

MINUTES FOR ANNUAL PSG EXCO MEETING

Hakodate, Hokkaido, Japan

Sunday, February 22, 2009

09:00-19:00hrs

Douglas F. Bertram, Chair

ATTENDANCE

Doug Bertram, Greg Balogh, Craig Harrison, Ron LeValley, Don Lyons, Dan Robinette, Heather Major, Vivian Mendenhall, Verena Gill, Ken Morgan, and David Irons were present through most or all of the meeting.

(proxy: Heather Renner (Heather Major), Mark Hipfner (Heather Major), Linda Elliott (Holly Freifeld))

Confirmed that we have a quorum.

Doug Bertram called the meeting to order at 0913h.

EXCO OLD BUSINESS

1. Revisions to Summer 2008 minutes:

Add location of summer meeting to minutes

Item 11: WSB budget clarify who was making yeas and nays. –Change wording to amend the word ‘table’ to conference call.

2. Approve minutes of 2008 mid-season teleconference

Vivian Mendenhall moved to approve the minutes of the 2008 mid-season teleconference; Don Lyons seconded. Minutes were passed unanimously.

REPORTS TO EXCO

3. Report from Chair (Doug Bertram)

Covers letters from PSG to agencies –see report.

4. Report from Chair-elect (Greg Balogh)

Letters were sent even though some people could not sign, what do we do in the future?

Craig Harrison added that if people who don't want to sign for whatever reason they do not have to. You can have your home address instead of work address.

Report covers PSG meeting presentations and posters. See report.

Craig Harrison: Are there holes in the scientific program?

Greg Balogh: A couple in middle of two sessions, they will stay.

Bob Day: What is the latest student paper?

Vivian Mendenhall: 3:30 last day

Bob Day: suggests that in future that student papers be completed before noon on the last day of the conference, as judging can be completed easier if it can be done earlier.

5. Report from Treasurer (Ron LeValley)

Steady membership, new life member.

Accounts: more money in regular checking where we get no interest, should be moved to investment accounts which are dropping with economy. Work will occur on moving money in future. Total assets decreased marginally. See Report.

Craig Harrison: suggests that it would be helpful know how investment funds are dedicated

Ron LeValley: Made up of Endowment Fund, Conservation Fund, and Student Travel Awards, donations, etc., occasionally we get donations without saying how to allocate, these have been going into the Endowment Fund.

Craig Harrison: Small grant fund should be kept in operating account.

Greg Balough: USFWS made grant for publication for this meeting (diving symposium) in Marine Ornithology, Watanuki is publishing outside Marine Ornithology, where does this money go now?

Doug Bertram: suggests that we use that money to publish symposium on Salish Sea in Marine Ornithology. This can happen before September 30 2009 (confirmed by Ron LeValley).

Action Item: Ron LeValley needs to send receipt for \$3000 to Greg Balough for publication of symposium in Marine Ornithology.

Action Item: Ron LeValley needs to send out e-mails to listserv saying that they can send donations to PSG twice a year (February and August).

?: Drop in family membership, is this normal?

Ron LeValley: Yes, many members are included up to one year after last year they paid for. Best to look at membership in terms of 10s of members not exact numbers.

Discussion about whether people outside of the PSG membership or those attending the meeting should be allowed to join field trips in conjunction with out annual meetings.

Craig Harrison: Other in income and expense, we should project some income from meetings as opposed to having negative income for a year.

Ron LeValley: Meeting should not be included in annual budget.

Craig Harrison: \$4500 for Marine Ornithology, is this still accurate, what would it be the next year?

Craig Harrison: Life time achievement award, why estimate?

VM: \$6500 per year for Pacific Seabirds not \$4500.

Endowment Report:

Endowment fund decreased by \$35039.89 due to unrealized gains/losses (change in value of funds). See Report. We have not spent any money in the past couple of years.

Publication funds is at ~\$107000, meaning we have \$7000 to spend if we want.

Craig Harrison: World Seabird Conference (WSC) we said we would pay \$18000, but we are not in best shape to do this.

Report was approved at summer 2008.

6. Report from Past Chair (Verena Gill)

See report.

Vivian Mendenhall: Needs something to publish for pacific seabirds, who received these awards, and who won student awards.

Craig Harrison: When giving awards mention that Hiroshimi is acknowledged that he got an award from PSG in 2001.

