

# PSO Board of Directors' Teleconference Meeting Minutes

March 15, 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, Laura Jackson, Wayne Laubscher, Julia Plummer, and Doug Wentzel. Mark Bonta, who will be the next Pennsylvania Birds editor, was also present. Dan called the meeting to order at approximately 6:33 p.m.

## Minutes – Roger

The minutes of the January 17, 2023, meeting were distributed prior to this meeting. David made a motion that Frank seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved without corrections. The motion passed by consent.

## 2023 Birding Festival – Deb

Deb said that some of the field trips are full and others have very few or no one signed up for them. The Friday and Saturday night field trips are full and it should have been made clear that a person could only sign up for one and not both. Julia questioned if we should have another advertising push for the festival. It was decided that in a couple of weeks that another round of advertising should occur along with a push for the t-shirts especially for non attendees. It was also noted that the festival is listed on the Cornell and the ABA festival listings.

Dan thanked the committee chairs and Frank for updating the website. Also he informed the board that he has asked Mike Fialkovich and Evan Man to begin work again on the revision of the bylaws.

Dan informed the board that the Third Atlas Logo Committee has made a selection for the logo for the next atlas. It will be composed of two different logos submitted by Danielle Cassidy and Bobby Brown. Because there are now two different logos involved, the award money has been increased to a total of \$550 by personal donations to cover the additional cost. The award to each person will be \$275. Julia made a motion that both Danielle Cassidy and Bobby Brown should receive an award of \$275 for the design of the Third Breeding Bird Atlas logo. Wayne seconded the motion which passed without a dissenting vote.

Carolyn informed the board that she has received three nominations for a position on the board and one for secretary. The board member nominations are Chelsea Beck, Jeff Kenney, and Mary Alice Koeneke. The nomination for secretary is Valerie Dunn. Please see Carolyn's email dated March 15, 2023 for the bio information for each candidate. Carolyn volunteered to take the position of secretary for a year while Valerie gets to know the board members and how the board functions and see if she still wants to be secretary.

Mark Bonta has volunteered to take the position as editor of Pennsylvania Birds from Greg. He is very enthusiastic about taking over and loves to do editing. Greg said that he would help while Mark gets his feet on the ground. Greg made a motion that Mark Bonta be appointed as editor of Pennsylvania Birds which includes a stipend of \$2500 to be paid at the end of each publication year. Laura seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Dan said that there are two committee chairs vacant which are for the Field Trip and Membership and Outreach Committees and would like to have these filled.

Dan mentioned the need to decide on the location and time of the 2024 meeting. This includes deciding on whether it should be in the spring or the fall and where. There was a discussion concerning when the meeting should be held and the general consensus was it should be in the spring. Dan called for a vote for spring or fall and the results were 12 for spring and 0 for fall. The location should be in Western Pennsylvania south of Pittsburgh.

## **Awards and Nominations**

Brian said that the committee has received nominations for two conservation awards and one and a half Poole awards. When he receives the final information on the second Poole award candidate the information will be circulated to the rest of the committee to determine the winner of the awards. Deb said that there have been two research grant proposals received and they both look good.

## **Citizen Science – Greg**

A notice has gone out that a director for the third Pennsylvania Bird Atlas is needed and should be in place by June. Dan sees PSO as a core sponsor of the atlas.

## **Conservation – Laura**

Three organizations have been selected to share in the money raised by the B4C. They are Hawk Mountain to support the Third Pennsylvania Bird Atlas, South Middleton Township to expand and enhance existing wetlands for breeding Virginia Rails, and the Foundation for Sustainable Forests to remove invasive species from a 25 acre forested area. Vern Gothier has the website well underway.

Laura mentioned several areas of concern. The possibility of wind turbines in Lake Erie and low flyovers by the Maryland Air National Guard over The Wilds in Pennsylvania.

She also mentioned the possibility of PSO signing onto a letter supporting the National Nature Assessment being proposed by the Biden Administration. Laura made a motion that PSO become a signatory on a letter to the Biden Administration supporting the National Nature Assessment proposal. David seconded the motion which was approved.

Please see Laura's email dated March 15, 2023 for the full committee report.

## **Education – Tony**

So far the committee has had three applications for the youth scholarship program. Julia asked how many scholarships PSO is able to afford? Frank said that we presently have over \$3000 in the Youth Scholarship Fund. Laura made a motion that the Education Committee review the applicants and if all three are deserving then all three should be awarded scholarships. This should be at the discretion of the committee based on the applications. Julia seconded the motion which passed unanimously. It was noted that the scholarship winners should be recognized at the Friday night meeting so everyone can welcome them. No presentation will be scheduled in May due to the Birding Festival. In July the committee is hoping to get Ian Gardner to talk about fall plumaged warblers.

## **Field Trips and Other Activities – 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. Brian said that he has received some communications with people interested in helping out with specific field trips.

## **Website – Frank**

Frank would like to form an ad hoc committee to be responsible for the website and its content. There are areas that need updated and additional content added. This could become a formal committee once the bylaws are revised and it added to the list of committees. Frank has volunteered to be the chairman of the committee.

## **Newsletter – Margaret**

The next newsletter will go out in June after the Birding Festival, so anything to be included should be sent to her no later than May 30. This includes any articles about the meeting. Someone is also needed to take pictures of the meeting to be included in the newsletter. Try Mike Fialkovich for the photographer.

Is it necessary to have a BOD meeting before the annual meeting? Only if something comes up. Dan would like to have an in person meeting on Friday evening some time between 6 and 8 over dinner. The next board meeting will be Wednesday June 21 if the board is agreeable to that.

The meeting ended at 8:07.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee, Secretary