

OLA Board Meeting 20 January 2021

Minutes

Present: Dreher, Miller, Schaedel, Sobota, Larson, Eilers, Jansen, Tullos, Carroll, Wille, Pennington

Absences: None

II. Approval of Minutes (December) (Lara-4:02p): Desiree Tullos approved, Dan Sobota seconded, unanimous approval.

III. Treasurer's report, financial outlook and plan (Andy-4:05p)

- Review of the past year finances
 - Increased scholarship fund by ~\$6,000 in the past year (\$23,108 end balance) & operations status by ~\$2,000 (\$11,163 end balance)
 - \$2600 came in renewed/new memberships.
 - Membership dues are not quite covering operating expenses (ideal case) but revenue (\$2,500) received for sponsorships (which as shown as conference revenue) more than covers that difference.
 - Scholarship donations were healthy in particular with Deschutes Brewery fundraising event (held in Dec 2019, check received in Jan 2020), \$900 that Connie donates (her payment for newsletters) and response to donation requests that Stephan sent to Corporate members and sponsors.
 - Added ~\$1,000 in dividends and capital gains and investments grew by about 10%.
 - We received ~\$600 from a nominal \$10 fee charged for the stakeholder meeting.
- Future ideas-2021
 - Need: keep up sponsorships as they are an important source of revenue.
 - Need: Still need to grow the scholarship/outreach fund through raffles and other venues to meet the goal of a self-sustaining endowment. Andy believes we should reach initial endowment goal soon to support scholarship funding (\$25,000 - \$30,000) but we should continue to grow it to support funding of outreach activities.
 - Nominal fees for non-members for events such as the CyanoHAB stakeholder meeting (free for speakers and OLA members) may encourage new members.
 - With \$11K in operations fund (checking), we can think of making strategic outreach expenditures; consider possibility of grants that require matching funds (eg. HIU sponsorships, Lezi, 75, \$yrhw, \$zene, f, \$s, \$sytw, \$sv, \$sr, \$smx, \$sygil, Wxizi, \$[2. We need to maintain at least \$5,000 to insure flexibility for annual operation.
 - Andy will be working on a Working Budget for 2021. Board members should suggest specific items to include such as conference:
 - All agree to a virtual conference for 2021

IV. Advocacy, Lake Abert (Trish Carroll-4:32p)

Committee: Trish, Ron, Theo & Joe

Senators Merkley and Romney will be seeking support for US Congress proposal to study saline lakes

- Andy Kerr, Oregon Natural Desert Association and Committee working on Conservation Objective with different proposed National Conservation Areas (NCA) from Option A- only Lake Abert-currently Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) with the highest level priority; Option B-Lake Abert, add North Rim with Springs; Option C-adds to Option B by inclusion of Warner lakes (2nd highest priority), playa lakes; Option D-largest area-building off Option C-inclusion of Coglan Buttes, Saunders Rim, Diablo Mountain and Rehart Canyon. Option D adds areas that include water resource areas for playa lakes as well as areas already protected, making a continuous protected area
- Committee recommendation is to prioritize conservation: 1. Lake Abert, 2. Other permanent and semi-permanent waters, which are Warner Lakes and wetlands, 3. Dryland ephemeral playa lakes. Feedback will go to Kerr/ONDA/OLA group before deciding on recommendations to the Resource committee of Senator Merkley.
 - Seeking board member feedback within 1 week
 - Proposal will hopefully get senator's attention for further action

V. 2021 Conference sessions (4:51):

- Theo: CyanoHABs Stakeholder meeting
 - Time: 9-noon, Wed March 10 (\$10 reg fee for non-OLA members, non-speakers)
 - Speakers: confirmed to present
- Rich/Joe/Toni: late winter session
 - Possible postponement till summer or fall
- Lara: spring career event
 - Seeking panelists-finalize list in January
 - Desiree, Dan and Steve have contacts for potential panel representatives in Tribal Management agencies
 - Toni recommends explicit statement and questions on DEI in the event
- Dan/Desiree: CyanoHABs session
 - No progress as of yet-need to decide based on CyanoHABs Stakeholder meeting
 - Possible postponement depending

V. Scholarship (Rich-5:03):

- Application due date March 29th & Award announcement by mid April w/ Career event
- Updates to review scoring; note applicants who seek to remain in freshwater science in their career
- Rich will be sending out flyer for review shortly

VI. New business: Notice of Oregon Senate Bill 592 to ban the use of lead shot in hunting and lead sinkers in fishing in Oregon. Notification received from Richard Litts. Theo will distribute to the board.