

MINUTES FOR ANNUAL PSG EXCO MEETING

Long Beach, California
Wednesday, 17 February 2010
09:00 – 19:00
Greg Balogh, Chair

ATTENDANCE

Greg Balogh, Doug Bertram, Tom Good, Craig Harrison, Ron LeValley, Don Lyons, Dan Robinette, Ken Morgan, Heather Major, Vivian Mendenhall, Hannah Nevens, Craig Strong, Heather Renner, Julie Ellis, Doug Forsell, and Adrian Gall were present through most or all of the meeting.

(proxy: Mark Hipfner (HM), Linda Elliott (KU))

Confirmed we have quorum

Greg Balogh called the meeting to order at 0908h local time.

EXCO OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of minutes from Summer 2009 ExCo meeting:

Craig Harrison moved and Ken Morgan seconded to approve the minutes of the 2009 summer ExCo meeting. Minutes were passed unanimously.

REPORTS TO EXCO

Officer's Reports

2. Report from Chair (Greg Balogh)

No report

3. Report from Chair – elect (Tom Good)

There are approximately 100 papers and 40 posters at this year's annual meeting.

4. Report from Treasurer (Ron LeValley)

(See Report) PSG remains healthy, membership is steady, some older members do not have e-mail addresses making it difficult to send them reminders to renew. We seem to be retaining our Japanese members as we have received many renewals and a few new memberships so far this year. We have two people who purchased lifetime memberships this year instead of renewing as regular members. Members who do not renew are usually reminded for two years until they are removed from the membership list. The proposed expenditures for 2009-2010 ignores the meetings, we do spend more each year than we bring in but we usually make that up at the annual meetings. We did not meet the room reservations for this year's meeting and will not bring in much profit from the meeting. A note for the future would be to try to not over commit to hotels. This recommendation is already in the handbook and is the responsibility of the Local Organizing Committee when preparing the budget. In addition, we have joined a non-profit coalition this year that makes our insurance cheaper.

5. Approval of Treasurer's report and budget

Craig Harrison moved and Craig Strong seconded to approve the 2009-2010 budget and Treasurer's report. Budget and report approved.

6. Endowment Report (Ron LeValley)

(See Report) We have ~8k for the publication fund, we haven't spent this money for about three years. You can access this money through Patrick Jodice. The investment account is back to ~149k, ~120k is in the investment account, the rest in the checking account, more will be moved into the investment account as 120k needs to be kept there as is our commitment that was agreed upon by the trustees. This is not in the handbook.

Action Item: Vivian Mendenhall will update handbook to reflect that 120k in the investment account includes an amount based on inflation.

Ken Briggs has agreed to step into Craig Harrison's trustee position.
Greg Balogh appoints Ken Briggs to trustee board.

Others are welcome to give advice to trustees.

7. Report from Past Chair (Doug Bertram)

Dan Anderson will receive a lifetime achievement award at the banquet and Frank Gress will receive a special achievement award. There are ten student travel awards being awarded at the banquet and two travel awards to Russian researchers who will be attending this year's meeting (\$1000 of this was donated by Nina Karnovsky). The former chairs' meeting is not set-up (what is the point of this meeting?), but will occur during the annual meeting. Student paper judging is organized and ready to go.

8. Report from Conservation Committee Chair (Craig Harrison)

All letters sent out this year are summarized in the report. There are a couple letters coming up and the conservation committee is always looking for issues, for example Newell's Shearwaters are an issue that will be discussed at this meeting. As we do not spend any money on our lobbying we are nowhere near losing our non-profit status (501-C3). (See report)

Greg Balogh: This means we can apply to become part of the United Way.

9. Report from Pacific Seabirds Editor (Vivian Mendenhall)

(See Report) We have published two Pacific Seabirds in 2009, both from 2008. We mailed 684 copies and a little over 700 issues. At the Hakodate meeting we talked about whether non-US members were getting electronic copies as those are the expensive ones to mail. It costs five times more to mail outside of the US.