Verena Gill: Had to track down people to write things because Past Chair is not set up for one person to sponsor. Need to identify person writing report for Pacific Seabirds during past chair meeting.

See if Dan Anderson will accept a life-time achievement award at Long Beach.

Action Item: Vivian Mendenhall send an e-mail to remind people to write up report for Pacific Seabirds

7. List Serve (Verena Gill)

We get a lot of requests from people who want to be members of the list serve but not of PSG. Should we just keep it to members, or allow others to join? People who are not members might join the list and decide down the road become a member.

Ron LeValley: How many people go on and become members because they want to be on the list serve? What is the benefit of being a member if we allow non-members on the list serve? It is a good way to attract new members? If we are rejecting a lot of people that would be good to have on the list serve then we should allow them.

Verena Gill: It would be good to see how membership has changed since the beginning of the list serve.

Verena Gill: Can moderate. Should she continue to moderate.

Discussion about when and how to best moderate.

Vivian Mendenhall moves Don Lyons seconds that the list serve coordinator at his/her discretion can moderate the input to the list serve by any individual in response to complaints about that individual's postings, or if the content of the posting is outside the scope of PSG's mission or business.

Bob Day: moderating the list serve is beneficial as without control it can implode.

Don Lyons: the wildlife society's was the same way.

Bob Day: Verena Gill is fully able to moderate individuals, but in the future can moderate everyone.

Verena Gill: How do I tell individuals who are being moderated, or do they have to be informed?

More discussion where it was decided that people will be informed when their posts are being moderated.

Motion accepted unanimously.

Verena Gill has volunteered to serve on the Publications committee as the list serve coordinator.

8. Report from Conservation Committee Chair (Craig Harrison)

Report briefly updates us about the Brown Pelican delisting, and protection of Kaena Point, Hawaii. See Report. Gave an overview of letters written this year.

Action Item: Craig Harrison will send message to the list serve suggesting that people can send items for letters.

9. Report from Secretary (Mark Hipfner)

Minutes were sent.

The secretary is responsible for updating the handbook.

Action Item: Doug Bertram will write notes about what is expected from Secretary in terms of reports.

10. Report from Pacific Seabirds Editor (Vivian Mendenhall)

Vivian Mendenhall spent about \$6200 on Pacific Seabirds, we are behind because people were not contacted concerning writing tributes but tributes etc are near complete. Hard copies of Pacific Seabirds will not occur after next year except for institutions and others who ask for them. About 6 issues of Pacific Seabirds are missing from the web, they are on their way. See report.

Craig Harrison: If our website is 6 years behind how will we get up to date information to our members if they website is not immediately updated. Proposed that Vivian Mendenhall get in touch with Lisa Ballance to get access to website and post Pacific Seabirds themselves.

11. Report from Conservation Fund (Bob Day)

Fund started in 2007 just finished 2007 and 2008, running around ~10 requests per year many rejected outright. 2009, 2 projects were just accepted for funding this year. See report.

Action Item: *Bob Day will send LoCo Long Beach an e-mail about getting a line on the registration where participants can donate to the conservation fund.*

Action Item: *Bob Day will send an e-mail to the list serve everytime a project gets funded about where the conservation fund money is going.*

Action Item: *Greg Balough will look into getting on United Way list of recipients.*

Action Item: *Ken Morgan will look into getting a way for Canadians to make donations that are eligible for tax receipts.*

12. Marine Ornithology Report (Tony Gaston)

See report. Tony Gaston is looking for \$6000 to publish Marine Ornithology for 2007-2008 (Ron LeValley already sent). To become part of Thompson ISI you need to be current for 4 years, we are not current now but we are couple years away from this. People should ensure to circulate their own papers in order to get citations both for themselves and for the journal.

Action Item: *Patrick Jodice to send notice to list serve about Marine Ornithology.*

Thanks were given to many people and organizations for help editing Marine Ornithology.

Tony is looking for a replacement when he retires in two years.

Action Item: *Tony Gaston to write up a note outlining important points for how he has been publishing Marine Ornithology, so that new Marine Ornithology managing editor will have an easier time taking over.*

12. Report from PSG webmaster (Lisa Ballance)

See report. Talks about website additions, website plans for 2009. Updates include Pacific Seabird volumes, membership list, letters from conservation chair, official minutes of ExCo. Thanks to Annette for doing so much with the website.

