

MINUTES OF THE JANURAY 26 2026 PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

26 JANUARY 2026 Conference Call

9:00-10:00 PT (Pacific Time)



Present: Juliet Lamb, Past Chair; Don Lyons, Chair Elect; Allison Patterson, Secretary (Interim); Julie Skoglund, Treasurer; Kerry Woo, Canada Rep; Alyssa Eby, Student Representative; Ariel-Micaiah Heswall - Asia/Oceania Rep; Julia Gulka, U.S. Non-Pacific regional rep; Scott Pearson, Vice-Chair for Conservation; Ryan Carle, Washington/Oregon Regional Representative; Jim Howard, S. California/Latin America/Hawaii Regional Representative; Jerome Fort, EU/AF Representative; [12]

Absent: Dan Barton, Chair; Laura Bliss, Secretary (Parental leave); Angie Trumbo, Communications Committee Co; Anne Schaefer, AK and Russia Regional Rep; Sarah Ann Thompson, Northern CA regional representative; [5]

Others present: Kim Lato, Communications Committee Co; Emily Runnels (PSG Helps); Natasha Gillies (Marine Ornithology Manager)

ExCo Officers, Committee Leads, and other interested PSG members

***Indicates the need for a vote

| Time (PT) | Item | Owner |
|-----------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 0900 | ***Roll call, approve agenda, and review 12.18.25 action items | Dan, PSG Chair |
| 0905 | ***Review and approve 12.18.25 notes - Report #1 | Allison, Secretary |
| 0910 | Treasurer Update - Report #2 | Julie, Treasurer |
| 0920 | Proposal for acquisition of Marine Ornithology | Natasha Gillies, MO Manager |
| 0930 | Informal update on 2025 virtual meeting | Juliet, Past Chair |
| 0935 | ***Review action items and adjourn | Dan, PSG Chair & Allison, Secretary |

Agenda approved: (12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

December 18, 2025, Action Items

- Treasurer and chairs will investigate the legal ramifications of changing the purpose of the publication’s endowment and set-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**
- Update conservation chair handbook and review procedure for sending letter updates to PSG listserv. **keep**

(12 yes, # no, # abstain)

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01.26.2026 Meeting Details

January 26, 2026 | 9:00 AM -10:00 AM 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

One tap mobile

+12532050468,,2216867094#,,,,*8345420# US

+12532158782,,2216867094#,,,,*8345420# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

• +1 253 205 0468 US

• +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

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• +1 720 707 2699 US (Denver)

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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>

See attached document:

- [W Minutes of the December 18 2025 PSG ExCo Meeting.docx](#)

(12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

Treasurer's Update - Report #2

To: Pacific Seabird Group Executive Council
Prepared by: Julie Skoglund and Emily Penttila
Date: January 2026
Report: Treasurer's Update

Key Points & Updates

Account Balances (as of December 31, 2025):

- **Neuberger Berman:** \$491,720.67
- **Axos Checking:** \$207,586.02
- **Marine Ornithology Bank Account:** \$2,246.38
- **Total Assets:** \$701,553.07 — a decrease of **\$45,703.55** compared to the same period last year.
(See attached Balance Sheet.)

PSG's total assets remain strong at just over \$701K, but the checking account balance is lower than at this time last year. This is largely due to a timing issue: several large expenses were paid in late 2025, including outstanding invoices for Marine Ornithology production and early deposits for the 2026 World Seabird Conference. While these payments reduce cash on hand, they reflect planned and budgeted activity, not unexpected losses. The overall financial position is healthy, with the endowment performing well and additional multi-year grant income secured.

Operating Revenue & Expenses (FY25 to date):

- **Total revenue:** \$57,495.83 (budgeted: \$31,849.64) – **181% of budget**
- **Total expenditures:** \$28,916.05 (budgeted: \$44,603.04) – **65% of budget**
- **Net Operating Revenue:** \$28,579.78
(See attached Budget vs. Actual report.)

Restricted Fund Balances (as of December 31, 2025):

- **Conservation Fund:** \$19,239.32
- **Former Chairs Fund:** \$20,892.07
- **Lifetime Membership Fund:** \$3,200.00
- **Access Fund (Travel & Membership):** \$1,084.10

Endowment Committee – Trustee Recruitment

Gary Collar has generously agreed to complete the 2025 Annual Endowment Report before officially stepping down from the Endowment Committee. We are extremely grateful for his service and commitment.

