

MINUTES FOR ANNUAL PSG EXCO MEETING
Mid-year Conference Call
Thursday, 27 October 2011
1205 – PST
Pat Jodice, Chair

ATTENDANCE

Officers: Patrick Jodice, Kim Rivera, Tom Good, Craig Harrison, Heather Major, Ron LeValley

Regional Representatives: Adrian Gall, Don Lyons, Hannah Nevins, Ken Morgan, Holly Freifeld, Laura Tranquilla

Ex officio: Vivian Mendenhall, Verena Gill, Lindsay Young, Pat Baird

Confirmed we have quorum

Pat Jodice called the meeting to order at 1205h PST.

EXCO OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of minutes from Fall 2010 ExCo meeting:
Delayed until Hawaii meeting.

Action Item: *Pat Jodice Send a reminder three weeks before next ExCo meeting to remind everyone to look over action items and past meeting minutes.*

2. Approval of minutes from Spring 2011 ExCo meeting:

Ron LeValley moved and Adrian Gall seconded to approve the minutes of the Spring 2011 ExCo meeting. Minutes were passed unanimously.

REPORTS TO EXCO

Reports From Committees

3. Hawaii 2012 Local Committee

a. Change of venue and status (Lindsay Young)

Six locations have meeting space; Turtle bay & Waikiki convention centre are our two best options. ExCo briefly discussed the differences between Turtle Bay and Waikiki. Although Waikiki has many lodging options nearby, meeting space is more expensive, it will difficult to create a cohesive atmosphere without a conference hotel, and the banquet would need to be held off site increasing the cost. The atmosphere at Turtle Bay and amenities make Turtle Bay the best option.

At Makaha two dinners were included in the registration fee, the banquet was an additional cost. If we eliminate one of the two paid dinners at Turtle Bay our meeting cost is \$9000 less than at Makaha with the majority of the profit from the meeting coming from the Midway trip as it is almost full.

The room block at Turtle Bay is 50 rooms at \$177/night, plus a \$25/night resort fee. Lindsay is trying to negotiate the resort fee down for us during the meeting. There is a 200 unit condo facility with 48 free spaces, a hostel with 30-40 spaces, and other lodging options nearby (e.g., VRBO). It shouldn't be a problem for people attending the meeting to find accommodations in their price range.

General discussion about whether a 50-room block is enough or too many. Most people will likely stay at other places, but most PSG meetings reserve 100-150 rooms per night, this is much less than that, and it is unlikely they will not be filled. We cannot negotiate more rooms at the rate, which is the government rate—all US government employees will get this rate whether they are in the PSG room block or not. Decided to not include Feb. 6th as part of the room block as room block rate will be honored for three days before and after the meeting and most people tend to arrive the day of the meeting, not the day before. There is a room sharing and other options on the student webpage. ExCo agreed we need to monitor the room block very closely so that incentives can be made to book at Turtle Bay if necessary. We have until October 29th to sign the contract with Turtle Bay.

Our banquet rate will be higher at Turtle Bay than at Makaha, but the additional charge will need to be covered by meeting profits.

Update on discussions with Makaha resort:

A refund for the deposit already sent to Makaha will be issued to PSG within 30 days, they have our contact information etc. The next step is to write a demand letter stating they owe us the extra money it is costing us to have our meeting at a different location. General discussion about when to send our demand letter. Northwind who owns Makaha is financially solvent, but we do not know how the company is structured and whether Makaha can or will file for bankruptcy. Consensus to wait until we receive our deposit or our 30 days ends without seeing our deposit before sending demand letter. If we do get damages that money could go towards subsidizing the cost of rooms, that will need to be decided once we know whether or not we will receive a check for damages.

Action Item: Craig Harrison will keep the ExCo informed about the status of our deposit and damages letter. He will construct a draft letter and send to ExCo so that we are ready to send it once we have our deposit.

Action Item: Lindsay Young to send an e-mail to all present registrants so they know to cancel any transactions from Makaha.

General agreement Turtle Bay looks reasonable; contract needs to be signed by Ron by Saturday.

Don Lyons moved and Ken Morgan seconded to allow Lindsay Young to complete negotiations with Turtle Bay Resort and sign resulting contract.

Nays: 0, yeas, 12, abstentions: 0

Motion passed unanimously

b. Science program (Kim Rivera)

The meeting theme is tropical seabirds

There are four special paper sessions:

Tropical seabird biology and conservation

Where seabirds and tuna meet: biology and management of subsurface predator facilitated foraging

Biology and conservation of Hawaii's endemic seabirds: Hawaiian Petrel and Newell's Shearwater

Seabirds, marine spatial planning, and impacts of renewable energy development in the California current ecosystem

Speakers were recruited for these special paper sessions but people are more than welcome to submit abstracts to them. Recruited speakers have not been offered travel support.

