

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 23 2026 PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP ANNUAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

23 FEBRUARY 2026 Conference Call

8:00-15:00 PT (Pacific Time)



Present: Dan Barton, Chair; Juliet Lamb, Past Chair; Don Lyons, Chair Elect; Allison Patterson, Secretary (Interim); Julie Skoglund, Treasurer; Scott Pearson, Vice-Chair for Conservation; Anne Schaefer, AK and Russia Regional Rep; Sarah Ann Thompson, Northern CA regional representative; Jim Howard, S. California/Latin America/Hawaii Regional Representative; Kerry Woo, Canada Rep; Ariel-Micaiah Heswall - Asia/Oceania Rep; Jerome Fort, EU/AF Representative; Julia Gulka, U.S. Non-Pacific regional rep; Alyssa Eby, Student Representative; [14]

Absent: Laura Bliss, Secretary (Parental leave); Ryan Carle, Washington/Oregon Regional Representative; [2]

Others present: Simba Chan (EASCC); Greg Spencer (NPAWG); Emily Runnels (PSG HELPS); Tabatha Cormier (incoming student rep); Brian Hoover; Kim Lato (Communications Committee); Anna Vallery (WSU Delegate); Tom Good (Code of Conduct Committee); Patrick O'Hara (PICES Delegate); Peter Hodum (TUPU TC); Jeff Costa (Vancouver 2027 LoCo); Justine Miller (Luana Events); Devid Duffy (Craig S Harrison Conservation Fund); Katie O'Reilly (Elections Committee);

* some members not able to attend whole meeting or all votes

ExCo Officers, Committee Leads, and other interested PSG members

***Indicates the need for a vote

Time (PT)	Item	Owner
0800	***Roll call, approve agenda, and review 01.26.26 action items	Juliet, Past Chair
0805	***Review and approve 01.26.26 minutes - Report #1	Allison Patterson, Secretary
0810	Past Chair Annual Report	Juliet, Past Chair
0920	Chair-elect and Scientific Program Chair's Annual Report	Don, Chair-Elect
0830	North Pacific Albatross Working Group Annual Report	Greg Spencer
0840	East Asian Seabird Conservation Committee Annual Report	Simba Chan
0850	Communications Committee Report	Kim Lato/Angie Trumbo
0900	Vice Chair for Conservation Annual Report	Scott Pearson
0910	Secretary Report	Allison Patterson, Secretary
0915	Student Representative Report	Alyssa Eby, Student Rep
0920	Elections Committee Report	Katie O'Reilly
0930	Break - 15 min	
0945	Treasurer's Report	Julie Skoglund, Treasurer
1000	Endowment Fund Report	Julie Skuglond
1010	Craig S Harrison Conservation Fund Report	Dave Duffy
1020	Membership Committee Report	Lauren Lecure
1030	HELPS Committee Report	Emily Runnels
1040	Corresponding Members Committee Report	Carlos Zavalaga
1050	Equity Inclusion and Diversity Committee Report	Sarah Guitart
1100	***PSG 2027 Vancouver Meeting - Proposal & Budget	Jeff Costa/ Justine Miller
1110	***PSG 2027 Vancouver Meeting - Event Coordinator Contract	Justine Miller
1120	Local Committee Reports	Don Lyons/ Ariel-Micaiah Heswall
1130	Break - 1 hour	
1230	Code of Conduct Committee Report	Tom Good/Derek Harvey
1240	Aleutian Tern Technical Committee Report	Jill Tengeres/Susan Oehlers
1250	Scripps Murrelet and Guadalupe Murrelet TC Report	Yuliana Bedolla/David Mazurkiewicz
1300	Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee Report	Lindsay Adrean/Bill McIver

Time (PT)	Item	Owner
1310	Tufted Puffin Technical Committee Report	Peter Hodum
1320	Ornithological Council Delegate Report	Amelia DuVall/ José Ramírez-Garofalo
1330	World Seabird Union Delegate Report	Marc Romano/Anna Vallery
1340	PICES Delegate Report	Patrick O'Hara
1400	***Review action items and adjourn	Dan, PSG Chair & Allison, Secretary

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

January 26, 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 Dan 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. - getting close, will send to chairs for review

