

**Approved Minutes of the
Pacific Seabird Group Executive Council Meeting**
Parksville, Canada
February 19, 2003

Called to order at 9:00 AM by Chair Lisa Balance

Introductions and Role call.

Present:

Lisa Ballance, Lora Leschner, Beth Flint, Vivian Mendenhall, Bill Sydeman, Ron LeValley, Meredith Elliot, Stephani Zador, Verena Gill, Dave Irons

Absent members: 2/19/2003 Jan Hodder, Pat Mock, Malcolm Coulter, Mark Tasker, Craig Harrison, Breck Tyler – Lisa has proxy for these members.

Beth Flint has proxy for Pat Mock

Pat Baird, Pat Jodice, Tony Gaston, Scott Hatch, other committee chairs, and PSG members joined the meeting at various times.

Resolutions are in bold. Action items are in italics.

Secretary report

Secretary summarized the minutes from the last meeting

Lisa moved to accept the minutes. Beth Flint seconded. Unanimous acceptance.

Chair's report

Lisa Ballance.

The complete Chair's report is published in *Pacific Seabirds*.

A summary of some of the main points include:

PSG submitted a petition to list xantus murrelet in California. It was accepted and it is under review.

Marine ornithology was published by PSG.

PSG evaluated possible membership in the Ornithological Society of North America (OSNA) and decided to remain independent.

Publication of *Pacific Seabirds* electronically was discussed.

Progress was made on PSG's website.

Chair-elect report

Dave Irons

The meeting includes 100 talks, 40 posters, 35 student papers. Committee provided student travel awards, lifetime achievement awards. Symposium topic, offshore wind farms, is a new discussion for PSG. There is a session on Seabird biogeography that will be published in *Marine Ornithology*. 217 people registered before the meeting.

Treasurer report

Lisa reviewed the Treasurer's report. The report is published in its entirety in *Pacific Seabirds*.

Beth Flint commented that \$925 was due to PSG from the University of Hawaii. Dave Duffy has not completed the financial report from the HI meeting due to this oversight. Lora will ask him for a copy of the report and details of the meeting.

The Council reviewed the past budget.

Bill Sydeman moved to accept the Treasurer Report. Seconded by Ken Morgan. Unanimous approval to accept the Treasurer's report.

The Council reviewed proposed budget for 2003-2004 and decided to have additional discussions on expenses before approval. The Council discussed the need to coordinate the fiscal and calendar year. Ron, the incoming treasurer, will discuss need to have date change for financial reports with Breck Tyler.

The Council discussed the questions on the annual meeting raised by Treasurer. The budget for the local committee was discussed and it was decided that the Council needed a representative on the local committee to help with consistency from year to year.

Ken Morgan made a motion that the past chair sits on the local organizing committee for the annual meeting and has the responsibility to report to the Executive council on any matters of importance. Seconded by Bill Sydeman. Chair called for vote. Unanimous Approval.

Chair-elect commented that it isn't clear whose job to announce the meeting. Handbook should be amended to clarify that vice chair or local chair announces the meeting. The council concluded that the Vice Chair, who is in charge of the scientific program, announces the meeting with the scientific requirements and the logistics provided by local chair.

2. Membership

The Executive Council wants to charge non-members more for the meeting. The fee must be at least the difference between the full membership. The fee really should be more than the full membership due to cost of processing at registration.

Students should provide copy of student card during renewal of membership and registering for meetings.

Solution: Past Chair will sit on the local committee and insure that non-member fee is higher and that students provide copy of student card.

The Treasurer brought up the issue of storage of PSG publications and handling orders. It is best for the Treasurer to store back issues and he/she can send it when receive a check. If exchange money, then have treasurer handle it. Ron will handle the storage of publications except *Pacific seabirds*.

Journal exchange. Delegate to Pat Jodice and Ron LeValley to look into journal exchange money. They will report back next year.
Symposia out of print. Look into a PDF file. Lisa delegated to publications chair, Pat Jodice.

The Treasurer believes that the Canadian bank account is convenient for members and PSG. Ken Morgan agreed to continue to manage the account and list his address on the PSG web site. PSG Membership form should have Britain and Canadian account. This process allows British and Canadian members to send membership in their currency versus US.

Membership Directory

The Council discussed the Web site and a membership directory. It was concluded that the web site will be linked to the Treasurer's e-mail and address. There will also be a updated membership form on the web.

PSG needs to provide a membership directory, but the database has wrong e-mails and addresses. It was suggested that members could have option to update via website.

Ron LeValley will send out a notice to members that PSG plans a directory and do they wish to be excluded from the directory. Ron will send a notice and see if members want a password protected website, pdf file, versus hard copy. Ron will try to word the questions to see if members want to be left off the directory and if they prefer web based, pdf, or hard copy.

