

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 18, 2026 PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

18 AUGUST 2026 Conference Call

14:00-15:00 PDT (Pacific Time)



Present: Don Lyons, Chair; Laura Bliss, Secretary; Kerry Woo, Canada Rep; Brian Hoover, Northern CA regional representative; Anne Schaefer, AK and Russia Regional Rep; Tabatha Cormier, Student Representative; Jim Howard, S. California/Latin America/Hawaii Regional Representative; Angie Trumbo, Communications Committee; Julie Skoglund, Treasurer [9]

Absent: Tom Good, Chair Elect; Ariel-Micaiah Heswall - Asia/Oceania Rep; Jerome Fort, EU/AF Representative; Dan Barton, Past Chair; Julia Gulka, U.S. Non-Pacific regional rep; Scott Pearson, Vice-Chair for Conservation; Ryan Carle, Washington/Oregon Regional Representative [7]

Others present: Justine Miller, Luna Events; Anna Vallery, WSU Delegate

AGENDA

PSG Executive Council Meeting

*August 18, 2026 | 2:00 PM -3:00 PM PDT***ExCo Officers, Committee Leads, and other interested PSG members**

***Indicates the need for a vote

Time (PT)	Item	Owner
1400	***Roll call, approve agenda, and review 06.18.26 action items	Don, PSG Chair
1405	***Review and approve 06.16.26 notes - Report #1	Laura Bliss, Secretary
1410	Pacific Seabird Group Communications Committee Updates - Report #2	Kim Lato, Committee Co-Coordinator
1420	**PSG 2027 Registration Costs - Report #3	Justine Miller, Luna Events
1435	Marine Ornithology Updates - Report #4	Natasha Gillies, Managing Editor, Marine Ornithology
1450	World Seabird Conference update and call for volunteers - Report #5	Anna Vallery, WSU Delegate
1500	***Review action items and adjourn	Don, PSG Chair & Laura, Secretary

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

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.

- 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)

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06.16.2026 Meeting Minutes - Report #1

See attached document:

- [Minutes of the June 16, 2026 PSG ExCo Meeting](#)

Approved: (10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

Pacific Seabird Group Communications Committee Updates - Report #2

- The comms team is launching two new social media initiatives to increase member engagement and ensure that our social media is more than just annual meeting promotion: "Creature Feature" (where we highlight a seabird species each month) and "Scientist Spotlight" (where we highlight a PSG member or team each month). We have GoogleForms where members can submit their suggestions for each of these features.
- The comms team and some EXCO members had also had some discussion a few months ago about setting up region-specific listservs, so that regional reps can send out more local information as it pertains to a subset of PSG members. We haven't officially launched this, but wanted to make EXCO aware and confirm that this was a reasonable task to finalize and make it clear to our members what

these regional listservs could/should be used for. Moderation of these would still go through the comms team.

The Communications Committee does not prefer listserv. Hoping to find/create a different distribution list.

The student rep would like a student list for communications.

PSG 2027 Registration Costs - Report #3

As was briefly previewed in our last ExCo meeting (June 16), the 2027 Annual Meeting Local Committee (LoCo) is progressing with planning tasks. Below is a proposal from LoCo and our Conference Organizer, Justine Miller, [sharing the current draft version of the overall meeting budget](#) ("27 Budget Draft" tab) and the recommended registration costs ("27 Registration" tab). The major take home message on proposed registration costs: compared to the last 'regular' in-person meeting (2024 in Seattle; recall the 2025 meeting in Costa Rica was joint with the Waterbird Society and the 2026 meeting was virtual) the proposed rates are \$50 more expensive for members/non-members and \$50 cheaper for students. Please share your feedback/questions with all of ExCo and Justine (cc'd). We will conduct a vote on the registration costs and draft budget either via email or at our July meeting (to be scheduled), to allow LoCo to move forward in a timely manner.

Early rate for PSG 2027

Goes up by \$75 for each category

Non-members: \$650

Members: \$575

Student Members: \$275

Student Non-members: \$325

One day: \$300

Approved: (10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

Marine Ornithology Updates - Report #4

This is an optional, but requested, meeting to discuss the potential ownership transfer of Marine Ornithology (MO) to Canadian Science Publishing, with Marine Ornithology's Managing Editor, Natasha Giles. The attached document serves as an explainer for the motivation and details of the potential transfer. Highlighted text informs questions raised during our previous ExCo discussion. Please join us with your questions and concerns if you are able to meet at this time. Regardless, the discussion will continue, with a possible vote on the transfer, at our ExCo meeting later this day (Tuesday August 18th).

Tuesday, 18 August · 17:30 – 18:30

Time zone: Europe/London

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/yuy-dbjk-uas>

Or dial: (GB) +44 20 3956 4817 PIN: 219 724 542#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/yuy-dbjk-uas?pin=9118581343113>

PSG ExCo authorizes the MO/PSG Transition Team (MO Managing Editor, PSG Chair, PSG Chair Elect, PSG Past Chair, PSG Former Chair, PSG Treasurer, and any other Chair-appointed members) to to formally negotiate a full acquisition with Canadian Science Publishing (CSP), transferring both operational infrastructure and financial risk to CSP while retaining PSG as a formal and exclusive partner society. Once an agreement document has been developed to the mutual satisfaction of the MO/PSG Transition Team and CSP, and reviewed by PSG selected legal counsel, the MO/PSG Transition Team will share this document with ExCo to obtain final approval.

