

## MINUTES OF THE PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

26 November 2019 Conference Call  
12:00pm-1:08pm (Pacific Standard Time – UTC-8)  
Amended and approved 19 December 2019

**Present:** David Craig (Chair), Rob Suryan (Chair-Elect), Peter Hodum (Vice Chair for Conservation), Kirsten Bixler (Treasurer), Kerry Woo (Canada Regional Representative), Marc Romano (Alaska/Russia Regional Representative), Rachael Orben (Washington/Oregon Regional Representative), Mary Cody (Non-Pacific U.S. States Regional Representative), Kirsten Lindquist (Northern California Regional Representative), Luke Einoder (Asia/Oceania Regional Representative) [10].

**Absent:** Corey Clatterbuck (Student Representative), Adrian Gall (Past Chair), Olivia Bailey (Secretary), Cristián Suazo (S. California, Latin America, Hawaii Regional Representative), Ross Wanless (Europe/Africa Regional Representative) [5].

**Others Present:** Jane Dolliver (Communications Coordinator), Justine Miller (Luana Events, PSG 2020 Local Committee), Kim Nelson (PSG 2020 Local Committee Co-Chair), Katie O'Reilly (PSG 2020 Local Committee Co-Chair)

### 1. APPROVE 26 NOVEMBER 2019 AGENDA

Motion to discuss the 26 November 2019 agenda moved by Rob, Peter seconds

Passcode is 4097033, re-label updates 3a-3d

Motion to approve the 26 November 2019 agenda moved by Peter, Rob seconds

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

### 2. APPROVE 27 AUGUST 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Motion to discuss the 27 September 2019 meeting minutes moved by Kerry, Rob seconds

Look fine to me; me too.

Motion to approve the 27 September 2019 meeting minutes moved by Rob, Mary seconds

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

### 3. UPDATES

Motion to discuss updates moved by Rob, Marc seconds.

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

#### 3a-1. PSG 2020 Update

The merchandise is set and ordered. The abstract deadline coming up on Monday, 2 December. Early registration ends in January. We're not too worried the room block is not filling up. Kim sent a reminder out today, this morning regarding the abstract deadline, hotel block booking up, room and ride-shares available. We have \$7800 in donations so far. \$1000 of this is for an ECS plenary. The rest – some is for supporting a half-day session. This does not include the PSG general fund contributions. We might not have all donations in hand before the money by then before the 9 Dec deadline for notifying travel awardees.

Q: How much is PSG donating from proceeds from the 2019 Student Silent Auction? Ans: We raised a record \$5686.45 for student travel.

Comment: In the Annual Meeting budget there is an expected \$8000 in donations. Currently we're at \$2313. As of today, we have not had any donations from folks registering for the meeting. To promote donations to student, ECS, and foreign scientist travel, we need to look at what was said last year – ECS and foreign scientist donations need to be directed to the PSG General Fund so that we have flexibility on how to spend the money. From the PSG Operating Funds, we budgeted \$1000 for ECS, \$1000 for foreign scientists. Other than that, we are counting on fundraising to support those two categories.

Kim will send Kirsten the fundraising sheet

Kirsten will contact donors to let them know how they can pay – USGS, Birdlife, etc.

### **3a-2. E-conferencing at PSG 2020**

We think this is do-able for the monthly registration fee of \$583.47.

Q: What should we put the fee at? \$20-25 for students, \$30-50 for regular registrants? Ans: \$20 for student members, \$40 for individual members.

Comment: Remembering back to early discussions – it was hard to justify having the entire conference online. I left with the feeling that we should scale up to that effort by having plenaries only this year. Was there additional discussion after this?

Comment: I worry about people not coming to the meeting and having the overall conference budget suffer.

Q: Could we offer a streaming-only option instead of an archived option?

Comment: We use zoom and industry folks use skype. There are options to record or not. Seems really easy.

Q: How is the recorded talk served back? Ans: as soon as it is done, it is served on their website. You can't ask questions or get feedback this way. With so much concern about climate change, some people have opted to stop coming to conferences altogether. That is really a loss. Additionally, there are a bunch of people who cannot afford it, but would love to be able to attend.

Comment: I think the goal should be to offer as much content as possible, especially targeting the plenaries.

Q: Does zoom archive automatically? If you only pay for a month, then you get the archive for one month only? Ans: to archive, you need a platform you are recording it to. It says the requirement is that the conference laptops with a webcam must have 10 gigabytes free.

Comment: This is do-able. We just need to let folks who are presenting know that they are being recorded. Later, if they want, they can opt out of being archived. We need to have three licenses, one for each room. Each license includes 100 people. My feeling is that if they are planning to come to Portland, they will come to the Portland.

Q: How do we restrict access to only people who have paid for the service? How do people get a login? Where would people pay? Ans: To join, you have to get the link. You would register and pay through event, then get the link.

Comment: recording and not recording specific people is too much to deal with. The reasonable logistic way is to record everyone and then delete those who do not want their recording archived.

