

**Executive Council of the Waterbird Society
Annual meeting minutes
19 January 2005; Portland, Oregon, USA**

ATTENDANCE: Jennifer Arnold, Rob Butler, Bob Colburn, Chris Custer, Francie Cuthbert, Tony Diamond, Peter Frederick, Cheri Gratto-Trevor, Clay Green, Jim Kushlan, Kathy Parsons, BA Schreiber, Jeff Spendelow, Emil Urban, and Chip Weseloh

Meeting called to order by President Schreiber at 0903 hr

AGENDA: The meeting was opened by checking for any additional items to be added to the published agenda. MOTION by Rob Butler to approve agenda as printed. Second by Peter Frederick. Motion approved.

MINUTES 2004 MEETING: Minutes of meeting in Cuiaba - discussion.
Tony Diamond neglected to follow up on status of page charges.

\$500.00 check from Michigan came in and was put towards student awards in 2005 (part of sponsorship for meeting in Niagara Falls). \$380.00 from Cuiaba meeting + \$500.00 from Niagara Falls meeting = \$880.00 put towards student travel in 2005.

Charge made to the Publication Committee to raise page charges by 25%. It was noted that the treasurer and the editor usually decide what page charges rates are. Currently WbS charges -\$90.00 for members \$100.00 for nonmembers.

We need to enact 25% page charge increase (approved but did not initiate procedure). 90% of government entities pay charges; university people do not usually put money aside and do not pay. Chris Custer noted that raising page charge rates won't help so much as getting more people to pay.

The minutes should read that Dave Shealer opposed a reduction in page numbers (not charges). Also minutes should read that student dues were increased to \$25.00, and in next line "raise dues to \$25.00 and to \$31.00 (each category of membership will be assessed a \$5.00 fee if renewed after January 1st of the year to cover mailing and handling costs).

The Publications Committee is charged with establishing a rate for the cost of an electronic version of the journal. Date should be corrected to 2004 in minutes.

Membership Committee charge - some from the council did contact others as part of membership drive campaign MOTION by Tony Diamond to accept Cuiaba minutes as corrected. Second by Peter Frederick. Approved.

President Schreiber added an appendix to the minutes consisting of e-mail votes on council matters -

- 1) to approve an additional \$1,000.00 for the current editor (11 yes)
- 2) to attend NOAC meeting in Veracruz, Mexico (10 yes, 4 no)
- 3) letter on open access (12 yes)

COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS: new councilors are Brian Harrington, Chip Weseloh and Francine Buckley.

LOCAL COMMITTEE: Registration is outside in foyer. There are as of this council meeting 367 registrations, 260 abstracts, 90 posters and 70 student presentations.

Melanie Steinkamp, Tony Diamond and Steve Emslie will leave the council after this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Business meeting at 1730 hr Thursday evening, PSG business meeting Friday evening.

President Schreiber mentioned that there is a need for participation on committees. Membership Committee has a new chair - Wing Goodale, and Clay Green is a new member. The Nominating Committee has a new Chair - Jeff Spendelow. Committee members are needed for the following committees:

Publications, Membership, Future Meetings, Nominating, Editor Selection

FINANCE COMMITTEE Report - Emil Urban

Average return on investment rate in the future will probably be around 8%. We can not expect as much return as in the past. Society investments values are increasing. One year ago Ian Nisbet gave another \$5,000.00 to the Nisbet fund. We have now reached the point where we can give grants from this fund. Jim Kushlan gave another \$20,000.00 to the Kushlan Fund and \$7,100.00 in grants were given out from the Kushlan Fund. The only fund not doing well is the USA Growth Fund, but as of December it has grown so is on + side. General endowment fund now at \$102,000.00 (need five year average to be at \$100,000 before money can be withdrawn for use). MOTION by Rob Butler to accept the Finance Committee Report. Second by Jeff Spindelov. Approved.

