

FINAL MINUTES 2006
PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, February 15, 2006
Girdwood, Alaska, USA

PSG EXCO MEMBERS

Officers	email	Position	Voting?	Present?	Proxy
Bob Day	bday@abrinc.com	Chair	YES*	YES	
Katie O'Reilly	oreilly@up.edu	Chair-Elect	YES	YES	
Dan Roby	daniel.robby@orst.edu	Past-chair Vice-Chair	YES	YES	
Craig Harrison	charrison@hunton.com	Conservation	YES	YES	
Ron LeValley	ron@madrivervbio.com	Treasurer	YES	YES	
Ron Ydenberg	ydenberg@sfu.ca	Secretary	YES	YES	
Editors					
Vivian Mendenhall	fsgadair@attalasc.com.net	Editor, Pacific Seabirds	YES	YES	
Tony Gaston	Tony.Gaston@ec.gc.ca	Editor, Marine Ornithology	NO	YES	
Regional Representatives					
Verena Gill	Verena_Gill@fws.gov	Alaska/Russia	YES	YES	
Ken Morgan	morgank@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca	Canada	YES	NO	Robert Day Dan Roby
Esther Burkett	EBurkett@dfg.ca.gov	Northern California	YES	NO	
Dan Robinette	drobinette@prbo.org	Southern California	YES	YES	
Melanie Steinkamp	Melanie_Steinkamp@fws.gov flinte001@hawaii.rr.com	Non-Pacific USA	YES	YES	
Beth Flint	Beth_Flint@fws.gov	Hawaii/Pacific Rim	YES	YES	
Adrian Gall	agall@abrinc.com	Oregon/Washington	YES	YES	
Mark Tasker	mark.tasker@jncc.gov.uk	Old World	YES	YES	
Shiway Wang	shiway@gmail.com	Student Rep	YES	YES	
Committee Chairs					
Pat Baird	patbaird@csulb.edu	Elections	NO	YES	
Pat Jodice	PJodice@clemson.edu	Publications	NO	YES	
Danielle Prenzlow Escene	danielle.prenzlow@wadnr.gov	Marbled Murrelet Technical	NO	YES	
Bradford Keitt	bkeitt@islandconservation.org	Xantus's Murrelet Technical	NO	YES	
Shaye Wolf	wolf@biology.ucsc.edu	Xantus's Murrelet Technical	NO	YES	

Scott Hatch	scott_hatch@usgs.gov	Seabird Monitoring	NO	YES	
Koji Ono (Co-chair)	ono@seabird.go.jp	Japan Seabird Conservation	NO	NO	
John Fries (Co-chair)	jnfries@yahoo.com	Japan Seabird Conservation	NO	NO	
Xico Vega Picos	xicovega@itesm.mx	Mexico Seabird Conservation	NO	NO	
Dan Anderson	dwanderson@ucdavis.edu	Loon/Grebe Technical	NO	NO	
Lisa Ballance	lisa.ballance@noaa.gov	Webmaster	NO	NO	
Malcolm Coulter	CoulterMC@aol.com	Corresponding Members	NO	YES	
Doug Forsell	doug_forsell@fws.gov	Rep, Ornithological Council	NO	YES	
Scott Newman	newman@wildlifetrust.org	Rep, Ornithological Council	NO	YES	
Linda Elliot	lindae808@yahoo.com	new Hawaii/Pacific Rim	NOT YET	NO	Invited to attend by Chair
Donald Lyons	lyonsd@onid.orst.edu	new OR/WA	NOT YET	YES	Invited to attend by Chair
Jo Smith	josmith@u.washington.edu	new student	NOT YET	YES	Invited to attend by Chair

Others in attendance:

Kim Nelson
Iain Stenhouse
Bill Sydeman
David Irons
George Divoky
Alan Burger

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Bob Day called the meeting to order at 09:30 and welcomed all EXCO members.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Falk Huettman (scheduled to speak at 16:35) is unable to be present, and the data-access issue is deferred. Otherwise, the agenda was approved as listed. MMTc and JSTC reports were moved up to before lunch.

- 3. Approval of Minutes from 2005 EXCO Meetings (Agenda Items 1 and 2)**
The Minutes from the January 2005 EXCO meeting in Portland were approved during the EXCO midyear Conference Call held 13 July 2005. These Minutes are attached (Agenda Item 1).

