

Society of Canadian Ornithologists – Société des ornithologistes du Canada AGM minutes

Location:

Embassy room
Washington Hilton
1919 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20009

Date: July 16 2016

Time: 12:00 noon

Council members Attending / Présents: Greg Robertson, Greg Mitchell, Junior Tremblay, Ken Otter, Marc-André Villard, Jennifer Foote, Colleen Barber, David Green, Matt Reudink + other society members present

Council members Regrets / Absents: Laura Tranquilla, Darroch Whittaker, Laura McKinnon, Lance Laviolette, Dan Mennill, David Green, Barbara Frei, Kyle Elliott, Alex Bond, Joe Nocera

Meeting called to order by Otter at 12:14 pm

1) Welcome / Mot de Bienvenue (Robertson)

Welcome to SCO-SOC members. Thanks expressed to conference organizers on behalf of SCO-SOC. Current meeting going great.

2) Review of Agenda / Révision de l'agenda (Robertson)

Motion: To accept agenda order and items (moved by Otter, seconded by Bird)

3) President's Report / Rapport du Président (Robertson)

Finances: SCO-SOC currently has \$50 000 balance in bank. \$15 000 USD contributed to NAOC VI meeting. Should receive \$15 000 back, not likely to make a profit as occurred at NAOC in Vancouver. SCO-SOC contributed \$2700 to student presentation and travel awards. Dan Mennill was in charge of student travel awards and Greg Mitchell was in charge of student presentation awards. Bob Clarke represented Canada on the Scientific Program Committee.

Future meetings / Réunions futures: Joint AOS SCO-SOC meeting is happening July 31 2017 to August 05 2017 in Lansing Michigan. It should be a good meeting and location for Canadians to attend. The IOC is being held in Vancouver in 2018 from August 19 to August 26. The SCO-SOC has committed \$20 000 to support this meeting and it is anticipated that the entirety of this amount will be recovered. In 2019, the SCO-SOC will be held in Quebec as a

standalone meeting. Junior Tremblay is a lead organizer of this meeting and is currently looking into options. In 2020, NAOOC VII is likely taking place in Puerto Rico.

Permitting / Permettre: Little activity from SCO-SOC regarding permitting in 2016. Waiting for CWS to overhaul its permitting process.

Action item | élément d'action: SOC-SCO to let Robertson know if issues arise with new CWS permitting process.

Action item | élément d'action: SOC-SCO to let Otter know if process is improved/more streamlined.

Villard – there is still an issue with transferring samples from US to Canada. Robertson suggests going to the Ornithological Council for help. Robertson acknowledged that there is still work to be done by Ornithological Council and the ornithological council's report on cross-border permitting issue is complicated.

Bylaws / Statuts: By-laws currently require little updating and the SCO-SOC is largely acting within its bylaws. There should be a ratification vote soon, but we are still waiting for the update to the website to be finalized.

ACE-ECO: ACE-ECO citations are continuing to increase, and journal is doing very well for being only 10 years old. The journal is continuing to explore special issue topics and ideas. The cost of publishing in the journal should be very attractive for Americans.

Standing committees and executive positions / Les comités permanents et les postes de direction: Outgoing executive positions on council include Joe Nocera (past president), Matt Reudink (treasurer), and Lance Laviolette (membership secretary). Otter – Matt and Lance have agreed to stay on for one year to facilitate knowledge transfer.

Motion: To thank outgoing members for their service (moved by Robertson, seconded by Nol).

Incoming executive positions on council include Colleen Barber (new VP), Junior Tremblay (treasurer), and Darroch Whittaker (membership secretary).

Student awards / Prix étudiant: Student research award winners are being announced following the plenary tomorrow. All award winners were from Ontario. Otter noted that almost half of the 29 student applicants were from Ontario. Villard – student awards are a lot of work to apply for, and monetary amounts are relatively low. Villard – suggests increasing award amounts to attract more applicants and student members to society. Otter – Taverner awards are worth \$2000 each and Baillie and Fred Cooke awards are worth

\$1000 each (the latter two awards are administered by BSC). Currently, the two Taverner awards comprise approximately 10% of operating budget. SCO-SOC might also consider fund raising for young investigator award.

Action item | élément d'action: Robertson suggested someone should talk to BSC about upping the dollar amount of their awards. Otter suggested he might start the conversation.

Dunn – The Baillie award is supported by the birdathon and so is competing with other monetary needs. Suspects it will be difficult to increase the dollar amount of this award.

Professional awards / Prix professionnels: Robertson suggested we need to nominate good people for the Speirs/Smith awards. Martin – should be easy to find good candidates, just need to reach out to membership.

Communication / la communication: A big challenge going forward will be thinking about how we deliver information to our membership. We need to update our website. Robertson – suggested putting out tender for bids for updating web presence. Important for attracting new membership.

Membership / Adhésion: Bird – how do we actually get people interested? Concerned that people don't see the point. Unknown person – would like to see a small Canada meeting. Bird – agreed about small meeting. Martin – meetings are going to continue to get bigger through time. Maintaining small meetings will be important going forward. Villard – low numbers of memberships for Francophone population. Tremblay – Francophone's largely see society as Anglophone. Bird – translation shouldn't cost that much money. Bird – people also need to be reminded about the status of their membership and whether or not it is up to date. Robertson – agrees about membership status updates. Robertson – doesn't know current state of membership given the membership drive at the conference. University of Alberta credit card system was hacked and system is down, so many new members couldn't pay. Bayne – apologized for credit card system being down.

Otter has developed poster for new members. Going to ship posters to every university and ECCC offices, as well as do a large mail out. The poster will highlight the benefits of being a member. Plans to also target professional biologists and consultants. Otter – feels that it might be good to expand amounts for awards to increase student membership. Unknown person asked about a discount for publishing in ACE-ECO for members. Otter suggests that is a good idea when journal fees go up. Bird suggests two sided posters, English on one side and French on the other. Bird also suggests we need to increase our social media presence. Otter – Alex Bond is doing twitter for us, but is stepping down in 2016. Otter – we could offer discounts on clothing for members (e.g., shirts).

Nol – Alex Bond is doing twitter for SCO-SOC and is doing a great job. Dunn – social media can help develop community and we offer community.

Professional awards / Prix professionnels: Elliott has developed a young investigator award, recognizing a lack of awards for investigators early in their careers. Currently self-nominated. Awardees might receive free membership or travel help. Villard – are young pros eligible? Otter – yes, up to three years since the start of their position.

4) Treasurer's Report / Rapport du Trésorier (Reudink)

There is currently \$44 955.63 in the account. Two outstanding loans include \$16 734.50 to the NAOC and \$10 000 to the IOC, both of which are expected to be paid back. There is currently \$10 000 in a 2 year GIC that matures in 2018, \$15 000 in a GIC that matures in 2019, and \$10 000 in a 100 day recurring GIC. Expenses included travel awards, presentation awards, and t-shirts.

Motion: To accept treasurer's report (moved by Robertson, seconded by Nol)

Motion: To accept Deborah (last name?) to do accounting (moved by Robertson, seconded by Green).

5) Other business / Autres affaires

Bird – baseball game tomorrow and round table tomorrow at 15:30 on designating Canada's official bird.

6) Acceptance of 2015 minutes / Acceptation des minutes de 2015 (Robertson)

Motion: To accept 2015 meeting minutes (moved by Robertson, seconded by Risley)

7) Adjournment / Ajournement

Motion: To adjourn meeting at 12:58 (moved by Bird, seconded by Mitchell).