

Minutes
Society of Canadian Ornithologists/ Société des ornithologistes du Canada
Executive Council Meeting, Moncton, New Brunswick 2011

Thursday, 4 August, Édifice Rémi- Rossignol Building; room / local Rm113.

Attending | Présents: Erica Nol (President), Joe Nocera (Vice-President), Pierre Lamothe (Treasurer), Thérèse Beaudet (Membership secretary), Brenda Dale (Recording Secretary), Ken Abraham (Recording Secretary), Councilors Debbie Badzinski, Erin Bayne, Marcel Gahbauer, and Ian Warkentin and guests Jean-Pierre Savard (past-President) and Marc-Andre Villard (Chair of Moncton organizing committee, part).

Regrets | Absents: David Bird (Past President), Councilors Marc Avey, Russ Dawson, Sara Jamieson, Paul Martin, and Student Andrea Norris

Meeting convened at 2:05

1. Welcome | Mot de Bienvenue (Nol). Greetings and introductions of councilors, officers and visitors.
2. Review of Agenda /Révision de l'agenda (Nol) Matters arising: By-laws were amended and submitted to Industry Canada; the idea of lapel pins was followed up on and since the proposal met resistance the suggestion was withdrawn.
3. Acceptance of 2010 minutes | Acceptation des minutes de 2010. Nol asked if there were any errors in the minutes. Limited number of people were at the San Diego meeting to provide comments. Spelling errors in names of Badzinski, Gahbauer, Erica, Vice-president were noted. MOTION: to accept minutes of 2010 meeting with necessary corrections moved by Badzinski, seconded by Nol, PASSED.
4. President's Report | Rapport du Président (Nol). The last 1.5 years since last meeting have been a very active period with progress on newsletter, electronic membership renewal and we have maintained a stable membership. Thank you to all for much progress made through electronic correspondence. See Report for more details.
5. Treasurer's Report | Rapport du Trésorier (Lamothe). Provided paper copies of 2009 and 2010 reports.

2009. The 2009 final report was not ready in San Diego due to outstanding items from the 2009 meeting so it could not be passed at that time. Net earnings were \$8,499 and net assets including assigned assets and receivables at end of 2009 were \$62,704. The Society uses guaranteed investments. Further details available in 2009 report.

2010. Net earnings for 2010 were \$4,948 and net assets including assigned assets and receivables at end of 2010 were \$61,045. No money was assigned to Jamie Smith award as it was not presented in San Diego because the meeting was so early in the year. See 2010 Financial Annual Report for full details.

MOTION: To accept the audited financial report for 2009 moved by Nocera, seconded by Abraham, PASSED

MOTION: To accept the audited financial report for 2010 moved by Warkentin, seconded by Beaudet, PASSED

Pierre commented on how much our resources have increased in the period that he has been treasurer. Nol expressed her appreciation for his excellent stewardship.

6. Contributions | Contributions monétaires (Nol). Need to come to a decision regarding contributions to NAOC travel awards committee. Nol is SCO representative to the NAOC organizing committee. They have a travel award and they asked if we would contribute to that. Nol had wondered about whether we could use the Fred Cooke award in this way. Discussion revealed that award is also contributed to by Fred himself and is left open as to whether spent on research or travel so not an appropriate source to fund NAOC travel award. Lamothe advised that another possible source of funds is we do not have to give two Taverner awards so we could use the 1500 dollars from the second one to put toward the travel awards. Is there any assurance that a Canadian would receive it? What about a separate award from the SCO? Problem is adjudication would then have to be separate which is problematic. Also we would not want the converse situation that no Canadian got supported by US funds as they often have been in the past. Probably best to provide support and just ask that they acknowledge that SCO / SOC contributed.

MOTION: To contribute one thousand dollars to the NAOC travel award subject to sufficient funds being available after the Moncton meeting made by Nocera, and seconded by Abraham. Discussion: Warkentin suggested that it was not necessary to couch our contribution in terms of making a profit or breaking even in Moncton. Want to encourage students to come to NAOC since this is what one of our goals should be. Lamothe pointed out that student funds should be coming from interest and we are having enough trouble due to low interest that we are not able to fund much student activity now. Nocera – if there is a NAOC every year then we might be setting a precedent that we could not afford. PASSED. Motion made through email regarding student awards.

ACTION: Bayne will provide information to Nol on a way to vote on motions through Google.

ACTION: After meeting finances have been settled Nol will ask Lamothe for status of this contribution.