The Minutes of the 2005 EXCO midyear Conference Call are attached (Agenda Item 2). A few minor edits were noted. The minutes were accepted with minor edits.

- 4. Business Arising**
The Chair circulated a Work Plan (Agenda Item 3) listing last year's Action Items and described the progress made. An evaluation of the Work Plan followed.

ACTION ITEM

EXCO members pled that items for the Annual Meeting be sent out earlier, so that there is time to peruse important items.

The Chair indicated that every attempt was made to send out the Agenda earlier but that several reports were not received in a timely fashion, in spite of his efforts starting two months in advance of the meeting.

ACTION ITEM

We revisited the issue of sending hard- vs. e-copies of *Pacific Seabirds*. Better notice to members of this point will be required before sending of hard-copies can be suspended.

- 5. Officer's Reports Received (Agenda Items 4, 5, and 6)**
Reports from Chair, Past-Chair, and Chair-Elect (Agenda Items 4, 5, and 6) were gratefully received and accepted. These are appended to the Agenda. Condensed versions will be published in *Pacific Seabirds*.

- 6. Chair of the Local Organizing Committee**
EXCO received a report from the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, Verena Gill, appended to the Agenda. The budget as of today shows the meeting is in the black, with a profit of ~\$6,000–10,000 expected. This meeting is notable for the high level of external support received. EXCO congratulated Verena for her outstanding organization.

GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION, AND PLANNING

- 7. Report from Elections Committee (Agenda Item 7)**
Pat Baird reported on results of the election for new Officers and Representatives.
Chair-Elect: Verena Gill
Secretary: Ron Ydenberg
Vice-Chair for Conservation: Craig Harrison
Northern California: Esther Burkett
Old World: Mark Tasker
Pacific Rim: Linda Elliot
Student Representative: Jo Smith
Special Oregon/Washington Representative for one year: Don Lyons

Alaska: To be decided (below) because of a tie

Pat reiterated her plea for more nominations and that nominations be recruited early.

ACTION ITEM

Improve methods to find nominees for office. All EXCO members need to be more proactive in finding these nominees

A discussion on electronic voting followed. We need to know more about the possibilities that technology offers to decide on an effective course of action.

ACTION ITEM

Discover how an electronic ballot could be held. Pat Baird will examine how the Society for Conservation Biology does it. Perhaps the 2020 Committee should examine this issue.

8. Future meetings and dates

The 34th Annual Meeting 2007 will be held in Asilomar, CA., 7–11 February 2007. Discussion below.

The 35th Annual Meeting (2008) is proposed for coastal Washington. There are several possible locations currently being investigated. Dan Roby favors Semiahmoo, with the Chair of the LOC still to be identified. EXCO expressed general enthusiasm for this location. Proposed dates are 20-23 February, 2008, but dates not yet confirmed.

Last year, Louise Blight suggested Victoria as a possible venue for The 36th Annual Meeting in 2009, but this location may run afoul of plans for a World Seabird Conference in Vancouver in 2010. Possible locations for meetings in 2009/10 include San Diego, Sinaloa, Japan, and Hawaii. The World Seabird Conference in fall 2010 would preclude a meeting in early 2011.

Dave Irons continued our discussion of the possibility of a World Seabird Conference (dubbed "Seabirds 2100"), perhaps in September 2010. Discussion emphasized the need to involve colleagues in the Southern Hemisphere and groups representing Southern Hemisphere taxa such as albatrosses, penguins, etc.

MOTION

That EXCO supports the idea of a World Seabird Conference in 2010 and encourages a Standing Committee composed of David Irons, Dan Roby, and Lisa Ballance to explore the idea and report back for the midyear Conference Call.

Moved by David Irons

Seconded by Katie O'Reilly

The motion was passed unanimously

Hannah Nevins discussed plans for The 34th Annual Meeting to be held in Asilomar, CA., 7–11 February 2007.

9. PSG Handbook revision

This item will be dealt with later, to update EXCO job descriptions and other text.

10. PSG 2020 Long-Range Planning Committee (Agenda Item 8)

MOTION

That a PSG 2020 Long-Range Planning Committee be struck, as described in Agenda Item 8.