Discussion concerning whether charging non-US members a fee for mailing a hard copy of Pacific Seabirds. The general feeling is that by charging non-US members an additional fee may result in the loss of some of those members. Other societies do have additional costs for members who want hard copies. This is an interesting issue but may be too soon as we are in the transition between hard copies and electronic. Currently hard copies are sent out before

electronic issues are available online. If we push for electronic distribution we should ensure that the electronic versions are available before the hard copies are mailed out. We should revisit this issue once electronic versions are readily available online for enough time that people are confident they will find them there.

Greg Balogh: In order to get Pacific Seabirds current what type of help is needed?

Vivian Mendenhall: The secretary needs to summarize the minutes and general organization would be helpful.

Action Item: Greg Balogh will help Vivian Mendenhall with proofing Pacific Seabirds.

10. Report from Secretary (Mark Hipfner)

A draft updated handbook was received by Greg Balogh but has not been distributed widely.

Craig Harrison: It should be sent around the ExCo so that everyone can comment before changes are accepted.

Reports from Committees

11. Election Committee (Pat Baird)

(See Report) Low voter turnout for this year's election, only 91 of 527 members voted! Most positions were unopposed as has been occurring for the past several years. There was a tie for the Pacific Rim representative position, the ExCo will have to vote in an executive session during this meeting.

Discussion concerning low voter turnout and interest in running for positions on the ExCo. In the past elections were held during the annual meetings and had higher voter turnout, this may be considered in the future. If people serving on ExCo would work harder to find members to run for ExCo positions we could increase interest in both the election and the positions. This is not just a problem with PSG but a standard problem with many small non-profits.

12. Kittlitz's Murrelet Committee (Michelle Kissling)

(See Report) Held first meeting in Hakodate and formed four priorities all of which have been acted upon. Petitioned the state of Alaska to list Kittlitz's Murrelets but were denied, which is not surprising as there isn't a listing for threatened species in Alaska. A federal listing is also occurring and has been bumped from a listing priority of four to two. There will be a symposium here at Long Beach that will be published. The committee met in December in Anchorage to ID and prioritize the information needs to manage Kittlitz's Murrelets. A complete status assessment is one priority and is currently pending funding.

13. Chinese Crested Tern committee report (Verena Gill)

(See Report)

14. Seabird Monitoring Committee (Scott Hatch)

(See Report) Currently have a NPRB proposal for funding to update the seabird monitoring database.

Discussion about WSC and workshops concerning global seabird databases (of which there will be four).

Discussion about the barriers to setting up these global databases. There are reservations about data ownership, sharing and timing, but these can be overcome by regulating use of the databases, if the PSMD goes global it would be a product owned and managed by a world governing body of which PSG would be a member.

15. Japanese Seabird Conservation Committee (Motohiro Ito)

No report

16. ABC/OC (Craig Harrison / Malcolm Coulter) –Doug Forsell

There is finally an OC website that among other things lists what permits are required by state and country to transport birds and samples. In addition the ABC/OC works with the banding office, open access journals, and are working with an NIH grant on a 3rd revision for the use of birds in research, this major revision will help universities especially in terms of how to kill and treat birds. New guidelines are out and online –they will be sent over the list-serve.

17. Communications Committee (Pat Jodice)

No report

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

Report from WSC Science committee, (Dave Irons, Dan Roby, Lisa Balance, Bill Sydeman)

(See Report) Dave Irons: there are 118 submitted and uninvited abstracts to date and 120 invited. There are ~750 individuals signed up, only ~200 of which are from the US and only 17 of those are FWS employees. There are ~250 committed spaces for presentations.

Scientific Program: There are 4 primary symposium each day of the conference, 9 special paper sessions, 8 of which are complete with invited speakers, and 2 types of workshops (a number related to paper sessions and databases). There will be no book on proceedings, all conveners have been encouraged to publish symposia and plenaries.

Craig Harrison: PSG has a publication fund that could be used as matching funds, normally we promote Marine Ornithology for these funds. If there is an expectation of publication and funds are given to authors for this, they should be obliged to submit their paper!

Fundraising: The international fundraising committee has secured 131k and still need 120k at least. A lot of important is being placed on the database as a legacy.

Report from WSC Local committee (Patrick O'Hara)

(See report)

Doug Bertram: There will be an award from PSG for John Cooper but the presentation will last only 15 minutes at the banquet. PSG will take care of funding for John Cooper's attendance at the WSC.

Dave Irons notes his appreciation to Ron LeValley for his time dealing with WSC grants and funds.

