

**Minutes**  
**Society of Canadian Ornithologists**  
**/ Société des ornithologistes du Canada**  
**Executive Council Meeting, Vancouver, B.C. August 14, 2012**  
**University of British Columbia, Student Union Building 214**

*Attending/ Présents:* Debbie Badzinski, Erin Bayne, David Bird (Past President, AM only), Brenda Dale (Recording Secretary), Sarah Jamieson, Matt Reudink (Treasurer), Joe Nocera (Vice-President), Erica Nol (President), Andrea Norris (AM only), Ian Warkentin

*Regrets/Absents:* Ken Abraham, Marc Avey, Marcel Gahbauer, Lance Laviolette, Paul Martin

Meeting called to order at 10:10

1. Welcome | Mot de Bienvenue (Nol): Welcome, coffee, introductions of councilors and officers completed.
2. Review of Agenda/Révision de l'agenda (Nol): Due to another meeting Andrea needs to present her report before lunch. Agenda adjusted for this. Nol announced Kathy Martin will be coming in after 2 (but as the meeting progressed she was unable to join it).
3. Acceptance of 2011 minutes /Acception des minutes de 2011. No corrections were proposed. It was noted the minutes were very detailed which was helpful.

MOTION: To accept the minutes from the 2011 meeting made by Bayne/ seconded by Warkentin - Passed.

4. President's Report /Rapport du Président (Nol). Report will include matters arising. Major item that took up most of Council's time this year was the potential of participating in Society for Ornithology (SFO). We voted to have Erica attend the Dallas meeting and then she reported to us and placed information in *Picoidea*. Based on feedback and the councilors' opinions we were of mixed views about benefits of SFO for Canadians and had concerns about identity and a restricted journal editorial view. Even so we would have continued to participate in discussion but were told by Sue Haig that if we wanted to continue we needed to commit to joining. We had a conference call (prior to Sue's position being conveyed) and then voted again with this new information and chose not to participate further in the SFO process. It turns out to be a good thing as there has been push back from AOU Fellows and now there is a possible new model which is more like what Ricky Dunn suggested of a Bird Life International model with partners. Original model's publications were going to be 4 in number - Cutting edge, Ecology, Empirical, Conservation (latter paper & remainder electronic). Wildlife Society has Wildlife Professional which talks about issues and also has email alerts so the model SFO proposed for one journal would be similar. Paul Martin (head of publications committee for SFO) made it clear that if you join SFO you are going to lose your journal. SFO Publications Committee did not want ACE so that potential reason for participating

further would have been a non-starter. They might reconsider Ricky's suggestion of a partnership because of the message from the Fellows to "slow down".

*Comments/ discussion:* Partnership is a model that would be a lot more acceptable, make it more international, and has a lot more potential for our journal being utilized. General agreement that bringing up journal is a message that we are open to partnership model should they revisit that concept. Maybe they will be more open now that so many societies have said "no".

Other matters arising from President's report are incorporated into agenda items (NAOC travel award, quiz bowl donations)

**ACTION (No!): President's report to be provided electronically.**

5. Treasurer's Report/Rapport du Trésorier (Reudink, report appended). Basically we are in good shape financially. At the end of the year we have to get our account audited. There are a variety of things that qualifies as an audit. Notice to reader is the simplest and is commonly used for small non-profits and costs \$500- \$1000. A full review is more like about \$3000. In the past we had a woman doing an audit for about \$500/ year which was a very good deal but Matt had a hard time finding an auditor in Kamloops that would give us a similar deal. Through a suggestion from Alex Bond we now have a less intensive and reasonably priced audit done by an accountant in Nova Scotia. It was quite a bit of work to find this auditor but now we are settled.

MOTION: To change the statement in the working bylaws to clarify the type of audit made by Reudink/ seconder not recorded - Passed.