TREASURER'S Report for 2004 - Chris Custer

Thanks to Chris page charges have been coming in and the Publication Committee recommends that we continue the "sponsor a printed page program" suggested by her. It was recommended that a half- page ad be placed in the journal when there is space available to encourage people to consider the Waterbird Society in their wills (Jennifer Arnold will work on this). Steady increasing page charges income. Peter - How? Chris is aggressive and crafty at collecting fees (contact person important). Page charges are becoming increasingly important now as 37% of income. Chris noted the WbS will end up "in the black" for 2004. \$1,100.00 was used from the Money Market Fund to pay for insurance for the Society. Journal expenses are our largest expenditure. Income is mainly from page charges and membership dues. Kathy Parsons asked about postage charges. – Answer: about \$1,000.00 per issue. Jeff Spindelov asked if AOU picked up any of our OSNA expenses this year? Answer: no. Income is posted in the year that it is received. It is generally not moved to the following year except in special circumstances, such as carrying over unspent student travel award money. There are some classes of income and expenses that are for the following year and hence are posted to the following year. Examples of this are dues received in Dec. 2004 that are for the 2005 membership year; these funds are posted to the 2005 operating books. Donations were solicited by Chris Custer to fund additional pages in the journal. \$700.00 collected the first year, \$800.00 the second year. Names of donors were printed. It is hoped that names could be printed in the 1st issue of the journal each year. The categories for donations would be \$50, \$50-100, etc. Suggestions for soliciting donations were Jennifer: card, Peter - direct mailing better. Chris said we can put the solicitation in with the ballot when it is mailed. This fund solicitation should be referred to a committee. Francie- put pressure on college people for page charges - hit authors.

MOTION by Francie Cuthbert that Directors and Council insurance be paid from the general operating budget and that General Liability insurance be paid out of endowment to protect society and endowment. Second by Tony Diamond. Motion approved.

MOTION by Francie Cuthbert to approve the Treasurer's report for 2004. Second by Tony Diamond. Motion approved.

2005 BUDGET - Chris Custer

Basically the 2005 budget will be the same as the 2004 budget with minor changes. Changes in membership dues reflect a \$5.00 increase, but membership is flat. Voted a \$1,000.00 increase for the current editor. Page charge revenue about \$16,900.00. Our contract with Painters was renewed for 5 years. 1% increase /year. Sent out for other bids. Only one bid received, but not much different than Painters. Painters converts files to BioOne format for \$3,450.00. P. Frederick said check with BioOne on costs vs revenues. We started with BioOne in March 2003 and they guaranteed to cover any losses we might have incurred during that first year. Storage of back issues is becoming a problem as they costs might rise. Now \$90.00/quarter for storage (ca. \$360.00 per year). It looks like storage and claims have increased by 8X. Back issues: paid \$2,100.00 last year for service; in 2000 paid \$288.00; in 2001 paid \$2,600.00; in 2002 paid \$1,800.00; in 2003 paid \$3,400.00 and now \$2,000.00. Question: Can we send a complete copy of the journal through BioOne electronically to eliminate storage and late membership journal costs and generate income? Claims are costly and late joiners are costly. We usually make some money from back issue orders. Peter Frederick suggested that we should reduce the stock of back issues, leading to a reduced cost of storage (people can get access to back issues by going to BioOne). He said that because of storage costs we lose about ½ the cost of back issue sales. For the present time we will keep back issue storage at Allen Press - need to think about costs if moved. Recommend that the Publications Committee look into this problem and Peter agreed to join this committee. International awards: \$1,000.00 added to budget - One idea was to fund the international award.

MOTION by Peter Frederick to present an International Award in 2005 in Taiwan and that the funds for that award come out of the budget for that meeting. Second by Jennifer Arnold. Motion approved.

Tony Diamond - Do not have award every year and can save some money to give award in other years. Need to find how much we can save if we cut 16 pages from the journal. We may need to pay some additional expenses (ca. \$2,500.00) to John Coulson beyond the \$9,636.00 to finish all of Volume 28 (2004 expenses). We have no projection for future OSNA costs. Some additional start-up costs have raised the amount we expected to pay the new OSNA management company. BA Schreiber will talk to Bonnie Bowen about management costs for OSNA. Credit card fee in the budget is the cost of the processing agency we use for those paying by credit card. MOTION by Peter Frederick that the President appoint someone to make sure that the meeting manual (guidelines for hosting meetings) includes mention of the need for an amount to cover the costs of the student awards and banquet for student awardees to be added to the standard cost of the meeting fees so that these fees will be paid out of the meeting budget. Second by Francie Cuthbert. Motion approved (5 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention). MOTION by Tony Diamond to adopt the 2005 budget as presented by the Treasurer. Second by Peter Frederick. Motion approved.