We urgently need to identify a new trustee with experience in investment management, finance, or nonprofit fund oversight — someone who can help guide PSG's endowment through its next phase of growth and stability.


If you or someone in your network may be a good fit for this role, **please contact me as soon as possible**. We are actively seeking recommendations and hope to fill this position without delay.


Upcoming or In-Progress Tasks

- Continue monthly bookkeeping, payments, and invoicing
- Document Retention Policy: postponed to a future meeting pending implementation logistics
- Endowment Withdrawal Plan
- Finalizing the 2025 Annual Endowment Report; to be shared with ExCo once complete.
- Ongoing discussions:
 - Potential creation of a second endowment fund
 - Legal and operational considerations for expanding the purpose of the current publication endowment

See attached documents:

 PSG Balance Sheet as of 12-31-2025.pdf

 PSG Income Statement Oct-Dec 2025.pdf

 Repx_Treasurer update_January 2026.docx

Question: What experience should a suitable candidate have?

Treasurer: We are looking for someone with financial and investment knowledge. It does not have to be someone who has experience with seabirds specifically.

Comment: Can we reach out to the past chairs? They may know someone that would have the appropriate experience and interest.

Treasurer: The position does not require a significant time commitment. On-boarding for the new year should be quite straightforward as we will have completed major withdrawals and reports.

Question: Do you have a written blurb that we can circulate?

Treasurer: There was a blurb that went out on the listserv. I can ask the communications committee to re-circulate this request. Please contact me if you have any suggestions.

Proposal for acquisition of Marine Ornithology - Natasha Gillies

I want to discuss the potential acquisition of Marine Ornithology (MO) by a larger publisher. First to get feedback on this opportunity from the PSG ExCo and also guidance on how to proceed.

Journal submissions to MO are increasing every year. We have established DOIs for articles and joined the Directory of Open Access Journals. These developments are a good thing, however, because MO is run by a small volunteer team it is becoming difficult to handle all of the submissions. Production of the entire journal can be impacted if any copy editors become available. This has happened recently with a copy editor requiring leave.

In 2019, my predecessor as managing editor anticipated that growth of the journal would become difficult to manage and reached out to larger journals about a possible acquisition. Canadian Science Publishing (CSP) was one publisher that was identified as a good fit for MO, but at the time they were not interested in acquiring MO.

I reached out to CSP again in 2025 about acquisition of MO. This time CSP responded positively and we have had a couple of informal meetings about a potential acquisition. I am looking for input from ExCo before having any further discussion about this with the publisher.

CSP is an independent, not-for-profit publisher. Based on our discussions to date, they have said that:

- an acquisition will not incur any cost to PSG.
- could reduce pressure on the endowment
- PSG could retain editorial independence and the existing editorial structure/management
- CSP would provide editorial workflows/infrastructure
- Get journal on ScholarOne to aid with submissions and manuscript management
- Option to provide a journal website, but do not have to do this

Before proceeding I would like to know who has ultimate responsibility for this decision? Who has to be involved? What are the legal requirements here?

In next steps, CSP would want to know details about financials and how MO is currently run.

Questions/Comments

Chair Elect: Historically, PSG has been the publisher of MO on behalf of a consortium of other seabird orgs. Other organizations have been silent partners and PSG has carried the main responsibility. I assume that PSG would be the sole decider on this change and responsibility for that decision would rest with ExCo.

Question: You mentioned staffing gaps. Will this help with that?

NG: This might not relieve editorially gaps. Editors are not necessarily the problem. Issues are in production. Brought on another copy editor last year which helped. CSP should be able to bring on more capacity to keep production moving. Editorial staff would have less burden on the production side.

Past chair - How would page charges compare to current rates?

NG: Right now we charge about \$900/paper. CSP said it should be similar to that, but could be a little. Ability to issue charge waivers is something that MO does a lot now to increase accessibility and we want to continue that. CSP indicates that they would sustain that option.

Chair Elect: Is the CSP business model based on page charges?