Link to PSG 2025 Annual Report:

 2025 PSG Annual Reports.docx

02.23.2026 Meeting Details

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

Topic: PSG ExCo Annual Meeting

Time: Feb 23, 2026 08:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82445461561?pwd=xhaGp4lJmsloV3OemuVGzsEecQdS77.1>

Meeting ID: 824 4546 1561

Passcode: 683209

One tap mobile

+12532050468,,82445461561#,,,,*683209# US

+12532158782,,82445461561#,,,,*683209# US (Tacoma)

Join instructions

https://us06web.zoom.us/meetings/82445461561/invitations?signature=_VfAJqsGqO4ccdP-N0nJ2Y6xZSVxNpxRMdX5-XJHrSc

01.26.2026 Meeting Minutes

See attached document: [Minutes of the January 26 2026 PSG ExCo Meeting](#)

Agenda approved: (11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

North Pacific Albatross Working Group Annual Report

 [NPAWG 2025 Annual Report_PSG-ExCo Feb-2026.pdf](#)

Greg Spencer

Thank you for making time for me to share what is going on with albatross. We have a committee meeting going on this morning with updates on what is going on among WG members.

NPAWG was established over 15 years ago based on concerns with by-catch. There has been a strong focus on gaps in knowledge to address these concerns. In 2025 there was a lot of work reported for Marine National Monuments of the Pacific, especially Midway Atoll. There have been consistent counts of populations here in recent years. Albatrosses are doing well in the Hawaiian Islands.

Greg reviewed highlights for conservation, monitoring and research from the NPAWG report.

Success of NPAWG can be attributed to the collaborative efforts of all members and PSG.

DL - In interests of time, please reach out to Greg if you have any questions about work at NPAWG

East Asian Seabird Conservation Committee Annual Report

 [Report of the East Asian Seabird Conservation Committee.docx](#)

Simba Chan

Simba reviewed summaries from the EASCC report related to avian influenza outbreaks and actions and Chinese Crested Tern tracking, conservation and concerns related to Avian Influenza

Having more virtual and hybrid meetings could increase participation for East Asian seabird researchers.

DL - Please reach out to Simba if you have any questions. The ESACC meeting is happening today at 6 pm PST

Past Chair Annual Report

 [PSG Past Chair Report 2026.docx](#)

Juliet Lamb

The primary role of the past chair is to lead the awards committee.

Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA) - Four nominations were received for this award. Nominations were reviewed by the committee and we selected David Irons for the LAA. David will give plenary on the last day of this year's meeting. Worked with local members in Alaska to put together an in-person event at UAA. First hybrid LAA award presentation. Other nominees were also deserving of the award and talked with nominators about how to improve nominations for future years.

Special Achievement Award (SAA) - No nominations this year.

Last year's LAA winner David Anderson will do plenary for joint PSG/WSU hybrid day at WSC next year.

All applicants for student travel awards were funded for this year's virtual meeting.

We are giving out student research grants this year. We sent notices through all PSG communications channels. This is funded by the former chairs fund. There were 12 applications and we are giving out 5 awards of up to \$3k. We will announce award grantees in the meeting on Friday. Very high caliber of students for these awards.

Student presentation awards - Judges were recruited through conference registration. We had more interest than needed, which is great. We tried to choose judges who did not have other volunteer commitments. We are giving gift certificates for winners of this year's awards.

Please start thinking about next year's nominations for LAA and SAA.

SP - Do previous nominations for LAA have to be re-nominated for the next year?

JL - Yes, I have notified nominators and will plan to follow up with them during next year's nominations.

DB - I have had to step back from Chair duties this year. I want to acknowledge Juliet and Don who have stepped up incredibly to help manage PSG. I appreciate everyone's support in dealing with this situation.

Chair-elect and Scientific Program Chair's Annual Report

 Chair-elect report for ExCo 2026 02 23.docx

Don Lyons

Most of what I would say here are going to be covered in my opening remarks for the conference or covered in the Local Committee section today.

Thank you to the Local committee for their work in getting this meeting together.

Secretary Report

 PSG Secretary Annual Report 2025

Allison Patterson summarized the Secretary report

DL - Thank you for stepping into a high demand role and supporting ExCo through this period.