13. Election Committee (Pat Baird)

See report. Try to get more people to run for positions and if you are leaving suggest names to Pat Baird.

14. World Seabird Conference (WSC 2010, September 7-11, Victoria, BC Canada) Committees

1. Report from WSC Science Committee, (Dave Irons, Dan Roby, Lisa Balance, Bill Sydeman)

See report. 21 seabird groups support this meeting. Will contact WWF, Wildlife Conservation, and Audobon. Two journals have volunteered to publish symposium (Marine Ornithology and Emu). A committee is reviewing proposed symposia, there are 36 sessions, symposia will be ~15 of these. E-mails from the WSC LoCo should be sent to the whole ExCo concerning planning etc.

Pat Baird suggests electing someone else to head the fundraising committee. Discussion about who to chair the conservation committee.

Discussion about what journal would be most appropriate to publish symposia. Marine Ornithology and Emu are good choices but it would be good to share publishing around. This would also be a good opportunity to advertise Marine Ornithology as an international journal.

Action Item: *David Irons will communicate with ExCo on a monthly basis about progress in planning of WSC.*

2. Report from WSC Local Committee (Jo Smith & Louise Blight)

Jo Smith reviewed status of local organizing committee. LoCo is committed to 200 rooms, but those can be sold back by September 6th 2009. Louise Blight and Jo Smith are stepping down as co-chairs, they are stepping down as of March 1 2009. See report. An individual has been identified that will step up at least in the interim as chair, discussion ensued as to who the most appropriate person is and a second individual was identified who might be very good.

Vivian Mendenhall moves Greg Balough seconds that Patrick O'Hara act as interim chair of the WSC local organizing committee to replace the outgoing co-chairs Joanna Smith and Louise Blight. By the 31st of March 2009 the WSC will have decided who will be the chair.

7 yeas, 3 nas, motion carried.

Vivian Mendenhall moves Craig Harrison seconds that PSG will ask Sheila Bucknell if she would like to be coordinator of the local organizing committee WSC.

7 yeas, 2 nas, 1 abstention, motion carried.

Action Item: Doug Bertram will write a letter from PSG to organizations giving institutional support for both PSG and WSC.

Meeting suspended for lunch at 12:23

Meeting resumed at 13:06

WSC budget:

Expenses: seeking approval of \$164332 (for 430 participants = \$381 per person) with government tax refund \$157073.98. Event organizer \$27500 for his and staff services from now until 2010 and 2 full time people at the meeting. With basic conference plan the WSC would be in the black including the costs of conference organizer. With 600 people the profit changes very little.

Craig Harrison suggested getting rid of morning coffee and get rid of snacks during breaks.

Action Item: Jo Smith to look into whether breaks and morning coffee can be taken out of budget (expense items 6702, 6703, and 6704).

Craig Harrison moves Vivian Mendenhall seconds to remove registration kits/bags (line item 6166) from budget.

Motion passed unanimously.

Craig Harrison moves Ron LeValley seconds that morning coffee be (line 6702) removed from budget unless there is a contractual agreement.

Motion passed unanimously.

Craig Harrison moves Ron LeValley seconds that (line 6703 and 6704) are capped at \$8118.95 (for only beverages and no food) from budget unless there is a contractual agreement.

Motion 7 yeas, 2 nas, motion passed.

Craig Harrison moves Bob Day seconds to approve the 430 attendee budget as amended.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion about what to do with any profits that are made, if any. David Irons proposed sharing profits between PSG and items produced at the meeting (e.g., global seabird database).

Verena Gill suggested getting together a products proposal so everyone knows what the products are.

Dan Roby suggested creating an account for future WSC meetings.

David Irons suggested that the current contingency fund becomes a PSG overhead and any other profits go towards products.

Action Item: *WSC local organizing committee should put together a list of items and description of products coming from WSC.*

Don Lyons moves Verena Gill seconds that PSG will devote profit from WSC towards a seed fund for future WSC and potentially other meeting products as they become defined.

9 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstention (Craig Harrison) motion carried.

Action Item: *David Irons will send out an e-mail to the list serve stating where profits will from WSC.*

15. Xantus' Murrelet Committee (Shaye Wolf & Harry Carter)

See report.

