Dan said that he would take care of the refreshments. Chad informed us that there are several field trips with no registrants or only a few and these may be canceled. He will get the roster of each trip to the leaders so they can contact the participants. Chad also said there will be a rare bird text alert. Three vendors plan to come to the meeting. There will also be a birding trip list on Saturday afternoon. Chad told us that everyone will be able to share their eBird checklists on PSO Birding Data, so all the data will be visible to anyone. Laura would like the B4C mentioned Friday night to recognize this year's participants and promote it for next year.

## 2023 Meeting Location and Timing

State College will be the location for the 2023 annual meeting which will be held in the spring on May 19 to 21. Shaver's Creek Environmental Center will be the location for the meeting. Deb and Julia and anyone else who wants to help will form the committee for the planning of the meeting. Deb said they already have a list of field trips and leaders worked out. Plans are well underway.

## Pennsylvania Birds – Greg

Greg would like to have a replacement editor for him by the end of 2023. He will write a job description and have it reviewed by the editorial board and then have it circulated among the PSO membership. A committee needs to be formed to interview any prospective candidates who are interested. If no members are interested, then a decision will have to be made how far we will advertise for a new editor.

## **Committees – Dan**

Several committees need chairpersons – Events and Field Trips, Citizen Science, and Membership and Outreach. Dan would like a board member to chair all of the committees. Any PSO member can serve on a committee. A discussion followed concerning how to fill these open positions.

## **Conservation – Laura**

Twenty B4C teams participated this year. The amount raised was \$15,071 this year was split among three conservation organizations. These groups will be asked to report on how they are spending the money. In 2023 the B4C will be held June 9 through 19 which includes two weekends. Teams can bird every day if they wish. The committee would like to expand the type of organization that can apply for the money that is raised. They are also asking PSO to cover the administrative costs which amounted to about \$500 this year and whether PSO is willing to donate up to \$1000 if the financial goal is not met. The Anthracite Ridge Wind Project has been withdrawn and is not moving forward at this time. The committee discussed the possibility of writing position papers on various conservation issues. They are hoping to work with the Education Committee to produce maybe two webinars on conservation this coming year. They are going to ask Shaver's Creek whether a conservation project is planned with which PSO can help at the 2023 meeting. See Laura's email dated August 31, 2022, for a full report.

## **Education – Tony**

The next webinar on November 21 will be presented by Garrett White of the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge discussing the natural resource projects that are going on at the refuge. For January Tony has contacted Steve Latta about presenting a webinar on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, but he has not heard back from him yet. The committee is beginning to look for other speakers and will team up with the Conservation Committee to present several webinars on conservation. Dan suggested offering webinars on birding for all levels as well as one including information concerning scopes, binoculars, and other equipment. Another topic will be the Breeding Bird Atlas which is scheduled to begin in 2024.

## **Events and Field Trips – Chad**

The spotlight county for October will be Cameron. Chad also informed the board that a field trip to Hawk Mountain has been planned for the second weekend in November. He is considering doing a spotlight in one of the northeastern under-birded counties in the spring.

## **Treasurer's Report – Frank**

Frank distributed the interim treasurer's report prior to the meeting, and the annual treasurer's report has been posted to the website. He said we are OK financially, and profits keep growing. See his email of August 30, 2022, for the report.

## **PORC – David**

One new PORC voting member will be needed at the end of December as a member's second term ends. A new secretary will be needed as well. The first batch of records to be reviewed after the changeover to the new system is to be completed tomorrow. System enhancements include the ability to search records and create reports. See David's email dated August 31, 2022, for his full report.

## **Newsletter – Margaret**

The next newsletter will go out in early October, so anything to be included will be due ASAP but no later than September 20.

### **Awards Committee – Deb**

Deb will mention the student research awards, the COAs, and will announce the Earl Poole Award winner as well as the Conservation Award winner.

Frank raised the question of increasing the honorarium for the award winners. Frank moved that the honorarium given to the Earle Poole and Conservation Award winners be increased to \$250 each. The motion was seconded by Julia and passed unanimously.

### **Budget – Dan**

Dan is proposing that we adopt an interim budget for the remaining fiscal year and think about a budget for our next fiscal year. Frank will do some research and come up with dollar amounts on various current expenses which will then be used to help decide on a budget amount for committees and other expenses. The budget will then be completed at the next board meeting.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at 6:30. Dan ended the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee, Secretary