7. Membership Secretary's Report | Rapport du secrétariat au sujet des adhésions (Beaudet). Wished she could say that membership had doubled since 2004 when she took over but only up by 10%. For details see membership secretary report which provides information on affiliation, renewals and terms of renewal. Of the 75 people who Beaudet asked why they did not renew only two responded. One said he had retired and was no longer involved in birds and the other said they were too old. Now just have 3

members without email but more than that who insist on receiving *Picoïdes* in paper. Most people seem to be renewing by Beanstream now that we have that set up. Bayne asked why we are providing paper copies of *Picoïdes* when it costs us so much? Only about half is for members. The rest are libraries and Archives Canada (must be paper for Archives).

MOTION: to accept the membership secretary's report moved by Gahbauer, seconded by Badzinski, PASSED. Nol thanked Beaudet for her last report.

8. Beanstream Update | Mise à jour de Beanstream (Bayne). See report for details. Bayne and U of Alberta are working to fix the database to stop it from stripping accents. Real test will be the first full year for membership renewals. Beaudet commented that some manipulation required to transfer contents from Beanstream to her database. For future conferences it can be used with little effort. There is an additional issue that if people have a problem and start again we are charged for both the abortive and successful action. We might need to provide some text to advise not to start until you have all necessary information. MOTION: To Thank Erin and Kofi for instituting Beanstream system made by Beaudet, seconded by Lamothe, PASSED.

ACTION ITEM: Bayne to insert text on meeting website to avoid duplicate charging.

9. *Picoïdes* Editor's Report | Rapport de l'Éditeur de *Picoïdes* Written report provided by Warnock. Gahbauer provided additional comments on the recent changes to newsletter. Most of the removed material was reprints. The second focus was to improve and standardize the layout. They have more to do there which will be complete after a full year of newsletters. Current process is Warnock compiles content and Marcel does some editing and layout and then proof reading by volunteers. Bilingual content is still not sufficient. Need more of a strategy and advance planning on what material should be translated regularly so that there is sufficient time for the volunteers to translate. Would also like to see more communication with the bird labs to make sure we get more input. We need to do outreach to address this. Nocera added that 288 different addresses accessed the newsletter in first week following the issue being posted. Email from membership secretary advising members of its availability has been very important and effective.

10. Committee Reports | Rapport des comités. (details provided in electronic reports)
- Nominating Committee/Elections (Nocera). Jamieson and Avey ran again unopposed and because at least one vote was cast they are re-elected. New treasurer will be **Matthew Reudink**. New Membership Secretary will be **Lance Laviolette**. Low number of ballots received. Bayne suggests we go to another electronic voting method in future.

ACTION ITEM: Bayne/Nocera to explore electronic voting.

MOTION: To accept the nominating committee report made by Abraham, seconded by Bayne, PASSED.

The change in treasurer requires a change in who can sign cheques and since the new treasurer is near two other SCO-SOC members they would be the best choice.

MOTION: Lamothe moved that the newly elected Treasurer Matthew Reudink and SCO-SOC members Nancy J. Flood and Tom Dickinson have signing authority on cheques. Seconded by Nocera. Passed

Also according to the SCO/SOC Bylaws (Article 4) 'The head office of the Corporation shall be located at the domicile of the Treasurer and will change with each change in Treasurers'.

MOTION: Lamothe moved that the SCO/SOC Head Office be moved from 128 Chemin des Lièges, St-Jean d'Orléans, QC G0A 3W0 to the new Treasurer's domicile of 1023 Fraser St. Kamloops, BC, V2C 3H8 Seconded by Nocera. Carried

ACE/ECO Journal Committee/Editors report from Francis representing committee and Nudds providing a report from editors. Francis in email indicates that committee wants to change the scope to broader topic of all aspects of conservation and ecology and that new editors are being sought. Last year there was some thought by John Faaborg that ACE/ ECO could be joined with AUK as one of their four publications. But AOU council at recent meeting does not necessarily agree with their President Fabourg because of the current lack of indexing by Thompson of ACE-ECO. Over the past year the ACE-ECO management committee has agreed to shorten the name to ACE for ease of both finding on internet and language. Several supporting letters have been sent to ICE regarding indexing ACE-ECO but it is still not indexed. Phil Taylor went to the AOU meeting in Florida with the idea of discussing the SCO/ AOU journal merger but because of the move to create an all encompassing Ornithological Society it proved unnecessary and he was not able to make a formal presentation.

SCO-SOC members of the journal committee. Ryan Norris, Charles Francis and Nicky Koper. BSC reps are Jon McCracken, Keith Hobson, and Kathy Martin.

Abraham wondered whether there has been discussion with current editors and indicated that the timing of the letter about editors was inappropriate as at least one of the editors was unaware he was being replaced. To further discussion a motion was made.

MOTION: To approve that Ryan Norris, Charles Francis and Nicola Koper be the SCO-SOC members of the journal committee made by Abraham, seconded by Badzinski.

