

DRAFT

PSO 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting on Zoom

October 20, 2025, 7:00-8:30 DST

President Brian Byrnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attendees: Directors Brian Byrnes, Carolyn Hendricks, Frank Haas, Sheree Daugherty, Dan Brauning, David Barber, Laura Jackson, Chelsea Beck, Doug Wentzel, Richard Rieger, Joe Gyekis, Mary Alice Koeneke, Brian Shema, and Journal Editor, Mark Bonta. Absent: Wayne Laubscher, Jeff Kenney, Karter Witmer, and Brian Miller.

A motion was made by Brian Byrnes to approve the August 7, 2025 board minutes. David Barber made a motion to approve the minutes and Mary Alice Koeneke seconded. The minutes were adopted unanimously with no discussion.

- **Festival Venue & Contract**

- The 2026 PSO Festival will be held in Blair County on June 19-21, 2026, at the Blair County Convention Center. The venue site and dates were voted on by email in September to authorize the President to sign the contract. The contract has been signed.

- **New Director**

- Brian Shema, Allegheny County, was introduced and welcomed to the board.

- **Newsletter**

- *The Pileated* newsletter will be moved to a digital format that will be updated approximately every two weeks.
- Kaitlyn Stouch is working on a template and will have a test of the newsletter sent out to directors to work out any bugs by the end of the month.
- She would welcome a volunteer to take on the role as assistant editor.

- **2025 Festival Review**

- Items to improve future Festivals.

- Better communication between outing leaders and participants are needed. Jeff Kenney and Joe Gyekis have volunteered to develop a centralized system of organizing and communicating with the participants as to a more precise location of their outings.
 - Carpooling will be encouraged.
 - More participation by Student Research awardees by table presentations, lightening talks, etc.
 - Adding other types of outings or breakout sessions such as Slow Birding, Bird Photography and Sketching.
- **Proposal from the Conservation Committee**
 - Laura Jackson requested that the PSO begin annual donation to the American Bird Conservancy Alliance and the Endangered Species Coalition.
 - The board unanimously approved a donation of \$100 a year to both organizations.
- **Annotated List Booklet**
 - Frank Haas offered to edit an updated 3rd edition of the publication.
 - There will be a survey of membership to determine if there is enough interest.
- **Committee Reports**
 - The following reports were sent to Brian Byrnes prior to the Board Meeting. No Board action is required.
 - **Festival Planning Committee**, submitted by Carolyn Hendricks
 - A new committee will be formed for the 2026 Festival. Monthly meetings will begin in November.
 - A raffle will be set up for the item donated by Julia Plummer.
 - **Conservation**, submitted by Laura Jackson
 - The 2025 Blitz received an anonymous donation of \$1,000 after the close of the Blitz, which enabled us to reach the goal of \$25,000.
 - The Foundation for Sustainable Forests, a 2023 partner, recently submitted their final report, a video about invasive species management.
 - An application for the 2026 Blitz is being prepared. Applications for Blitz partners will be advertised.

- **Awards & Nominations**, submitted by Carolyn Hendricks
 - An updated Application is being prepared for 2026 applicants.

- **Education**, submitted by Joe Gyekis
 - Scheduled webinars:
 - 8/28/25 Carl Martin, “How Wildlands Conservancy Builds Avian Habitat into Preserve Stewardship.” 7 pm on Zoom.
 - 12/11/25 Sarah Sargent, “Erie Bird Observatory: Keeping Tabs on Birds in Northwestern Pennsylvania.” 7 pm on Zoom.
 - 1/22/26 Nina Jablonski and Bryce Robinson, “Birds and People: Pigment Parallels and Perpendiculars.” 7 pm on Zoom.
 - 2/12/26 Sara Isgate, “Problem-solving in a Changing World: How do Eastern Bluebirds respond to Noise Disturbance?.” 7 pm on Zoom.
 - 4/6/26 Sunny Stout, “Effects of Temperature Extremes on Blood Glucose Levels in Eastern Bluebirds.” 7 pm on Zoom.

- **Events/Field Trips**, submitted by Jeff Kenney
 - A Hawk Mountain outing is scheduled for November 8 & 9, 2025
 - Jeff will start organizing the outings for the 2026 Festival.

- **Next Full Board Meeting**
 - The next meeting will be held December 8, 2025 at 7:00.

Brian adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

— prepared by Sheree Daugherty, 10-20-25