

MINUTES FOR ANNUAL PSG EXCO MEETING

Semiahmoo, Blaine, WA
Wednesday, February 27, 2008
09:00-17:00hrs
Verena A. Gill, Chair

ATTENDANCE

Pat Baird, Greg Balogh, Bob Day, Doug Forsell, Verena Gill, Craig Harrison, Mark Hipfner, Ron LeValley, Don Lyons, Vivian Mendenhall, Ken Morgan, Katie O'Reilly, Joanna Smith were present through most or all of the meeting.

Confirmed that we have a quorum.

Verena Gill called the meeting to order at 0907 h.

EXCO OLD BUSINESS

1. Approve minutes of 2007 mid-season teleconference

The minutes *passed unanimously* (with Ken Morgan abstaining) with 2 small changes: (section 4a, 4b): R. LeValley's *New Motion* section has been added; and (section 8) substitute *Blaine* for *Asilomar*.

EXCO NEW BUSINESS

2. Funding for Marine Ornithology on SORA (Pat Jodice)

Discussion re: the costs (est. \$500) and benefits of making Marine Ornithology available through Searchable Ornithological Research Archive web page (SORA). C. Harrison proposed a Motion to have up to \$2 k from the Publication Fund be available to have *all* vols (1-35) of Marine Ornithology put on SORA.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Membership dues (Ken Morgan).

Discussion re: Annual membership renewals, with two Motions to be presented for a vote. K. Morgan rescinded both. After much discussion, some of it profoundly embarrassing to those members of the EXCO who had not paid up as of the 2008 meeting (including V. Gill & R. LeValley), K. O'Reilly moved that annual membership dues be included in registration fees for that year's Pacific Seabird Group meeting. V. Mendenhall seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: R. LeValley will investigate the logistics of the Motion, especially as it relates to Life Members.

4. Chinese Crested Tern (Craig Harrison).

C. Harrison moved that PSG establish a Chinese Crested Tern working group. K. O'Reilly seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Conservation Small-grant Program (Craig Harrison).

C. Harrison moved that 2 Conservation Small grants already handed out be approved. R. LeValley seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

C. Harrison moved to increase Conservation Small grant program to \$2 k (and not requiring EXCO approval). K. O'Reilly seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Election date change for 2010 (Pat Baird). p.14.

P. Baird moved (updated motion) that the date for the election of the 2011 PSG Chair be moved forward to accommodate the 2010 World seabird Conference (ballots will be sent out no later than 1 April and counted by no later than 1 May). K. O'Reilly seconded.

Motion passed unanimously

7. Student motions (Jo Smith)

Three of the four Motions to be voted on (#2-4) were rescinded by J. Smith and replaced with a series of Action Items. In the remaining Motion, J. Smith moved to amend the definition of a student based on suggestions of S. Wang.

Motion passed unanimously

Action Items: (1) J Smith agreed to update the PSG Handbook to clearly describe the purpose of the PSG Annual Silent Auction; (2) J. Smith agreed to update the PSG website with a link for Student Members (this is the job of the Student Representative).

These Action Items, which required making changes to the PSG Handbook, led to general discussion of whose role it is to make changes to the PSG Handbook based on results of the Annual Meeting. Currently, this task is done by the Past Chair. However, while Secretary Hipfner was temporarily out of the room, it was decided that it is actually part of the Secretary's job. This is - apparently - in the By-Laws.

8. Handbook changes (Vivian Mendenhall)

V. Mendenhall moved that the Publications Committee consist of the Publications Chair, the editor of Pacific Seabirds, the Webmaster, the Managing Editor of Marine Ornithology, and may include others at the discretion of the Chair. The coordinator of the committee is the Publications Chair. The motion was seconded by V. Gill.

Motion passed unanimously

Action Item: V. Mendenhall agreed to forward to the Secretary a description of the role of the Past Chairs in regards to award recipients for inclusion in the PSG Handbook.

9. Web site changes (Vivian Mendenhall).

V. Mendenhall rescinded the Motion related to website changes.

Action Item: V. Gill agreed to contact L. Balance (cc to EXCO) regarding changes to the website.

REPORTS TO EXCO

10. Treasurer's Report (Ron LeValley)

R. LeValley updated EXCO on the budget for 2006-2007, as outlined in notes (pp 18-21). A series of Action Items were identified. Action Items (1) R. LeValley to have the PSG Handbook updated to have Lifetime Achievement and Special Achievement Award costs be included as line items in the budget. (2) R. LeValley agreed to investigate the distribution and location of mutual funds. (3) R. LeValley agreed to close the UK account. (4) K. O'Reilly agreed have the PSG Handbook updated so that costs associated with student travel, and poster and paper awards are in the budget. Action Item #4 was part of a more general discussion on the value in having specific line items in the annual budget for costs associated with running the Annual Meeting.

11. Endowment Fund (Ron LeValley)

R. LeValley updated EXCO on the state of the Endowment Fund, as outlined in notes (pp. 22-24). He reported that the fund is generally in good shape.

