

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 20 2026 PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

20 APRIL 2026 Conference Call

12:00-13:15 PDT (Pacific Time)



Present: Don Lyons, Chair; Tom Good, Chair Elect; Laura Bliss, Secretary; Tabatha Cormier, Student Representative; Julia Gulka, U.S. Non-Pacific regional rep; Scott Pearson, Vice-Chair for Conservation; Jim Howard, S. California/Latin America/Hawaii Regional Representative; Kerry Woo, Canada Rep; Brian Hoover, Northern CA regional representative; Ariel-Micaiah Heswall - Asia/Oceania Rep [10]

Absent: Dan Barton, Past Chair; Anne Schaefer, AK and Russia Regional Rep; Jerome Fort, EU/AF Representative; Ryan Carle, Washington/Oregon Regional Representative [5]

Others present: Juliet Lamb, Former Chair; Anna Vallery and Marc Romano, WSU Delegates; Kim Lato, Communications Committee; Justine Miller

AGENDA

PSG Executive Council Meeting

April 20, 2025 | 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM PDT

ExCo Officers, Committee Leads, and other interested PSG members

***Indicates the need for a vote

Time (PT)	Item	Owner
1200	***Roll call, approve agenda, and review 04.20.26 action items	Don, PSG Chair
1205	***Review and approve 03.20.26 notes - Report #1	Laura Bliss, Secretary
1210	**Craig Harrison Conservation Grant Program - Report #2	Don, PSG Chair
1220	Treasurer Update - Report #3	Julie, Treasurer
1235	**Deciding PSG 2028 Dates - Report #4	Ariel-Micaiah Heswall - will be 15-30 minute late
1250	World Seabird Union Delegate Update- Report #5	Anna Vallery
1300	Recruiting Volunteers for Pacific Seabirds - Report #6	Kim Lato & Angie Trumbo
1315	***Review action items and adjourn	Don, PSG Chair & Laura, Secretary

Agenda approved: (10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

March 20, 2026, 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 the Chair and the Communications Committee. Expect to renew this effort after the Virtual meeting. Keep

- Update conservation chair handbook and review protocol for sending letter updates to PSG listserv, draft will be sent for review soon. **Keep**
- Recruiting Volunteers for Pacific Seabirds - Kim Lato & Angie Trumbo: Recruiting an editor for Pacific Seabirds and volunteers for the communications committee. (Chairs and Communications Committee) **Current meeting**
- Develop region specific email lists. **Keep**
- Schedule a Code of Conduct training session for ExCo before the summer field seasons start (Tom Good) **Scheduled for May 2026 meeting**
- Convene leads of various PSG working groups to discuss coordinated needs, strategies, and opportunities for PSG support (Juliet, Patrick O'Hara, Brian Hoover) **Keep**
- Invite WSU delegates to present at May meeting on progress of WSU Virtual Day **Current meeting**

AGENDA.....	1
04.20.2026 Meeting Details.....	2
03.20.2026 Meeting Minutes - Report #1.....	3
Funding opportunity for the Craig Harrison Conservation Grant Program - Report #2.....	3
Treasurer's Update - Report #3.....	4
Deciding PSG 2028 Dates - Report #4.....	4
World Seabird Union Update- Report #5.....	4
Recruiting Volunteers for Pacific Seabirds - Report #6.....	6

04.20.2026 Meeting Details

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>

Meeting ID: 221 686 7094

Passcode: PSG2025

One tap mobile

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

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

Join instructions

https://us06web.zoom.us/join/2216867094?signature=TVllrTJEAepZob_icAb-PgowJz4xRH2yfuXU_DSI037Q

03.20.2026 Meeting Minutes - Report #1

See attached document:

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

Funding opportunity for the Craig Harrison Conservation Grant Program - Report #2

Scott, Julie, Juliet, and Don met with the chair of the Conservation Grant Award Committee, David Duffy, and committee member Craig Harrison (who the Grant Program is named after) on April 2nd.

Program management and recent activity and fund status were reviewed prior to and during the meeting.

- Review committee membership: David Duffy (Chair), Doug Causey, Trudy Chatwin, Doug Forsell, Craig Harrison, Bill Henry, Peter Hodum
 - Three awards have been dispersed since November 2024 with a fourth award approved and dispersal of funds pending
 - Current fund balance is \$15,409.32 pending dispersal of funds for the one remaining approved award
- Since January 2024, fund income has been \$5,550 and funds dispersed \$9,980 (\$11,705 when the pending award is dispersed); the spend rate has been approximately twice that of donated income. Additional funds are needed to sustain the program and allow further promotion of the opportunity.

There was consensus agreement on taking a couple steps to promote visibility of the grant program within ExCo and a broader applicant pool.

