

Pacific Seabird Group
Midyear Conference Call Minutes
September 15, 2009

Attendance: Greg Balogh, Doug Bertram, Craig Harrison, Ron LeValley, Dan Robinette, Heather Major, Vivian Mendenhall, Heather Renner, Linda Elliott, Jennifer Boyce, Patrick O'Hara, Craig Strong, Tom Good, Ken Morgan, and Don Lyons were present through most or all of the meeting

Absent:

Mark Hipfner and Julie Ellis

Confirmed we have quorum

Greg Balogh called the meeting to order at 1105h PDT.

EXCO OLD BUSINESS

1. Revisions to Japan minutes

Item number 4 –what kind of letters were sent

2. Approval of Minutes from Hakodate meeting;

Ken Morgan motions Greg Balogh seconds that we approve minutes from the Feb 22 2009 meeting subject to minor changes.

Motion passed

EXCO NEW BUSINESS

3. Translation of award documents into Japanese for Pacific Seabirds;

Yasuko Suzuki will do this au gratis and will hopefully get to it this month. General consensus to have her do this and to acknowledge her work.

4. World Seabird Conference Issues;

a. HRH opening address;

PSG has now stepped back and this is being handled by the WSC organizers. A couple of people are writing a draft of his speech which does not need to be submitted to his office until April.

b. Patrick O'Hara is now the WSC chair. Planning is on target and making continued progress with budget and all aspects of the planning. Pat Jodice et al are close to completing the scientific program. Right now the budget is in very good shape , with ~160k in hand and only ~200k required for a successful meeting. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) has a smaller scale fundraising group to look for money for coffee breaks, etc. The

conference organizer and team have been very helpful and provide excellent suggestions. Subcommittees are being formed to help organize everything. ~380 people from all over the world are registered on the website and this number is increasing on a daily basis. There is a basic communication plan via e-mail ironed out that will provide those registered with important dates, etc. Things are moving along nicely and the scientific program is close to being ready, the call for abstracts and registration will occur sometime in Jan.

Some discussion about what PSGs current role in the conference (are we co-hosting?). This is a question better suited for David Irons but the general consensus is that PSG is the host but the conference is being organized by an international body. PSG has provided the momentum and as this is a PSG annual meeting we will have a business meeting at the WSC, and all things that PSG needs to do at all our meetings will need to be done at this meeting as well.

The overall impression is that we are not doing PSG awards but this has not been decided formally (i.e., we did not vote on this at the Japan meeting). General discussion about combining with other societies to give one award at the meeting. Pat O'Hara will facilitate a selection process to determine who should be given an award at this meeting. If there are too many names suggested this may mean that the WSC is not the appropriate venue for such an award, but this is really a question for the WSC IOC.

5. Long Beach;

- a. Plenary speakers
 - i. Dan Anderson
 - ii. Steve Kress
- b. LAA
 - i. Dan Anderson
- c. SAA
 - i. Frank Gress

VM moves that we approve DA and FG to be awarded LAA and SAA at the 2010 PSG Long Beach meeting KM seconds

Motion passed

- d. Symposium
 - i. "Population status and trends of Kittlitz's Murrelets" (Convener: Michelle Kissling)
- e. Special sessions
 - i. "Life and Death: Identification, quantification, and reduction of mortality in seabirds" (Conveners: Laird Henkel and Michael Ziccardi)
 - ii. "Developing an Ecological Profile of the California Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum browni*) to Support Ecosystem-Based Management Decisions (Convener: Dan Robinette)
 - iii. "Seabird Habitat Restoration" (Convener: Laurie Harvey)

f. Local committee report (Jen Boyce)

The LOC are making a lot of progress: postcards have gone out and they are working on getting a website up and running. LOC are working with the Long Beach Convention Bureau who will provide a website with info about the local area and events, links to registration site. There are lots of local transportation options meaning there is no need to rent cars which should help keep attendance costs down.

Discussion about conservation lunch and how to organize food, either hide the cost in registration cost or add as an additional cost that participants sign up for during registration.

Discussion about how and when to approve meeting budget. In the past couple of years we have allowed the LOC to approve their own budget. According to the handbook (pge 31) the chair has to approve the final budget. Jenn Boyce is looking into this and will send EXCO a revised draft budget when she finds out.

Premeeting meetings: Are there coffee breaks and lunches for those? General consensus that the EXCO likes to eat, as do other people associated with the other meetings, but these groups are not necessarily linked to PSG. There are a lot of dining and coffee options very close to the hotel. EXCO could have a boxed lunch that day.

What is the budget for the student travel awards? Applications are due today, and the announcement of recipients will be made on September 30th. We (EXCO) need to clarify the groups of travel awards (Canadian/US student, non-Canadian/US student, and non-Canadian/US scientists) and where money comes from for each one.

6. Bob Day's resignation as chair of the Small Grants Committee, and filling this gap;

Verna Gill is willing to take on this task.

Craig Harrison motions and Greg Balogh seconds that Verena Gill be nominated as Chair of the Small Grant Committee.

Motion passed

7. Need for changes in PSG bylaws;

a. Formation of a temporary bylaw change committee;

This committee will gathering ideas, ensure everyone is heard and draft the wording for the bylaws. EXCO will approve them and then they need to be voted on by the members during the next election. Greg Balogh (chair), Craig Harrison, and Vivian Mendenhall will sit on this committee, Pat Baird may also be interested in sitting on this committee, Greg will contact her to find out.

Action Item: this committee will have the bylaw change document ready by the end of the this year, and will send to EXCO for discussion.

8. Other business;

Who notifies the membership that they will only get Pacific Seabirds via e-mail?

This is done when Ron LeValley sends replies for membership. Members need to be notified when each issue is available via e-mail as well as posting on list serve.

Action Item: Ron LeValley will send Vivian Mendenhall a mailing list of those who want a hard copy.

Pacific Seabirds needs a new assistant editor of regional reports, Craig Strong volunteered.

9. Craig Harrison moves and Ken Morgan seconds that this meeting be adjourned.

Motion passed, meeting adjourned at 1244h PDT.