

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 16, 2026 PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

16 JUNE 2026 Conference Call

12:00-13:30 PDT (Pacific Time)



Present: Don Lyons, Chair; Tom Good, Chair Elect; Laura Bliss, Secretary; Julia Gulka, U.S. Non-Pacific regional rep; Scott Pearson, Vice-Chair for Conservation; Kerry Woo, Canada Rep; Brian Hoover, Northern CA regional representative; Ariel-Micaiah Heswall - Asia/Oceania Rep; Jerome Fort, EU/AF Representative; Dan Barton, Past Chair; Ryan Carle, Washington/Oregon Regional Representative; Anne Schaefer, AK and Russia Regional Rep [12]

Absent: Tabatha Cormier, Student Representative; Jim Howard, S. California/Latin America/Hawaii Regional Representative; [2]

Others present: Code of Conduct Committee members: Emma Kelsey (Head of CoC committee), Laney White (HELPS Committee Co-Coordinator), Tom Good, Derek Harvey (Former EID Co-Chair) [4]

AGENDA

PSG Executive Council Meeting

June 16, 2025 | 12:00 PM -1:30 PM PDT

ExCo Officers, Committee Leads, and other interested PSG members

***Indicates the need for a vote

Time (PT)	Item	Owner
1200	Code of Conduct Training - Report #2	Emma Kelsey
1300	***Proposed Marine Ornithology Ownership Transition - Report #3	Don, PSG Chair
1315	***Nomination of David Irons to become an Endowment Trustee (Don or Julie) - Report #4	Don, PSG Chair
1320	Treasurer's Report - Report #5	Julie, Treasurer
1325	***Review action items and adjourn	Don, PSG Chair & Laura, Secretary

Agenda approved: (13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

April 20, 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.
- The treasurer will initiate a conversation about implementing the new document retention policies with the Chair 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, draft will be sent for review soon.
- Recruiting Volunteers for Pacific Seabirds - Kim Lato & Angie Trumbo: Recruiting an editor for Pacific Seabirds and volunteers for the communications committee.
- Develop region-specific email lists.
- Convene leads of various PSG working groups to discuss coordinated needs, strategies, and opportunities for PSG support (Juliet, Patrick O'Hara, Brian Hoover)

- Invite WSU delegates to present at May meeting on progress of WSU Virtual Day Current meeting

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04.20.2026 Meeting Minutes - Report #1

See attached document:

- [Minutes of the April 20 2026 PSG ExCo Meeting](#)

(10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

Code of Conduct Training (Emma Kelsey) - Report #2

One hour code of conduct training.

Resources: [PSG CODE OF CONDUCT](#)

 PSG Conduct Training ExCo and others March 2024_v3.pptx

QUESTION: What if someone is interested in making a complaint but they want guidance?

Code of Conduct Committee: The CoC can advise; email Emma Kelsey first with questions.

QUESTION: Can a violation during a meeting be used to build a case for chronic harassment even if some of the behavior happens off site?

Code of Conduct Committee: An event could be outside of PSG's purview but these events can inform the response to an event within PSG's purview.

A significant and timely topic for ExCo to consider is the potential ownership transition of Marine Ornithology to Canadian Science Publishing (CSP; non-profit). Marine Ornithology has grown considerably under PSG's management, but the all-volunteer staffing model threatens the sustainability of the journal at its current level, and limits options for continued growth. A small group of PSG folks examined options for future management and eventually entered into conversations with CSP regarding a possible partnership. That group is being led by Managing Editor Natasha Gillies and includes our treasurer Julie Skoglund, most recent former chair Juliet Lamb, past chair Dan Barton, chair-elect Tom Good, and myself as current chair. We've mentioned the deliberations internal to PSG, and that conversations have begun with CSP, in a couple ExCo meetings this spring. The dialogue with CSP has progressed to the point where tangible details are forming. Natasha has led the preparation of a 3-page summary document that describes why we are considering a transition and what it could look like (attached). We are hoping you all can read the attached summary prior to Tuesday's meeting and come with questions/thoughts to discuss. We do not propose a vote at this meeting due to the gravity of the decision. Instead, we would like to begin the discussion at the June meeting, share the proposal with PSG membership and other key constituents over the weeks following, then vote on the proposal at the July meeting (yet to be scheduled).

[Recommendations for a potential ownership transition of Marine Ornithology](#)

QUESTION: What would change with transition?

Chair: Instead of volunteers, it would be paid staff from CSP, ScholarOne interface for submission and review, automatic emails, etc. But PSG would be responsible for some of the paid staff time. The goal is to have page charges fully pay for the journal's maintenance.

REQUEST: Can the MO journal board member and/or managing editor be present for the vote to inform us?

REQUEST: Can we have an agreement with CSP that MO will remain open access in perpetuity?

QUESTION: How would CSP support production and editorial staff?

REQUEST: Can we talk to other journals that have been taken over by CSP?

Chair: Yes, we have talked to multiple journals and will update the recommendations document to reflect these discussions.