Have largely followed the report format previously used by Lamothe. Revenue for 2011 similar to that of 2010. Expenditures mainly the same except for the deficit for Moncton meeting and the loan to NAOC but we will be getting our loan back plus a share of the profits. Liquid funds are relatively modest. The Moncton meeting debt involved two unexpected overhead charges at the end that the University charged and Marc-Andre negotiated them to a smaller amount but it still resulted in a short fall. Nicola who is hosting next year's stand alone meeting has been advised to watch out for overhead costs. Will split the larger Guaranteed Income Certificate when it rolls over so that each year some money comes out so IF we want to use it for a meeting (or loan to a NAOC) we will have it available and otherwise it will just get reinvested.

*Comments/ Discussion:* Do multi-year membership funds get divided among years or shown all in year paid?

**Action (Reudink): Determine answer and add a clarifying statement in future reports.**

Question about what the bank charges were. They were Beanstream charges associated with people registering for meeting in Moncton. Council thanked Matt for his work in taking on a challenging position.

MOTION: to approve financial report made by Nocera/ seconded by Jamieson-passed.

6. Membership Secretary's Report / Rapport du secrétariat au sujet des adhésions (Nol for Laviolette, report appended. Membership is up except for Environment Canada/ Canadian Wildlife Service (EC). Bayne suggested that because EC has been sponsoring meetings EC folks got free registration so may not have joined.

**Action (Bayne): Contact Laviolette to see if that is correct.**

If so, the registration web site could be altered to get EC folks to pay for membership when registering for future meetings. Membership application could be modified to ask for affiliation which would help with tracking. Also could be change in age structure within EC that has caused decline. SCO membership is not declining like most bird societies. Life memberships have gone up. The archived (not renewing after multiple years) members are a challenge for us to get involved again. Possible that SFO could actually increase our membership. Thank you to Lance for taking on another of the challenging positions and to Thérèse for assisting Lance as he got started.

MOTION: to accept the membership secretary report made by Warkentin/ seconded by Reudink – Passed.

7. Beanstream Update /Mise à jour de Beanstream (Bayne). There are issues and challenges. Will be updating the province/ country buttons and the program has some problems with accents on French names. Yet he has not had reports of issues. Do we need an internal page on our web site? Can we utilize Ornithology Exchange? Either way we need a permanent record of activities.

8. *Picoides* Editor's Report/ Rapport de l'Éditeur de *Picoides* (Nol for Warnock/Gahbauer, report appended). After summarizing the new approach for dual editors outlined in the report Nol wondered if newsletter be emailed rather than just the link but don't want to lose the attractive content. Her model was the BSC emailed weekly newsletter but at least one person did not like that due to size in mailbox which will cause it to be deleted whereas on website it is always available.

**Action (Nol): Ask Gahbauer about providing the newsletter in an email.**

**Action (Gahbauer & Badzinski): Identify a list of research labs and have them highlighted in rotation as proposed in the report.**

MOTION: to accept *Picoides* editor's report made by Reudink/ seconded by Badzinski – Passed (but we may not need to vote on these reports?)

9. Committee Reports/ Rapport des comités - for information

- Student Affairs Committee/Comité des affaires étudiantes (Andrea Norris, report appended). Student / Mentor lunch last year was successful and supervisor / student bonds formed. Student committee at NAOC V was from several societies and 4 main events organized (Quiz Bowl, Student- Professional dinner, student-mentor lunch, and student workshop on communicating research results) plus committee member Kim Dohms very involved in multi-society silent auction where you designate who funds go

to. Because Andrea was on local organizing committee for NAOC it really helped with the student committee. It would be helpful for future meetings to have a student member on local organizing committee. Ornithology Exchange utilized by committee because there is a record of everything. SCO donated \$1200 and played big role in organizing quiz bowl. Query about how to get involved in student/ mentor lunch or student / professional dinner as the NAOC registration page was confusing on this point. Need a new chair and it could be voted on by student members or Council could appoint based on recommendations and availability. Norris will ask current committee members if they are interested in being chair. An election probably not needed. But put a sign up for student committee at our booth and encourage next chair to put a notice in *Picoides* again to attract new committee members.

