

DRAFT MINUTES. 2/13/04

PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico

10:03 AM, CHAIR DAVID IRONS CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER

PRESENT

David Irons, chair with proxy for Beth Flint

Mark Tasker

Ken Morgan proxy for Louise Blight

Katie O'Reilly

Dan Roby with proxy for Meredith Elliot

Shiway Wang (proxy for Stephanie Zador)

Malcolm Coulter

George Divoky (for Craig Harrison)

Lisa Ballance

Ron LeValley

Vivian Mendenhall

Verena Gill

No proxy for Mark Pierson

Present at various times throughout the meeting

Bob Day

Pat Baird

Ron Ydenberg

Mark Rauzon

Scott Hatch

Pat Jodice

Tony Gaston

Chair David Irons asked for approval of minutes.

A discussion followed and there were several corrections and additions.

The Chair asked that the minutes be amended to correct the references to Chair- elect report instead of vice chair and that the membership section be clarified.

Dan Roby moved to accept the amended minutes. Seconded by Katie O'Reilly. Unanimous approval.

OFFICER REPORTS

The officers gave their reports to the Executive Council. The Chair, Chair-elect, Treasurer, and Editor's report are provided in *Pacific Seabirds*.

One action item came up during the Treasurer report: *Clarify in the PSG Handbook that the local committee chair must provide to the Treasurer a check for any profit and a final local committee report within one month of the meeting.*

The question was called by the Chair David Irons to approve the Treasurer report.
Vivian Mendenhall moved to approve Treasurers report. Seconded by Mark Tasker. Unanimous approval.

Past Chair

Lisa Ballance

Lisa Ballance provided information on the lifetime achievement award and the student travel awards. PSG provided \$2000 from the meeting budget and the Center for Wildlife Ecology at Simon Fraser University provided \$1000 Canadian. She also discussed the panel and process for the selection of the student “best paper” award. Malcolm Coulter commented that funds are also available from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Latin American travel to meetings.

Action: Past chair should get information from Malcolm Coulter regarding USFWS travel awards for Latin American ornithologists.

Vice Chair of Conservation

George Divoky for Craig Harrison

George Divoky discussed some of the conservation actions of PSG over the past year. Craig Harrison will present the conservation report at the 2 hour conservation meeting on Saturday. The Conservation report is provided in *Pacific Seabirds*

Pacific Seabirds Editor

Vivian Mendenhall

Most of discussion was delayed until the publications discussion.
The Chair congratulated the editor on the production of the Bulletin.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Election Committee Report

Pat Baird

PSG had a higher turnout than usual for this election, which is a good sign. PSG even had quite a few members from regions with no Regional Representative running who returned ballots.

Of course, we still had people voting for **all** Regional Representatives. Many of the races were close, and Pat thanks all of the candidates who ran.

Chair-elect: Bob Day

Secretary: Ron Ydenberg

Alaska/Russia: Verena Gill

Northern California: Ester Burkett

Pacific Rim (including Hawaii) Beth Flint

Old World: Mark Tasker

Student Representative: Shiway Wang.

For those positions where there were no opponents, the Regional Representatives need to nominate candidates for the next election. The lack of nominations also resulted in a late ballot. Malcolm commented that as regional representative, he sent out an email asking for an update and asked if members would serve on the Council. He received some positive responses. A reminder is e-mailed in April to the Regional Representatives that election nominations are due.

Action: Regional representatives need to give one name to Pat Baird for elections before May 1.

Pat discussed the opportunity to vote by email. The Council discussed email vote and the issue was referred to the Elections coordinator and the Treasurer to implement before the next election.

Action: Pat and Ron LeValley will start the process for e-mail vote by members.

Next elections

Oregon-Washington, Non- Pacific US, Canada.

Xantus Murrelet Technical Committee

No report was received. Bill Everett recommended last year that the committee be abolished. It is clear that Bill Everett has successfully led the committee through the listing process and provided a great service to PSG, but he felt his job as coordinator was finished. The Council discussed the future of this committee and most agreed that there was still work on the federal and state listing process. California Fish and Game has recommended listing of the Xantus murrelet, but the Fish and Wildlife Commission has not taken action. US Fish and Wildlife Service has not responded on the petition that PSG submitted. Chair David Irons talked to the members of the committee who were present at the La Paz meeting and they want to continue the committee.

Dan Roby moved that the Council remove Bill Everitt as coordinator for Xantus Murrelet Technical Committee. Second by Verena Gill. Unanimous approval. A Motion was made by Mark Tasker to remove Ken Briggs as co-coordinator of Xantus Murrelet Technical Committee. Seconded by Vivian Mendenhall. Unanimous approval.

Action: Dan Roby will appoint a new coordinator.

The Chair requested that the minutes reflect a formal acknowledgement that Bill Everitt and Ken Briggs organized Xantus Murrelet committee for 10 + years and provided great leadership through the listing effort.

Action: Lisa Ballance will draft a letter of thanks.

Mandate: Monitor status of federal and state listing petitions, research, and conservation issues and to provide information to interested parties.