Student Representative Report

 PSG 2026 Student Representative Report.docx

Alyssa Eby

This was my second and last year as the student representative. The bulk of my duties involve preparing student activities for the annual meeting. This includes the Auktion, virtual field trips, mentorship session (14 pairings,

one-to-one), and the ECS panel. I am working on updating the handbook for Tabatha who will be taking over the student rep position.

We had higher submissions for virtual field trips than expected. Seven field trips are happening this year. Some had to withdraw because of time constraints putting together footage.

Last year the auktion raised \$3200. This year we expect to raise fewer funds this year because it is a virtual meeting. I will be coordinating with donors and winners to make shipments after the meeting. The virtual online auktion has raised some issues with who pays for shipping, could be better to have the buyer pay for shipping in the future.

Could work on ways to increase student engagement throughout the year and engage with EID committee.
Will work to on-board the new student representative, Tabatha Cormier.

Elections Committee Report

 Report_PSG_Elections_2026.docx

Katie O'Reilly

Thank you to the newly elected members who could join the meeting today. We had some difficulty getting multiple candidates for all positions, but did fill every seat. Thank you to Tom Good for taking on the Chair responsibilities for a second time.

We did not quite reach the 50% membership voting threshold that we would like. Survey Monkey worked well for running the election. Adding a question about which regions members belong to helped with directing votes to the current region. Keeping track of who is a current member when running the election has been a challenge.

Thank you for helping us identify new candidates for the elections.

JL - Is it difficult to get people to run again if they were unsuccessful in a previous year?

KO - This is a challenge, especially for the chair role. Candidates do not always want to run multiple years in a row

JL - Thank you all for putting yourselves forward for these positions

KO - We have had some people self nominate in the ballot, so this is a useful question to include in the election to identify candidates for the next year.

DL - Thank you for your role in keeping this organization going by recruiting people to fill these positions

KL - People who did not get elected could volunteer for the communications committee which is looking for volunteers.

KO - I will follow up with those people to ask for involvement with CC

Motion to approve the member-nominated candidates to the 2026-2027 PSG Executive Council. The 2026-2027 ExCo members are the following, assuming the responsibilities of the positions below on 28 Feb 2026:

Past Chair: Dan Barton

Chair: Don Lyons

Chair-Elect: Tom Good

Vice-Chair for Conservation: Scott Pearson

Treasurer: Julie Skoglund

Secretary: Laura Bliss

Alaska and Russia Regional Representative: Anne Schaefer

Washington and Oregon Regional Representative: Ryan Carle

Northern California Regional Representative: Sarah Ann Thompson

Southern California, Latin America, and Hawaii Regional Representative: Jim Howard

Canada Regional Representative: Kerry Woo

Asia and Oceania Regional Representative: Ariel-Micaiah Heswall

Europe and Africa Regional Representative: Jerome Fort

Non-Pacific US States Regional Representative: Julia Gulka

Student Representative: Tabatha Cormier

Agenda approved: (11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

Communications Committee Report

 2025 PSG Communications Report.docx

Kim Lato

Kim reviewed key points from the Communications report. We are actively seeking to recruit new committee members. Especially for managing the Twitter and Instagram accounts, which are not currently assigned to anyone. Please direct anyone interested in volunteering to us.

JL - Thank you for all your work. You are doing an amazing job for such a busy committee. There have been conversations about having regional email lists. Continuing to look into this, but want to resolve existing email issues first. Hope to implement regional lists within the next year.

KL - We hired Carrie Kovalick this year with left over funds. Having Carrie has been critical for getting everything needed done for the annual meeting. It would be extremely helpful to have a part-time communications coordinator for the next meeting.

DL - We are working on ways to continue funding for this position

KL - I can send around details on PS editor responsibilities

Action Item - Recruit editor for Pacific Seabirds and volunteers for the communications committee (joint between committee and chairs)

Action Item - Develop region specific email lists

Vice Chair for Conservation Annual Report

 2026 Conservation Committee Annual Report_2.docx

Scott Pearson

Thank you to the communications committee for all your hard work, and really happy to hear that list serve submissions have been following code of conduct.

