

MINUTES OF THE PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

21 March 2019 Conference Call

3:00-4:00pm (Pacific – UTC-7)

Amended and approved 6 May 2019

Present: Olivia Bailey (Secretary), Dave Craig (Chair), Mary Cody (Non-Pacific U.S. States Regional Representative), Marc Romano (Alaska/Russia Regional Representative), Kirsten Lindquist (Northern California Regional Representative), Rachael Orben (Washington/Oregon Regional Representative), Kerry Woo (Canada Regional Representative), Kirsten Bixler (Treasurer), Luke Einoder (Asia/Oceania Regional Representative), Corey Clatterbuck (Student Representative) [10].

Absent: Adrian Gall (Past Chair), Peter Hodum (Vice Chair for Conservation), Rob Suryan (Chair-Elect), Cristián Suazo (S. California, Latin America, Hawaii Regional Representative), Ross Wanless (Europe/Africa Regional Representative) [5].

Others present: Jane Dolliver (Communications Chair), Jacqueline Huard (Facebook Coordinator), Kim Nelson (MMTC Coordinator), Louise Blight (Marine Ornithology Manager) [4].

1. APPROVE 21 MAR 2019 AGENDA

Motion to discuss the 21 Mar 2019 agenda moved by Olivia, Marc seconds

Motion to approve the 21 Mar 2019 agenda move by Olivia, Marc seconds

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

2. APPROVE 27 FEB 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Motion to discuss the 27 Feb 2019 meeting minutes moved by Olivia, Mary seconds

Motion to approve the 27 Feb 2019 meeting minutes moved by Olivia, Mary seconds

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

3. APPROVE MMTC PROPOSAL FOR FACILITATION

Motion to discuss the MMTC proposal for facilitation moved by Marc, Olivia seconds

We've been working over the past year to update and revise MMTC survey protocol. For a group with varied interests, the only way to move forward with controversial items is a facilitator. We hired a contractor to facilitate meetings. We've received contributions for these meetings from multiple places. We're currently looking for more money, and the plan is to be done in Sept/Oct – the stats team is finalizing analysis. We can't move forward without a contractor. We're requesting funds from PSG to cover one meeting. This contractor does a lot of work before the meeting as well as during the one-day meeting.

Question: Can you remind me how much you're looking for again? Ans: One meeting, \$3,375. PSG can cover part of a meeting if they feel like it's too much. Covering one meeting is best, but part of one works.

Comment: I recommend that we wait to decide until we confirm that we're in the black after the annual meeting.

Question: What's the timeline for reconciliation after the annual meeting? Ans: There are about 3 more bills to pay and waiting to get one large sponsorship. It will be done by next month and we will have a financial report next month as well.

Comment: We have time, next full MMTC meeting in May which is covered by another entity. The earliest we need money is June.

Comment: It seems like waiting for the financial reconciliation makes sense. Assuming we're in the black and there's sufficient resources.

Question: What is the expected timeline to wrap up the protocol? Ans: Draft in August, done in September/October. We want to give participants a month for review in August. We want it ready by fall for use next season, fall is when contracts go out for surveys. We're on schedule so far for that.

Question: If we were able to support a meeting or part of a meeting, do you have other potential funders for the August or July meeting if we do June? Ans: One potential funder is considering contributing. Government agencies are ready to commit funds once they get the budget. The budget has reached the region, but the Oregon office hasn't gotten it again. Beyond that, we will go back to previous funders.

Motion to approve the MMTC proposal for facilitation in the amount of \$3375 USD – pending budget reconciliation moved by Olivia, Mary seconds
Abstentions: 0, Nays: 0, Yays: 9, motion passed unanimously

4. APPROVE REVISED MAMU SURVEY DATASHEET

Motion to discuss the revised MAMU survey datasheet moved by Olivia, Marc seconds

Comment: We didn't make many changes. We took information from the front datasheet and moved it to a separate datasheet. The problem was tracking sites over a season. Every time a crew member went to the field they'd put in a UTM for a site. We took all that and put it on a second sheet so it only needs to be filled out once, since people might take different readings of UTMs for each visit at a site. This way there is one UTM for each station instead of a bunch for the same spot. For the second page with the data itself, we simplified that and took out some variables that are not able to be used in analyses. We added some other direction information for determining the location of a bird. Otherwise it's the same as before. We want to get it out before the protocol for next year just to get going on that and test out the cover sheet for each survey station.

