**Interim Executive Director’s Report**

*July*

**Conservation, Education, Membership Proposal**

I’d like the board to consider spending roughly $1,800 over the second half of 2018 and $1,800 in next year’s budget on a pilot project around the Clover Chamber Creek Watershed.

The overall program idea was devised by the Conservation committee: in essence, the program would attempt to educate property owners near the creek about backyard improvements they could make their backyards more friendly to native and migratory birds (while improving water quality at the same time).

This project was submitted for a grant from the watershed council and was turned down.

I believe this project is worth piloting for a few reasons:

* It would blend our unique skills in conservation and environmental education.
* And, after serving this group, they would be ideal candidates to ask for a membership.
* Our conservation work is mostly volunteer-led, and this is a concrete project we will be able to point to with donors and other funders.

Should the first year be successful, we could go back to the watershed council for another grant. With numbers behind us, we might find better results with the grant application. I’ve spoken to Matt about the idea and he also felt it was worth piloting.

The $1,800 for the second half of 2018 would need to be authorized by the board. The $1,800 in the spring of next year could be included in the 2019 budget.

**Transition with Matt**

As I mentioned in my email to the board, Matt has asked to be half-time in August and then full-time in September. He and I discussed a transition plan. In July, he and I will meet when we can to talk about the organization. In August, I will be out of the country from the 4th through the 14th, but can spend the second half of the month in the office on a part-time basis as well.

That should help the transition go as smoothly as possible. During that time, I would be able to focus on getting the next issue of the Towhee to print and other projects that Matt identifies for me.

**Computer improvements for the Executive Director**

The Executive Director’s computer is painfully slow. Winfield helped me evaluate it and priced out what it would take to buy a new computer or to add better specs to this one.

Based on his pricing estimates, I would like to improve the computer in July so that it’s fast and ready to go for when Matt starts in August. The cost for a better hard drive and more memory would run around $300 and I believe would be well worth it.