- 8 letters went out this year, including letters that we signed onto
- Covered a wide range of topics
- Still learning this role and looking forward to getting more done this year
- Two letters in the pipeline this year
- Work on closing the loop on letters better
- Would like to get regional representatives more involved with letters
- Have a letter drafted to remind membership about the role of conservation committee
- Working to be more consistent in process for approval of letters in 2026

JL - I appreciate your interest in involving the regional reps in letter writing/approval. Making a pipeline between members, regional reps, and the conservation committee. We also have these working groups that are in touch with issues. Maybe we can create a stronger channel for communication between the WGs and the conservation committee. Thank you for all of your work on this. Excited to find a way to get members more involved.

Treasurer's Report

 [Treasurer's Report 2026 annual meeting.pdf](#)

 [PSG Income Statement Oct 2025 - Jan 2026.pdf](#)

 [PSG Balance Sheet as of 1-31-2026.pdf](#)

Julie Skoglund

Julie reviewed the treasurer's report and income statement refer to these reports for details. PSG remains in a strong financial position. General fund reserves are still meeting the policy of having 3 years of operating expenses.

FY25 - reports pre-meeting financials, not all major meeting expenses have been paid, there will be updates post-meeting. The annual endowment withdrawal has been submitted.

Structural work:

- Continued tightening of tracking of financials, especially with Marine Ornithology
- Improving historical accounting of the endowment fund
- Improving continuing reporting on the restricted funds and overall PSG operations
- Working with Emily on these efforts, whose operational work has been very efficient allowing some additional work on improvements to financial management
- External accounting firm continues to prepare 990 for continued separation of duty

Restricted funds

- Restricted funds have been awarded as intended.
- Access fund is lower because funds have been distributed, will replenish with some fundraising from this meeting

This is my second year as treasurer. In the first year I focused a lot of effort on the joining meeting. I was still learning this position and did not have a handle on the work that has already been done on this topic.

The desire to expand the purposes of the endowment was advanced by the previous treasurer and chairs. Now I have had more time to understand what has been done and the goals of this move. I have met with the chairs on this topic and expect to move forward on this. I am looking into the legal ramifications of this move and determining what level of legal advice we would need to make this happen.

DL - In terms of changing the goals of the Endowment Fund. Are there factors/issues that are driving the timeline for this?

JS - There are no strict timelines on this. The intention was to allow more flexibility in how funds can be spent, partly this is related to the strong performance of the endowment in recent years.

JL - This could include finding a way to make long-term funds available for the communications coordinator position. With in-person meetings there would also be a desire to tap into funds to support travel awards.

JS - Some of my motivation in taking a second term as treasurer is to help move this initiative forward.

JS - With the restricted funds and budget planning, I would like to engage more of the committees in this process and what is available. Also to help identify goals for fund raising. It would be good to have committees help set goals for

funds. The last two meetings have been successful financially, which creates an opportunity to engage on planning for future goals

JS - We are still looking for a new trustee. Gary Collar is stepping down. He helped complete the Endowment Fund report and is willing to assist with Q1 reporting. If anyone knows someone interested in taking on this role, we are urgently looking to fill this role.

Endowment Fund Report

 2025 Annual Endowment Report Final.pdf

Julie Skoglund

Julie reviewed the Endowment Fund report. This report is for 2025 in its entirety. The report shows the distribution of how funds are invested. There was volatility in the early part of the year, but annual performance was strong. All three investment funds are reporting positive results for the fiscal year.

The withdrawal this year will be just over \$24K, slightly above the 6% allowed amount. This is mostly related to expenses at Marine Ornithology which were higher than expected. This variance in withdrawal will allow us to fully cover the publications costs for this year. One of the contractors responsible for journal layout billed for three years of past work. We have made a requirement that they bill manually going forward.

SP - Have we considered moving to Environmental, Social and Governance Funds (ESG) for the endowment?

Julie - This is not something we have considered. Can you send me an email about this topic and I can raise this question with the trustees? We could look at shifting the investment strategy for the endowment fund.

SP - I think as an organization, it would be good to consider if our investments are aligned with our priorities.

JS - I have been thinking about these issues as well, so it would be good to have this conversation as a group.

AP - Would it be possible to have a session to explain to Exco how all the financials work so that they can give informed advice?