Action Item: *Doug Bertram switch elected to appointed for chair in Xantus' Murrelet report.*

16. Kittlitz's Murrelet Committee (Michelle Kissling)

New committee formed with membership list.

18. Loon/Grebe Technical Committee (Scott Hatch)

No Report.

Action Item: *Verena Gill will talk to Joel about status of committee, if they intend on staying a committee they need to send a report.*

19. Seabird Monitoring Committee (Scott Hatch)

Good meeting today the website is up and all software tools are available but most of the observations have not been reviewed and are not available to view. NPRB proposal to get funds to review observations was submitted but it was rejected without review because of page formatting. Scott Hatch has been talking with David Irons about getting exposure at the WSC. There are 5 seabird telemetry databases, more local observations are hoped for with the WSC. Seabirds.net is an important component of this so it is generically owned by all seabird organizations across the world. Hope for a working group developed at WSC dealing with this.

Verena Gill suggests that we need someone to be in charge of what goes on Seabirds.net

20. Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee (Kim Nelson)

See Report. Minutes from Portland meeting available. Zone 6 recovery zone emergency situation (pop decline 50%, only 150 individuals left) currently working on drafting letter to USFWS from PSG. They are suggesting faster action on monitoring and recovery plan for this area. Another letter being drafted about a wind farm going up very near a MaMu conservation area. Trying to hold a tree climbing workshop in the fall. Two letters for Alaska: Alaska state agencies to move forward with population surveys; other to Alaska FWS and Fish and Game to conduct MaMu bycatch within the gill net fisheries.

20. Japanese Seabird Conservation Committee (Motohiro Ito & John Fries)

See report. JSCC held meeting at Japan Ornithological Science Meeting, this year they held a meeting and had three special talks: short-tailed albatross; Japanese murrelet; and Common Murre which is the most endangered species in Japan, only a few breeding pairs remaining. In 2007 10 short-tailed albatross chicks were moved to Mukojima Island, all ten fledged successfully. This year they did 15 more and hope that the breeding colony will increase. Census around Biro Island for Japanese Murrelets. Common Murre decoys placed on ledges as population size decreased from 40000 to 2. In 1999 decoys were placed with poor results for ~10 years. In 2006 both decoys and speakers were used and Murres appeared at the island. There are about 15 and they all failed in breeding because of attached because of Jungle Crow. In 2008 2 chicks

fledged, decoys and sounds are continuing and culling of Jungle Crows in improve breeding success of Common Murres. Poster about this project at this meeting.

21. Ornithological Council (Doug Forsall)

See report. Thinking about increase in funding will send a formal proposal to treasurer.

Action Item: Craig Harrison to send e-mail about funding.

22. Publishing committee (Pat Jodice):

Marine Ornithology files are being moved to the SORA webpage but will also remain on the Marine Ornithology webpage.

Long Beach meeting: publishing symposia are determined by Marine Ornithology editor, PSG chair, and chair publishing committee. Organizer for the Long beach committee should look at those guidelines before organizing symposia.

Verena Gill moves Greg Balogh seconds that the publication committee name be changed to the communications committee and will encompass but not be limited to website coordinator, list serve coordinator, Marine Ornithology managing editor, and Pacific Seabird editor. Publications committee members will be changed over to the same positions on the communications committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

23. Corresponding Members Committee Report (Craig Harrison for Malcolm Coulter)

See report. This is a way to get people to get foreign people to join PSG. Craig Harrison thinks this should be part of the small grants committee.

Action Item: Vivian Mendenhall to send Malcolm Coulter an e-mail about getting reports from corresponding members.

24. Local Committee (Yutaka Watanuki)

Yutaka Watanuki thanked everyone for coming; participation at 177 individuals which is more than expected. Part of the money from registration went to drink tickets and banking fees, left-over goes to Ron LeValley.

25. Annual Meeting Report PSG 2010 Long Beach, Feb 17-21 (Jennifer Boyce)

See report. Dates have been set.

Verena Gill is concerned by the proximity to the WSC and taking a financial hit because of this. If the meeting goes ahead they need to budget for fewer people than normal (130).

Action Item: Ron LeValley to send e-mail to chair of Long Beach meeting about concerns with attendance and give direction about anticipated numbers (i.e., scale back expectations). Cc Tom Good on this e-mail.