Vote to be made at next meeting

Nomination of David Irons to become an Endowment Trustee (Don or Julie) - Report #4

PSG holds a sizable endowment, managed by a committee consisting of the PSG Treasurer and two Trustees. The Trustee role is to advise on investment strategies and look out for the long-term health of the endowment. Traditionally Trustees have not been current ExCo members, to provide some separation of this function from the short-term activities of the Organization. Both of our current Trustees have been long serving and are interested in transitioning out of this role. PSG member Ken Briggs has agreed to transition out first. Our bylaws indicate that the PSG Chair can/will nominate new candidates for approval by ExCo. As Chair, I nominate David Irons to become our newest Trustee. David is a long-term member of PSG, a Former Chair, and retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska. He has already agreed to serve in this role, if approved by ExCo.

APPROVED

(13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

Treasurer's Report #5

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

Key Points & Updates

Account Balances (as of May 31, 2026):

- **Neuberger Berman:** \$478,108.49
- **Axos Checking:** \$214,274.18
- **Marine Ornithology Bank Account:** \$7,255.34
- **Total Assets:** \$699,638.01 — an increase of **\$49,224.45** compared to the same period last year.
(See attached Balance Sheet.)

Total assets are \$699,638.01 as of May 31, 2026, an increase of \$49,224.45 compared to the same period last year. PSG has no outstanding long-term liabilities.

Operating Revenue & Expenses (FY2026 Year-to-Date, October 2025 – May 2026):

1. **Total revenue:** \$106,133.74 (budgeted: \$95,691.02) – **111% of budget**
2. **Total expenditures:** \$81,973.02 (budgeted: \$105,135.55) – **78% of budget**
3. **Net Operating Revenue:** \$24,160.72 (budgeted: -\$9,444.53)
(See attached Budget vs. Actual report.)

Revenue is at 111% of budget and expenditures are at 78% of budget through May. (See attached Budget vs. Actual report.)

Restricted Fund Balances (as of May 31, 2026):

- **Conservation Fund:** \$15,576.55
- **Former Chairs Fund:** \$9,686.97
- **Lifetime Membership Fund:** \$4,000.00
- **Access Fund (Travel & Membership):** \$4,400.10

The Former Chairs Fund balance has decreased due to student research grant disbursements this cycle. These disbursements were made from existing fund balances and represent the fund fulfilling its intended purpose. Replenishment through donations and restricted contributions will be important to sustain future grant cycles. The other restricted fund balances reflect normal activity.

A budget development email will be going out shortly asking ExCo members and fund managers to participate in the FY2027 planning process. In particular, those who manage restricted funds are encouraged to think about their goals and desired plans for those funds as we look to strengthen fundraising and ensure each fund is positioned to serve PSG's mission effectively.

Endowment Fund -- Q1 2026 Performance

The Q1 2026 endowment report has been reviewed and approved by the trustees. Net asset value ended the quarter at \$478,108, a decrease of approximately \$13,600 from the year-end 2025 value of \$491,721. The decline reflects broader market volatility driven by global macroeconomic factors including inflation, geopolitical instability, and tariff uncertainty. The Large Cap Value fund (NPRTX) was a relative bright spot, outperforming the other holdings and the general equity indices. The 10-year compound annual growth rate of the endowment remains strong at 10.41%. Note that the 2025 endowment withdrawal has not yet been executed and is not reflected in the current fund value.

Endowment Committee – Trustee Governance (Update)

PSG is working to fill one trustee vacancy on the Endowment Committee. The Chair, Treasurer, and a former chair are actively coordinating on both short-term and long-term options and will bring a formal proposal soon.

If you or someone in your network may be a good fit for a trustee role, **please contact me or Don as soon as possible**. We are looking for individuals with experience in investment management, finance, or nonprofit fund oversight.

Upcoming or In-Progress Tasks

- Continue monthly bookkeeping, payments, and invoicing
- Endowment withdrawal execution (pending trustee vote)
- Preparation for FY2026 tax filing underway
- FY2027 budget development process to begin shortly
- Ongoing discussions:
 - Implementation of second endowment fund
 - Expanded permissible use of the publication endowment
 - MO copy editing costs: review contract and volume for FY2027 budget planning

 Q1 2026 Fund Performance.pdf

 PSG Income Statement Oct 2025 - May 2026.pdf

 PSG Balance Sheet as of 5-31-2026.pdf

The treasurer suggests all to think about fundraising ideas.

WSU Meeting support proceeding

PSG 2027 planning proceeding

June 16, 2026, Action Items

- Next meeting to have MO managing editor present (Natasha) and CSP(?)
- Add summary of Natasha's interactions with other journals that have been taken over by CSP into MO transition document for ExCo (Don)
- 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.
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- Develop region-specific email lists.
- Convene leads of various PSG working groups to discuss coordinated needs, strategies, and opportunities for PSG support (Juliet, Patrick O'Hara, Brian Hoover)

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