Moved by Craig Harrison

Seconded by Ron LeValley

The motion was passed unanimously

11. Vote re: Alaska Regional Representative

There was a tie vote (actually a very close 3-way vote) for the 2006–2008 Alaska/Russia Regional Representative, between Shiway Wang (finished graduate school and, hence, leaving the Student Rep seat) and Iain Stenhouse (Head of Avian Conservation for Alaska Audubon Society). According to the Bylaws, the Executive Council must vote on the two finalists. This is a first in PSG history, at least since Pat Baird has been Elections Chair. EXCO went into closed-door session, with both Shiway and Iain out of the room. A secret (written) vote was taken and tallied by President Day in front of EXCO.

MOTION

That Shiway Wang abstain from voting.

Moved by Verena Gill

No seconder

The Chair counted 8 votes for Wang and 7 votes for Stenhouse. Based on the votes, Shiway Wang was declared the Regional Representative from Alaska/Russia for 2006–2008.

MOTION

That Iain Stenhouse be added to the 2020 Committee

Moved by Craig Harrison

Seconded by Ron Ydenberg

The motion was passed unanimously

FINANCIAL AND MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

12. Report from Treasurer (Agenda Item 9)

Ron LeValley presented his report, noting that membership had risen and that the Society was financially healthy. The Annual Meeting has grown into an important contributor to the annual budget. Discussion centered on the Morgan Stanley money-market interest-gathering account. PSG has never used it, and it performs poorly.

ACTION ITEM

The Treasurer will consider whether to terminate the Morgan Stanley account.

EXCO discussed details of the budget for 2005–2006.

MOTION

That the budget be approved.

Moved by Craig Harrison

Seconded by Mark Tasker

The motion was passed unanimously

14. Report from Trustees of Endowment Fund (Agenda Item 10)

Ron LeValley presented the Endowment Fund report. He noted that the unspent allocation was returned to the principal. The report was gratefully accepted.

ACTION ITEM

The report will be added to the Handbook.

15. Report from Corresponding Membership Committee (Agenda Item 11)

Malcolm Coulter presented the Corresponding Membership Committee report, which was gratefully accepted by EXCO.

ACTION ITEM

The 2020 Committee may consider creating an "Honorary Member" category. This change would require a modification of the Bylaws.

CONSERVATION ISSUES**16. Report from Vice-Chair for Conservation (Agenda Item 12)**

Craig Harrison presented the Conservation Committee report. The report was gratefully accepted by EXCO after some discussion of issues about the attempted down-listing of the Brown Pelican by PSG. EXCO thanked Craig for his valuable contributions.

MOTION

That EXCO intends at its midyear Conference Call to vote on ratification of the petition to delist the Brown Pelican and solicits evidence for or against this action.

Moved by Katie O'Reilly

Seconded by Ron LeValley

In favor 12 Against 0 Abstentions 1

ACTION ITEM

The Chair of the Scientific Program for the 2007 Annual Meeting should consider having an opportunity to debate this issue, perhaps as a Special Paper Session.

- 17. Report from Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee (Agenda Item 13)**
Danielle Escene presented the Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee report, which was gratefully accepted by EXCO. The information assembled by the MMTTC will be very valuable should the delisting of MAMU by the USFWS take place.
- 18. Report from Xantus's Murrelet Technical Committee (Agenda Item 14)**
Shaye Wolf presented the report from this new group, which was gratefully accepted by EXCO. Last year's XAMU Symposium will be published in the next issue of *Marine Ornithology*.
- 19. Report from Loon/Grebe Technical Committee (Agenda Item 15)**
Joel Schmutz presented the report, which was gratefully accepted by EXCO. The driving impetus for the Loon/Grebe Technical Committee is the steep recent decline in Western Grebe populations. Joel Schmutz agreed to head up this group.
- 20. Report from Seabird Monitoring Committee (Agenda Item 16)**
Scott Hatch presented the report, which was gratefully accepted by EXCO. EXCO noted the potential value of this tool for looking at population trends and thanked Scott for his efforts.
- 21. Report from Japan Seabird Conservation Committee (Agenda Item 17)**
Neither Koji Ono nor John Fries (Co-chairs) were present. Kim Nelson presented the report, which was accepted by EXCO. EXCO expressed concern that the Japan Seabird Conservation Committee was not functional. The upcoming meeting in Taiwan would present a great opportunity to meet with the Japan Seabird Conservation Committee. This may be good reason to hold a future PSG meeting in Japan.

