



Minutes of the annual general meeting of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO/SOC) Université Laval, Friday August 20th 2004, 1700 – 1900h

65 in attendance

1. **Welcome** by Savard and introduction of council. Savard thanked outgoing councillors Cheri Gratto-Trevor, Rodger Titman and Kevin Teather.

2. **President's report.** Presented by Savard.

3. **Motion** by Zanette to accept minutes of 2003 AGM, **seconded** by Baker. **Carried.**

Erica Dunn: commented that members did not have an opportunity to review minutes prior to the meeting. Robertson replied that we will investigate posting these on the web site in future.

Action: Exec will ensure that minutes are posted on SCO-SOC web site well in advance of the next AGM.

3. **Treasurer's report.** Presented by Pierre Lamothe.

Savard proposed to the membership that fees be raised according to the following schedule. Raise regular fees from \$15 to \$25 (\$35 non-resident). Sustaining members \$30 to \$50. Motion was carried unanimously by council.

Seutin: Are there other options for reducing costs for Picoides? Response was that we would explore an electronic option in the future, and are preparing a questionnaire to determine membership interest, but currently will retain paper copy.

Hussell: Questioned Speirs and Taverner Award capital, and noted that they should be shown as a separate line in the budget.

Response by Lamothe was that they are currently not shown, but will separate out these funds prior to publication of the report.

Sandercock: requested to standardize membership fee for international members. Lamothe: proposed \$40 for non-Canadian. Flood: suggested \$40 is quite high, what about \$35.

Flood: Life memberships should be considered.

Motion: Raise fees from \$15 to \$25 (\$35 non-resident). Sustaining members \$30 to \$50. Carried unanimously by membership

Lamothe moved to accept financial report, seconded by Titman. **Carried.**

Discussion: financial report should have been audited prior to presentation. Need to ensure that 2003 financial report is audited and approved again after audit by the membership.

Auditors: Lamothe moved that Francine Nadeau be appointed as auditor for the 2003 and 2004 financial reports. seconded by Beaudet. **Carried.**

4. Membership report. Presented by Thérèse Beaudet.

Martin: Asked whether numbers of members include people joining during this meeting. Beaudet replied no. Sandercock: suggested would be helpful to post current membership list on the web. Beaudet: potential problems with Freedom of Information Act. Burger: suggested could e-mail list to current membership. Lein: indicated that if do so, need to be careful about copyrighting the list, and include a dummy address to detect any abuse of the list.

Savard moved to accept membership report, seconded by Robertson. **Carried.**

5. Picoides report. Presented by Savard.

Hannon moved to accept Picoides Editors report, seconded by Lein. **Carried.**

M-A Villard: Will be soliciting opinions about Picoides in near future.

6. Elections results. Hannon presented the results of the election.

Savard proposed the following:

Given the current Vice-President (Sue Hannon) will be the scientific chair of the upcoming IOC, council is proposing that Sue Hannon remain as VP for the next 2 years and Vice-President elect (Charles Francis) become President after this meeting.

We are asking the membership to support this special measure, as it will take advantage of retaining Sue's experience as vice-president while Charles takes the presidency.

Hussell: technically the council can appoint from within its own ranks. So solution can be quite simple.

Savard motioned that the above motion be supported, seconded by Dunn. **Carried unanimously by the membership.**

7. Committee reports

Student awards: Savard read out the award winners.

Speirs award: will be announced tomorrow at the Banquet.

Cooke award: still need further donations to reach target.

Ornithological Council: Tony Diamond is stepping down. Liana Zanette will replace Tony Diamond. Lesley Evans-Ogden will continue as second rep.

BSC: We have 2 SCO reps on BSC National Council (science review for BSC programs). JP Savard and Jamie Smith.

Journal Committee: Francis provided a presentation on the SCO-BSC journal which has the working title "Avian Conservation and Ecology." Journal will be on-line only, with full open access. Hope to complete agreements in early September and be ready to accept submissions in early 2005.

Lein: requested that should feature SCO and BSC prominently in logo, and on every .pdf

Gaston: can we maintain Canadian focus if on the web? Francis: actually would like the journal to be international, to enhance value and profile.

Seutin: if successful, this will be an extremely valuable undertaking.

Language: what about non-English publication, and multi-language abstract?

Francis: will publish in English and French, abstract in other language. May investigate other languages such as Spanish in the future.

Is it conservation and ecology, or just conservation? Francis: emphasis will be on papers with relevance to applied ecology and conservation, but not exclusively so.

How is the editor going to be chosen? Response: SCO-BSC Journal committee will select.

Lein: Noted that ISI and some other services may not abstract entirely web-based publications.

Response: Needs to be investigated.

Publication charges: Some members noted that \$750 is actually quite a bit of money, and may exclude international submissions. Need to investigate options to allow waivers for some papers.

Lank: 2-tier page charge for page charges may help with garnering extra funds (e.g., extra fees for non-members). Could provide an SCO membership benefit. Possibility to use CWS Latin American Program to subsidize journal publication for authors from Latin America.

Martin **moved** to thank BSC-SCO Journal Committee for their work on the issue.

8. 2005-2007 meeting locations:

2005: late October in Halifax with all 4 CWS national bird subcommittees

2006: NAOC in Veracruz (4 societies confirmed: AOU, COS, SCO, CIPAMEX. Others considering)

Sponsoring Mexican students as one option how SCO can contribute.

2007: undecided at present

9. Other Business.

Suggestion: Present a report on all resolutions adopted at councillor meeting, so that liability of councillors is spread to all members.

Biographies of Canadian Ornithologists. Call for help, contact Savard or Francis.

Web site.

Members asked to review web site and send suggestions for improvements to Council.

Vote of thanks to Bob Curry for his support of the website.

Bird motioned to adjourn meeting, seconded by Robertson. **Carried** at 1900h.