President Schreiber noted that we would take 5 minute break at 1110 hr. Meeting resumed at 1120 hr

EDITOR'S Report – BA Schreiber

BA presented the report for John Coulson. The report was approved by Council, but BA noted that she felt we needed more information in future reports such as citation impact, taxa, number of papers submitted, rejection rate, turnaround time to publication, country of origin, number of papers published, etc. Peter Frederick suggested that we thank John and Becky Coulson for their service to the WbS and that a special award or plaque be given to John at the meeting in Jekyll Island, GA, in honor of his service to the WbS. Jim Kushlan suggested the publicizing of the giving of this award in the European arena. Editorship: Search for a new editor. Council has to make final decision on new editor. Rob Butler is heading the search committee.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE Report - BA Schreiber for Joe Jehl

Move ballot to front of package. Two weeks after mailing have OSNA send out note about vote. Use different color paper to bring attention to ballot. Jeff Spendelow is the new Chair of the Nominations Committee.

MOTION by Jeff Spendelow to appoint Chris Custer as Acting Treasurer since the membership needs to elect a Treasurer every 3 years. Second by Tony Diamond. Motion approved.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE Report - BA Schreiber

Rob Bennetts resigned. President Schreiber stated that we must work on a job description for this committee and we need a new Chair. Kathy Parsons suggested that Council members should be on committees. One of the Committee's jobs should be to track back issues and costs, strategies on cost of storage and claims. BioOne is going to change from 50-50% split to a 70-30% split. Schreiber reported that JSTOR has approached us about putting all our issues online at no cost, and giving us a share of the earnings from sales. When does coverage shift from BioOne to JSTOR? There appears to be some overlap and Council needs more details on the relationship of these activities. We print 850 and send out 815 copies. Painter gives us extra. For 2003 - 270 copies in storage. We should cull more recent issues down to smaller numbers. Special time offers to institutions suggested by Peter Frederick.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE Report - BA Schreiber

Membership for WbS did not decline as it did in other societies. We need to come up with ways to increase membership. Wing Goodale is the new Chair and Glay Green and Dave Evers are on the committee. We could put questions on the membership form asking people how they heard about the society. We need to track the success of retaining new members we get at meetings. We may be able to do this with the new Schneider group takeover of OSNA management. A discussion ensued on ways to get new members and keep old ones. We need to find out what are the reasons members are not renewing. Jeff suggested figuring out key groups and targeting them.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE Report - BA Schreiber for Dave Shealer

No candidates this year.

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS COMMITTEE Report - Malcolm Coulter is new Chair of this committee. Check web site for information on International Awards. No funds available to give an award this year. The new International

Awards Committee will be looking at revising the rules. For instance, ten people on committee are too many. These positions are 3-year appointments. Ask group to brainstorm ideas for funding sources for these awards. Council will have to vote on rules for committee composition.

REPORT ON STUDENT AWARDS: Francie Cuthbert for Linda Wires
Kevin Brown resigned as Chair. Each society got \$2000.00 for travel awards (built into registration fee). There will be 2 oral paper awards and 2 poster presentations awards total for both WbS and PSG societies at his meeting.

RESEARCH GRANTS- BA Schreiber for Keith Bildstein
Keith's term expires at the end of 2005. Announcements of these grants have been placed on OSNA and WbS websites.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE Report – BA Schreiber for Bruce Peterjohn
President Schreiber held an email discussion with the council before the meeting on the new bylaws changes. MOTION by Jeff Spendelow to accept the changes to the bylaws. Second by Jennifer Arnold. Motion approved 10 yes, 0 no.

WEBSITE EDITOR- Francie Cuthbert
Ask about where information comes from- check out who can send information for web master. Check to see if web pages are updated regularly. If changes needed- get together and talk about them and get them posted. Need to check to see what format materials need to be in for posting.