- The Vice Chair for Conservation (currently Scott Pearson) and the Past Chair (currently Dan Barton) will be added to the review committee. The Vice Chair for Conservation will accept the role of communicating program activity (i.e. awards, reports) to ExCo during regularly scheduled meetings. The Committee Chair will continue to provide annual reports to ExCo at the time of PSG's annual meeting.
- The Committee will reach out to the Comms team to broaden the advertising of the award opportunity and award accomplishments, through social media and more frequent postings to the listserv, among other means.

Two motions are being forward to ExCo for review and votes:

- Craig Harrison renewed his past offer to 100% match a contribution from ExCo to the program fund, of at least \$5,000 up to a maximum of \$10,000.
- The Committee currently has approval from ExCo to award grants up to \$4,000 without any additional review and approval from ExCo needed. Given inflation-driven cost increases, the Committee requests authority to award grants up to \$5,000 without review and approval from ExCo. For context, the past four approved awards have been for \$2000, \$4000, \$3980, and \$1725.

PRESENTER: We need to improve our outreach for these grants, currently just listserv and word of mouth. PSG is in the black after the joint and virtual meeting. We have support for our WSU joint meeting and Vancouver meeting.

COMMENT: Concerns have been raised about grant reporting. New reporting forms have been created and conservation grant committees seem to be recommitted.

COMMENT: The matching is a great opportunity but there might be other things we want to fund.

COMMENT: What other things can PSG focus on investing, this particular opportunity is outside of the annual budget process.

- Motion put forward for \$7,500 for matching

APPROVED (10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

- Motion put forward to increase the amount for conservation awards without ExCo review and approval.

COMMENT: Let's continue to increase reporting requirements for transparency and to publicize.

QUESTION: How else can we encourage improved reporting?

COMMENT: Should we change the cycle timing of these grants? Once the amount of grants increases the program could run out of funding earlier.

APPROVED (10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

Treasurer's Update - Report #3

Agenda Item Skipped

To: Pacific Seabird Group Executive Council

Prepared by: Julie Skoglund

Date: April 2026

Report: Treasurer's Update

Key Points & Updates

See attached documents:

Deciding PSG 2028 Dates - Report #4

The University of Auckland has reached out asking about if we could confirm dates in 2028 for the PSG conference in Auckland.

Initially, we were thinking of Tuesday, 8th February – Friday, 11th February 2028, (Monday, 7 February 2028 is New Zealand's Waitangi Day), giving four days in total.

Is four days enough or would we require five days? I have also enquired about the potential for the following week from Monday, 14th February - Friday, 18th February 2028 if that is more feasible for PSG.

PRESENTER: New Zealand's Waitangi Day changes preferred dates. If we use the week of Waitangi Day the field trips would be on a Saturday.

COMMENT: What other meetings might this PSG meeting conflict with?

COMMENT: Let's avoid the national holiday.

World Seabird Union Update- Report #5

To: Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) ExCo

From: Anna Vallery & Marc Romano - Delegates to the World Seabird Union

Date: April 20, 2026

Subject: WSC-PSG Joint Hybrid Day Planning Updates

Planning for the 2026 World Seabird Conference is well underway! PSG's Delegates to the World Seabird Union have been working closely with WSC and the conference planning team to support the development of the joint hybrid day. Below is an overview of the hybrid day, though specifics are still being finalized. These details have also been posted on the WSC website at

<https://worldseabirdunion.org/world-seabird-conference-home/wsc4-hybrid-day/>.

WSC4 Hybrid Day Overview:

The World Seabird Conference (WSC 4) will feature a dedicated hybrid day on Friday, September 11, 2026 (local time in Hobart, Tasmania; Thursday, September 10 in UTC, North America, and Europe). This day is designed to connect researchers unable to travel with those attending in person, broadening participation and ensuring voices from across the globe are included in the scientific program.

The hybrid day is hoping to welcome both live and pre-recorded virtual presentations. All in-person presentations throughout the Conference will be recorded and made available for asynchronous viewing to virtual attendees as well.

Networking opportunities will also be offered through the conference app, creating space for global participants to meet, exchange ideas, and build collaborations. While details of the networking format will be finalized closer to the event, the hybrid day will ensure meaningful interaction between seabird researchers worldwide. In addition, WSC 4 will recognize excellence among early-career researchers by presenting separate student awards for virtual presenters, ensuring that outstanding contributions are acknowledged both in person and online.

All sessions on the hybrid day will follow Hobart, Tasmania time (AEST). For many international participants, this will correspond to Thursday, September 10, 2026 in UTC, North America, and Europe. By aligning virtual and in-person participation, the hybrid day aims to maximize global accessibility and provide meaningful opportunities for seabird researchers everywhere to share their work and engage with the international community.

Discussion:

The WSC Hybrid planning committee is currently working to develop the plan for the hybrid day of the conference, with a goal of creating a positive experience for those who cannot attend WSC in person. There are several decisions that need to be made that we would appreciate the support of PSG's ExCo.