ACTION ITEM

The 2020 Committee should look at PSG relations with the JSCC.

- 22. Report from Mexico Seabird Conservation Committee (Agenda Item 18)**
Xico Vega was unable to attend the meeting, but sent a short report.

ACTION ITEM

EXCO should review activity of this committee next year and consider its future if there is little action on its part.

- 23. Resolution re: Gulf of California Policy Statement (Agenda Item 19)**

MOTION

That the PSG adopt the Gulf of California Policy Statement as set out in Agenda Item 19

Moved by Craig Harrison

Seconded by Mark Tasker

The motion was passed unanimously.

PUBLICATION/COMMUNICATION ISSUES

24. **Report from Editor, *Pacific Seabirds* (Agenda Item 20)**

Vivian Mendenhall presented her report, which was gratefully accepted. EXCO noted that some of the numbers did not seem correct and asked Vivian to double-check. Concern was expressed about the rising costs of printing.

25. **Report from Managing Editor, *Marine Ornithology* (Agenda Item 21)**

Tony Gaston presented his report, which was gratefully accepted. At last year's EXCO Meeting, PSG decided to provide support from the General Operating Fund for *Marine Ornithology*, if needed, of up to \$6000 each year in 2005, 2006, and 2007, to cover any shortfall in MO's production costs. EXCO asked Tony for a more detailed budget next year to help with this reassessment. EXCO also thanked Tony for his stellar service.

ACTION ITEM

Tony to provide a more detailed budget next year to help with reassessment of support for *Marine Ornithology*.

ACTION ITEM

Chair O'Reilly to send a letter of profuse thanks to John Cooper for his service to the PSG and *Marine Ornithology*.

26. **Report from Chair, Publications Committee (Agenda Item 22)**

Pat Jodice presented the report, which was gratefully accepted.

27. **Guidelines for Symposia/Special Paper Sessions (Agenda Item 23)**

Pat Jodice presented the guidelines, which were gratefully accepted.

MOTION

*That the PSG adopt the **Guidelines for Symposia/Special Paper Sessions** as set out in Agenda Item 23*

Moved by Dan Roby

Seconded by Craig Harrison

The motion was passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM

Prepare shorter version for body of Handbook, add this document as a Handbook Appendix, and post on the Website. Some editing will be required.

28. **Guidelines for soliciting publication funds (Agenda Item 24)**

Pat Jodice presented the report, which was gratefully accepted. EXCO asked Pat to add a statement to the **Guidelines for soliciting publication funds** that *Marine Ornithology* be considered first as a venue for publication. EXCO thanked Pat for his hard work on these items.

MOTION

*That the PSG adopt the **Guidelines for soliciting publication funds** as set out in Agenda Item 24, with the requested changes.*

Moved by Craig Harrison

Seconded by Ron LeValley

The motion was passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM

Prepare shorter version for body of Handbook, add this document as Handbook Appendix, and post on the Website. Some editing will be required.

29. Report from PSG Webmaster (Agenda Item 25)

Lisa Ballance was unable to attend the meeting. Her report is appended. She asked several questions.

(1) Pacific Seabirds - Past volumes are now posted on the website. How current should this series be and do we want to begin to make PS available online concurrent with publication?

KEEP CURRENT AND POST.

(2) Gallery and Resources Pages - Should we restore them? If so, what assurances can we make to guarantee that they (particularly the Resources Page) will remain up to date?

RESTORE THE GALLERY. SOME SORT OF LINK-FAILURE REPORT WILL NOTIFY WEBMASTER OF BAD LINKS.

Minutes of the EXCO Meetings - There was some discussion concerning this during the fall. The current policy is that meeting Minutes will be posted in full as soon as they are approved and final. OK?

POST ONLY AFTER FINAL APPROVAL BY EXCO.

Membership Directory - A student directory already exists and is posted on the Membership page. Shall we consider posting a general membership directory? Privacy is a concern. Similarly, there has been a suggestion to allow members to update their contact information on the website (see the OSNA site for an example). This can be done, if we would like to incorporate it as an option.

POST THE DIRECTORY, BUT SECURE IT FOR MEMBERS ONLY.

30. Discussion of Listserve issues

Verena Gill reported briefly on the Listserve, which has been a big success.