PSG is to know that their bills will be taken care of first, extra money will then be put into the products coming out of the meeting. There are approximately 700 people signed up as interested in the conference, if people are interested in special sessions they should contact the conveners to ensure there is still space.

The conference is on budget as of today, have a conference organizer and a block of rooms reserved. This block has already been reduced by 10% and can be reduced again by July if needed. Should we be notifying conference guests that room blocks have been reduced? The entire conference area is being held onto, there will be a welcome reception, a couple poster sessions, a banquet, and field trips both before and after the conference. The Local Organizing committee is not in charge of fundraising but is working on small funds.

Action Item: Doug Bertram to update Ron LeValley on hotel room blocks as he is sending deposits to them.

Craig Harrison: When will be the PSG ExCo meeting take place and we are required to have a membership meeting. Typically membership meetings occur at lunch during PSG conferences, do we have a room for this during the WSC?

The ExCo meeting is Sept. 7th, no plans yet for the membership meeting.

Meeting suspended for lunch at 1230h.

Meeting resumed at 1325h.

19. Local Committee (Jennifer Boyce)

There are ~250 registrants, many late registrations and many 1 and 2 day registrants. Activities include the welcome reception, night at the aquarium with a food bar and films in their theatre, the mentor meeting Friday and Live Wire will play at the banquet. We're still under our commitment for rooms at the hotel but any money we are over for food or beverage will go towards the attrition for rooms. In the future it might be easier for Local Committees to have a credit card to pay local vendors and with a 501-C we should be able to a tax-exempt credit card. The company hired for registration was great and are here helping even now; they helped with the hotel and recommended hiring a contractor to negotiate hotels etc in the future. The company being used for registration is CTC management.

Craig Harrison: In final report note the cost etc. of using these contractors.

20. Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee (Bill Ritchie)

Membership remains steady ~80 members. Last year the committee met twice as full meetings, once in Hakodate but because few participants were present they met again in Portland. A smaller meeting was held in Santa Cruz (Recovery Zone #6) where population numbers continue to decline. A letter outlining the need for a management plan/strategy is being written. Money available is usually through oil spill mitigation. This plan would help managers focus money and will be written this year. They would like to have a full membership meeting in Santa Cruz this year (tentative). Also wrote a letter concerning a radar ridge development adjacent to a high use site for training and a conservation area. Many energy projects (wave, wind, etc.) along the

west coast are lacking peer review; PSG might want to develop a list of recommendations and list of reviewers for project proposals.

Greg Balogh: There is national guidance in place already, what type of recommendations does PSG need to contribute?

Bill Ritchie: Offering advice, fine tuning, and useful comments on the process and peer review. These recommendations need to happen before the projects commence and are in high gear in terms of finding sites and providing information to communities. Helping to guide where projects are sited. Resource issues need to be put on the same level as engineering issues. This discussion needs to occur now, as there will be an avalanche of energy projects coming. This is not just a Marbled Murrelet issue; these guidelines would benefit many other species. We need to get mitigation into the planning of projects.

Doug Bertram: Perhaps this is a good topic for a special topics session at a future PSG meeting.

Doug Forsell: A lot of offshore projects have place for humans and observers may be able to get out, this is usually better and more agreeable for a company to do conservation than fund research. The effect can change with time as individuals become more habituated.

Craig Harrison: Maps must exist showing preferred energy locations that could be overlaid with resource maps.

Doug Forsell: Yes, they do, but doing work on listed species must occur before beginning a project. On private land the company leases the land first before beginning an EA.

Greg Balogh: Could MMTC map out flight corridors and provide that as a GIS layer?

Bill Ritchie: Yes, but other species would have other species.

The MMTC has also developed a tree climbing training plan, this will be sent to ExCo. In Alaska in December the MMTC met jointly with the KMTC and looked at the current research and needs in order to make management decisions. Prioritized lists and results will be released in a month or so. In January, FWS completed a five-year review of the listing of Marbled Murrelets. A solicitor questioned this and the significance between conservation and habitat supported the first analysis, additional threats were IDed and the petition to delist was not granted. FWS is still working on critical habitat designation in congress right now. The effects of monitoring show a 4% annual decrease in population in all areas even the areas with the highest population concentrations. The 2010 plan is to continue at sea monitoring, this remains a year-to-year program in terms of funding, but this will be year 15. New habitat modeling will occur this year. Future work items: meeting in Portland to look at differences in regulations between states and look at declining trends in Oregon.