12. Seabird Monitoring Committee (Scott Hatch)

S. Hatch updated EXCO on the status of the Pacific Seabird Monitoring Database (PSMD), as outlined on p 49. Briefly, he reported that the website is ready to be launched by having data entered and updated. Launch

of a combined PSMD and Pacific Seabird Diet Database (North Pacific Research Board project led by D. Irons and D. Roby) is planned for 2010.

13. Seabird.net web page (Scott Hatch)

Action Item: S. Hatch to write (and send to V. Gill) a paragraph for the PSG Handbook on the use of the Internet domain name seabird.net.

14. Conservation Small-grant Program (Bob Day)

B. Day updated EXCO on the state of the Conservation Small Grant Program, as outlined in the notes (pp 25-28). Briefly, he identified funding as the biggest issue related to the grant, and specifically whether or not the fund will be self-sustaining.

Two Action Items were identified: (1) B. Day agreed to write a description of the Conservation Small-grant Program for inclusion in the PSG Handbook; and (2) M. Hipfner agreed to ask T. Gaston to check with Society of Canadian Ornithologists to see whether formation of PSG Canada could serve as a mechanism to enable tax-deductible contributions to the program.

15. 2020 Committee (Lisa Ballance)

L. Ballance was unable to attend the EXCO. Information is contained in the notes (pp. 37-46).

16. PSG web page (Lisa Ballance)

L. Ballance was unable to attend the EXCO. Information is contained in the notes.

17. Marine Ornithology (Tony Gaston)

T. Gaston updated EXCO on issues related to publishing Marine Ornithology, as outlined in the notes (pp. 73-77). There was also discussion about the future of the journal after Tony retires and steps down as Editor.

18. Budget report for PSG 2008 (Tom Good)

T. Good updated EXCO on the budget for the 2008 Annual Meeting, as outlined in supplementary notes. The main issue identified was problems with the OSU Registration Services, and how use of this service for future PSG Annual Meetings will need to be managed. Action Item: T. Good to write up recommendations for inclusion in the PSG Handbook.

19. Student representative (Jo Smith)

J. Smith reported on her follow-up on an Action Item from Girdwood meeting re: attrition rates of students who attend PSG meetings, as outlined in the note (p. 47). EXCO agreed that we need a further breakdown on the fates of the ~70% of non-renewing students, i.e., do they reregister as Regular Members or do they quit PSG. Action Item: New Student Representative (H. Major) to follow up on this issue.

20. World Seabird Conference (David Irons).

D. Irons updated EXCO on progress related to the 2010 World Seabird Conference in Victoria, BC. Two co-Chairs have been identified (L. Blight, J. Smith), and at least 10 seabird groups from around the world have agreed to participate. D. Roby updated on progress related to the Scientific Program.

21. Japan Seabird Conservation Committee (Ito Motohiro)

Ito Motohiro updated EXCO on activities of the Japan Seabird Conservation Committee, as outlined in the notes (p 71). Reports on the current status of seabird colonies in Japan were presented.

22. PSG 2009 Japan meeting update and budget approval (Watanuki Yataka)

Yutaka Watanuki updated EXCO on preparations for the PSG Meeting in Japan in 2009, as outlined in the notes (pp 66-70). Most discussion centred on issues related to travel to the conference, and of possible ways to reduce the costs (especially group travel plans). V. Gill & K. O'Reilly agreed to place a message about this on the listserv as soon as possible.

23. Conservation Committee (Craig Harrison)

C. Harrison updated EXCO on the numerous activities of the Conservation Committee, as outlined in the notes (p 50).

24. IUCN (Craig Harrison)

C. Harrison updated EXCO on the relationship between PSG and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, as outlined in the notes (p 56).

25. MAMU Committee (Bob Ritchie) p.58.

B. Ritchie updated EXCO on activities of the MAMU Committee, as outlined in the notes (p58). He reported that 45 of 69 Committee members present at the 2007 meeting attended the 2008 meeting, and that the Marbled Murrelet Working Group had met in October 2007. One Action Item identified: B. Ritchie agreed to provide updates on the Committee, if needed, for inclusion in the PSG Handbook.

26. Elections report (Pat Baird)

P. Baird updated EXCO on the PSG elections, as outlined in the notes (p.57). She reported that there is a stellar line-up of candidates for next year's elections.

27. Ornithological council (Doug Forsell)

D. Forsell reported to EXCO that he and Scott Newman are now acting as PSG representatives to the Ornithological Council. One Action Item identified: D. Forsell agreed to write a short note for the PSG listserv re: the function of the OC and the role of the PSG.

28. XAMU Committee (Shaye Wolf)

S. Wolf was unable to attend, but did prepare notes on the activities of the Xantus' Murrelet Committee (p.61).

29. Corresponding Membership Committee (Craig Harrison)

C. Harrison updated EXCO on the activities of the Corresponding Membership Committee, as outlined in the notes (p.64).

30. Pacific Seabirds editor (Vivian Mendenhall).

V. Mendenhall updated EXCO on the state of Pacific Seabirds, as outlined in the notes (p.65). Briefly, we are still way behind, with 2007 (2) expected out at the end of March 2008. Also, she reported that Pacific seabirds will be distributed electronically starting in 2009.

V. Gill brought the meeting to a close at 1712 h.