

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED MINUTES OF THE 2001 PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Kauai Beach Resort, Lihue, Kauai, Hawai'i, 7 and 8 February 2001

[The full text of the proposed minutes is available from the Secretary, Lora Leschner (leschl1@dfw.wa.gov). The minutes will be official when they are approved at the 2002 Executive Council meeting.]

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Present were Julia Parrish, Vivian Mendenhall, Bill Sydeman, Louise Blight, Ken Morgan, Rob Suryan, Roy Lowe, George Divoky for Craig Harrison, Ed Murphy, Breck Tyler, Lora Leschner, Patrick Mock and Beth Flint. Bill Sydeman had the proxy for Kyra Mills, Roy Lowe for Jim Lovvorn.

#### Minutes

Minutes from the 2000 meeting were approved.

#### Report from the Chair

There was no Chair report

#### Treasurer's report

Breck Tyler reviewed the Treasurer's report (see preliminary report in *Pacific Seabirds* 27[2]:90-91). A discussion followed on some of the issues. The increased cost of business and possibility of a dues increase was discussed. Life membership cost has not increased for a long time and the student dues are very low. The bylaws state that life membership should be 30 times the regular dues. It was proposed that the rate be increased to \$25 for regular members, \$15 for students, and \$750 for life members. The fixed cost on insurance can be spread if membership goes up. Further discussion on dues was delayed until

after all the expenses and projects were discussed.

Problems with the different calendar for PSG's fiscal year (October through September) and membership (January through December) were discussed. Breck advises to have membership and fiscal years on the same calendar. The current system was begun because the Executive Council needs a full year's financial statements at each annual meeting. However, the result is that 2 reports must be produced. The question of change in fiscal versus calendar year will be delegated to Treasurer and past Treasurer and discussed in a conference call.

The contract on seabird monitoring database was discussed. The Treasurer will prepare a report on expenses and Scott Hatch will prepare a report on products. The Executive Council and membership needs a report from the monitoring committee.

Two of the major costs for PSG are the annual meeting and publication of *Pacific Seabirds*. Vivian Mendenhall reported on costs of *Pacific Seabirds*. 386 copies of spring issue were mailed, plus requests for others mailed later. The fall issue ran to 519 copies. *Pacific Seabirds* production and mailing cost about \$7500. for an accountant familiar with non-profit tax law. Breck Tyler presented information on the expenses and income of the 2000 PSG meeting and the preliminary financial report for the Hawai'i meeting. Members discussed annual meeting expenses and ways to help the Chair-Elect and the local committee get funding for special speakers or symposia.

Breck presented the Treasurer's perspective on the costs and mechanics of the pilot electronic journal, *Marine Ornithology*. A membership dues increase would help subsidize *Marine Ornithology* and help PSG with Ornithological Society dues increases. PSG is committed to 3 years' involvement in *Marine Ornithology*; the Council will then evaluate our position and decide whether PSG should continue. The Treasurer was concerned about management of two memberships, but the Chair explained that the intention was to keep the *Marine Ornithology* membership separate. The Chair referred the discussion on *Marine Ornithology* to the Publications Committee.

Ken Morgan has opened a Canadian bank account so that Canadian members can pay in Canadian funds. Breck said that the reason for this was that foreign checks cost too much to process. Breck changed banks, which also helped. 12 individuals paid dues via the Canadian bank.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Conservation Committee

Craig Harrison was not present, so Mark Rauzon gave the report.

A letter has been sent to Kauai Power requesting that they put a power line underground. A letter was sent to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) supporting an ecosystem management plan for fisheries.

PSG needs to send a letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) asking for observers on California squid boat fisheries. NMFS may already plan to put observers on

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boats; PSG should send a letter to request that bird data be collected in addition to the marine mammal information.

Mark will draft a letter and give it to Craig Harrison for action.

### American bird conservancy

There was no report.

### Elections Committee

Pat Baird was not present, so Parrish gave the elections report.

Lisa Ballance is the incoming Chair. Malcolm Coulter is the new representative for the non-Pacific US. Jan Hodder replaces Roy Lowe as Washington/Oregon representative. Rob Suryan is leaving Alaska; he will continue to represent Alaska and Russia and will help find a replacement for next election.