(See Report)

ONGOING BUSINESS

21. WSC Risk / Profit Sharing with other seabird groups?

Profits go to products

**Clarification from EXCO meeting in Victoria:

Dave Irons: much of this was decided 2-3 years ago. Dave sent a clarification email 2-3 months ago. PSG is taking care of all the administrative overhead for the WSC. And in return for that contribution, PSG is getting 10% of the registration proceeds in return for this contribution.

Payment to Ron LeValley for his services will come from that 10%. Any proceeds from the

meeting above and beyond this amount will go towards meeting products or a future WSC, at the direction of an international steering committee (to be formed).**

22. Discussion of PSG awards at WSC

(see earlier discussion of WSC)

23. Marine Ornithology Report (Tony Gaston)

Salish Sea symposium published in Marine Ornithology this fall.

24. Craig Harrison Conservation Fund Report (Verena Gill)

Ought to be getting more proposals and need more publicity. Should be advertising on the WSC website, and it should go out on the listserv every six months or so.

Action Item: Verena Gill to prepare and send e-mail to both WSC and PSG listserves.

25. PSG Handbook (Revisions, updates)

Action Item: Greg Balogh to update appendices in handbook.

26. Obtaining United Way /CFC nonprofit status

Amazon will let you go through links to sell books and when books are sold from a link some of the money goes to that group (who owns the website with the link). Can we with a government hosted website do this?

United Way: Greg Balogh needs help with application as some questions he cannot answer.

Action Item: Ron LeValley will read through the application and find out if we qualify.

Greg Balogh: If we qualify do we want to proceed?

Discussion about whether there is any reason to not proceed –there is no cost to us and will only help get donations that can be used towards seabird conservation. No reason to not proceed if we qualify.

27. Action Items

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).

Done

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

Done

Who is writing letters of Dan Anderson and Frank Gress?

Normally this would be the person who presents the awards, Dan Anderson will be writing one for Frank Gress and Ken Briggs will be writing one for Dan Anderson. Alan Burger will write one for John Cooper for the WSC.

Action Item: Doug Bertram will ensure write-ups from Dan Anderson and Ken Briggs are completed for Pacific Seabirds with pictures.

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

Ongoing

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

Talked to Mark –done.

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

Ongoing

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

Ongoing

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

Ongoing

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

Ongoing

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.

Ongoing

Action Item: Patrick Jodice will get nominations for a new Marine Ornithology editor.

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

Ongoing

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

Done

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

Done

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

Done

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

Action Item: Verena Gill will talk to Joel Schmutz about status of the Loon and Grebe Technical Committee, if they intend on staying a committee they need to send a report.
Verena had already talked to Joel about the committee's status and found that they do not intend to continue as a committee. EXCO dissolved this committee.

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

Action Item: Vivian Mendenhall to send Malcolm Coulter an e-mail about getting reports from corresponding members.
Done but no reports.

Action Item: Ron LeValley to e-mail Lisa Ballance about 2020 committee.
Greg Balogh: Done. Lisa resigned, do we still need a 2020 committee?

Craig Harrison moved and Craig Strong seconded to dissolve the 2020 technical committee.
Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

28. Bylaws revision

US Mail should be deleted from all references to member correspondence as we now do this via e-mail. Deleted.

Should the Craig Harrison Conservation Fund be in the bylaws? No need to include it in the bylaws.

Craig Harrison moved and Vivian Mendenhall seconded to adopt the bylaw revisions.

Discussion:

Title: Proposed change to the voting eligibility for the PSG Executive Council Student Representative position

Motion: I move to amend Article III, section 7, in the proposed bylaw amendments to remove the words "*Only Student*" and insert the word "*All*" in the following sentence: "*Only Student Members are eligible to vote for the Student Representative.*"

Explanation: With few exceptions, students members of the PSG tend not to run for ExCo officer or Regional Representative positions. I suggest that the current restriction of only students being eligible to vote for the Student Representative position has lead to what appears to be a relatively recent misconception that students are eligible to run only for the Student Representative position. However (and I quote Craig Harrison) "*The PSG's early history is full of*

students who were officers and regional reps."