 Recommendations for a potential ownership transition of Marine Ornithology.pdf

QUESTION: Page charge cap available?

RESPONSE: We probably cannot negotiate lower or capped page charges. But, we will offer endowment support for authors that need it. Also, the page charges for CSP are very competitive.

Expecting transition to take place over the next 12 months.

Approved: (8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

World Seabird Conference update and call for volunteers - Report #5

To: Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) ExCo

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

Date: August 18, 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 going to support pre-recorded virtual presentations with live Q&A. All in-person presentations throughout the Conference will be recorded and made available for asynchronous viewing to virtual attendees as well. Those recordings will be available close of day Hobart time through the EventsAir conference app and will remain available for several months after the meeting. Additionally, all posters, both virtual and in-person, will be uploaded into the meeting app, each with its own chat room available. Virtual poster presenters will also have an option to include a short poster overview recording. Chats will remain open for both live and asynchronous Q&A with poster presenters.

Networking opportunities will also be offered through the conference app, creating space for global participants to meet, exchange ideas, and build collaborations. 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.

Status

Hybrid delivery is on track. Platform modules are confirmed, the attendee app is expected to be finalized by August 31st by the conference planners.

PSG Support for Meeting Access Updates

Virtual Hub grants. This opportunity supports local gatherings during conference week for researchers, students and conservationists unable to travel to Hobart. Applications closed August 16th.

Virtual registration awards. 46 requests received from 18 countries plus two US territories. Largest groups: United States (13), Argentina (7), Canada (4), Indonesia (4), Mexico and New Zealand (2 each), with single requests from Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Republic of Korea, Northern Mariana Islands, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Puerto Rico, South Africa and Sri Lanka. The geographic spread is exactly the reach the hybrid format was intended to deliver. Once selected, WSC will provide those offered free virtual registration a special link to register for the meeting.

Platform and app

The attendee app is expected ready by 31 August. Confirmed OnAIR modules: ePoster Gallery (carrying both in-person and virtual posters), Meeting Hub (single networking space for Hobart and remote delegates, particularly valuable for early-career researchers), Discussion Forums (asynchronous presenter Q&A before, during and after sessions), Live Polling, and In-App Messages. Gamification goals and badges are drafted. Social wall and discussion-room configuration is still being confirmed with the vendor.

Student presentation awards

Recorded student presentations will be judged during the week of 1–4 September. Q&A will not be scored. Nicholas Carlile has volunteered to lead this effort, the local committee will assist, and additional reviewers are being recruited.

ExCo Volunteers Needed

Applications for virtual registration support and hub event support are in. We need your help reviewing applications! We will be meeting at **noon PST this Friday** to review both sets of applications. If you are available, please let me know and I will send applications and additional details to you.

Volunteers are also needed for pre-conference video checks to ensure that every submitted presentation plays without any issues and is the correct length. This will be a virtual volunteer role the week before the conference.

Volunteers are also needed to help conduct virtual student presentation judging. This will happen virtually the week before the conference (September 1-4). There are 15 virtual student presentations and 5 posters that each need 3 judges.

Presenter: Please pass along the need for volunteers.

WSU Election Updates

Chair- Juliet Lamb

Vice chair- Ursula Ellenberg

Secretary- Anna Vallery

Treasurer- Wieteke Holthuijzen

Africa/Indian Ocean Rep- Anant Pande

Asia Rep: Akiko Shoji

Australasia Representative- Yuna Kim

North American Representative- Josh Adams

Europe Representative- Alasdair (Ally) Lemon

South American Rep: Patricia Serafini Updates

QUESTION: What are the dates for helping with the pre-conference video checks?

Treasurer's Report - Report #6

To: Pacific Seabird Group Executive Council

Prepared by: Julie Skoglund and Emily Penttila

Date: August 2026

Report: Treasurer's Update

Key Points & Updates

Account Balances (as of June 30, 2026):

- Neuberger Berman: \$478,108.49
- Axos Checking: \$202,529.09
- Marine Ornithology Bank Account: \$10,991.83
- Total Assets: \$691,629.41 — an increase of \$5,381.05 compared to the same period last year.
(See attached Balance Sheet.)

New Savings Account: PSG opened a new business savings account at Axos, the same bank that holds PSG's checking and MO accounts, to put idle checking funds to better use. The account earns 3.60% APY with no monthly fees. \$100,000 was transferred initially, with an additional \$50,000 planned to bring the total to \$150,000, which will earn roughly \$5,400 per year in interest that was previously sitting unused in checking. Funds transfer freely between checking and savings as needed. The account is open and already earning interest; it is not yet reflected in the balance sheet above since it was opened after the June 30 reporting period. As of today, the savings balance stands at \$100,145.58.

