

MINUTES OF THE PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
22 May 2015 conference call: 1200-1300 (Pacific Daylight Time)
Amended and approved: 16 June 2015

Present: Kathy Kuletz (Chair), Jane Dolliver (Secretary), Jennifer Ma (Membership Coordinator), Christine Ogura (Treasurer), Yuri Albores Barajas (California, Hawaii, Mexico Representative), Peter Hodum (Washington/Oregon/California Representative), Robb Kaler (Alaska Representative), Nina Karnovsky (Chair Elect), Doug Forsell (Former chair), Jo Smith (Past Chair), Stan Senner (Vice Chair for Conservation), Stefan Garthe (Europe/Africa)

Absent: Anna Weinstein (northern California), Samantha Richman (US East Coast), Kuniko Otsuki (Asia and Oceania), Andrew Titmus (Student Representative), Stephanie Avery-Gomm (Canada)

ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSION

There is no clear selection process for meeting site: sometimes selection was made by the three Chairs, especially the Past Chair, then brought to the ExCo by the Past Chair. Some concerns have been raised from PSG members about Ensenada as venue in 2016. More discussion is needed. Travel issues could impact PSG financially.

The bylaws were reviewed by Kathy and Jo for specifics on the process for selecting the annual meeting. In general, proposals are gathered in the fall, then 1) select meeting location at ExCo meeting prior to Jan/Feb scientific meeting 2) Chair, Past chair, Chair Elect work w/ local committee to determine venue 3) budget developed and brought to ExCo (ExCo approves budget only if meeting breaks even or (better) makes money). This year, we combined step 1 and 3. Motions are statements Y/N. As ExCo, members should have a reasonable expectation they could attend meeting in that particular location, they can afford it in their budget or their program's budget. Being part of the ExCo comes w/ with the responsibility as best as possible attend meetings. Given travel restrictions from US/Canada and Federal trainings required for 2016, should the ExCo be concerned? Important that Nina (Chair Elect, who puts together scientific program) is well supported and 2) ExCo members (esp regional reps) have reasonable expectation that their region's members will attend.

We Did not realize the impact of another international meeting on members; a low attendance meeting is expected if we move forward w/ Mexico. There was a poll that suggested this would not be a big issue, but only 157 people responded to poll. The number of ExCo members that supported Mexico but could not go themselves was also worrisome.

Question: Is travel to Hawaii a barrier, even though it is not an international meeting?

Ans: From US members, not enough lead time to put in a request for international travel; they would not do a meeting if the only options were Mexico and South Africa. For Mexico in particular, there are special trainings for US Federal employees. Recall, about 30% of annual meeting attendees are US Federal Employees.

27-33% of PSG members self-identify as government employees [Canadian Provincial, US, etc]. In Feb 2015, received 139 surveys out of 875 (95% confidence interval). To recap, one fifth, 20% said they were attending WSC; 45% said definitely not attending WSC, 30% said unsure if they would attend WSC. 90 PSG members submitted abstracts to WSC.

Question: Deadlines have passed for early registration for WSC? Worth sending another poll?
Ans: Deadline for WSC is 5/31/15. Some folks are willing to pay the extra \$50 for non-early bird registration.

Yuri sent email to Kathy, Nina, and Jo. Highly likely he will be moving to La Paz. Proposing to wait until the following year to organize one in Mexico (2017). PSG cannot make a commitment for 2017 based on interest from San Diego and International Ornithological Conference (IOC) in Vancouver, BC.

Ken Briggs and 31 people expressed interest in being a Local Committee for San Diego. For 2018, Pat Baird talked w/ Bob Elner to be part of the IOC. There is an opportunity for PSG to be part of the IOC in a joint way, to share the profits. Jo likes the idea of La Paz (was the location for the 2014 Waterbirds meeting). 2017 needs to be back in the core area; the general guidance is: 3 or 4 of 5 years are in the core area. 2017: San Diego (core) 2018: Vancouver, BC (semi-core) 2019: La Paz.

Question: Is the WSC every 5 years? Ans: Every 4 or 5 years.

Question: Is Yuri withdrawing Ensenada? And would be interested in 2018? Ans: Yes. Yuri wants the 2016 meeting to be a success. La Paz is more touristy area – there are fewer travel restrictions to La Paz.

Question: Can you can fly directly into La Paz? Ans: Yes

Question: Kathy contacted Lindsay and she is still interested and available for hosting a meeting in Hawaii? Ans: Lindsay is willing to host in Hawaii; does not have to be at Turtle Bay (depends on budget). Would be on Oahu.

Question: Does Lindsay have a commitment for number of attendees we would need to break even? We need to find out what minimum would need to be and the timing. Ans: Heard from Lindsay – Turtle Bay did give a room lock rate requirement - \$300/night. Three suggestions on that: 1) several people rented condos nearby last time. 2) new Marriott hotel – could approach 3) does not have to be at Turtle Bay – could look into venues at Waikiki (but not as relaxing, intimate).

We met in Waikiki in the early 1980s

Question: Did Christine say 300 a night? Jo thought it was secured at the 2012 rate, \$177/night? That nightly rate as to be the highest? Ans: The highest rate was \$180-185 in Long Beach, where we lost money.

[Motion: Approve Hawaii as a 2016 meeting location w/ Dr. Lindsay Young as head of the Local Committee \(Jo Smith\), Nina Karnovsky seconds.](#)

[Call for a vote on the motion \(Kathy Kuletz\)](#)

Abstains: 2 (Yuri Albores Barajas, Stefan Garthe)

Nays: 0

Yays: 8

Passed, unanimous.

Hope to approve budget from Lindsay at ExCo June conference call.

Question: How many people will attend the Hawaii meeting? Ans: 4

We would also like to say thank to Yuri for putting together a proposal on short notice. PSG will keep in touch; Jo is trying to leave good solid ideas for 2017, 2018, 2019 of Nina and Kathy. Jo would like to discuss La Paz for 2019.

Would be good to lay out locations ahead of time, to prepare for permissions.

We hope Mexico is an option for 2019.

Yuri Needs the support of PSG; as to tell collaborators that the conference is not going to happen in Ensenada. Yuri will send email as introduction and she will respond. Need to get in touch with some people who heard Ensenada was chosen and let them know.

Be sure to let Lindsay know about the vote, make sure she says yes. Nina needs to get this up on the PSG website and send out an email ASAP, with a deadline for early Aug (symposia, etc); once hotel is known, put that up there.

The dates are most important to people, before putting location online.

Jo will send Lindsay an email to ask for a date.

Motion: End meeting (Kathy), Doug seconds