Response: Yes.

Question: Will the journal be indexed differently and become more searchable?

NG: I suspect it will be more searchable. Not sure how the indexing will work with historical approach. The journal should be better advertised which could bring in a wider audience.

Question: Would we have to change the name to something like Canadian Journal of Marine Ornithology?

NG: That would be our decision.

Comment: I see that not all their journals have that type of name. I have had good experience working with their journals in the past. I like the idea of CSP being able to help with production.

NG: Production is boom/bust. Sometimes it works really smoothly, sometimes it has issues.

NG: Arctic Science recently did this process, and could be a good example of what this transition would look like:
<https://cdnsiencepub.com/journal/as>

Treasurer: Do you anticipate this would completely eliminate endowment withdraws?

NG: Do not want to commit to anything. In our conversations, they have said there would be no financial inputs from PSG. They also indicated that they could have funds available for presence at conferences or for special issues.

Chair Elect: What is your view of the growth potential under this model? Could there be more issues per year?

NG: I have been thinking about this for a while. We are filling up issues earlier and earlier each year. We do not currently have the capacity to produce more issues annually. We receive enough quality submissions to have 3-4 issues/year. Efficiency that comes with a large publisher could enable us to increase the number of issues. Historically, MO had some issues getting DOI and legitimacy. Joining the CSP could help boost that. I think growth would be inevitable.

DL: Suggest we frame a motion about how ExCo wants to proceed on this topic.

Past-chair: Suggest chairs take the lead on this topic and act as liaison to ExCo going forward.

Question: Would it be worthwhile to explore other publisher options again, now that there is some interest from CSP?

NG: This was initially done in 2019 with a report on publisher options. At that time, all of those publishers were approached and said no. We talked to Oxford Press and they said no. It is quite difficult to get large publisher interest. We are lucky to have some interest from CSP now. Unfortunately, I do not think I have the capacity/time to begin this process over again with multiple publishers. I think it would be most efficient to continue on this possibility with CSP.

Chair Elect: Thank you for that thorough response and I appreciate the time you have put into this.

Chair Elect: Do you think there is a timeline that we need to meet with CSP? Will the opportunity go away?

NG: From conversations with CSP, I expect it would be a 6-12 month process that can be guided by our needs. I think this is an opportunity that may not last forever. Presumably they will take on a few journals right now and then stop accepting new journals..

Question: Will this process create new editorial bottlenecks if it takes up a lot of your time?

NG: Having a copy editor take sudden leave, has highlighted how vulnerable the journal is to staffing issues. Going through this transition could create some time pressures, but would secure things long-term.

Question: Have you reached out to editors from other journals that have gone through this process with CSP to learn about their experience?

NG: I will look into this.

Chair Elect: Can we entertain a motion to authorize NG to go through a financial analysis of what this transition would look like?

Motion to authorize NG to move forward with discussions with CSP to craft a transition plan including financial implications, timing, and PSG responsibilities.

(12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

We have over 130 people registered for the conference. We were aiming for 150 attendees, so this is on track. Registration closes at the end of this month. We expect to get some last minute registration activity this week.

US federal employees needed a draft of the schedule to register. That draft agenda has been released and announced on the listserv. We expect that to facilitate registration from federal employees.

The annual PSG ExCo meeting will be held on Monday February 23rd. This is when we get updates from every committee. This will be a meeting over several hours.

Questions: In some European institutions (France) there are financial restrictions in place around the holidays. For instance I am unable to make purchases until the middle of February. Is there any possibility of extensions to accommodate this?

Response: It is possible to register now before the deadline and make the actual payment after the deadline.

Communications Committee: The on-line platform requires time between the close of registration and the conference to create user accounts for all registered attendees. The online platform cannot handle changing the registration deadline, but payment can come later. I will include information about this in listserv communications today.

Treasurer: There are some deadlines for refunds, which could create problem for people who want to de-register if they have not paid by the deadline.

Communications Committee: Local chair email was being given out for issues with the conference, but we have discovered that this email has not been working properly and we have been unable to resolve the issue. We are going to delete and recreate this email address to try and get it working again.

January 26, 2026, 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 procedure for sending letter updates to PSG listserv.

Meeting adjourned: (12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)