Seabird Monitoring Committee

Scott Hatch

The committee met for two hours in La Paz. They reviewed the status of the seabird monitoring database. The committee did not meet the mandate, but close. Data entry is complete, and Scott should have a demonstration ready soon. The committee recommends that next mandate be the same: Implementation of seabird monitoring database.

Mandate – work on the final implementation of Pacific Seabird monitoring database; spend the funds set aside sometime in the next 12 months and transition into review of data in database and look for species of concern.

Japanese Seabird Conservation Committee

Kim Nelson and Koji Ono

Koji Ono provided the report. The committee is working on a Japan seabird colony database. Koji provided the Council with maps of the seabird colonies. The data will be incorporated in the PSG database.

Koji Ono discussed the decline of the Common Murre and the restoration efforts. The Japanese hope to attract prospecting Murres from Russian colonies.

The Japan – US seabird symposium results will be available soon. The government budget for seabirds is small. The government acknowledges that there is problem with the incidental by-catch of seabirds by the gill net fishery.

The Chair expressed gratitude to Koji Ono and the committee for their work on seabird conservation.

Mandate: provide the link between PSG and Japanese seabird research community.

American Bird Conservancy

Malcolm Coulter

A Bird Conservation alliance has been formed. Malcolm discussed the process and possible problems with a short turn around on letters of support for conservation issues. Tony Gaston commented that PSG should restrict support to seabird conservation issues.

Action: Malcolm will send out to the Council some examples of the types of letters that could arise and options for quick reply if necessary.

Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee

Anne Harfenist

USFWS is conducting a 5-year review of the status of marbled murrelet. The committee assumes that PSG will be consulted if USFWS recommends a status change.

PSG sent a letter recommending that only qualified tree climbers be used to look for marbled murrelet nests. Now, agencies and organizations question “define what is

qualified”. A sub-committee is working on criteria for qualified tree climbing. Untrained climbers don’t know what a marbled murrelet nest looks like.

Mandate: Continue to provide technical advice on marbled murrelet issues.

Publications Committee

Pat Jodice

Pat reviewed the accomplishments of the committee. The publications committee reviewed OSNA and decided that this option for dues and journal subscription was not a good idea at this time. The Marbled Murrelet Committee Coordinator has been waiting for a technical publication number for the Marbled Murrelet Survey Protocol and one will be issued soon. The recent issues of *Marine Ornithology* and *Pacific Seabirds* were discussed.

Action: The publications committee is in charge of journal exchange. Pat will check with Breck Tyler and Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology about the journal exchange and the storage of PSG back issues. He will alert Vivian Mendenhall on where to send the back issues that she has accumulated. He will let the Secretary, Ron Ydenberg, know if there should be an addition to the PSG Handbook about the journal exchange. The publications coordinator or the Secretary will start a list of journal exchange and where/how to get articles.

Action: Pat will consult with Craig Harrison, regarding the agreement document between the groups that sponsor Marine Ornithology.

A question was raised regarding PSG funding of *Marine Ornithology*. PSG has paid for the trial publication of journal for 3 years. Pat Jodice replied that the three-year trial has elapsed and now PSG is moving on to action.

Future of Publications

A discussion followed on the future of publications and the best methods to distribute *Pacific Seabirds* and *Marine Ornithology* and ways to improve the web site of PSG. Lisa Balance has agreed to continue to support the PSG web site in her lab. Robert Holland, who works in Lisa’s lab, is PSG’s Webmaster now.

A motion was made by Ron LeValley to publish *Pacific Seabirds* in hard copy and electronically 2 times per year, put the abstracts on web, encourage members to get *Pacific Seabirds* electronically, subsidize *Marine Ornithology* for up to \$6050 US and take up to \$5000 out of endowment fund to support the publishing & consider proposal to membership for a dues increase by \$5 for 2006 membership year. Seconded by Katie O’Reilly. Unanimous approval.

Action item: Consider web page as a publication and put more money into it. Verena will e-mail and start a discussion on ways to improve and use the web site.

*Action item: Editor of *Marine Ornithology* will provide an annual report for *Pacific Seabirds*.*

Student Travel Award.

The Council had a discussion on the student travel award. Some members were frustrated that the travel account was unreliable and the local committee had to raise the money.

Lisa Ballance moved to have a budget line item for approximately \$2000 to \$4000 inserted in the local committee estimated budget to support student attendance at the conference. Seconded by Malcolm. Unanimous approval.

Dan Roby moved that PSG will provide financial support up to \$500 per year for the Student Representative to attend the Executive Council meeting. Seconded by Katie O' Reilly. 7 in favor. 5 opposed. 0 abstentions.

The Council then discussed the Lifetime Achievement award.

Dan Roby moved to award George Hunt the lifetime achievement award. Ken Morgan seconded. 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 Abstention.

Meeting recessed at 6pm, a 1/23/2004. A second meeting called on Friday night at 500 P.M.

Friday, January 23, 2004

Dave Irons called the group to order at 5:10 P.M.