Past chair report

Bill Sydeman

12 students will receive travel awards. 31 students with 34 abstracts applied for travel awards. A question was raised: should verbal and poster papers get equal weight? It turned out the all entries were judged on quality of abstracts. There is no set student award policy. The local committee builds the travel into the budget or if the scientific chair or someone gets funds. This year, the awards came from USFWS and CWS for student participation.

A Comment was made that students may need additional hosting of housing, especially international students. *Student representative has the responsibility to arrange room sharing or make sure that there are other hotels listed that are less expensive.*

Conservation committee report.

Lisa said that the Conservation Chair's report was provided in *Pacific Seabirds*, Volume 29 #2.

Editors report

Vivian Mendenhall

Vivian provided the Editor's report. It is published in *Pacific Seabirds*.

In addition to the formal report, Vivian discussed the benefits and drawbacks of electronic version of the bulletin. PSG could save \$7000 if it is published on the web.

Ron will add the question "how do you prefer to receive *Pacific Seabirds*?" to the questionnaire.

The question is larger, "How does PSG want to provide information?"

Program abstracts are useful on the web. Improve communication with tools available. Libraries do subscribe to journals electronically. However, then nothing can change in the way the web site is linked. Librarians report that even if small things change on the web site then may lose the journal link. Vivian recommends that if *Pacific Seabird* is web based, then hard copies go to libraries. Recommends that PSG print minimum for about \$500. It was suggested to continue the discussion after *Marine ornithology*. The Editor's report was completed.

Adjourn for lunch. Re convened at 1:10

Elections

Pat Baird provided an election report. She identified a problem of people moving and then wondering where they vote. It was decided that members vote where you reside. Pat also raised the question of a tie and she researched the by-laws. Pat provided the names of the incoming council members. A suggestion was made to send ballot out by e-mail. Pat will investigate e-mail options.

Marine Ornithology

Tony Gaston provided the report. The 2001 issue was produced. Cost was \$750 US. There were only 24 subscriptions for 2001, probably due to the length of time between publications. Tony estimated that PSG will need \$5,500 US for a year's volume.

Discussion:

Alan Burger provided a review of *Marine ornithology*. African seabird group and Pacific Seabird Group produce the journal. Other groups are providing some support. Wording in the invitation was to "jointly publish marine ornithology." The Australian, British, and South African groups have combined to support the Journal with PSG. Management within PSG needs to be clear. May need a European editor.

Tony said the issue was "should PSG members get marine ornithology and if so, should some of PSG information could be included in *Marine ornithology*?"

Options:

- 1) Do away with *Pacific Seabirds*.
- 2) Newsletter – could be hard copy or web based and a journal.
- 3) Give members the option of bulletin or journal and additional option to get both.
- 4) Publish *Pacific Seabirds* once per year. Put additional information in *Marine Ornithology*.
- 5) *Pacific Seabirds* could be electronic. *Marine ornithology* has a good name and good distribution and niche and PSG could benefit from the wide distribution.

Pacific Seabirds is the only archive for PSG. Minutes from the Executive Council are actually only in *Pacific Seabirds*. Vivian pointed out that the format of scientific content and conservation news is a good idea.

Lisa suggests continuing both publications as they are for now.

Issues to consider:

- What is electronic? *Pacific Seabirds* or *Marine Ornithology* . Need issues for archive and libraries.
- Does *Marine Ornithology* go to all members?
- Should PSG raise membership dues to support *Marine Ornithology*?

The Council needs input from membership. Main mission of PSG is to improve communication, disseminate information on seabirds, and conservation of seabirds. Needs to be up to date. PSG needs an outlet for information.

Bill motioned to propose a vote to the membership to increase the dues to \$40 for regular members, 30 for students, and \$1200 for life membership. Marine ornithology will be part of membership package. Ken seconded the motion. Lisa called for a vote: Unanimous approval of motion.

Values are subject to confirmation by publications committee chair that the proposed fees are adequate to cover the costs of Marine Ornithology. A Suggestion was made to get the dues comparison of the other groups. Lisa asked Pat, Tony and Ron to look into the adequacy of proposed increase.

Committee reports

Xantus murrelet.

No report received.

The Chair summarized the activities. The listing petition was submitted. California Fish and Game accepted the petition. Puts into immediate effect some regulations to prohibit take. No action on federal petition.

Chair's direction to the committee is to provide a written report. Mandate for 2003-2004 is to investigate value of proposal for federal listing.

Seabird monitoring

Scott Hatch

Contract to 2 firms for data code and data entry on line. USFWS has software and servers now. Migratory bird office in Anchorage is willing to support the database. Monitoring committee may need to focus mandate on working with data to look at seabird trends. Problems appear to be solved for data entry.

Question on treasurer report about the sub-contractors did not invoice the work.

