

MINUTES OF THE PSG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

2 Oct 2017 Conference Call

3:00pm-3:30pm (Pacific Daylight Time – UTC-7)

Amended and approved 10 October 2017

Present: Kyra Mills-Parker (Chair), Jane Dolliver (Secretary), Chris Tyson (Student Representative), Nina Karnovsky (Past Chair), Peter Hodum (Washington/Oregon Representative), Ross Wanless (Europe/Africa Representative), Adrian Gall (Chair-Elect), Martin Renner (Treasurer), Mark Rauzon (Vice-Chair for Conservation), Trudy Chatwin (Canada Representative) [10].

Absent: Robb Kaler (Alaska/Russia Regional Representative), Andre Raine (S. California, Latin America, Hawaii), Anna Weinstein (Northern California Representative, Kuniko Otsuki (Asia/Oceania Regional Representative), Samantha Richman (E Coast US Regional Representative) [5].

1. ROLL CALL AND REVIEW AGENDA

Motion to begin discussion of 2 Oct 2017 agenda moved by Jane, Nina seconds.

Comment: add item 4: Ornithological Council updates

Motion to approve the 2 Oct 2017 agenda, with one change, moved by Nina, Peter seconds

Abstentions: 0, Nays: 0, Yays: 10, motion passed unanimously.

2. APPROVE TRANSFER OF 10K TO BANORTE ACCOUNT

Motion to discuss report 1, transfer of 10,000 USD to the Banorte account, under Yuri Albores-Barajas, PSG 2018 Local Committee Chair, moved by Jane, Nina seconds.

Yuri has set up an account at Banorte (Mexico) to make payments for PSG 2018. PSG 2018 will need more than 5K in funds. We incur a fee of \$50 per transaction to transfer additional funds. This proposal seeks to transfer 10K to the Banorte to escape these transaction fees.

Question: What is the exchange rate? Will we be losing money by transferring money now?

Ans: If we transfer money and transfer back, we will incur exchange fees.

Comment: Whether we gain or lose money depends on the strength of the Mexican compared to the U.S. dollar.

Comment: another reason to increase the total in a one-time transfer is that Martin will be away Oct 15-Dec 15, when PSG 2018 needs to be spending money.

Comment: Not aware of US dollar or Mexico peso becoming especially volatile. Exchange rate difference are a cost of doing business.

Comment: Multiple transfers area a hassle/additional time for the PSG Treasurer

Motion to approve a 10,000 USD transfer to the Banorte (Mexico) account under Yuri Albores-Barajas, PSG 2018 Local Committee Chair, moved by Peter, Trudy seconds

Abstentions: 0, Nays: 0, Yays: 10, motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVE AWARDS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PSG LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (LAA) AND SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (SAA).

[Motion to discuss report 2, recommendations from the PSG Awards Committee for the 2018 LAA and SAA moved by Jane, Nina seconds.](#)

The three chairs convened a conference call. The PSG ExCo has already voted on, and awarded Harry Carter an LAA in 2018 (11 April 2017). Last year, the Awards Committee received an LAA nomination letter for the proposed recipient and decided to postpone giving this award in 2017, until the 2018 meeting in La Paz, Mexico, so colleagues and friends could attend. For the 2018 award, one proposed recipient was nominated for both an LAA and SAA. The Awards Committee would like to honor this person with an SAA because his group has put on multiple special paper sessions and have offered to host the PSG annual meeting in Mexico, in the future. Additional LAA nomination letters were received for two people. The Awards Committee Chair will ask these letter writers to resubmit in 2018 for an award in 2019. Additionally, there is a long list of people that the former Chairs have in mind, but they did not submit letters.

Question: the SAA recipient does not necessarily need to contribute to PSG? Ans: Correct – they have “performed outstanding, long-term service for the Pacific Seabird Group, or who has achieved an outstanding and significant exemplary accomplishment for the betterment of seabird research, education, and/or conservation, or both.”

Comment: LAA and SAA recipients are generally local to the conference site, so they can be honored them locally.

Comment: Nominators are so excited, they are waiting on our word – at least one is coming from New Zealand to attend.

[Motion to approve the recommendations of the PSG Awards Committee one additional LAA in 2018 \(in addition to Harry Carter – received Apr 2017\) and one 2018 SAA moved by Mark, Peter seconds.](#)

[Abstentions: 0, Nays: 0, Yays: 10, motion passed unanimously.](#)

Question: Will the interpreters be available during the awards ceremony? Ans: Maybe – we are working out a new interpreter contract.

Comment: The speeches are written ahead of time, so it might be easier.

Comment: For the awards, we could consider having bilingual PSG speaker do this.

4. UPDATES

4a. ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL

PSG pays \$2100 annual membership to be part of the Ornithological Council (OC). The OC responds to policy issues affecting bird researchers locally/nationally/internationally by submitting letters. PSG has not received a final letter back from the OC. We have been involved in responding to two requests for comment this year.

Question: Is the OC asking us to be more engaged? Ans: Unknown.

Comment: The OC sends in a report before the annual meeting. Only occasionally have they asked us to weigh in on any issues. It's important to keep involved, especially re: permitting.

Comment: Hope future requests for comment from the OC are more structured (i.e., please respond to this particular item).

Comment: We are included because we are part of the OC – PSG doesn't need to submit another letter.

Comment: Unless we have appointed reps, PSG can't respond to OC requests.

Comment: Pat Baird and Doug Forsell are the OC representatives.

Question: Why does the entire ExCo get asked to submit comments? Ans: Unknown.

Comment: There has been very little communication from Pat Baird and Doug Forsell.

Comment: It would be good to ExCo to get the final letters OC sends out, to know about the issues PSG's name is attached to.

Kyra will ask the OC Representatives to please let the PSG ExCo know if there is an actionable request from the OC and forward final letters/documents from Ellen Paul (OC) to PSG.

4b) PAYPAL

We are trying to install a new paypal button for the challenge grant that can get added to the PSG website.

Question: How do new buttons get added to the PSG site? Ans: via Anne Francis.

Question: Can we have the challenge grant be Cvent only? Ans: Yes.

Comment: Let's forget about paypal and go with paper checks and Cvent

Comment: Cvent adds a note attached to all transactions.

4c) HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS

Question: Did this get resolved with personal information needed to book a room at Hotel Perla? Ans: Yuri talked with Ana at Hotel Perla. There was follow-up.

Question: Has anyone else booked their hotel room? Ans: Yes, NZ traveler.

Comment: Southwest Airlines has been added to travel tips portion of the event site.

5. ACTION ITEMS AND ADJOURN

[Motion to adjourn moved by Adrian, Trudy seconds](#)

AGENDA

1. Roll call and review agenda
2. Approve transfer of 10,000USD to Banorte PSG 2018 account (Mexico)
3. Approve Awards Committee recommendations for PSG Lifetime and Special Achievement Awards.
4. Updates
 - 4a. Ornithological Council Communication
 - 4b. Paypal Account for Challenge Grant
 - 4c. Reservations at Hotel Perla for foreign travelers
5. Action items and adjourn