

MINUTES OF THE PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

30 September Conference Call 1000-1100 (Pacific Daylight Time)

Amended and approved 13 October 2016

Present: Chris Tyson (Student Representative), Jane Dolliver (Secretary), Kathy Kuletz (Past Chair), Yuri Albores-Barajas (S California/Latin America/Hawaii Regional Representative), Kyra Mills-Parker (Chair Elect), Nina Karnovsky (Chair), Anna Weinstein (Northern California Representative), Martin Renner (Treasurer), Ross Wanless (Europe/Africa Regional Representative) [9]

Absent: Stephanie Avery-Gomm (Canada Representative), Robb Kaler (Alaska/Russia Regional Representative), Kuniko Otsuki (Asia/Oceania Regional Representative), Stan Senner (Vice Chair for Conservation), Peter Hodum (Washington/Oregon Representative), Samantha Richman (E Coast US Regional Representative) [6]

Committee Coordinators: Jenn Ma (Membership Coordinator), Joanna Smith (Communications Coordinator) [2]

Additional PSG members present: Scott Pearson [1]

1. ROLL CALL AND REVIEW AGENDA

Motion accept the 30 September 2016 agenda as-is moved by Jane, Kathy seconds.

Abstentions: 0, Nays: 0, Yays: 9, motion passed unanimously.

2. MEETING MINUTES 18 AUGUST 2016

Motion to approve the 18 August 2016 minutes moved by Jane, Kyra seconds.

Abstentions: 0, Nays: 0, Yays: 9, motion passed unanimously.

3. TUFTED PUFFIN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING PROPOSAL

The proposal stems from concerns in OR/WA about the decline of the Tufted Puffin

The State of Washington did a status review and listed the species in the State.

Following that, there was a petition filed by the NRDC to list the species within the California Current, as a distinct population. Submitted with that information was some suggestion of decline within the California Current. Combined data suggests there is a fairly widespread decline in OR/WA, but some indication of a slightly increasing population in Farallon Islands, to the south. Informal group started soliciting data from: Triangle Island, suggesting a decline there; Alaska, suggesting populations are stable or slightly decreasing. All of this is going into a meta-analysis.

In addition, USFWS – Washington field office has to rule on the petition (warranted 90-day finding).

Officials have asked a group of people to start to inform this decision with scientific information on change throughout the entire range, not just Oregon and Washington.

This new technical committee under PSG would be a nice link, providing science to managers. It would serve a similar role as other technical committees.

Q: The work will focus on California, Oregon and Washington, with some input from BC and Alaska? Ans: Yes, currently working on a Bayesian meta-analysis; have received data from Islands in Alaska, Triangle Island, Oregon and Washington data. Still waiting on Farallon Islands data.

Q: Is there a better way to liaison with NRDC and/or other conservation groups? Ans: Work started in BC (with interest in obtaining additional information from WA/OR/CA/AK) in determining genetic structure

within the species may be really helpful. There is interesting genetic structure in the Rhinoceros Auklet between the California Current and Alaska.

Q: The purpose and size of the new committee are well documented, what about the “powers”? Ans: ability to meet prior/during the annual PSG meeting, will be provided meeting space, phone lines; possible assistance by PSG with publishing proceedings; PSG-approved survey protocols (separate proposal to ExCo).

Q: There are no financial implications? Ans: Yes, correct.

Q: Are there any negative implications for PSG, why we should not set up another technical committee?

Ans: PSG technical committee letters goes to the Conservation Chair, so a little more work, perhaps for Vice Chair for Conservation.

[Motion to approve the Tufted Puffin Technical Committee proposal \(21 Sept 2016\) moved by Kathy, Martin seconds.](#)

[Abstentions: 0, Nays: 0, Yays: 9, motion passed unanimously.](#)

4. UPDATES

4a) COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

We should be able to go live with the new website today. The website contractor needs to perform a couple of security updates, first. The new website has all of the old site content, but no logo.

Q: If people find something that needs to be fixed is there a place on the website they can notify someone? Ans: Yes. One thing is that beta testing is not happening before the soft launch, but we will have a link on the site to email the Communications Coordinator if users encounter errors.

[Jo will put a link on the site to email the Communications Coordinator.](#)

Comment: Logo voting will not be on the website because it is members' only.

[Jo will add to the site “new logo to be announced soon – member voting until Oct 9”](#)

Comment: A soft launch is very common, to work out some bugs. Nina will announce the true launch on the listserv.

[Jo will pick the data for the true launch, let Nina know.](#)

Q: When is the next PSG conference call?