Scott explained the issues with sub-contractors. He wants to keep funds available for some of the sub-contractors. Hold the funds and expect to be invoiced by monitoring committee. If contractors do not provide invoices by January 2004, then the Executive Councils redirects the money. Scott commented that the committee will spend the money on data entry or software.

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 that are of concern.

Japanese seabird report

Kim Nelson for John Fries and Koji Ono

Kim Nelson read a report from the Japanese Seabird Group that will be included in *Pacific Seabirds*. Professor Ogi will retire in March 2003.

Mandate should be to provide the link between PSG and Japanese seabird research community.

Marbled Murrelet report

Anne Harfenist

The committee finished survey protocol. The Executive Council approved. The Protocol will be dated early January. Some representatives of the timber industry have expressed concern to government agencies that their sector did not have sufficient opportunity for input. The MMTC coordinator has not had any direct complaints.

A letter from the committee will be sent to researchers about conditions when tree climbing should be used or not used. The Committee Chair does not see any issues in the coming year. Needs to get protocol published and a technical report number is necessary. The report is available on the PSG website.

Mandate. Continue to serve as technical repository of advice.

The Committee reports were completed.

Ornithological Council

Lisa reported that Ellen Paul sent a copy of the Ornithological Council report to all committee members.

Meetings

Lisa made a motion to award the lifetime achievement award to Robert Ricklefs.

David Irons seconded. Unanimous approval.

Lisa made a motion to provide \$1125 of PSG's funds to support Mexican scientist at this meeting. Seconded by David Irons. Unanimous approval.

Eduardo provided a report on the upcoming meeting. Hotel Los Arcos. Other hotels are available nearby. The Council discussed the best dates for the meeting. A second meeting was scheduled for the remainder of the business.

The Council recessed at 6:00 pm.

Meeting reconvened at 5:15 on Thursday, February 20, 2003.

Lisa Ballance, Ken Morgan, Stephanie Zador, Meredith Elliott, Beth Flint, Verena Gill, David Irons, Louise Blight, Vivian Mendenhall, Dan Roby, Pat Jodice, Bill Sydeman, Lora Leschner, Ron LeValley, Katie O'Reilly.

Also present: Gerry McChesney, Pat Baird, Alan Burger

Local committee report

Ronald Ydenberg

221 registrants, 15 walk in registrants. Expect 5 to 15% above the normal registration. Canadian, early registration was \$200 and for students \$100, late fees were \$240 and \$125 for students. 100 papers, 40 posters, 30 papers by students. The time for the papers is short, but speakers and session chairs keep the meeting on time.

Publications report

Pat Jodice provided a report to the Council. Investigating professional printers and options for *Marine Ornithology*. Pat investigated Ornithological Society of North America (OSNA) membership. Checked with Allen Press and the option of "Bio 1 electronic publication". The benefits of OSNA membership include increased visibility, a database that can be queried, members can pay with credit card and online, back issue distribution, and possibly increased membership. The Chair asked the publications committee to continue to review membership in OSNA.

Put OSNA on agenda next year and hear from the people that were on committee in the past which are Kim Nelson & Craig Harrison.

Marbled Murrelet technical committee wants to publish Inland Survey protocol and wants PSG endorsement. They request a technical publications number. PDF version and cover that says "publication number of PSG"

OTHER TOPICS

Handbook & By-laws.

Lora Leschner reviewed changes and the Council asked that the annual meeting expenses be added to the handbook.

Handbook should be amended to clarify that vice chair announces the meeting.

Add website- added by Lisa Ballance lab.

The Council discussed the wisdom to have an official attorney. **Bill Sydeman made a motion to make Craig Harrison PSG's "special agent of process" seconded by Vivian Mendenhall. Unanimous in favor.**

Future meetings

Pat Baird said that Colonial Waterbirds would like to have a joint meeting.

Lisa suggested that PSG may want to coordinate the 2006 meeting with North American Ornithological Conference. The organizers of the North American are discussing the idea of convening a meeting of all water bird groups.

Jan. 2004 – La Paz.

Desired tentative future locations:

November 2004 to January 2005 – Dates to be determined: joint meeting with Colonial Waterbirds – Oregon, Arcata, Ca., or Cruise to Alaska. Check for conflict with Albatross meeting. (Note: Oregon was selected)

Jan 2006 – California location

2007 – Japan or China –

2008 -- San Diego

Proposed budget – The EXECUTIVE COUNCIL discussed the 2003-2004 budget. Lisa called for a motion.

Vivian moved to accept the budget. Dave Irons seconded. Voted unanimous to accept the budget for 2002-2003. Seabird monitoring dollars - leave in the budget for 12 months.

Logos – Pacific seabird group logo is on Marine ornithology – logos will get smaller and smaller. PSG may need to get a smaller logo or have a new design.

Endowment fund. – Trustees will tell PSG if there are funds available. Council agreed that PSG should leave principal there in the fund and wait for interest rates to recover. Funds are for publications.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.