

PSG EXCO SUMMER CONFERENCE CALL
Tuesday, September 18, 2007
Verena A. Gill, Chair

ON THE CALL

V. Gill, P. Baird, D. Bertram, R. Butler, L. Elliott, T. Good, C. Harrison, M. Hipfner, L. Leschner, R. LeValley, D. Lyons, V. Mendenhall, K. O'Reilly, D. Robinette, J. Smith, M. Steinkamp, S. Wang.

EXCO OLD BUSINESS

1. Approve minutes of 2007 Asilomar meeting (Verena Gill/Pat Baird) pp 3-16
Approved unanimously

2. Report from 2007 Asilomar meeting (Ron LeValley) pp 17-20

Discussion centred on costs for registration and other components of annual PSG Meetings, and the consistent tendency for the meetings to produce surplus revenue. It was generally accepted that the current system works well; because any future meeting could lose money it is a good policy to maintain the existing price structures that generate surpluses as a buffer.

EXCO NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve 2008 budget (Ron LeValley). p 21

2008 budget was submitted prior to the start of the year, with an estimate based largely on the actual 2006-2007 budget. RL considered it a fairly conservative budget. One shortcoming was noted: the submitted budget did not include \$4500 for travel and expenses for the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Annual Meeting. RL agreed to increase the budget by that \$4500 amount. In general, it was agreed that the budget is in good shape, and will be reviewed at the Blaine meeting. Motion to pass the budget with \$4500 modification passed unanimously.

2. Confirmation of awards recipients for 2008 meeting (Katie O'Reilly) p 22

John Croxall—Lifetime Achievement Award

Lora Leschner/Kim Nelson—Special Achievement Award

Motion passed unanimously

3. PSG 2008 Semiahmoo meeting update and budget approval pp 23-29-

LOC (Lora Leschner)

Scientific Chair (Doug Bertram)

A number of general topics were discussed: (1) whether it is useful or worthwhile to distribute trinkets (cloth bags, mugs, flash disks) to registrants to Annual Meetings (no resolution); (2) whether 1 hr was sufficient for the Business Meeting plus the Special Achievement Award (no resolution); (3) whether sponsors for the Blaine meeting, such as those at Girdwood, would be needed given that a 15% contingency already has been built into the budget (LL will investigate); (4) whether the 3% charge on credit card use to register for the Annual Meeting at Girdwood would be applied in Blaine (yes, but there are ways around it for objectors – pay by cheque); (5) whether or not the inclusion of meals in registration costs is ultimately cost effective (agreed that it probably will be at Blaine, where restaurants away from Semiahmoo are few and far between); (6) whether it would be cost-effective to rent audio-visual equipment for the meeting (TG to investigate); (7) whether room rates for Semiahmoo were reasonable (agreed they were); (8) whether it would be feasible and desirable to arrange ground transportation from

SeaTac to Semiahmoo. In addition, Scientific Chair DB updated us on the Scientific Program for the Semiahmoo meeting (Symposia - The Salish Sea; and Special Sessions - Marine Windfarms, Marine Protected Areas; Plenary Speakers – J. Piatt, J. Croxall).

4.a. Purpose of the PSG Annual Silent Auction (Jo Smith). p 30.

4. b. Responsibilities of the Student Rep and others that want to use the PSG Annual Silent Auction as an annual fund-raising opportunity (Jo Smith) p 30.

Motions 4a, b to have all funds directed towards Student Travel Awards were withdrawn (JS).

5. Definition of paper rejection for annual meetings (Craig Harrison) p 31

Motion to protect authors from having papers rejected due to bias, rather than on scientific grounds, passed unanimously. An Action Item was identified to develop protocols for reviewing submissions and publish them in the PSG Handbook.

6. Definition of student (Shiway Wang and Dan Roby). p 32

Motion was withdrawn until later date (SW and JS to consider again at future date)

7. Replacement of Danielle Escene as Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee Chair (Verena Gill). p 33.

Danielle was enthusiastically welcomed aboard.

8. Pacific Seabirds:

Reviewing of Pacific Seabirds by Publications Committee prior to publication? (Verena Gill)

It was agreed that a PC does exist, and includes PB, PJ, LB and VM, but that it needs to be updated soon.

Getting back on schedule (Vivian Mendenhall)

Also, there was discussion of the need to get Pacific Seabirds back on track, as it has fallen one issue behind. A series of Action Items were identified: (1) A Publication Committee needs to be identified at Asilomar meeting; (2) MH agreed to help VM summarize the Secretary Report for the 2007 meeting for the upcoming issue; (3) KO agreed to follow-up on write-ups for Pacific Seabirds on Lifetime Achievement and Special Achievement Awards; and (4) DL as first Associate Editor for the Regional Reports agreed that the Regional Representatives should help with this editing task for future issues. This task is to be added as a job for the RRs in the PSG Handbook.

9. Update on Taiwan Special meeting (Rob Butler).

RB updated us on progress on the Taiwan Meeting, scheduled for October 2007.

10. S.E. Asia rep or working group? Set up at Taiwan meeting meet at Japan conference? (Verena Gill)

Discussion centred on the best approach to engaging the southeast Asian seabird community within PSG. It was recognized that to get a Regional Representative from se Asia would require action from a local person, and possibly an amendment to the PSG by-laws. It was agreed that attendees to the Taiwan meeting would be offered non-voting gift memberships to PSG. VG

agreed to an Action Item to investigate structural arrangements that might be effective for building relations with the se Asian seabird community in the future..

11. USA coordinator for Japan 2009 meeting (Katie O'Reilly)

This will be discussed at the Blaine meeting.

12. Update on World Seabird Conference (Jo Smith) pp 34-35.

JS updated, and reported that things are moving along well. Target is for 600 attendees, and the meeting will be held at the Victoria Conference Centre; negotiations with local hotels are ongoing.

13. Update on nominations for EXCO positions (Pat Baird) p36

PB updated on the state of nominations for EXCO positions. A few specific issues were discussed (especially Regional Representatives for northern California),.

14. Update on Canadian/UK bank account (Verena Gill). p 37

VG reported that both of these accounts have been closed.

15. How are we doing on Action Items from 2007 meeting? (Verena Gill) pp 38-39

See entries above under specific issues.