Verena Gill moves Craig Harrison seconds a 2012 meeting on Oahu, we have a local coordinator with Lindsay Young as Chair and others already volunteering to organize.

Motion passed unanimously.

26. 2020 Committee (Lisa Ballance)

No report. Discussion about the need for the 2020 committee and whether we should abolish it.

Action Item: Ron LeValley to e-mail Lisa Ballance about 2020 committee.

EXCO OLD BUSINESS

27. WSC Risk/Profit Sharing with other seabird groups? (Motion to vote)

1. Discussion of no PSG awards at WSC

No PSG awards at WSC. Discussion about whether we should ask other seabird groups about participation in an award at WSC.

Action Item: Doug Bertram to ask David Irons to talk to WSC to see if we should give one award to John Cooper from PSG and WSC, would other groups be interested in giving out an award?

2. Discussion to form EXCO Steering Committee for WSC

28. Amendments to the Minutes for the February 2008 EXCO meeting

1. Submitted by Vivian Mendenhall

Proposal on behalf of Pat Baird, since she isn't a member to amend item 6, "Election date change for 2010." As we approved it in September, this item says, "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). Katie O'Reilly seconded. Motion passed unanimously."

Change "PSG Chair" to "EXECUTIVE COUNCIL."

Vivian Mendenhall moved Don Lyons seconded.

Motion passed unanimously

2. Submitted by Heather Major

Proposal to amending the definition of a student using Shiway Wang's definition of 'student' definition as follows:

"Student membership rates are available only to full-time undergraduate and graduate students for the duration of their degree, subject to documentation of student status. Post-doctoral fellows are not eligible for student membership rates or the student registration rate at annual meetings.

In order to be eligible for student registration rate at annual meetings, registrant must be currently enrolled as a full-time student or was enrolled as a full-time student the previous quarter/semester before the meeting.

Student registrant may be asked for proof of student status (proof of registration as a full-time student or letter from major advisor confirming student status) when registering at annual meetings."

Heather Major moved Vivian Mendenhall seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

29. Steady State Economy (Motion to vote required on PSG written response to Falk Huettmann).

Submitted by Craig Strong

Action Item: Doug Bertram to send letter to Falk Huettman on behalf of PSG EXCO.

Craig Strong moved to approve the motion; Ken Morgan seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

EXCO NEW BUSINESS

30. PSG Handbook (Additions, revisions, updates requested)

If anyone has updates or corrections send them to Mark Hipfner.

31. PSG Resolution Submitted by Craig S. Harrison

The Pacific Seabird Group agrees to transfer from its general funds one dollar to the Craig S. Harrison Small Grant Fund for each dollar that is donated to the fund by April 30, 2009. The maximum amount that PSG shall transfer is \$5,000.

Verna Gill moved; Don Lyons seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: Craig Harrison will send message over list serve to advertise this.

Doug Bertram brought the meeting to a close at 1838 h.

February 25, 2009

Attendance:

Doug Bertram, Greg Balogh, Craig Harrison, Ron LeValley, Don Lyons, Heather Major, Vivian Mendenhall, Verena Gill, Ken Morgan, David Irons, and Dan Roby were present through most or all of the meeting.

(proxy: Heather Renner (Heather Major), Mark Hipfner (Heather Major), Linda Elliott (Holly Freifeld))

Confirmed that we have a quorum.

Greg Balogh called the meeting to order at 1010h.

Greg Balogh moves, Vivian Mendenhall seconds to postpone the 37th Annual PSG meeting in Long Beach CA from February 2010 to February or March 2011.

Discussion about how the Local Organizing Committee should be included in this discussion, which they do want to participate in; perhaps we should hold off on voting until we get a better feeling about who wants to attend the Long Beach meeting and whether we should postpone or cancel. Would Long Beach meeting be so small that it is not worth having. If we don't have a 2010 meeting we would lose an entire cohort of potential student members, possibly lose the interest of many Asian scientists attracted by the Hakodate meeting, and not have a North American PSG meeting for ~3 years. The membership should also have a say in this decision and an e-mail will go out to the general membership via the list serve and website to get feedback.

Ron LeValley proposes to table the motion until we get further information regarding the deposit situation (what happens to the deposit if we cancel/postpone) and until we get feedback from the general membership.

Motion tabled until ExCo can have a conference call within the next couple of weeks.

Greg Balogh brought the meeting to a close at 1031h.