

FINAL MINUTES
PSG EXCO SUMMER CONFERENCE CALL
Wed 13 July 2005
Robert H. Day, Chair

Present

Esther Burkett, Bob Day, Beth Flint, Adrian Gall, Danielle Lavene, Ron LeValley, Ken Morgan, Katie O'Reilly, Dan Robinette, Dan Roby, Ron Ydenberg, Melanie Steinkamp

Proxies

Craig Harrison – proxy held by Bob Day

Mark Tasker – proxy held by Dan Roby

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Bob Day welcomed EXCO members to the conference call at 1100 h PST. He noted that discussion of PSG 2020 Committee, originally slated for today, will be moved to the February 2006 meeting of EXCO in Girdwood.

2. Approval of Minutes from 2005 Annual Meeting (minutes are attached)

Draft minutes of the 2005 meeting are (with several very minor corrections) attached.

MOTION

That the Minutes of the 2005 EXCO meeting be accepted as attached.

Moved by Ron LeValley

Seconded by Dan Roby

The motion was passed unanimously

3. Report from 2005 Portland meeting

Katie O'Reilly commented on the Budget and Budget summary reports of the 2005 Annual Meeting in Portland. These were previously circulated. EXCO received these gratefully, and thanked her once again for an outstandingly successful organization.

4. Confirmation of awards recipients

Bob Day reported that the Awards Committee had received the list of nominees from the newly-formed committee of Past-Chairs. The Awards Committee has nominated Vernon Byrd for The Lifetime Achievement Award, and Mark Rauzon for The Special Achievement Award.

MOTION

That Vernon Byrd be offered The Lifetime Achievement Award.

Moved by Ron LeValley

Seconded by Dan Roby

The motion was passed unanimously

MOTION

That Mark Rauzon be offered The Special Achievement Award.

Moved by Ron LeValley

Seconded by Dan Roby

The motion was passed unanimously

Outstanding issues are: (1) who will provide the write-up of the award winners for the PSG Bulletin; (2) how expenses of the Special Achievement Award winner to attend the conference will be covered.

5. Anchorage meeting 2006

Katie O'Reilly reported on plans for the Girdwood meeting, to be held February 15-19 2006. Verena Gill is the (very well-organized) Local Committee Chair, and Katie O'Reilly is the (now very experienced) Scientific Program Chair.

There is one Symposium planned:

1. Seabirds as indicators of changes in marine ecosystems – John Piatt, Dave Irons, Bill Sydeman and Vernon Byrd

There are three Special Paper Sessions planned:

1. Ecology and conservation of planktivorous alcids – Ian Rose
2. Seabird / fisheries interactions – Falk Huettmann and Tony DeGange
3. What chemical analyses can tell us about seabird biology and ecology – Stacy Vander Pol

Three Plenary Speakers are planned, not yet confirmed. They are

1. Alaska Senator Ted Stevens (tentative)
2. LAA Vern Byrd
3. Someone from the seabirds as indicators symposium?

She noted also that the budget is currently slightly (several thousand) in deficit. Oregon State University will again run website registration. Registration fees should be similar to last year, with attendance planned at about 130. Verena will provide budget to EXCO for review by September.

6. World Seabird Congress in Taiwan

Ron Ydenberg reported on tentative plans for an 'international' seabird congress to be held in Taiwan. He emphasized that this is as yet in a very early stage, and that he needed to sound out EXCO before proceeding too much.

Briefly, Taiwan (for both domestic and international political reasons) is keen to host international scientific meetings. It is willing to back this up with a (by our standards) substantial budget allocation of about US\$175,000, of which \$100,00 will be spent domestically for local arrangements. The remaining \$75,000 can be used by the

scientific organizing committee, including help to scientists and students to attend. (The general set-up will be similar to the upcoming Waterbird Society meeting in Taiwan).

The internal political and budget processes in Taiwan make it necessary that the meeting must be held by the end of the next budget year. In combination with the need for our southern hemisphere colleagues to have the meeting in the fall, this means that about late October 2006 is the time. There is a bit of leeway, but this opportunity is not as it stands now open for 2007 or 2008.

A variety of concerns were aired. The short timeline, potential conflicts with other meetings, whether such a conference could truly be called a 'world' seabird congress etc. were all discussed. The meeting also needs clear objectives. EXCO paid particular attention to issues raised by Mark Tasker, who wrote but unfortunately could not attend the conference call. Ron Ydenberg undertook to put together an organizational committee that would tackle these problems, so that a full report could be delivered to EXCO in a timely enough fashion to keep things moving along. For now, we agreed that it is not the intention that this replace a regular of the PSG or any other seabird society. It is intended to be a World, International or hemispheric seabird congress. Local arrangements will be taken care of in Taiwan, with guidance from us. Our main task would be to put together the scientific program. We agreed that the timeline is a bit short, but not overly daunting.

EXCO extended an enthusiastic go-ahead to continue talking with the Taiwanese. Ron Y's Taiwanese contact and a colleague will be in Taiwan next month for some high-level meetings that will give a great opportunity to push this ahead. They will be given a letter that outlines the basic plan and indicates in principle the PSG's enthusiasm for the idea. Ron Y will provide a copy of this documentation to Bob Day. We are as yet far from signing any sort of final agreement with Taiwan, nor will we sign anything before funds are committed.

7. Ideas for fund-raising for student travel

Dan Roby reiterated a plea for ideas to on potential funding sources to help bring non-USA and non-Canadian students to the 2006 Girdwood meeting.

8. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1210, and thanked Ron LeValley for organizing the conference call procedure, which worked very smoothly.