

# PSO Board of Directors' Teleconference Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2023

The PSO Board of Directors conducted a teleconference meeting with the following members participating: David Barber, Dan Brauning, Brian Byrnes, Tony DeSantis, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Frank Haas, Carolyn Hendricks, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Wayne Laubscher, Julia Plummer, and Doug Wentzel. Dan called the meeting to order at approximately 6:33 p.m.

## Minutes – Roger

The minutes of the October 25, 2022, meeting were distributed prior to this meeting. David made a motion that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved without corrections. The motion passed by consent.

## 2023 Birding Festival – Deb

The Birding Festival will be held at the Ramada Inn in State College. Dave, Deb, Greg, and Julia have been working on the details of this year's birding festival in May. Deb reported on the costs and also mentioned that the banquet will be buffet style. Total estimated cost for the festival will be approximately \$3600. This includes meeting room and audio visual equipment rental, snacks for Friday night and Saturday afternoon, guest room for the banquet speaker, and dinners for the speaker and his wife and the afternoon speakers. See Deb's emails of January 16 and 17 for a breakdown of the costs and other information. The cost of the buffet has not yet been finalized.

A discussion ensued concerning the registration fee for participants. It was agreed to charge members \$35, non-members \$50 which includes a full PSO membership, and students \$15.

Ten field trips have been arranged for both Saturday and Sunday with participants limited to 12 on regular birding field trips, 8 on the photography field trips, and as yet an undetermined number on the drawing and journaling field trips. Also, Julia has agreed to conduct evening field trips on Friday and Saturday. Deb has made it clear to the field trip leaders that the field trips must end by 11:00 so that participants may eat and get back for the first speaker.

The speakers on Saturday afternoon will be Andy Wilson discussing the third Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas, Lauri Green presenting on her Tree Swallow research, Mercy Melo, a student research grant recipient, on the decline of hawks, and Scott Parkhill on Wood Thrushes. The consensus was that four speakers in the afternoon were enough. The length of time for each presentation has yet to be determined.

There will be room for 16 tables for vendors, and a work project on Friday afternoon at Shaver's Creek has been planned.

Dan said that he and Deb have discussed posting the information on our birding festival on Cornell's website to get some national exposure.

It was decided to have a bird quiz Friday evening after the business meeting but restrict it to only those present and not have it virtually. Julia said that she would contact Chad to see if he is interested in setting it up.

Frank made a motion that the Birding Festival committee have a budget in the neighborhood of \$4000 for the meeting. The registration fee is recommended to be \$35 for members, \$50 for non-members which includes a full membership for a year, and \$15 for students. The motion was approved.

At the business meeting five new board members will need to be elected to replace those who are leaving the board in addition to a new secretary. It would be good to try to find board members from the western part of the state as the board is currently slightly heavy toward the east. David agreed to compile a list of names of potential board members that will be given to him by the current board members. Dan will serve one more year as president.

Dan would like everyone to begin thinking about the location and time of the 2024 meeting. Possibly northeastern Pennsylvania or western Pennsylvania in late May or early June or mid to late September. Frank suggested we try to have the meeting in a county that has never hosted a meeting before. Dan would also like a committee formed to begin exploring the possibilities for a meeting location and begin the process of arranging the meeting.

### **Pennsylvania Birds – Greg**

Greg said that there has been nothing further to report on the search for a new editor. He suggested that maybe we could advertise the position again to the membership but mention this time that a stipend is included. Also, it was questioned if possibly the search should be widened from PSO membership to include those on the PSO Facebook page.

### **Conservation – Brian**

Brian said that the application form for organizations to apply to partner with PSO to share in money raised by the B4C had been sent out several weeks ago. The organizations need to return the applications by early to mid March, and a final decision will be made by the Conservation Committee by the end of March. Brian would like someone to take over the communications position on the committee.

### **Education – Tony**

The next webinar on January 23 will be presented by Annie Lindsay from Powdermill Nature Reserve. In March, the committee is hoping to get the Bluebird Society to give a presentation. No presentation will be scheduled in May due to the Birding Festival. In July Ian Gardner will talk about fall plumaged warblers.

### **Events and Field Trips – Dan**

Dan said that a chairperson is needed to take over this committee. Chad Kauffman is willing to continue to help with hawk watch field trips and the county spotlight series.

### **Treasurer's Report – Frank**

Frank distributed the interim treasurer's report prior to the meeting. He said we have money. Frank also noted that at the beginning of January he sent a letter to all previous members who have allowed their memberships to lapse in the past two years. Of the 185 letters he sent he has received 29 renewals. He will continue to do this every January.

### **Awards and Nominations**

Because he is vice-president, Brian is head of this committee. Frank said that an email has already been sent out to the membership requesting nominations for the Earl Poole and Conservation awards. The awards to each will be \$250 plus a plaque costing approximately \$80 which Frank takes care of for the Poole award. The conservation award winner gets the check plus a certificate.

### **Newsletter – Margaret**

The next newsletter will go out in March, so anything to be included should be sent to her no later than February 20.

### **PORC – Julia**

Julia is the new PORC chairperson, and Emily Ritter is the new secretary. Two new people have joined the PORC review committee. They are Carl Engstrom and Nick Liadis. The committee will be updating the official list of accepted birds seen in Pennsylvania.

## **General – Brian**

Brian said that he got several communications from other birding groups saying that they would be happy to include some type of message from PSO in their newsletters. In addition he was wondering if perhaps we should have a more formal reciprocal arrangement with local bird clubs to promote their and our activities.

## **Website – Dan**

Dan said that he received several responses from board members with regard to things that need to be updated on the website. Frank said that he has already updated many of the things that were listed. He also said that the coming events page needs to be updated by a member of the Events and Field Trips Committee. In addition, he proposed that we could allow state bird clubs to post their events on a page on our website. He proposed that each committee have access to their page and keep it updated themselves. The local county birding site guides need the most work and possibly the county compilers could help with these and update it using eBird hot spots. Another suggestion is to direct inquiries to other existing sites which already have the information. Frank also asked if someone would update the PSO brochure on the website; Julia volunteered to do this.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 6:30. Dan ended the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

## **eMail Vote – Dan**

On January 17, 2023, Dan posed the following question to the board for an email vote:

“Do you support paying \$300 to the winner of Pennsylvania's 3<sup>rd</sup> Breeding Bird Atlas logo contest with PSO funds?”

Thirteen board members voted “Yes” for the proposed question with no dissenting votes recorded. Support for paying the winner \$300 was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee, Secretary