

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting  
AOS Fall Meeting, October 13, 2018  
Dauphin Island, AL

Call to order: 3:05

In attendance: Andrew Haffenden, Anne Miller, Bob Reed, Geoff Hill, Greg Harber, Harry Dean (presiding), Jean Folsom (recording), Joan Dixon, Kathryn Palmore, Ken Hare, Mike Wilson, Stan Hamilton, Susan Barrow

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

**ACTION** – A motion was made for AOS to donate \$10,000 to Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuary (DIBS) contingent on DIBS matching our donation, and the total matched 1:1 by Pelican Coast Conservancy, for the specific purpose of purchasing additional land on Dauphin Island. The motion passed unanimously.

**ACTION** - A motion was made and passed to eliminate the defunct Online Services committee.

**ACTION** - AOS will support the DIBS/Dan C. Holliman Research fund by allocating \$2000 to provide 2 grants of up to \$1000 per grant to do ornithology research with an Alabama connection.

**Point of Business** – The Photography contest will be replaced with a Featured Photographer project.

## MINUTES

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

Treasurer's Report (Joan Dixon) –

- AOS received two donations from Dr. Bala Chennupati in honor of Sue Moske and Linda and Dick Reynolds.
- CD matures in January 2020.
- For the 9-month period ending September 30, 2018, AOS total liabilities and equity are \$59,348.87. For the same 9-month period, AOS income is \$17,119, expenses \$11,813, which leaves a net income of \$5,307. Unrestricted funds were \$41,627.66 and, and restricted funds were \$11,476.29.29.
- Discussion was held about the possibility of a donation to Dauphin Isle Bird Sanctuary (DIBS). DIBS will match the gift 1:1. Pelican Coast Conservancy has agreed to match 1:1 any funds used by DIBS specifically to purchase land on Dauphin Island. Thus a donation of \$10,000 from AOS to DIBS would make available a sum of \$40,000 that can be used immediately to purchase land on Dauphin Island.
- A motion was made by Bob Reed and seconded by Stan Hamilton for AOS to donate \$10,000 to DIBS contingent on DIBS matching our donation 1:1. The motion passed unanimously.
- Joan stated that Pay Pal is costing AOS approximately \$400 a year and suggested that we provide an option on the online registration form to help pay for the cost of PayPal.

President's Report (Harry Dean)

- The 2019 winter meeting will be held at Joe Wheeler State Park
- The 2019 spring meeting will be held at the Shelby Center in the Dauphin Island Sea Lab complex.

Vice President's Report (Geoff Hill)

- Speaker for the winter meeting is Conor McGowan, an Auburn professor, who is speaking on Shorebird Migration in Delaware
- Geoff is trying to get Bridget Stutchbury, author of Secret Life of Birds, as speaker for the spring meeting.

## Committee Reports:

### Conservation (Greg Harber)

- Greg wrote letters to the senators stating that AOS members were in favor of:
  1. Supporting full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund
  2. Opposing efforts to weaken the Endangered Species Act (by allowing incidental takes of species by businesses).
  3. Upholding and defending the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (which celebrates 100 years this year).
  4. Opposing efforts in the President's FY 2019 budget to cut programs that protect birds and habitat for birds (such as the Endangered Species Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund).
  5. Supporting "bird-safe" buildings in new federal construction.
- Ken Hare suggested having board members send handwritten letters stating the same.
- Andrew suggested putting "talking points" on the website and letting members construct their own letters to the senators
- Anne Miller suggested putting the letters on the website.

### Education (Shirley Farrell)

- No report, Shirley not present
- Harry stated there will be a Silent Auction at the spring meeting.

### Membership Recruitment (Larry Gardella) – Larry was not present; Susan Barrow reported on behalf of Membership Services

- AOS has 8 new members since the last meeting.
- AOS currently has 364 members, 96 of which have not renewed for 2018.
- Current policy states that delinquent members will be kept on the membership roster for 2 years.
- Andrew suggested that the membership committee meet separately from the board meeting and report back at the next meeting.

### Public Relations (Anne Miller and Ken Hare)

- Anne Miller suggested advertising and possibly selling the Duncan's new book on the AOS website. She will look into what requirements are for sales by a non-profit, such as sales tax, and get back with the board.
- Ken Hare gave an interim report on the AOS/eBird project, with the following results:
  1. Goal of minimum of 150 species in all 67 counties: 15 of the 16 counties with less than 150 species in February, 2017, now have at least 150 species on eBird – only Lamar county is left with 138 species.
  2. Goal of a minimum of 150 checklists in all 67 counties: 8 of the 10 counties with less than 150 checklists – only Fayette and Lamar are left without 150 checklists.
- Ken thanked Judy and Don Self for helping with Fayette and Lamar counties and James Thomas, James White, and Geoff Hill for helping with Coffee county
- Changes to the committee: Neil Gilbert and Jordan Broadhead have moved out of state. James White, a Georgia birder, has joined the team.
- Ken moved and the board approved going on record to thank Judy and Don Self and Rufina and Ken Ward for their help with the Working Forests for Birds Project, an initiative by American Bird Conservancy and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative to survey the forests in parts of Alabama, Mississippi and North Carolina.

### Social Media (Carrie Threadgill) Ken Hare reported

- Ken Hare said that Facebook has changed its approach; we will reach significantly more people if individual board members help out by "liking" and "sharing" posts from the AOS Facebook page.

### Online Services (Kathy Hicks)

- The online services committee has become a defunct committee. A motion was made to eliminate this committee. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Yellowhammer (Bob Reed)

- Reminder of Yellowhammer deadline of 10<sup>th</sup> of month following the meeting date for submitting content to newsletter.
- The place to choose either online or emailed Yellowhammer will now be included with online registration.
- Group leaders of field trips will write up reports of the weekend island field trips for the Yellowhammer.

#### Meetings (Kathryn Palmore)

- Kathryn has recruited additional help for her committee.

#### Censusing/Bird Checklist/Ft. Morgan (Greg Jackson) Greg not present - no report

#### Field Trips (Andrew Haffenden)

- Andrew reported that sign-up and cut-off dates for the meeting field trips are needed for the meeting and suggested that the Field Trips committee meet separately and report their suggestions at the next meeting.

#### DIBS/Dan C. Holliman Research (Greg Harber)

- Stan made a motion that AOS support the DIBS/Dan C. Holliman Research fund by allocating \$2000 to provide 2 grants of up to \$1000 per grant to do ornithology research with an Alabama connection. Motion passed unanimously. Deadline for applications is December 15.
- Grant recipients will send a report summarizing their research to be published in Yellowhammer and on the website.

#### New Business:

- Harry stated that the Board needs to think of a succession plan with action checklists to prepare for board member retirements.
- The Photography Contest has been replaced with a Featured Photographer each month. The first featured photographer is Harry Dean.

Meeting adjourned 4:50 pm  
Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Folsom, secretary

#### **Follow-up - these items need to be addressed at the 2019 winter meeting**

- Membership – Larry and Susan – Research an automated computer program for coordinating membership management. Results of membership committee meeting.
- Treasurer – Joan - Does AOS want to put an option to help pay for PayPal on future registrations or possibly raise registration cost to cover PayPal expenses?
- President/Conservation – Harry and Greg- Report on results DIBS matching of AOS gift.
- Public Relations – Anne Miller – Sales-tax requirements for non-profit sales.
- Field Trips – Andrew – Report of field trips committee meeting.