Comment: For the microphone – it needs to be linked to the computer. The laptop microphone will not pick up someone's voice. We need a mic there at the stand.

Q: I received feedback from someone last year – they did not want to have their talk tweeted, but it was. How will we manage this in 2020? Some people will not want to be recorded at all. Ans: we will come up with a way to manage that this year – whether tweets are okay or not. The WSC is a very conservative approach. No live tweeting unless they approve it.

Comment: we could have a sign held by the session chair at front of room – live tweet or blocked.

Motion to approve e-conferencing for PSG 2020 in the amount of 583.47, with e-conference registration \$20 for student members, \$40 for individual members moved by Rob, Peter seconds.

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

Q: What is process for arranging travel for plenary speakers? They purchase travel and are reimbursed? Ans: Reimbursed, with receipts.

Q: How do plenaries register online? Ans: it is possible Adrian registered them for \$0.00

### **3b. PSG 2020 Travel Awards**

We received 46 applicants, so lots of requests. The Awards Committee is interested in discussing how to make decisions with limited funds.

Q: If someone has received an Achievement Award in the last three years, are they ineligible for a travel award? Ans: No

Q: Do we need final numbers on fundraising by Dec 9? Ans: Yes, to award first round. Additional awards can be distributed at a later date.

Q: Should there be an award in every category? Ans: Yes.

Q: Which categories were in most demand? Ans: ECS, MS are the most competitive.

Q: For categories that were more competitive, how should distribute? More MS versus ECS? More ECS versus MS? Ans:

Comment: in previous conversations, we've suggested prioritizing MS students if they are early-on in their degree, or have high impact of research. However, ECSs are at a critical career stage and do not have access to student-based funding sources through colleges/universities.

Q: Can we prioritize ECS and students who have not received an award the last time around? Ans: we already do – you cannot receive an award if you received one in 2017, 2018 or 2019.

Q: How about international awards how can we balance the interest of growing momentum of the Mexico meeting versus attendance from Asia, Australia and New Zealand? Ans:

Comment: in 2019, we paid for people's registration and additional costs. If we don't raise donations for registration and just give them some amount to travel to the meeting, we can spread out the money a bit more. More people can get awards. Have travel recipients do their own registration. It would mean all the awards in 2020 would be smaller.

Comment: This is a nice idea; I like that idea.

Q: Did we switch to paying travel awardee registration costs as part of the award in 2019 because we received feedback that this up-front cost was too much of a burden? Ans: No, most of pay-up-front talk was about hotels. Not about registration.

Q: I am hearing "give more awards to many people – that is the direction the Executive Council would like to go." This may mean some international applicants cannot be selected – their per person cost is higher. Ans: Yes.

Comment: Other organizations/societies/conferences do this – they do not provide full travel support.

Comment: My suggestion is to reach out to potential donors right away and request that they sponsor a needy student/ECS/foreign scientist at \$1000. Or they donate their miles to support travel for these applicants. We need to fundraise and work really hard not to turn applicants away. They applied, we need to honor their time and commitment to us with a commitment to them.

Comment: Building on this suggestion – let's not make it \$1000 or nothing. You could sponsor fully, you could pay registration fee only or flight only.

Comment: Flight/mileage plan purchases have worked in the past when the grantor was in contact with the awardee and provided the option(s) available to them.

Q: are we doing donated banquet tickets this year? Ans: **Adrian will update the cvent site to include this option.** You can choose to donate a ticket to a student or a volunteer.

**Dave will send Rob + LOCO the "support travel awards!" request that was sent out last year.**

Comment: The sense of urgency – 9 Dec deadline – is very important. A testimonial as part of this fundraising effort would be good. The goal is to raise about as much as last year – 8-10K.

**Jane will acquire the testimonial(s) from PSG members.**

### 3c. Communications update

There was a question of whether our PR campaign for travel awards was successful – it was! The seven people listed at the top of this report post at least twice weekly on PSG's social media platforms to keep PSG at the top of everyone's feeds. We've had some updates to the cvent site and PSG site. Please, if you have ideas or photos to share, send them our way. Also – if you see any of these seven at PSG 2020 make sure to thank them for their hard work.

**Jane will send Dave emails for all the PSG social media team**

### 3d. Elections update

This is the list of people contacted. We've received some YESs. Some of you on this call have been contacted – please respond. The Elections Committee is striving for two people per open position as much as we can. Just to make sure there is not the feeling that people are being “crowned” into their positions. Please send us suggestions for other people to contact, especially Chair-elect. We are getting a little late start, but we will have a full ballot come December!

### 4. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn moved by Kerry, Mary seconds

Abstentions: 0, Nays: 0, Yays: 9, motion passes

### 26 NOVEMBER 2019 AGENDA

(\*Indicates need for a vote)

1. Roll call & approve agenda\*
2. Approve minutes 27 September 2019\*
3. Updates
  - 3a. PSG 2020 Update
  - 3b. Travel Awards Update
  - 3c. Communications Update
  - 3d. Elections Update
4. Action items and adjourn