Sending the election ballot along with the meeting announcement was not successful. Many downloaded the meeting announcement from the web site; these members did not open their mailed meeting announcement and thus did not get the ballot. The Council discussed methods to increase participation. It was suggested that PSG could distribute ballots via e-mail, but this may not be an option under the law for non-profit organizations in California, where PSG is incorporated. Bill Sydeman will look into voting online or by e-mail. The Council discussed having 2 or more candidates for positions on the ballot, which provides the membership with real choice, versus our usual single-candidate ballot, which makes it look as if new officers are selected by the Council. The Secretary, Lora Leschner, will discuss elections with Pat Baird, the Elections Committee chair, and report back to the Council. The Secretary will work with the Editor to get an announcement about nominations in *Pacific Seabirds*.

### Publications Committee

Vivian Mendenhall gave the report on *Pacific Seabirds*. Members are submitting articles for *Pacific Seabirds*. The goal is to have peer-

reviewed short articles and an outlet for conservation or taxonomic notes. PSG would like to continue to use *Pacific Seabirds* for conservation topics. However, if *Pacific Seabirds* and *Marine Ornithology* are both weighty, then costs increase. will be an electronic journal, but the original members receive a printed version. The African Seabird Group has been printing *Marine Ornithology*; the printed version needs to continue for both members and libraries. There are currently 250 subscribers to *Marine Ornithology*. PSG will have to charge its members extra to receive a hard copy of *Marine Ornithology*. The Council discussed the distinction between *Pacific Seabirds* and *Marine Ornithology*. *Pacific Seabirds* is a good outlet for minor articles. PSG will provide *Marine Ornithology* journal free on web, mainly because the mechanics of collecting money on the web are difficult. Concerns were expressed that the publication cost of *Marine Ornithology* could be high due to higher labor and mailing costs in the US and Canada versus South Africa. The Council referred the issue to the publications committee for further development.

Vivian Mendenhall shared an idea for a color guide to dead seabirds that could be printed in Russian and English. Julia Parrish explained that she had just produced a beached bird guide in color and perhaps it could be used instead of the Russian version.

Breck Tyler brought up the exchange of journals with other groups. This exchange agreement needs to be reviewed. PSG exchanges with some groups. What is the benefit? Journals are currently housed at the Western Foundation. The PSG journal exchange compensates that organization because their staff does the work of distributing past PSG journals for free. Western Foundation is doing a good job of housing journals. The membership needs to know about the journal exchange. Julia referred discussion to the publications committee.

### Awards Committee

No proposals have been received for the 2002 awards. The Council needs to decide whether SG is willing to pay a recipient to come to a meeting to receive an award. If so, then the potential cost of getting people to meetings should be built into the cost of the meeting, rather than being supported by the general PSG membership.

The Awards committee needs to get names and information to local committee at least 9 months before the meeting. The awards committee needs advanced preparation.

Bill Sydeman said that awards are for different things. Lifetime Achievement Awards should be few and not every year. The guiding principal of the Special Achievement Award is to recognize local achievement.

Student travel awards for the Hawaii meeting totaled \$5000. PSG selected several foreign students for awards in order to encourage seabird research in other countries. The Council was pleased at the result of the student travel award. However, the Committee was clear that the award was only made because of the higher cost of travel to Hawaii. The student representative, Louise Blight, urged the Council to make a commitment to assist student travel. Council members responded that PSG already subsidizes students on membership, awards, and reduced fees. This was intended as a one-time travel award. However, the Council is dedicated to student involvement in the group.

### Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee

The Committee chair was not present, but Julia Parrish provided a brief report. The PSG Executive Council must approve the Marbled Murrelet survey protocol before it is released. Last year, the Technical Committee asked the chair to write a letter approving the changes. The Chair approved one final year of changes in 2000, but the committee must bring future changes to the entire Council.

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The Committee is waiting for some statistical analysis before any additional protocol changes are made.

### Xantus Murrelet committee

The committee prepared a petition for listing the Xantus Murrelet as an Endangered Species. There was a long discussion of the pros and cons of listing the species and the data available. The committee members explained that they had tried the previous steps of writing to the National Park Service and the Navy, but received unsatisfactory responses. There are threats that jeopardize the existence of the Xantus Murrelet. It was the consensus of committee to submit the petition. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may not accept additional petitions, but it is important to submit information on species with such a small population.