I let the chairs know before opening the account, and sent ExCo an email once it was set up.

PSG has no outstanding long-term liabilities.

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

1. Total revenue: \$194,740.69 (budgeted: \$98,152.86) – 198% of budget
2. Total expenditures: \$110,113.70 (budgeted: \$109,380.63) – 101% of budget
3. Net Operating Revenue: \$84,626.99 (budgeted: -\$11,227.77)
(See attached Budget vs. Actual report.)

Revenue is well ahead of budget, driven largely by a \$65,945 unrealized investment gain on the endowment, along with strong annual meeting sponsorship and Conservation Fund income. Expenditures are on target overall, though Former Chairs Fund grants (\$15,155 vs. \$5,000 budgeted) and MO copy editing (\$14,293 vs. \$11,250 budgeted) both ran over

Restricted Fund Balances (as of June 30, 2026):

- Conservation Fund: \$34,126.55
- Former Chairs Fund: \$6,636.97
- Lifetime Membership Fund: \$4,000.00
- Access Fund (Travel & Membership): \$4,400.10

The Former Chairs Fund balance remains reduced following this cycle's student research grant disbursements, made from existing fund balances in fulfillment of the fund's purpose. Replenishment through donations and restricted contributions will be important to sustain future grant cycles. Other restricted fund balances reflect normal activity.

The FY2027 budget development process is now underway. A request for input was sent to committee chairs managing restricted funds (Conservation, Access Fund/EID, Former Chairs Fund), with a separate request sent directly to Marine Ornithology. Ahead of the August ExCo meeting, I will send the draft FY2027 budget separately via email for everyone to review, with the basics covered at the meeting itself. This will leave a full month for input before final approval at the September meeting.

Endowment Fund — Q2 2026 Performance

The Q2 2026 endowment report reflects a fund value of \$544,079 as of June 30, 2026, before the FY25 withdrawal. Year-to-date net performance through Q2 is up 10.65%, with all three holdings posting gains — NGUAX up 5.76%, NPRTX up 19.32%, and NIQVX up 6.75% YTD. The 10-year CAGR through 2025 is 9.05%.

FY25 Withdrawal — Approved and Completed: The FY25 Publication Endowment withdrawal was approved by trustees Gary and David and has been executed and deposited. The final approved amount was \$24,092.40 (revised down from an earlier draft after removing the PSG website expense line), covering January 2025 honoraria (\$8,500), the MO contribution per the 2026 MO budget (\$8,000), and the 2025 MO activity deficit (\$15,592.40), less the \$8,000 MO budget reimbursement. This exceeds the recommended maximum withdrawal of \$23,558.76 by \$533.64, attributable to the MO activity deficit.

Endowment Committee – Trustee Governance (Update)

David Irons has stepped into the trustee role previously held by Ken and is now onboarded. Julie, Don, Gary, and David met to orient David and align on next steps going forward. Gary's transition timeline is being managed by Don.

Upcoming Meetings

2027 Annual Meeting (British Columbia): Early deposits have been paid to secure venue and vendor commitments ahead of the FY2027 budget cycle, including a hotel deposit (~\$22,000), a meeting planner advance (~\$2,300), and a poster board rental deposit (~\$1,600 CAD). These are standard advance expenses, and ExCo has been notified as each was paid.

World Seabird Conference (WSC4): Of the \$10,000 Packard Foundation grant supporting WSC4, PSG is administering \$5,000 for watch parties and regional participation hubs. A small group is being formed to handle disbursement and vetting, which I've volunteered to be part of. The remaining \$5,000 is being administered directly by WSU as fiscal sponsor.

Upcoming or In-Progress Tasks

- Continue monthly bookkeeping, payments, and invoicing
- FY2026 tax filing complete
- FY2027 budget development in progress — draft sent to ExCo via email ahead of the August meeting for initial review, with a month for input before final approval at the September meeting
- Ongoing discussions:
 - Implementation of second endowment fund
 - Expanded permissible use of the publication endowment

 PSG Income Statement Oct2025-Jun2026.pdf

 PSG Balance Sheet as of 6-30-2026.pdf

 Copy of Q2 2026 Fund Performance Report.pdf

 Copy of Draft PSG_FY27_Budget_5 years.xlsx

Bank experience was streamlined and easy.

Seeking budget approval before next fiscal year, Oct 1, 2026.

August 18, 2026, Action Items

- The 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.
- 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 and group email lists, e.g. students.
- Convene leads of various PSG working groups to discuss coordinated needs, strategies, and opportunities for PSG support (Juliet, Patrick O'Hara, Brian Hoover).
- Put WSU Conference call for volunteers on PSG ListServ.
- MO PSG transition team will work with CSP to make a transition agreement and keep ExCo updated.
- Budget approval before next fiscal year, Oct 1, 2026.

The next meeting is anticipated to be in late September 2026.

Meeting adjourned: (8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)