For the PSG membership to sustain itself, we obviously need to retain members from year to year. There is a very high rate of attrition for student members (e.g., past Student Representative Jo Smith found that 68% of the 2006 student members did not renew in 2007 [although some may have renewed as regular members]). Some of this annual loss of students is undoubtedly related to changing career paths, career opportunities, relocations, etc.

However, I feel that the PSG ExCo needs to find a way to make it more 'appealing' for students to not only stay on as PSG members, but to take on more active roles in the running of the organization. Not that this will solve all of the problems associated with student attrition, but I believe that removing the perceived 'division' between students and the rest of the PSG members, may be one possible way to achieve this goal.

Discussion:

The phrasing dealing with who can vote for the student representative position allows only student members to vote for that position, this may give student members that this is the only position they can hold on ExCo and groups students and regular members. In the past students had other ExCo positions, but the group has somehow changed since then. Every example of recent students holding positions on ExCo (other than Student Representative) are individuals that have been around for a while, not necessarily new students. An advantage of opening the voting would be that professionals and professors that know the student running for Student Representative could vote for them, where as it stands now they cannot.

The reason the student rep position was created is to communicate with students, but the rep also sets up the silent auction and other student activities at the annual meetings, this is different from the regional representatives. If we change the voting regulations for the student rep position should we also change the position name as opening voting up to everyone makes this position less of a representative for the students and more of a student coordinator. Will allowing everyone to vote for the student rep position give students the impression that they cannot choose their own rep? Many students may take offense to this, if the position is not changing why should the general membership elect a representative that for a specific group? Is this really the best way to encourage students to run for and participate in the ExCo? General consensus that there are better ways to encourage student participation, for example all regional reps should be encouraging students (and regular members) to run for ExCo positions.

Motion rescinded.

Meeting suspended 1545

Meeting resumed 1550

Craig Harrison moved and Julie Ellis seconded to remove US from US mail in bylaws. Motion passed.

In order to adopt bylaw revisions we need to ask for approval from the membership in minutes, on website, or send as an attachment, or vote on next ballot.

Action Item: Tom Good to send revised bylaws to membership for approval.

29. Dissolution of Loon Technical Committee

See Action Items.

30. Global Seabird Awards at WSC

See WSC section earlier.

31. Create incentive / disincentive for general members to receive hard copy of Pacific Seabirds

See earlier discussion concerning Pacific Seabirds.

32. Appointment of Communications Committee Chair

Greg Balogh moved and Ken Morgan seconded to appoint Verena Gill as Chair of Communications Committee. Motion passed.

33. New PSG 2020 Chair (nominees and, if possible, appointment)

Committee dissolved.

34. Updating the PSG Website

A short-term committee composed of Verena (overseeing the committee), Greg, Julie, and Don helping to update the website.

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

Secured funding to write a management and recovery plan for the Xantus Murrelet. In the absence of protection the committee is attempting to provide management and recovery plans. Reviewing the past and current threats and prioritize the needs of the species. The committee would like to have a link with the PSG website to their Xantus Murrelet information. They will design a page and contact Lisa Balance and Annette Henry. Current research plans include spotlight analysis and genetic analysis at Anacapa and Santa Barbara islands.

36. Other business

Do technical committees always apply to us before becoming a recognized committee?
Yes, someone usually proposes a committee and gives reasons why it is warranted.

Meeting adjourned at 1623

Executive council begins at 1623

ATTENDANCE:

Ron LeValley, Greg Balogh, Craig Harrison, Don Lyons, Julie Ellis, Heather Major, Doug Bertram, Vivian Mendenhall, Tom Good, Ken Morgan, Craig Strong, Dan Robinette

Proxies: Mark Hipfner (HM); Linda Elliott (KU)

The Pacific Rim Representative position will only exist for one year if the bylaws amendments are passed, as the Pacific region will be split to include a new Asia region.

Can both individuals be involved, one as rep and the other in some other position?

Vote to elect new Pacific Rim representative and break tie from full membership election.

Majority voted to elect Holly Freifeld as Pacific Rim Representative.

Meeting Adjourned at 1653