The Executive Council voted to submit the Xantus Murrelet petition to the federal and state governments, after revisions.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Dues increase

The Executive Council voted to increase membership dues, considering the anticipated expenses of PSG, especially the increased costs of insurance, tax preparation, and publications. The new dues will be \$25 for regular members and \$15 for students.

#### Future meetings

The 2002 will be in Santa Barbara, California. Harry Carter is the local committee chair. Dates were not established, but the local committee plans to have the meeting in late February. The proposed conference site is the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Accommodations are available 1 mile away, but there may be a shuttle. The local committee will get the meeting announcement out in September.

Two symposia are proposed, both on local topics. The Chair-Elect will research symposium ideas. Plenary speakers are a big asset to a meeting.

The local committee should plan on inviting plenary speakers and budget at least \$500 for them.

The meeting in 2003 will be in British Columbia, Canada. No local chair has volunteered yet. Dr. Fred Cooke is retiring from Simon Fraser, but he thinks that Ron Ydenberg, the incoming chair at Simon Fraser, may host the meeting in Vancouver. If not, then Alan Burger, Doug Bertram, and Ken Morgan could host the meeting in Victoria. The desired location for 2004 is Mexico. No specific location or local chair have been identified yet. Lisa Ballance and Lora Leschner will look for a possible Mexican location. The out-going chair, Julia Parrish, has the task of identifying meeting sites for the next 5 years.

### 8 FEBRUARY 2001

Present were Ed Murphy, George Divoky, Breck Tyler, Louise Blight, Ken Morgan, Rob Suryan, Vivian Mendenhall, Pat Mock, Roy Lowe, Bill Sydeman, Julia Parrish, Beth Flint, and Lora Leschner.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Dues increase

The dues increase that was approved yesterday should mean a change in Life Membership dues, since under the Bylaws, these are 30 times regular membership dues. The Executive Council approved an increase in life membership dues to \$750.

#### Disposition of Life Membership dues

Now that the Endowment Fund has reached its goal of \$100,000, should the by-laws be changed so that future life membership money could go to other activities? The Council discussed a proposed by-laws change to redirect the life membership fund. A by-laws change requires a vote of the membership. Julia will explain to members at the Business Meeting why the Executive Council wants a change in the bylaws so the funds can be used with more flexibility. The Council

could still add to the endowment or could use the funds in other ways.

### Additional Regional Representatives?

Ken Morgan and Louise Blight discussed a proposal for an additional Canadian Representative. They feel that Canada is the second largest block in PSG. The west coast is well represented by the current Canadian representative, but the East Coast interests are less well covered. Louise suggested that the by-laws be amended to include an eastern and western Canadian representative. Beth Flint said that if the by-laws are changed, then PSG should consider an Asian representative, also.

It was suggested that the biogeography of PSG members be studied so that representation can be examined objectively. The Secretary and Treasurer will prepare a report for the next council meeting.

### New members

Recruitment of new members was discussed. Regional representatives are charged with recruiting new members. Pat Mock agreed to draft a new brochure on recruitment.

### Student awards and mentoring

Students provided feedback that they liked both the awards and mentoring. The Handbook says that the Past chair is in charge of awards. It was suggested that name tags identify Executive Council members at meetings and that they serve as mentors. Julia will contact Jim Lovvorn and will see if he will continue to facilitate mentoring. One way to provide support to students is to make sure that job information is posted.

### Restoration Committee

There was a proposal to restart the restoration committee. Craig Harrison needs to be part of the discussion, since the duties of the Conservation Committee and the restored Restoration Committee would overlap. Bill Sydeman will get a proposal from

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the group that wants to revive the committee. The Council will discuss the proposal via e-mail and phone and may reach a decision.

### **PSG website**

PSG needs to find a new person to manage the website. In the short term, PSG may need to pay a web development firm. It was suggested

that recruitment for webmaster be included in the next *Pacific Seabirds*. Perhaps there should be an advertisement box on the cover, "Webmaster needed." Bill Sydeman agreed to see if the webmaster for PRBO would help in the short term.

### **Santa Barbara meeting**

The Executive Council needs to approve potential symposia. The by-laws do not require this approval, but the handbook does. The Chair-Elect needs to work with the local committee and others and develop proposed symposia, if any. Bill Sydeman will discuss this by e-mail or conference call.