No requests for symposia were received.

The call for abstracts went out on Aug 19th they are due Nov 4th. Abstracts are trickling in; so far there are 7 abstracts for oral presentations and 2 for poster presentations. Tom Good received 20 abstracts for travel/student awards.

Two plenary speakers have also been confirmed:

Jeff Polovina

Matthew LeCorre

c. Awards (Tom Good, Pat Jodice)

Lifetime achievement award: John Cooper, has also agreed to give a plenary talk.

Travel awards: applications have been received there are 17 student applications from the US/Canada, 4 from other locations, and 5 from non-US/Canada scientists. There is \$4000 for student awards and \$2000 for scientists. Awards will hopefully be announced Friday (October 28th).

Presentation awards: People will be asked to be judges as the meeting gets closer.

Officer's Reports

4. Future Meetings (Pat Jodice)

a. 2013: Portland: (Holly Friefeld)

Hilton & Marriott waterfront are the two best Portland options at this point. Appointments have been made with both locations to further assess options for the 2013 meeting location.

Online registration system has cut down the amount of work the LoCo chair needs to do and we get reports and the money is put directly into our accounts. Overall the system is working great.

There has been some discussion amongst the Portland LoCo to use some money to contract out some of the planning as was done for the WSC. At this point it is just an idea and that money could be put towards other things like breaks, meals, and student travel. Brief discussion amongst ExCo concerning whether it is worth it or not as our meetings are much smaller than the

WSC and with the online registration there is a little less for the LoCo to do already. The LoCo are working to make this meeting as simple and streamlined as it can.

Ron LeValley moved and Hannah Nevins seconded that Holly Friefeld moves forward planning the 2013 meeting in Portland.

Nays 0, yeas 12

Abstentions, 0

Motion passed unanimously

b. 2014: Juneau:

Adrian Gall and others will continue to explore Juneau as an option. Other meeting location suggestions should be put forward and a vote will be made in Hawaii.

5. Handbook update (Tom Good)

Hope to have something for people to look at during the Hawaii meeting. May still need some work as there seems to be redundancy and inconsistencies. Discussion about whether there should be a subcommittee and those things reflecting earlier bylaws that are no longer correct they should be taken out. It was agreed that Tom will continue to flag sections and at the Hawaii meeting we can all decide what to do with those sections and will produce a summary of the things that need decisions. A revised draft will be sent with tracked changes to ExCo by e-mail so we can take a look before the meeting (early Jan) and make changes by sections at the meeting in Hawaii.

General discussion about how to approach changes to the handbook and that given it is a living document we do not need to vote on changes. If there are contentious changes they can be resolved over e-mail so that we do not spend a lot of time working on this during the Hawaii meeting.

6. Pacific Seabirds Update (Vivian Mendenhall and Pat Baird)

Pat Baird was asked to be associate editor of Pacific Seabirds and is now helping Vivian Mendenhall. Vivian is completing the final edits of the fall 2010 issue and upon completion will immediately start working on the spring 2011 issue. Requests were sent out for regional reports for the 2011 issue, and e-mail will be sent out to ask for a volunteer assistant editor for regional reports.

Pat Baird (elections chair) nominated Iain Stenhouse to replace Julie Ellis as USA Regional Representative as Julie is stepping down.

Ken Morgan moved and Ron LeValley seconded that we appoint Iain Stenhouse to be the USA representative.

0 nays, 11 yeas, 0 abstentions.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Update on World Seabird Union

Tabled until Hawaii meeting.

Ron LeValley and Craig Harrison will work on putting together a list of questions/issues to send around to ExCo as many people were not on ExCo throughout and do not know the history of this discussion. There document will include a brief history of what has gone on and documents that have gone around. This can then be circulated within ExCo, if another call is required to discuss this before the Hawaii meeting it will be decided after everyone has seen this brief history. There are many people outside ExCo who would like to be included in this conversation and should have that opportunity during the Hawaii ExCo meeting.

a. Finance overview (Ron LeValley)
PSG is in good standing, discussion of WSU money tabled until Hawaii meeting.

b. Status update of WSU and proposal for WSU budget (David Irons)
Tabled until Hawaii meeting.

8. Items being tabled or held until February meeting: reorganization of ornithological societies; PSG endowment fund committee membership; process overview of Conservation Committee actions/letters; membership tasks and its relation with Treasurer position

**Ken Morgan moved and Don Lyons seconded to adjourn the meeting.
Meeting Adjourned at 1425h PST**