2007 MEETING Report
*Xavier Ruiz Presentation for meeting in Barcelona, Fall 2007. Barcelona would be expensive and he could not make a good package deal for hotel rooms. Another possible site at Sitges is about 30km south and would be cheaper. We would plan on about 350 attendees and a field trip to the Ebro Delta. May look into 2008 and join with some other group. Decision within a month. Xavier will check with Med Mar Avis, no formal involvement in 2007, but could in 2008. Possibly move to 2008 too attract more Europeans. Members of European Seabird and Wader groups should be able to attend the meeting and 2007 might be more appealing to them. Range of dates Oct-Nov.

OSNA Report - BA Schreiber
The Schneider group has taken over handling the OSNA offices. They will collect the demographic data we want about our membership. Jim Kushlan noted that OSNA was just a membership service and that we need to put our own individual society names up front.

ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL Report - Jeff Spendelow
The OC has been making progress on getting regulatory agencies to make changes in permit procedures, but, as Jeff joked, a big part of the problem with some of these agencies is convincing "the light bulb that it needs to be changed". The OC also is working on individual problems with NWR System Special Use Permits. The OC, with some assistance from other groups, was instrumental in getting the USGS to increase funds to the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) and is working on getting the BBL to supply hardmetal bands for studies of long-lived species such as waterbirds. The OC also played an important role in facilitating setup of NABC's Research Working Group with Ellen Paul serving as acting coordinator for the RWG.

ABC Report - Jim Kushlan
The ABC focuses on fundamental conservation issues in Washington, D.C. The ABC facilitated the creation of the Bird Conservation Alliance which has an executive director and about 200 members.

OCTOBER 2005 ANNUAL MEETING Report - Peter Frederick
Originally planned for Jacksonville, FL, it actually will be held at Jekyll Island, GA, about 55 miles north of Jacksonville, in October. If we can fill 100 rooms, we can get free use of their conference rooms. October will be a good time for field trips. There is tenting, campsites, and cabins available in addition to hotel. The hotel provides a continental breakfast, buffet lunch, and banquet for prices listed. Bridge charge to get onto Island. One symposium planned - Wood Storks or storks in general and the organizers plan on publishing the proceedings of this symposium.
MOTION by F. Cuthbert to accept proposal for Jekyll Island meeting. Second by J. Spendelow. Approved.

NOVEMBER 2005 SPECIAL MEETING IN TAIWAN Report - Rob Butler

Rob Butler reported that funding is in place for the meeting which will be held in the city of Tainan. The government will declare "Waterbird Week." Two opening event sessions. There will be some travel money for scientists and students. Banquet and registration fees are being covered. The Wild Bird Federation of Taiwan will help sponsor the meeting. What about publication of symposia? No money earmarked yet. Separate web site for meeting is being developed. Rob will try to get information on the meeting out in the spring. A 4-day fieldtrip will follow the meeting.

OCTOBER 2006 NAOO MEETING IN VERACRUZ, MEXICO Report - Jim Kushlan

All major North American ornithological societies will be there. Committees are in place and starting to function. Cooper, AOU each putting up \$10,000.00 for deposit (\$30,000.00 total). 500-700 possible attendees.

FUTURE MEETINGS COMMITTEE Report - The society needs committee to get future meetings scheduled for what needs to be done to plan ahead. President can appoint chair. Jeff Spendelow suggested that people who have hosted or served on local committees for other meetings should be on this committee. Kathy Parsons will serve on committee.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE Report- Schreiber

ABC is effective in resolving issues. Do we need a conservation committee? Person in society should be contact point person. Kathy Parsons volunteered to be Chair of Conservation Committee. Kathy will write a mission statement for the Conservation Committee.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE-

Do we need one? General feeling of the council is that we do not need one. Write resolution to thank organizers of this meeting - Rob Butler and Bob Colburn will do.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- Bob Colburn

Normal activity. Very little correspondence. One e-mail regarding materials sent out for meeting. Three meeting packages returned as undeliverable (all sent to Brazil). Printed and mailed out about 750 pieces for meeting. MOTION by Peter Frederick to accept Secretary's Report. Second by BA Schreiber. Approved.

MOTION by Peter Frederick to adjourn at 1640 hr. Second by Jeff Spendelow. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Colburn, Secretary, WbS