

## MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 18 2025 PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

18 DECEMBER 2025 Conference Call

12:00-13:00 PT (Pacific Time)



**Present:** Juliet Lamb, Past Chair; Don Lyons, Chair Elect; Allison Patterson, Secretary (Interim); Kerry Woo, Canada Rep; Alyssa Eby, Student Representative; Anne Schaefer, AK and Russia Regional Rep; Ariel-Micaiah Heswall - Asia/Oceania Rep; Julia Gulka, U.S. Non-Pacific regional rep; Sarah Ann Thompson, Northern CA regional representative; Scott Pearson, Vice-Chair for Conservation; [10]

**Absent:** Dan Barton, Chair; Julie Skoglund, Treasurer; Laura Bliss, Secretary (Parental leave); Ryan Carle, Washington/Oregon Regional Representative; Jim Howard, S. California/Latin America/Hawaii Regional Representative; Jerome Fort, EU/AF Representative; Angie Trumbo, Communications Committee Co; [5]

**Others present:** Justine Miller; Kim Lato, Communications Committee Co; Amelia DuVall (OC Delegate); Emily Runnels (PSG Helps); Lauren Lecure (Membership Co-ordinator);

ExCo Officers, Committee Leads, and other interested PSG members

\*\*\*Indicates the need for a vote

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Time (PT)	Item	Owner
1000	***Roll call, approve agenda, and review 11.24.25 action items	Dan, PSG Chair
1005	***Review and approve 10.27.25 notes - Report #1	Allison, Secretary
1010	***Proposal for PSG 2027 Meeting in BC/Vancouver	Juliet, Past-chair & Linda Takahashi
1020	Annual Meeting Updates	Juliet and Don, Past-chair & Chair-elect
1030	Treasurer Notes	Allison, Secretary for Julie, Treasurer
1035	***Review action items and adjourn	Dan, PSG Chair & Allison, Secretary

Agenda approved: (9 yes, # no, # abstain)

November 24, 2025, Action Items

- Treasurer and chairs will investigate the legal ramifications of changing the purpose of the publication's endowment and up a side meeting with the Conservation Committee, Scott, and Don to follow up on funds matching and contributions to conservation grants. -keep
- The treasurer will initiate a conversation about implementing the new document retention policies with Dan and the Communications Committee. Expect to renew this effort after the Virtual meeting. -keep
- The chair will write a letter to affirm support for the Auckland 2027 conference. -done
- Update conservation chair handbook and review protocol for sending letter updates to PSG listserv. -keep

**AGENDA**

**12.18.2025 Meeting Details**

**11.24.2025 Meeting Minutes - Report #1**

**Proposal for a 2027 PSG Meeting in Vancouver, BC - Report #2**

**Annual Meeting Updates - Don and Juliet**

**Treasurer Notes**

**December 18, 2025, Action Items**

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## 12.18.2025 Meeting Details

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December 18, 2025 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM PT

Pacific Seabird Group is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Pacific Seabird Group's Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2216867094?pwd=ArEd1ZqAqUKCKMz5bIFFL09x9eecgD.1> is

Meeting ID: 221 686 7094

Passcode: PSG2025

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One tap mobile

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• +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

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• +1 669 444 9171 US

• +1 646 931 3860 US

• +1 689 278 1000 US

• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

• +1 305 224 1968 US

• +1 309 205 3325 US

• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

• +1 360 209 5623 US

• +1 386 347 5053 US

• +1 507 473 4847 US

• +1 564 217 2000 US

• +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 221 686 7094

Passcode: 8345420

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kfC4WuVVz>

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## 11.24.2025 Meeting Minutes - Report #1

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See attached document:

- [MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 24 2025 PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING](#)

November minutes approved: (9 yes, # no, # abstain)

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## Proposal for a 2027 PSG Meeting in Vancouver, BC - Report #2

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### PROPOSAL TO BRING THE PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP CONFERENCE TO BC/VANCOUVER IN FEBRUARY 2027

We propose to host the Pacific Seabird Group for a three-day, in-person meeting in British Columbia, Canada during February of 2027. Although the World Seabird Conference is being held a few months earlier, we understand that PSG is still interested in holding a meeting in its core area to provide an option for members that cannot travel to Tasmania in 2026 or Auckland in 2028. PSG has not met in Canada since 2010 (joint meeting with the World Seabird Union). We feel that a meeting in or near Vancouver would provide an easily accessible option for PSG members in both the U.S. and Canada, and that choosing a university venue during a holiday week could be a good option for keeping meeting costs low. We have already communicated with Justine about planning and are prepared to begin securing a venue as soon as the meeting location is approved.

#### POTENTIAL MEETING DATES:

- Sometime during the last two weeks of February (*NOTE: February 15 is a statutory holiday<sup>[1]</sup> (Family Day) in British Columbia*)
- If held at a university, during Reading Week – varies between institutions
- University of British Columbia (UBC): February 14-18<sup>[2]</sup> ([Term Dates - UBC Senate](#))
- Simon Fraser University (SFU): February 16-21 ([2027 - Spring Calendar - Simon Fraser University](#))
- University of Victoria (UVic): February 15-19([Academic important dates - University of Victoria](#))
- Royal Roads University

#### POTENTIAL LOCATION/VENUE

- [University of British Columbia](#), Vancouver
- [Royal Roads University](#), Victoria
- [University of Victoria](#), Victoria
- [Simon Fraser University](#), Vancouver
- A hotel in downtown Vancouver
- A hotel in downtown Victoria; [Victoria Conference Centre](#)
- [Mary Winspear Centre](#), Sidney