Mark Pierson
Mark Tasker
Dave Irons
Lora Leschner
Verena Gill
Ron LeValley
Vivian Mendenhall
Ken Morgan for Louise Blight
Craig Harrison
Malcolm Coulter
George Divoky (Stephanie Zador)
Katie O'Reilly
Lisa Ballance
Dan Roby

Present
Pat Jodice
Pat Baird
Ron Ydenberg
Bob Day

Lifetime achievement awards

The Lifetime achievement award process was discussed. The timeline is wrong because the Council does not evaluate the nomination until the actual meeting when the award is presented. In addition, the selection committee changes every year. Malcolm said that the Waterbird Society had an independent committee that accepts and evaluates nominations. George Divoky was involved in establishing the awards and he had some ideas for improvements. It was decided that a sub-committee of George, Bob Day, and Dave Irons should evaluate the procedure and recommend changes. In the meantime, there should be a notice to the Council of any nominations and a vote earlier in the process.

The need to vote on the selection of the lifetime achievement award was discussed. A conference call earlier in the year with a voice vote with confirmation at the annual meeting is one option. George Divoky will work with Bob Day and return to the Council with recommendations.

Action: Awards committee. Dave Irons, Bob Day take the lead on awards committee. Report to Executive Council by March. Council Members should contact Bob Day with additional ideas regarding future recipients or process.

Action: past chair, Dave Irons, contact Harry Carter regarding his letter.

Institutional memory

Action: The Chair and Council will develop a Work Plan every year. The Secretary will put the draft minutes on the web. Update the handbook. The Secretary will send a calendar and work plan to council members 3 times per year.

Action: The minutes need to be available. There are two options: approve early via conference call. Or, review by e-mail, make it a resolution or ratify and save for approval for the meeting. The minutes that are published in Pacific Seabirds will be "draft" if the Council waits to approve.

Action: The Secretary will look into archive of PSG papers.

Registration for non-members

Craig Harrison suggests that non-members should be charged more. Non-members should pay a three-year membership to get into the group when they come into the meeting. Should be twice the membership. The member versus non-member status should be easier to track now that the Treasurer will handle meeting registration. A suggestion was made that PSG should always have a registration table at the meeting.

Mark Tasker made the following motion: registration fees for non-members will be the registration fee plus 2 times the amount of membership unless there is a joint meeting. The 2 times the membership fee will include membership privileges for a year. Second by Ron LeValley. Amended by Lora Leschner, and amended version seconded by Ron LeValley. 12 approved, 1 opposed, 1 abstention

Proposed Budget

Ron LeValley presented the proposed budget for 2004-2005.

Craig Harrison moved to accept the proposed budget. Seconded by Mark Tasker.

13 approved, 1 **abstention**.

Action: Treasurer prepare a budget for the handbook

Meetings

The next meeting is a joint meeting with the Waterbird Society. Profits will be split 50:50. PSG and Waterbird scientific chairs will work together. The local committee should get a deposit from each society to hold hotel and fund the operations.

Action: Need a letter of agreement with Waterbird Society regarding profit and loss.

Action: Chair elect duty to set up the next 5 meetings, or need to change the duty to another officer.

Lisa Ballance provided information on the North American Ornithological Congress. It is scheduled for August 2006, in Vera Cruz Mexico. AOU will hold its annual meeting. There is an opportunity to have a seabird symposium, but no member has volunteered to organize on behalf of PSG. PSG will not try to hold its meeting at the same time, but members could support a symposium. Lisa will stay in contact with the organizers.

The Chair-elect, Dan Roby, provided a list of the proposed meetings.

2005 – Portland. Katie O'Reilly

2006 – Alaska

2007 – Asilomar. Jim Harvey will negotiate with the Conference Center.

2008 – Hawaii- mid to late Feb. World seabird conference. Mark Tasker will coordinate

2009 – Arcata, CA.

2010 – Vera Cruz, Mexico

Ken Morgan motioned that the 2006 meeting be in Alaska. Seconded by Katie O'Reilly.

10 approved. 2 opposed. 2 **abstentions**.

Action: Verena Gill and Ian Van Tets will coordinate the Alaska meeting and seek a local committee.

Miscellaneous

The Chair said that the by-laws may be out of date and need amendment. He directed the Executive Council to go through by-laws and suggest changes. The Secretary needs to make sure the Handbook is consistent with by-laws. Currently, some of the duties have been shifted from one council member and the handbook and by-laws are different in terms of responsibilities. A suggestion was made to establish a standing committee for the by-laws.

Action: Council Members send comments on handbook and by-laws to Secretary Ydenberg.

Action: Should the Publications coordinator and Webmaster be on the Executive Council in the future? This requires a by-laws change.

The Mexican members want to add a Mexican seabird conservation committee. The Chair would add the committee to the committee list.

Action: Dan Roby, Chair, can appoint a coordinator for the committee.

Membership Directory

The Treasurer has a membership directory ready for the web. Some Council members were concerned that there may be some members who do not want to be included in the directory.

Action: Treasurer will send out e-mail asking who does not want to be in membership directory. Resulting list will be put on web and password protected.

**Mark Tasker made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting. Vivian Mendenhall seconded. Unanimous approval.
Meeting Adjourned.**