MOTION: to accept student affairs report made by Warkentin/ seconded Jamieson- Passed.

MOTION: to thank Andrea Norris for her effective work made by Jamieson/ seconded Warkentin – Passed.

-Nominating Committee/Elections (Nocera, report appended). Greg Robertson elected as Vice-President. All three new council nominees and 4 running for re-election all elected and three were not up for re-election. Voting apathy demonstrated from low proportion of members voting. This gives more weight to the need for switching to electronic voting.

**Action: Webmaster / Bayne to look at Ornithological Exchange to see if voting can happen there or he could develop something housed elsewhere.**

MOTION: to ratify results of the election made by Reudnik/ seconded by Bayne - Passed. Thanks to those who ran (Nol).

- ACE Journal Committee/Editors report (Nol for Francis/Villard/Nudds). Comment that they are being very honest in their estimate of how long from submission to acceptance as most journals really only give time from when rewritten manuscript submitted. There was a question about whether 3 weeks for reviewers is too short to encourage reviewers to participate but comments indicated this was not unusual and keeps turnaround to author reasonable.

- Speirs Award (Nol for Bob Clark, Mark Brigham, Greg Robertson). New chair will have to be selected and new member to replace Greg. Wednesday is day for SCO/ SOC awards and Erica will read out announcement for Speirs Award but plaque not available as Mark was in Africa.

**Action (Nol or Nocera): find new member and have chair selected.**

- Jamie Smith Mentoring Award (Nol for Pomeroy). Recipient will be Lorraine Radcliff but plaque also not available. Andrea Pomeroy will present and will remain chair for one more year.

- Student Research/Travel Awards (Warkentin, report appended) Number of applicants was in lower to mid-30 which is consistent as is break down of MSc/ PhD. High quality projects. Evaluation process has changed. Karen Wiebe, Colleen Barber, & Ian divide the applications evenly and randomly and then the short list from each is read by all and selection made from that. Taverner awards are 2 at \$1500, Cooke & Bailey are \$1000 each. Ian asked if we can we afford to raise the amount of award. Matt says we could certainly add a \$1000. Recently increased Taverner so it is a case of deciding whether to increase them again or bump up the others. Ian's recommendation is to increase Taverner awards because the Cooke and Bailey awards have other donors involved. Jamieson suggested having the student give a "Taverner lecture" in their department to increase awareness among students. Modify award letter to encourage a departmental seminar and copy supervisor and department. Erin – wording must be carefully thought out so that department does not view it as a contractual obligation.

MOTION: to increase Taverner awards by \$500 each made by Warkentin/ seconded Nocera - passed.

Karen Wiebe will be the new committee chair and Marc (?Avey) is willing to be on committee. We did give money to NAOC travel awards. Have we considered giving travel awards outside of students? No, we have not and given only a \$1000 to spend it might not be viable.

- Ornithological Council (Dale). No report appended because recently asked Laviolette to circulate the OC annual report to all members and added a few lines about how the OC was an underutilized resource. Some things the OC works on like animal care standards are of value to all countries while other activities may be US oriented but this is because we don't ask director Ellen Paul to look at permit or process issues for Canada. She cannot look into them unless she is asked. Recently she was asked a question about Canadian permits and as a result is preparing a guide to Canadian permit requirements which will get posted on Birdnet. Bayne mentioned past issues with isotope samples at the U.S. border but said it was not currently an issue for his lab.

- Conservation Committee /Comité sur la conservation (Nocera). Committee has not been very active. Nocera is stepping down. Question from Dale if the committee could possibly submit a small piece to *Picoidea* regularly bringing up conservation issues that might be of interest to members with web sites or addresses they can contact or write to. Nocera read the committee purpose and this fits perfectly with the stated goals. Dale will become chair and with members Koper, Nol, and Warkentin will attempt to provide timely relevant input to *Picoidea*. This group should have sufficient geographic and bird group coverage to pick up most issues.

