

**DRAFT MINUTES EXCO Summer Meeting
18 September 2008**

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Call to order

Doug Bertram, Chair, called the meeting to order at 0947h

On the line:

P. Baird, G. Balogh (Chair-Elect), D. Bertram (Chair), C. Harrison (VC Conservation), M. Hipfner (Secretary), R. LeValley (Treasurer), H. Major (Student Representative), V. Mendenhall (Editor, Pacific Seabirds), K. Morgan, H. Renner, D. Robinette, M. Steinkamp, C. Strong

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

EXCO OLD BUSINESS

1. Minutes (All)

V. Mendenhall moved to approve the Minutes of the 2008 EXCO Blaine Meeting; C. Harrison seconded. Minutes were passed unanimously. M. Hipfner agreed to send abridged version to V. Mendenhall for Pacific Seabirds (done).

2. Budget report from Blaine meeting (R. LeValley)

RL reported that a few small details remain to be finalized, but that the meeting in Blaine netted ~\$12 k for PSG.

EXCO NEW BUSINESS

3. Action Items from Blaine meeting (All)

Twelve Action Items were identified at the Blaine meeting

(i) Move to have annual membership dues to be included in registration fees for the current year's PSG meeting, with a decreased rate for Life Members; correction to the spreadsheet required but not yet done (RL).

(ii) PSG Handbook update to make clear the purpose of the Silent Auction has been done; the link for Students on the PSG Website is an ongoing issue (JS).

(iii) PSG Handbook update to describe the role of Past Chairs in regard to Award Recipients not yet done (VM).

(iv) PSG website changes ongoing (VG).

(v) Treasurer Action items: PSG Handbook update re: having costs of Lifetime and Special Achievement awards included as line items in the budget not yet done (RL).

Investigation of distribution and location of mutual funds not yet done (RL). UK account has been closed (RL). PSG Handbook update re: having student travel, poster and paper awards as line items in budget not yet done (MH to follow up with K O'Reilly).

(vi) PSG Handbook update re: use of seabirds.net Internet domain name done.

(vii) PSG Handbook update re: Conservation Small Grant Program not yet done (MH to follow up with B. Day).

(viii) PSG Handbook update re: OSU not required at present, as not being used for Japan 2009 meeting (T. Good). **Action Item:** R. LeValley to discuss with future local

committees on how to manage the use of OSU system, and to provide update to PSG Handbook if necessary.

(ix) H. Major reported that based on 2003-2008 Student attendees at PSG Meeting, 7% are now Regular Members (of which 78% members at least 2 yr later), while fates of 93% unknown. H. Major to follow up on this survey, and investigate new and better ways to engage students for the 2009 Japan meeting.

(x) Message has gone out on listserve re: reducing costs for travel to Japan meeting (V Gill and K O'Reilly).

(xi) MAMU Committee update not needed (B. Ritchie).

(xii) Note to PSG listserve re: function of the Ornithological Council and role of PSG not needed (D. Bertram to follow up with D. Forsell).

4. Approve 2009 budget (R. LeValley).

With a few small things yet to be finalized, it appears that PSG remains financially healthy with ~\$20k decrease in total assets since 07-08. C. Harrison moved to approve the budget; K. Morgan seconded. 2009 Budget was passed unanimously.

5. Confirmation of Awards recipients for 2009 PSG Meeting (V. Gill)

SAA to go to Y. Watanuki (J. Lovvorn as presenter); LAA to go to H. Ogi (B. Day as presenter). R. LeValley moved to approve the Motion; V. Mendenhall seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

6. PSG 2009 Japan meeting update and budget approval (G. Balogh)

G. Balogh provided a brief update on the Japan PSG meeting, noting that 2 dozen abstracts had been received, a reminder had gone out on the PSG listserve. Also, he reported that there was no funding yet for publication of a symposium, and would look in to Marine Ornithology as an outlet. No budget for the meeting has been sent to PSG EXCO. One **Action Item** identified: GB to contact Y Watanuki re: the budget.

7. Conservation Grants Report (C. Harrison)

C. Harrison reported that 2 grants had recently been awarded (\$2k for a seabird bycatch project in Guatemala; \$4k for a at-sea distribution study in Indonesia). In addition, a formal proposal to the Packard Foundation for \$20k for four years is in preparation.

8. Proposal to form a Kittlitz's Murrelet Technical Committee (M. Kissling)

C. Harrison moved to approve Motion to establish a Kittlitz's Murrelet Technical Committee with M Kissling as Chair; C. Strong seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Position statement on Sustainable Economic Development (F. Huettmann)

Motion was withdrawn after much debate, due to general feeling that it is outside of the scope of PSG mandate. C. Strong agreed to draft a response to F. Huettmann.

Meeting temporarily suspended at 1105.

Meeting reconvened at 1145

DB, VM, RL, KM, MH, MS, DR, PB, HR, HM, JS, CH, D Irons, L Blight on the line

10. World Seabird Conference (David Irons).

D. Irons updated EXCO on progress related to the 2010 World Seabird Conference in Victoria, BC. Twenty-three seabird groups are supporting the conference, with at least 1 member from each group on the Organizing Committee. Proposals for

symposia and session topics will go out this fall. Fundraising is now the top priority. EXCO decided that there would be no PSG awards ceremony at the WCS, and student awards will be discussed at the international conference level.

11. WSC budget and planning discussions (J Smith)

J Smith reported that the LOC for the WSC included 10-11 people, the conference has been publicized, and fundraising continues. The plan is to present the budget to EXCO at the 2009 Japan meeting. The main issue discussed was whether it would be worth the considerable cost to hire a conference organizer; both yeas and neas were heard round the table and it is clear that the LOC needs to make a decision on this quickly.

12. PSG Role in WSC (L Blight, J Smith, D Irons)

Discussion centred on PSG's role as sponsor for the WSC, and the relative risk/reward associated with potential conference financial profits and losses. This will be discussed further at the 2009 EXCO meeting in Japan.

D Bertram brought the meeting to a close at 1252 h.