STUDENT ISSUES**31. Report from Student Representative (Agenda Item 26)**

Shiway Wang noted that our society is becoming more international, as shown by the number of scientists (students and non-students) attending at this year's meeting from countries all over the world.

MOTION

That applications for travel awards to attend regular PSG annual meetings be accepted in three categories: (1) US/Canada Students, (2) Non-US/Canada Students, and (3) Non-US/Canada Scientists (exclusive of students). The Past Chair and the Local Organizing Committee will solicit grants and donations to help pay for these travel awards. The Past Chair also recommends to other members of the awards committee how much money should be used from the current meeting budget for US/Canada Student and Non-US/Canada Student Travel Awards, and from the General Fund for Non-US/Canada Scientist Travel Awards.

Moved by Shiway Wang

Seconded by Melanie Steinkamp

The motion was passed 14-0-1

Shiway suggests that the recommended amounts are at least \$2,000 for US/Canada students, at least \$2,000 for Non-US/Canada students, and at least \$2,000 for Non-US/Canada scientists. Dan Roby pointed out that the motion above apparently counteracts the following motion passed last year (Item 33 Travel awards) by EXCO.

That the Past Chair solicit and accept applications for travel awards in two categories: US/Canada student, and non-US/Canada biologist (i.e., student and non-student). The Past Chair will solicit grants and donations to help pay for these travel awards. The Past Chair also recommends to the Chair how much money should be used from the current meeting budget for US/Canada student, and from the general fund non-US/Canada biologist travel awards. The recommended amounts are \$2,000 - \$4,000 for US/Canada students, and up to \$2000 for non-US/Canada biologists. Grants and donations for travel awards will offset these amounts. The Awards Committee (Chair, Past Chair, Chair-Elect) will decide by consensus how much money will be spent.

Considerable discussion followed, during which much confusion was created.

MOTION

The previous motion was withdrawn

Moved by Shiway Wang

Seconded by Craig Harrison

The motion was passed unanimously

ACTION ITEM

Prepare a clear preamble to explain the issues and prepare a clear simple motion for EXCO's midyear Conference Call that will resolve this issue.

MOTION

In order to be eligible to register as a student for annual meetings, the registrant must either currently be a student (graduate or undergraduate) at the time of the meeting or have graduated during the semester immediately prior to the annual meeting.

Moved by Shiway Wang

Seconded by Craig Harrison

The motion was passed 14-0-1

ACTION ITEM

Put into Handbook.

MOTION

The elected Student Representative for PSG serves as the Chair of the Silent Auction; all proceeds from the Silent Auction will go directly to the Student Travel Award Fund to be spent on US/Canada and Non-US/Canada Travel Awards for the next year's meeting. Currently, proceeds from the Silent Auction go directly into the General Fund.

Moved by Shiway Wang

Seconded by Adrian Gall

The motion was withdrawn

ACTION ITEM

Roll into preparation of clear simple motion for EXCO's midyear Conference Call that will resolve this issue.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ISSUES**32. Report from Special Awards Subcommittee**

George Divoky reported on the efforts of an *ad hoc* committee (Former Chairs Committee) to ensure that awards are given in a rational and considerate manner. EXCO thanked George for his efforts.

33. Report from Representatives to Ornithological Council (Agenda Item 30)

Doug Forsell presented the report, which was gratefully accepted.

34. Report from Representative to IUCN (Agenda Item 31)

Craig Harrison presented the report, which was gratefully accepted. EXCO discussed continuing membership, and decided to do so.

35. Discussion of proposed Taiwan meeting (Agenda Item 32)

Ron Ydenberg updated EXCO on progress toward the conference "Pacific Seabirds 2006."

MOTION

That EXCO support in principle our role in "Pacific Seabirds 2006," as set out in Agenda Item 32

Moved by Ron Ydenberg

Seconded by Craig Harrison

The motion was passed unanimously

36. Discussion of Data Access Statement

Unfortunately, Falk was unable to attend, and this item was deferred

37. N. Am. Banding Council Seabird Banding Manual (Agenda Item 33)

Bob Day presented the report for Rob Suryan, which was gratefully accepted.

38. Discussion of development of a Privacy Policy

EXCO decided not to proceed with developing a formal policy but agreed to be careful about members' privacy.

39. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 17:27.