1. Packard Foundation funding best use case
 - The Packard Foundation has provided PSG with \$10,000 to support the accessibility of WSC. How would ExCo like to see this money be used to improve the WSC Hybrid Day? Some potential options include:
 1. Run a second round of travel awards specifically for virtual attendees, since none of the WSC travel funding went to virtual participants;
 2. Put it toward small grants for people who want to organize hub meetings or socials;
 3. Provide funding beyond registration to improve the experience for virtual attendees (e.g. small grants for expenses associated with connectivity, childcare, etc.);
 4. Some combination of the above; or
 5. Something else?
2. Does anyone on ExCo have interest in hosting a PSG sponsored virtual event the week of WSC? This can be either for virtual attendees or open to anyone interested in celebrating the World Seabird Conference from afar.
3. Does ExCo have thoughts on if the WSC Hybrid planning committee should prioritize the opportunity for live presentations or if pre-recorded presentations are ok?

PRESENTER: Let's improve virtual engagement. How would PSG like to see the Packard funding be used to improve WSC?

COMMENT: Strong abstract submissions and lots of interest in this meeting for the in-person component.

The Packard Foundation has provided PSG with \$10,000 to support the accessibility of WSC. How would ExCo like to see this money be used to improve the WSC Hybrid Day?

COMMENT: What did you learn from the Seattle meeting networking? Can anything from this be used for WSU? The hub model for regions can be valuable and enhance conference experience.

PRESENTER: People do miss the networking opportunities at virtual meetings and they're tired of sitting at the computer. Let's spread out opportunities

COMMENT: Region-based field trips for virtual attendees could be valuable.

COMMENT: Would these opportunities be available for PSG-only (due to funding) or all of WSU?

COMMENT: No limitations on funding from Packard funding. No specification on who benefits, just improved accessibility.

COMMENT: Half of the funding could go to registration and half to small grants for people who want to organize hub meetings or socials. Especially with a focus on covering student registration.

PRESENTER: What committees or regional reps should we be reaching out to understand who might benefit from these efforts.

COMMENT: Connect with the DEI committee and HELPS committee.

COMMENT: Given reduced federal funding in the U.S. supporting standard registrations for folks is definitely valuable in addition to supporting students.

SUGGESTION: Get students or participants to watch plenary in a university classroom?

SUGGESTION: Poster sessions seem like a better option for interactions.

COMMENT: How can we improve interactions with the current poster plan.

Recruiting Volunteers for Pacific Seabirds - Report #6

Recruiting an editor for Pacific Seabirds and volunteers for the communications committee.

Positions to be filled:

- Editor of Pacific Seabirds: Leads the organization of editorial committee meetings throughout the year, solicitation of material/articles for *Pacific Seabirds*, encouraging regional reps to have members submit regional reports, and the initial compilation/formulation of *Pacific Seabirds*. Typically, *Pacific Seabirds* is published twice a year (~ Nov 1, ~May 1). Time commitment: Can be a lull between issues, but guestimate of 5-7 hours of work/week during issue prep time (starts 2-3 months before the issue comes out). The time commitment is a guestimate, I haven't heard back from Amelia about the actual time commitment.
- *Committee members for Pacific Seabirds*: Attend meetings throughout the year led by the editor. When articles are compiled, two committee members will review each article for editing and formatting onto the website. Time commitment: Can be a lull between issues, but when preparing a new issue (1-2 months before issue publication) typically a few hours of work per week.

PRESENTER: We have welcomed Aurora Kuczek as the new editor of Pacific Seabirds. Aurora had been a committee member for Pacific Seabirds in the past, and we're very thankful she's offered to take on this role.

PRESENTER: We are still in great need of volunteers to 1) be on the Pacific Seabirds editing committee (looking to recruit 3-4 new people) and 2) be on the communications committee (this will mostly be helping to draft social media content for PSG; looking for 1-2 new people). If you know anyone or can spread the word, that would be great. Folks interested in volunteering on the Pacific Seabirds editing committee can reach out to Aurora at editor@pacificseabirdgroup.org; folks interested in volunteering for the communications committee can reach out to us at communications@pacificseabirdgroup.org. Due to the change in personnel, the spring issue of Pacific Seabirds will likely be published at the end of May instead of the beginning of May (please note that we are actively collecting regional reports for this upcoming spring issue).

Venue Feedback PSG 2027

Vancouver Venue Feedback

Marriott Pennicle

Expecting 250 attendees

\$66,000 USD to hold dates - minimum food and beverage

\$200 USD for rooms

Convenient location and lots of nearby walkable restaurants

One lunch at hotel and tea and coffee

COMMENT: Location has many other hotel options nearby.

COMMENT: The local committee needs more participants. Let's remind those interested in helping organize the PSG that they don't need to be local.

SUGGESTION: Let's start fundraising early.

Justine will start the contract process with this location.

April 20, 2026, 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.
- 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)
- Communicate to the conservation committee that reporting needs to be a higher priority. Transparency and promoting the program.
- Recruit for the Vancouver meeting local committee.

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