#### PERSONNEL FOR LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- Jeff Costa
- Devin de Zwaan
- Eric Gross
- Linda Takahashi
- Ross Vennesland

#### POTENTIAL SPONSORS

- [Environment and Climate Changes Canada \(ECCC\)](#)
- [Birds Canada](#)
- Various US/International based organizations that contributed before

#### POTENTIAL VENUES FOR EVENTS

- [Royal BC Museum](#), Victoria
- [Museum of Anthropology \(UBC\)](#), Vancouver
- [Vancouver Aquarium](#), Vancouver
- [Van Dusen Botanical Gardens](#), Vancouver
- [Vancouver Art Gallery](#), Vancouver
- [UBC Beaty Biodiversity Museum](#), Vancouver
- [Butchart Gardens](#), Brentwood Bay, Vancouver Island

#### FIELD TRIP OPTIONS

- [Reifel Bird Sanctuary](#), Delta
- Iona Sewage Lagoons
- Brunswick Point / Boundary Bay / Blackie Spit
- Esquimalt Lagoon
- McMicking/Clover points
- Rocky Point / East Sooke / Whiffen Spit
- Whale watching / boat tour Gulf Islands/Haro Strait/Sidney
- Stanley Park
- Something farther afield? (This time of year is good for herring spawn, so I could see a good day trip between Vancouver and Victoria on the ferry with some birding at Tsawwassen too)

[1] [Statutory holidays - Province of British Columbia](#)

[2] *The 2027/28 term dates or beyond have not been confirmed by Senate.*

Link to Proposal: [PROPOSAL TO BRING THE PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP CONFERENCE TO BC/VANCOUVER IN FEBRUARY 2027](#)

- Comment: I do not recall a meeting in southern BC since the first WSC in 2010
- Comment: The closest meetings were in Semiahmoo, WA. Although that venue may be too small for PSG now. I like the ideas for timing coinciding with spring holidays and think hosting at a university would be nice. I'm in favour of having a meeting in the region. The proposed organizing committee should keep pursuing this option, but we need to see more details about the costing.
- Comment: ECCC cannot be a formal sponsor, too complicated
- Comment: There are no competing proposals for an in-person meeting.
- Comment: Members of PSG have been asking why we are doing a virtual meeting this year and have expressed interest in having in-person meetings. Members have commented that they do not want two virtual meetings in a row
- Comment: Generally, appetite for virtual meetings has declined with the end of COVID
- Comment: This vote would be to approve the idea to move forward with costing

Motion to approve organizers of potential 2027 Vancouver/Victoria meeting to move forward with planning and generating a proposal: (10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain) - one Exco member joined after earlier votes

Feedback for Proposed organizing committee:

- Would like to see a more detailed proposal with a budget that could be voted on at or before the AGM in Feb.
- Although universities may be a cost-effective venue, it will not be practical if there are no accommodation options near by
- Attendance could be lower because of the WSC in fall and restrictions on government spending in Canada and US, so could make sense to plan for a smaller meeting
- JM: Told team that they need to reach out to venues as soon as possible, can start to price out venues in Jan. Expect we would hear back about this before the Feb meeting

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## 2026 Annual Meeting Updates - Don and Juliet

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- We have 80 submitted abstracts (14 posters, 66 oral presentations)
- Three plenaries planned (David Irons, Lindsay Young, Carlos Zavalaga)
- Tentative schedule for the week, which is being used to set up online platform
- Abstract acceptances have started going out and have begun scheduling of individual talks
- JM: Up to 99 paid registrations, with 2 speakers. Goal was 150 for the whole conference
- Travel awards: 18 applicants, have funded all of them with the Access fund budget. Includes recipients from China, New Zealand, Indonesia, Russia, Philippines, Canada, and the US. Many applicants are part of symposium on traditional knowledge and community engagement. Virtual format may be allowing participation from under-represented areas.
- Reach out if you have any questions

Question: Is that in line with expectations for the end of the early bird registration period?

JM: This is a bit low for us compared to an in-person meeting, but we have jumped up quite a bit in the last week.

Notices for talks going out likely helped. Because it is virtual and people do not have to plan travel, might expect later registration

Comment: Cost difference between early bird registration and regular registration was not that large, so it might not have influenced registration that much

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## Treasurer Notes

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- There was not much financial activity to report since the last meeting
- Next month we will have a more significant update as we completed some large payments for MO which will also be related to the endowment fund annual withdrawal scheduled for next month.
- We are still **VERY** much looking for a trustee and I have had **ZERO** interest, so please spread the word and help us recruit someone!

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## Informal Updates

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JL: Does HELPS have any updates?

ER: We usually get more applications around registration deadlines. Had over 10 new applications in the last week. There is a small delay in processing those, expect to get more meeting registrations when those are processed.

Comment: Would be good to have communication activities to promote HELPS.

ER: We have been doing some student features for students from HELPS, will do some more in coming year

JL: Update on student research award. There was no award last year. Will open applications in Jan, with a 1-month window for submissions. The committee will meet and announce decisions at the meeting. Updated info about applying is on the website, there is an online form to fill out. The form is open, but not announced yet because we do not want to compete with conference announcements and holidays. This is coming up, so you can publicize this with your communities.

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### December 18, 2025, Action Items

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- The treasurer will initiate a conversation about implementing the new document retention policies with Dan and the Communications Committee. Expect to renew this effort after the Virtual meeting.
- Update conservation chair handbook and review protocol for sending letter updates to PSG listserv.

Meeting adjourned: (10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)