

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
AOS Winter Meeting, January 26, 2019
Joe Wheeler State Park
Rogersville, AL

Call to order: 3:10

In attendance: Andrew Haffenden, Bob Reed, Geoff Hill, Greg Harber, Harry Dean (presiding), Jean Folsom (recording), Joan Dixon, Kathryn Palmore, Ken Hare, Larry Gardella, Shirley Farrell, Susan Barrow

ACTION - Minutes of the Fall 2018 meeting unanimously approved as written.

ACTION – Approval of the Treasurer’s Report was tabled until board receives corrected version by email.

ACTION – Ken Hare moved that we grant the \$2000 Dan C. Holliman Research Fund approved by the board to the single qualifying applicant, Nicholas Justyn, with the understanding that he writes a report about his project to be used in the Yellowhammer and other venues. Shirley Farrell seconded. Motion passed.

MINUTES

Approval of minutes (Jean Folsom) – Minutes of Fall 2018 board meeting approved as written.

Treasurer’s Report (Joan Dixon) –

- CD matures in January 2020
- Joan explained that even though the treasurer’s report shows a considerable cash balance, the majority of that cash is restricted funds that are reserved for special projects, the largest being from the estate of Bob Sargent earmarked for Fort Morgan.
- After discussing the treasurer’s report Joan discovered an error. A motion was made by Bob Reed that we table the approval of the treasurer’s report until we have a corrected copy. Motion passed. Joan will email a corrected copy of the treasurer’s report to board members.
- Corrected treasurer’s report:
For the 12-month period ending December 31, 2018, AOS income was \$25,690.74, expenses \$20,721.85, which leaves a net income of \$4,968.89. When adding income to existing assets, our total assets are \$61,506.12.
Our equity is distributed as follows:
PNC checking \$31,397.64
CD \$28,268.17 maturity date 1/27/2020
Petty Cash \$100.00

Restricted funds are \$13,971.29.

President’s Report (Harry Dean)

- Harry reported that sign up for the winter meeting banquet was slow. Caterers need to know ahead to plan. At present, there is a banquet sign-up deadline on the Yellowhammer but Ken Hare stated he has not been posting a sign-up deadline on social media. Discussion was held and it was suggested AOS state why there is a need to sign up early. It was agreed that a deadline of 2 weeks ahead is sufficient.

Vice President’s Report (Geoff Hill)

- Speaker for the banquet tonight is Conor McGowan, an Auburn professor, who is speaking on Shorebird Migration in Delaware

- Geoff has contacted Bridget Stutchbury, author of Secret Life of Birds to be speaker for the spring 2019 meeting. A backup speaker is Dan Mannill.
- NOTE: An email from Geoff on January 31, 2019 stated that he was not able to get either of the two above mentioned speakers and that Dorian Andersson, writer and speaker, has accepted the invitation to speak at the spring 2019 meeting.
- Geoff suggested that we consider having the 2020 winter meeting at a new place, West Point Heritage near Auburn. He suggested we consider having program viewing how species skins are prepared at Auburn labs.
- Damien has suggested that we consider joining with Tennessee AOS and attend the Paris, TN festival for our next winter meeting. After discussing this possibility, it was decided that it would be too long of a drive for those living on the coast.
- Geoff stated that we will need to decide our future meeting venues at the spring meeting.

Committee Reports:

Conservation (Greg Harber)

- No report
- Greg stated that our donation of \$10,000 to DIBS is still “on the table” awaiting a decision at the DIBS board meeting in 2 weeks. Greg will give an update at the spring meeting.

Education (Shirley Farrell)

- AOS sponsored preservice Flying Wild workshops at University of Alabama by purchasing the books.
- This year’s Green School winner is Troy University. AOS will donate 3 bluebird houses for their trail.
- Education committee will sponsor a Silent Auction at the spring meeting.

Membership Recruitment (Larry Gardella) – Susan Barrow - Membership Services

- It was stated again that current policy states that delinquent members will be kept on the membership roster for 2 years. Any members that have not renewed since 2017 will be removed this year.
- Ideas were discussed on how to recruit new members.

Public Relations (Ken Hare)

- The Featured Photographer program is currently featuring its third photographer, Andrew Haffenden. Website traffic is up 50-100 percent for a few days after promoting this feature on social media.
- A new column/blog will appear periodically on the website discussing issues related to birding and /or conservation and will be written by AOS members. Geoff Hill has provided the initial column promoting “county birding”.
- The AOS/eBird Project has reached its initial goal of having eBird reports of 150 species and 150 checklists in all Alabama counties well before the project team anticipated it would. Co-chairs Ken Hare and Greg Harber would like to thank each member of the AOS/eBird team: Sue Moske, John Trent, Neil Gilbert, Anne Miller, Ken Ward, Ruffina Ward, Geoff Hill, Judy Self, Don Self, Larry Gardella, Jordan Broadhead, Frank Farrell, Jim Holmes, Jud Johnston, Carrie Threadgill, James White, David McVay, and Marshall Iliff representing eBird. Cornell Lab will do an article on our eBird project sometime in the future.

Yellowhammer (Bob Reed)

- Reminder of Yellowhammer deadline of 10th of month following the meeting date for submitting content to newsletter, (Feb. 10th for this meeting).

Meetings (Kathryn Palmore)

- The 2019 spring meeting will be held at the Shelby Center in the Dauphin Island Sea Lab complex; the Methodist Church will pencil in our meeting as a backup venue.

- The committee is considering engaging the caterer used by the Sea Lab for the spring 2019 meeting.

Censusing/Bird Checklist/Ft. Morgan (Greg Jackson)

- The Ft. Morgan interpretive sign is being worked on by Joe Watts.

Bird Records (Steve McConnell)

- It was noted that the Bird Records committee information on the website is out of date.
- Steve has sent in updated information which needs to be posted.

Field Trips (Andrew Haffenden)

DIBS/Dan C. Holliman Research (Greg Harber)

- The committee received two applications this year but only one qualified.
- The qualifying applicant is Nicholas M. Justyn, a PhD student at Auburn in Dr. Geoff Hill's lab. His research is entitled "Investigating the role of hybridization in the successful invasion of scaly-breasted munia (*Lonchura punctulate*) populations in Southern Alabama". The total budget for his project is \$2,911.14.
- Reviewers Scot Duncan and Greg Harber agreed that the proposal by Nicholas Justyn was sound in its approach and had potential to guide bird conservation efforts in Alabama. Both felt the proposal merited our full support to the maximum amount, \$2000, authorized by the AOS board at the fall meeting.
- Ken Hare moved that we grant the \$2000 Dan C. Holliman Research Fund approved by the board to the single qualifying applicant, Nicholas Justyn, with the understanding that he writes a report about his project to be used in the Yellowhammer and other venues. Shirley Farrell seconded. Motion passed.
- Catherine Rideout has tendered her resignation from the committee citing increased work commitments at her job.

New Business:

- Featured Photographers following Harry Dean are Dick Bruer, and Andrew Haffenden.

Meeting adjourned 4:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Folsom, secretary

Follow-up - these items need to be addressed at the 2019 spring meeting

- Treasurer's Report – Corrected Winter meeting Treasurer's Report needs to be approved.
- Conservation – Greg Harber - Report on results of DIBS meeting and their acknowledgement of our donation.