Question: Can you give a quick history to how PSG relates to this datasheet and our role? Ans: This is a PSG document, it is a technical report published on the website. It's essentially

published and adopted by PSG. Any changes need to go through the EXCO. After the peer review, EXCO will get the entire document to review, including the datasheet.

Question: Presumably, the site number is at the top or there is some sort of reference to that UTM on each datasheet? Are you going to separate them and match the two at the end of the day when they all get mixed up? Ans: Yes.

Question: It might just be formatting, but some text is cut off in my PDF? Ans: The typesetter didn't have time to do the layout before this call, but they're ready to do it next week. He will fix the layout so it's nice.

Motion to approve the MMTC revised MAMU survey datasheet moved by Kerry, Olivia seconds
Abstentions: 0, Nays: 0, Yays: 9, motion passed unanimously

5. UPDATES

5a. PSG POST-MEETING SURVEY

Worked with the PSG 2019 Local Committee to develop a Post-Meeting Survey. Looking for someone to work on putting the survey on SurveyMonkey and sending out to meeting attendees.

Question: What more would this entail? Ans: This person would need to re-populate the survey on SurveyMonkey with questions specific to this year's survey, send it out to folks who attend the meeting, tally and analyze the responses.

Comment: If you need help with the tallying and reporting, I'm willing to jump in and help.

Action Item: Kerry will oversee the post-PSG 2019 survey and add one question to survey - Do you want to volunteer for PSG?

5b. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

I have just a couple important points to make here. Everyone on EXCO should be getting emails to their PSG email. There is a person who has bullied PSG members in the past. This is why we have PSG emails, and it is important to not communicate with this person and forward these messages to the Chair. You don't have to use this account, but you are welcome to. Every year PSG gets phishing attempts, and it is important not to respond.

Communications Policies - Make sure you use bcc for lists, i.e. regional lists. PSG works hard to protect the privacy of our members.

The Communications Committee sent out thank you cards to everyone from ECS panel and members that participated in Student-Mentor session.

Action Item: All EXCO members will send the LOCO 2019 (Andre, Helen, Stephen, Jen) a thank you card.

It's really important that we circle back and not forget that these members have donated so much of their time in the past year.

Question: Do you think that it'd be good to send a card to the whole local committee? Because others contributed a lot of time.

Ans: Yes, maybe that's better. Probably send to Andre and Helen's work address.

Twitter update: Jenny Howard took over, and did a fantastic job – she even livestreamed Tony Gaston's plenary. If there are questions or suggestions for social media avenues in 2019, or for PSG 2020, let me know.

There's been a lot of updates to the website. Most recently, we added Student Research Grants.

Action Item: Jane will update former chairs section of website.

We need 2 people to serve as *Pacific Seabirds* Associate Editors. Maybe a regional rep? Need copy editing help.

Action item: Kerry and Luke will serve as *Pacific Seabirds* 45(2) Associate Editors.

Both have received draft version of *Pacific Seabirds*. We need to send edits to Jenn by the end of the month. The draft is pretty close.

Last bit of this report are the remaining tasks for the communications committee.

Comment: Thanks, lots of good news.

Comment: The payment to Ann Francis has been sent in.

5c. WORLD ALBATROSS DAY

On March 1st a conversation was started on Facebook messenger about creating a World Albatross Day. Lots of dates thrown around, and they settle on June 19th. A number of other groups are supporting June 19th. They are thinking of doing a soft launch in 2019 and hard launch in 2020. We've indicated support but needed to check with EXCO.

Question: Was there a second date that was a contender? Ans: All participants are pushing June 19th. They moved away from Wisdom's banding date to be inclusive of all albatross. June 19th has no other "animal days" on that date

Question: What would PSG's involvement be? Just promoting? Ans: I think so, there was some discussion on a funded effort or just going virally on social media. At this time they're just looking for platforms and organizations to promote the day.

Question: In the future, if they are looking for financial support, what would that cover? Ans: Educational materials or a paid media specialist.

