

**Texas Ornithological Society
Board Meeting, Conference Call
January 14, 2021**

Present on tonight's call were Christine Turnbull, D. D. Currie, Kendra Kocab, Daniel Hodges, Shelia Hargis, Byron Stone, John Berner, Frances Cerbins, & Gailon Brehm.

Not present: Randy Pinkston, Laura Wilson, Raul Delgado

President Christine Turnbull called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Minutes Approval

Secretary's note: The November 18 minutes will be approved via email.

Budget & Financials

John Berner presented an updated budget. He said the Winter Virtual Meeting was doing well from a financial perspective. We fairly accurately estimated the number of people that registered. He suggested a topic for the next meeting should be figuring out a system for awarding money to various research projects. Shelia Hargis motioned to approve the budget. Daniel Hodges seconded, and the motion passed.

Gailon Brehm went over his financial report. Both of our investment accounts are up due to good stock market conditions. Our cash on hand is also up. By mid-year we should be able to move some money from the investment accounts into available funds.

Nominating Committee

Gailon Brehm talked about the 4 positions that are on the ballot, who is running, and the timeline for the elections. Daniel Hodges motioned to approve the slate of candidates and election schedule. John Berner seconded, and the motion passed.

Sanctuary Updates

Shelia Hargis said she had written two grant proposals for the Great Texas Birding Classic. This paid off nicely as one team chose to award TOS \$5000 to install bleachers at Hooks Woods. John Berner pointed out that we have \$1000 set aside in the budget for the bleachers. We can use those funds if \$5000 is not sufficient.

Shelia said she has not heard anything from the person who offered to move the house off of our Magic Ridge property. We will likely have to wait until COVID is behind us for this to happen. John Berner asked about cancelling the water service at Magic Ridge. Byron Stone confirmed that all of our properties there are not serviced by the water. He will bring up the question at the next Magic Ridge Committee in two weeks. Byron said the most important issue for Magic Ridge is establishing an agreement with a lawyer to pursue restitution for our cleared lots. The attorney he found does not have any conflicts of interest and sent a letter that needs to be

signed by TOS. Shelia Hargis motioned to authorized Byron Stone to sign the agreement with the attorney. Gailon Brehm seconded, with the understanding that Byron will be the Board's contact person with the Magic Ridge Committee as they manage the project. The motion passed.

Membership Committee

Shelia Hargis said TOS is holding on to roughly 920-950 members. Membership appeared to dip earlier in the year due to COVID, but it is on its way back up, and the Winter Virtual Meeting brought in 10 new members. She wanted to know if directors were reaching out to new members and those who recently allowed their memberships to expire. Daniel Hodges said this communication yielded little response either way. Shelia said the Membership Committee is willing to help directors communicate with members, and they have some other ideas for increasing membership as well. John Berner suggested holding weekenders in regions we would like to target for membership. We could reserve some of the spots for locals only.

Archives Working Group

D.D. Currie said that Randy Pinkston had been back in touch with Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. It may be best to pursue housing our archives with them since they have a temperature-controlled building that is not likely to flood and they are more centrally located. Christine Turnbull will contact Randy for more information on this.

Winter Meeting Updates

Christine Turnbull said we had 219 registrants, including the speakers. John Berner said 149 people paid for the speaker package and/or the photography class. These are promising numbers.

Next Board Meeting

John Berner asked when the next board meeting would be. We confirmed that the Board is supposed to meet 6 times per year. We will likely have a meeting in March.

The meeting ended at 4:50 p.m.