-Obituary and Bequest Committee (Nol for Martin) when prominent ornithologists pass away we will continue to ask for unique SCO perspective for an obituary. **ACTION (Martin) Place a small notice in *Picoides*.**

-North American Banding Council (Nol for Dunn, report appended). No one has regularly attended NABC meetings on behalf of SCO since Dale stepped down as SCO rep after 10 plus years of attending on behalf of SCO. Other government members of SCO have been designated but because Environment Canada currently restricts out of country travel they rarely, if ever, are able to attend. Because the most recent meeting was in Canada Nol asked Dunn to attend on SCO behalf. Dunn indicated that a consistent attendee on behalf of SCO was necessary and desirable and suggested SCO copy other organizations by providing up to \$500 to defray costs.

MOTION: To fund up to \$500 to defray costs of attending NABC meeting for SCO representative made by Nocera/ seconded by Jamieson.

Discussion – can we afford it? Yes. Is it important? Yes, as banding is integral to many research projects. Passed (one absention).

10. Website/Site Web (Nocera). Since Nocera will become president after NAOC we need a new website manager. A few stats were provided: 2600 visits so far by 1969 computers (average 1.6 pages of content accessed and about a minute). 86% used English, 4% French, Polish, Russian. 76% from in Canada. 10% from US. Explorer was initially dominant but now there are many browsers. 72% using Windows and 22% with Macs. IOS (40%) and Ipads (29%), iphones (15%) android 10%, ipod 4% blackberry 2%. He did not design page thinking of tiny screens. New webmaster should do a complete make over. Three possible webmasters but all have a catch. Andrew Couturier is our best option but maybe utilize the prospective person from Quebec to improve our French content.

MOTION: to appoint Andrew Couturier as new webmaster if he is willing made by Nocera/ seconded by Reudink – Passed. Bayne may be able to get some help for them from U. of Alberta.

11. Committee chairs / Présidents des comités (Nol). Need to replace retiring committee chairs. These were dealt with as reports were given.

12. Future meetings / Futures réunions (Nol)

2012- We are meeting with other societies here at NAOC

2013- University of Manitoba (N. Koper). Nicky wondered if we can provide the Beanstream service for next year. Erin thinks “yes”. Costs per person will be about \$152 plus banquet cost. Do we want to meet Aug 11-13 or 12-14? Consensus was for latter dates. Do we want the banquet at Museum or Fort Whyte? We chose latter location. Do we want a field trip to Tallgrass Preserve or Oak Hammock? Preference was for latter location.

2014 – Meet with AOU(SFO?) in Colorado. Debbie will look into Ottawa as a back up (Carlton)

2015- Acadia proposal by Bob Curry – Acadia open to us being there and Wilson may join us but they would need to change their meeting date from traditional spring period.

MOTION: to have 2015 meeting in Wolfville at Acadia University made by Nocera/ seconded by Reudink- Passed.

13. 2012 meeting update/ Mise à jour du de la réunion de 2012 (Nol for K. Martin)  
Things are going well. Budgeted for 750 attendees and there are about 1500 so that has helped financially. We should get good return on our loan to the organizing committee if the anticipated profit is made at the meeting. Scientific program has been checked and double checked and those to introduce all arranged etc.

14. Other business/Autres affaires. Debbie Badzinski is finished her two terms as are absent councilors Russ Dawson and Paul Martin. Nol and Council thanked them for their time.

15. Adjournment/Ajournement.

MOTION: to adjourn made by Bayne/ seconded by Warkentin at 15:20.

Minutes submitted August 30, 2012 by Brenda Dale with recognition of Marie-Christine Bélair for translating headings into French.