Question: Are there other dedicated days that we promote for other seabirds? Ans: Good question. Yes, there are other days. World Penguin Day and Penguin Awareness Day.

5d. BIRD CONSERVATION ALLIANCE MEETING

The Director of Conservation Advocacy for American Bird Conservancy sent an invitation to the Bird Conservation Alliance meeting in Washington, DC. Members of Congress will be there, and we wanted to see if any of PSG EXCO members are interested in attending. If not, does anyone know PSG members on the East Coast that might be interested?

Action item: Jane will send Mary the details, Mary Cody will attend ABC's BCA meeting and report back.

5e. MARINE ORNITHOLOGY

More information needed based on EXCO conversation in Hawaii on Marine Ornithology. In terms of MO's progress and outlook – minutes said “heavy life this year.” I think 2018 was quite successful – we got 2 issues out on time, same as recent years, including some great papers, and recruited four new assistants to team. There are new editorial board members, and a new book review editor. We were recently indexed by JCR and Web of Science. That's something the journal has been trying to do for years, it takes a while to get that approved. We are indexed in other places like Google Scholar and Scopus, so we have impact factors from those, but they're not the main impact factors that people think of.

Someone asked if MO is solvent based on the PSG endowment. I've been working on getting MO on a more stable financial footing. In 2018, our expenses were covered by page charges, subscriptions, and donations from other member societies. We do need the PSG endowment as cushion and that's where we took the honoraria from PSG for the editorial staff. We're starting to do reasonably well financially, with enough money to more-or-less cover our operating expenses. I don't know if that'll be the case in 2019 because we took on new copy editor who is more costly. The last copy editor was working at well below market rate.

There were discussions at the last EXCO meeting about the sustainability of the journal. But I'll open it up for questions.

Question: What are your biggest concerns about the journal financially in the long-term? Ans: I've submitted a couple reports to EXCO on this issue. I wouldn't say I have concerns about the journal, but long-term sustainability is something that we need to be thinking about. We need to adapt to ensure that it happens. Science publishing is going through a period of great change. MO is well placed to meet the challenges of open-access publishing. Not everything that's open access is free- we're free to the public, anyone can access without paying or a subscription. Our model is that we are a society run journal where the society pays to produce a

journal that is open access. The drawback is that the money needs to come from somewhere. We haven't increased our income by much in recent years. I doubled subscription fees for institutions, which is bringing in a little bit of money. Copy editor costs are likely going up in 2019. We're probably going to increase page charges for authors because of that. The downside to this is that PSG's vision for MO is that it will be successful to people who read it and people who want to publish it. As we increase page charges we make it less accessible. But page charges are some of the cheapest compared to other similar journals. There is constant tension between accessibility and sustainability in terms of paying for and running the journal. The journal is run largely by volunteers. We appreciated getting the honorarium last year, but it doesn't change the fact that several of us volunteer our time. We're thinking of solutions. We (Managing Editor, Editor-in-Chief) don't plan on going anywhere, but we don't know if we can expect volunteers to step into our roles next time, so we're mulling over longer term alternatives. We could go to someone like Oxford University Press type solution, which is AOS recently did for their journals. We could go to Canadian Science publishing, which we would pay to do certain things. We can expect a greater number of papers sent to us now that we are indexed, which means more work for us. Overall, we're doing well, and in a good position. Moving into the future, going to need to think about putting more money into it. It costs more to keep something functioning online. Don't hesitate to get in touch with questions – we will periodically keep you updated. The next issue of MO will be out next month.

Comment: Big thank you to MO!

6. ADJOURN

[Motion to adjourn moved by Olivia, Kirsten seconds](#)

[Absentions: 0, Nays: 0, Yays: 9, motions passes](#)

21 MARCH 2019 AGENDA

(*Indicates need for a vote)

1. Roll call & approve agenda*
2. Approve minutes 27 February 2019*
3. MMTC proposal for meeting facilitation*
4. MAMU survey datasheet*
5. Updates
 - 5a. PSG 2019 post-meeting survey
 - 5b. Communications update
 - 5c. World Albatross Day
 - 5d. Bird Conservation Alliance Meeting
 - 5e. Marine Ornithology
6. Action items and adjourn