[Jane will send out poll for the logo approval by ExCo during the week of Oct 10-14](#)

[Jo will finish the Social Media Policy \(send to Stan\)](#)

[Jo will make the listserv policy shorter and send to Jane for the next call](#)

4b) 2017 SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Special paper sessions and symposia sent to Communications Coordinator. As of today: four confirmed special paper sessions (potential 5th) and one symposium. Call for abstracts will go out today.

Q: Has there been coordination with Lindsay re: RegOnline? Ans: Yes, had a training with Lindsay this past week.

[Kyra will get in touch with Lindsay re: submitting abstracts with multiple authors and submitting multiple presentations.](#)

Q: Is there an update on the plenary speakers? Ans: One confirmed plenary speaker, Bill Frasier, awaiting final voting for LAA recipients.

4c) LOCAL COMMITTEE

No representatives.

4d) LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (LAA) AND SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (SAA)

Three nominees for LAA, one nominee for SAA. All were worthy nominations. The recommendations are: Martin (Marty) Raphael (SAA), P. Dee Boersma (LAA), Sarah Wanless (LAA).

We don't typically give two LAA awards (we did in 2016), but would like to give two this year because these nominees have been on the list for quite a while, and it is time they get recognition.

Q: Are there any concerns with awarding two LAAs?

Comment: In terms of precedent – there is a certain value of keeping the LAA to once/year. In some years, the LAA was not given out. This elevates the prestige of the award.

Comment: We have two very worthy candidates of the LAA. We showed that last year multiple awards can be given with great honor – the honor was not diminished with multiple recipients. PSG has not historically given a lot of LAAs to women (one in the past) – two in 2017 is exciting.

Comment: I have been involved in situations where the value of an award is diminished somewhat because it's given out too freely, but I do not think this is the case given these two awardees – clearly highly deserving candidates. The prestige of the awards is maintained - no dilution effect.

Motion: To approve the recommendation of P. Dee Boersma and Sarah Wanless for the PSG Lifetime Achievement Award and Marty Raphael for the PSG Special Achievement Award moved by Kathy, Ross seconds.

Absentions: 0, Nays: 0, Yays: 9, motion passed unanimously.

e) ANNUAL MEETING LOCATION

For 2018, two full applications received.

Kathy will talk with the two potential groups in Baja

Kathy will put together a package to vote on the 2018 location for the next ExCo call.

The ideal is the two groups work together. There are pros/cons for the two sites: 1) Cabo san Lucas 2) La Paz. La Paz is a nice location – the University is there, especially good for students.

Kathy will have a conversation with Yuri

We should start lining out 2019, to get the ball rolling, perhaps Asilomar or Portland. Portland has expressed interest in submitting a proposal.

Q: Has anyone been involved in the 2018 International Ornithological Congress joint meeting in Vancouver, BC? Ans: We are hosting a few sessions at the IOC

Nina will check in with the PSG members that are participating in the IOC

f) MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

340 current members (students, individuals, life members, honorary members).

At the beginning of the year there were many members with expired credit cards online, or who simply forgot to renew (renewal emails sent Dec 2015, Feb 2016). Reminders sent out in August/September moved us from a low of 200 to current membership (340). Lots of students enroll as members to present at PSG, but are only members for that year.

Jenn will lead membership discussion next call

Comment: We could consider another reminder right before the switch in April (from current membership to lapsed membership).

Comment: Another issue is that some new members sign up in November to secure the conference membership rate, but only receive one month of membership – their membership lapses in January.

Q: Is the membership list reconciled with pacificseabirds listserv to glean new members? Ans: Yes, but addresses were not available from the Listserv Coordinator because of the switch to BlueHost.

Q: Can we create lower membership rates for retired members? Ans: Lifetime membership? More discussion on next call.

g) PACIFIC SEABIRDS VOLUME 43

Jenn has been in touch with the people writing the 2016 LAA and SAA awardee summaries. There is a team of five associate editors to assist. Regional reports are being assembled by 15 October. A couple of officers' reports need to be updated: Treasurer, Chair-Elect. There has been contact with the formatting editor for *Pacific Seabirds* Volume 42.

Jenn will send an email to Kathy and Nina about scheduling a call to talk about how much time the formatting editor contract should include and how much money PSG has allotted to the formatting of PS Volume 43.

Possible permanent editor has been found for *Pacific Seabirds*, but not sure. Jenn is willing to take it on for the next few years.

h) ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Looking for members to stand for election as Vice Chair for Conservation and US East Coast Regional Representative. The goal is to get two candidates for each position.

PSG ExCo will send their ideas for Vice Chair for Conservation and US East Coast Regional Representative to Jane or Alan Burger (Elections Committee Chair).

i) PSG HANDBOOK UPDATE

There have been comments back from three ExCo members

Jane will compile all responses and send out reminders on Monday, Oct 3.

Motion to adjourn moved by Kathy, seconded by Jane.