Discussion – what is the mechanism for reporting back and receiving feedback from the SCO- SOC on direction? Members are disturbed by a fairly drastic action by the journal committee without the council being informed and involved. We need to hear from this committee immediately with background on this decision. MOTION called - 4 in favour. One opposed. Remainder abstained.

ACTION ITEM: Nol to ask committee to give a full report on the reasons for asking the editors to step down.

- Speirs Award Robertson/ (Nol). At this point time was short so we did not discuss all reports.
- Jamie Smith Mentoring Award. Regrets from Norris. Award to be presented at banquet.
- Student Research/Travel Awards (Warkentin). See council reports.
- Ornithological Council (Dale). One option for being more effective in our membership in OC is to find a non-government representative and try and make the OC more responsive to Canadian issues.

ACTION ITEMS: Send suggestions on a possible additional non-government representative to Nol.

- Conservation Committee/Comité sur la conservation (Nocera). See council reports.
- Student Affairs Committee/Comité des affaires étudiantes. Regrets from A. Norris. Her report asked a couple of questions. Should there be a council vote on the status guidelines of the committee? If they are an ad hoc committee they don't need our approval *But there was a rep that came in place of Andrea. Did you get her name?*

MOTION: That the student affairs committee be recognized as an ad hoc committee made by Warkentin, seconded by Abraham, PASSED.

MOTION: That the society provide the Student Affairs Committee 500 dollars and half of any fund raising activities made by Abraham, seconded by Lamothe, PASSED
 In answer to other questions raised in the committee report: the evaluation sheet has already been added; need permission to have photos posted on our site; they can elect their own chair, Nocera can provide access to web site. Also suggested that student committee could encourage submission of material by students to *Picoïdes*.

- Obituary and Bequest Committee Martin/ (Nol) Accept the report and approve that Russ Dawson write the obituary for Gary Bortolotti for the next issue of *Picoïdes*.

MOTION: To approve the policy on obituaries suggested by Abraham, second by Gahbauer, PASSED.

Paul Martin asked whether he should use email solicitation or use the approach of the ESA of highlighting current bequests. Lamothe states that AOU gets a lot of funds from insurance by allowing premiums to be considered as donations. ACTION ITEM: Lamothe will provide some information to Paul Martin about this method of donating to the society.

11. Website/Site Web Nocera (see submitted report)

12. Committee Chairs | Présidents des comités (Nol). Need to address turnover (who is leaving, who is replacing?) Please advise if you want to be on a particular committee.

ACTION ITEM. Nol will send a general email to council asking whether anyone would like to serve on any particular committees.

13. Future meetings | Futures réunions (Nol)

2011- Stand alone in Moncton, NB

2012- with NAOC in Vancouver, BC (we are host organization)

2013- University of Manitoba (Nicole Koper local organizing chair)

2014 - with AOU, Colorado (Estes Park), Susan Skagen has agreed that we can co-host (although this might change depending on merger and new Ornithological Society, *see below*)

14. Potential Re-organization | Réorganisation potentielle (Nol). She provided additional information about AOU and Federation of Ornithological societies. Councilors were sent some background prior to meeting but Sue Haig sent a note to Erica just recently. Committee formed to look at future of AOU. They got a unanimous positive vote from the Council to pursue a business plan to create a new society. Not yet formed committees to pursue aspects of the business plan. Hope that SCO- SOC will participate in planning. Participation in the talks does not mean acceptance of the decision to merge societies. We already have a decision to participate in discussion regarding federation. But we would need to make a new decision about participation. Question: why would individual societies need to be dissolved if it was a federation? The Wildlife Society with its chapters is the model. May feel if they don't dissolve it will be viewed as a takeover as opposed to a Union.

ACTION ITEM: Nol will circulate the rest of the material she has received and proposes that we be involved in discussion.

15. French name change from Société des ornithologistes du Canada to Société des ornithologues du Canada. Postpone decision as the French speaking council members (including past-President J-P Savard) felt that there was not complete consensus on whether this was necessary.

16. 2011 meeting update | Mise à jour de la réunion de 2011 (M-A. Villard). Plaques for awards are here. Everything is all right so far. Interviewed on French CBC early this morning and Diana Hamilton did an interview as well. He hopes they may get some people to come to the public portion of the conference or maybe a few more registrants. 106 registered prior to the walk-ins. Few people who had Beanstream problems can be asked for payment. Two buses for 47 each plus a few cars. Banquet still has some more room. MOTION: To propose that the SCO – SOC support any deficit arising from the meeting made by Lamothe, seconded by Abraham, PASSED

17. Other business | Autres affaires. Student affairs committee can have separate item in Audited Financial Report. They would be reimbursed for expenses up to the 500 plus half of the funds raised.

18. Adjournment | Ajournement at 5:12

Submitted by Brenda Dale: September 9, 2011