JS - Now that I am more familiar with this role, I hope to engage more with everyone about financial management. Please contact me if you have any thoughts or questions about the endowment.

Craig S Harrison Conservation Fund Report

 Harrison Conservation Committee 2025.docx

David Duffy

Quiet year. One successful and exciting application. If you know someone doing conservation work, please encourage them to apply.

One of our donors is willing to contribute more, but they would like to see a match from PSG. Fund has the potential to do good things. AOU has a fund for all Latin America and Caribbean, but not specific to seabirds. Hope that PSG can fill this niche

DL - We are looking to get together with you and Craig to strategize about funding and how to advertise funding. Have an existing action item, will commit to trying to move this forward

DD - will hop in and out of this meeting, can send me chats if you have questions

Membership Committee Report

 2026 PSG Membership Report.docx

Lauren Lecure was unavailable for the meeting, please review report for details on committee activities

HELPS Committee Report

 December 2025 PSG HELPS Report

Emily Runnels

HELPS is a program to encourage the active participation of the next generation in PSG. This is done by trying to remove barriers to membership for students and early career scientists.

Over 130 memberships have been provided since Fall 2020.

Emily Runnels and Sonya Pastran have taken over as coordinators.

HELPS is now supported through the PSG Access fund. We are now supporting 30 memberships per year. This program has been working well. We collaborate extensively with the membership and communications committees. We try to profile PSG HELPS members on our social media and making sure they are aware of ways they can get involved with PSG.

There are opportunities to get involved with PSG Helps and will take volunteers. We are looking to expand the programming that we offer to support students. If you have ideas for things that we could do, please let us know.

JL - Do you notice any geographic gaps in awareness about HELPS? Can regional reps help with awareness?

ER - Majority of applicants are from the US, but also Canada, Poland, Vanuatu. We did not do much advertising this year. We wanted to see how the 30 member cap was working. Additional outreach is planned for the coming year.

SP - Is there an application process? How do people get involved? Are there concerns that people who need help do not ask?

ER - We have a very low bar for application. There are no requirements to prove financial need. There is a committee that considers applications. Decisions are primarily based on the scientific focus of the applicant (on seabirds) and that applicants have less than 5 years of involvement with PSG.

Corresponding Members Committee Report

 Report 2026 Corresponding Member subcommittee PSG.docx

Equity Inclusion and Diversity Committee Report

 PSG_EIDReport2026.docx

Committee leads were unable to attend

PSG 2027 Vancouver Meeting Budget

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 holiday¹ (Family Day) in British Columbia*)
- If held at a university, during Reading Week – varies between institutions
 - University of British Columbia (UBC): February 14-18² ([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

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

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

- [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)

See attached document: [X PSG 27 - Draft Budget.xlsx](#)

Justine Miller and Jeff Costa

Vancouver is the preferred location with more options for accommodations and venues. This is also where most LoCo members live, which would simplify planning.

Budget is based on hotel accommodations, because universities are in session at the meeting time these are not a viable option.

Projected registration is based on the Costa Rica rates. Draft budget is based on proposed rates #2.

We are still in the preliminary stages of identifying a location, so there is not a suggestion yet. LoCo is working on location, dates, field trips, logos.

JM - Goal with this budget is to provide estimates on costs to host a meeting in Vancouver so that we can get approval to go ahead with planning. Planning for this meeting is going to be contingent on sponsorship. We expect that \$30K in sponsorship is needed for this meeting, with existing Packard sponsorship we are ahead on fundraising for this plan.

KW - Do we think that university location options are viable at this time of year?

JM - This is why we are now looking at a hotel based option for this budget.

JL - Is Canadian federal government approval for attendance likely to be an issue

JC - Conference approval for federal workers is likely still going to be constrained.

DL - Is budget and planning in USD?

JM - Yes

KW - Based on this budget, I think this meeting will be feasible.

JC - Justine is working through our venue options (hotels and conference centers)

Motion to approve PSG 2027 Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC: (11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

PSG 2027 Vancouver Meeting - Event Coordinator Proposal & Contract

Luana Events

44-672 Kahinani Place

Kaneohe, HI 96744

808.561.1495

Justine@luanaevents.com

Date Submitted:

January 5, 2026

Project:

2027 Pacific Seabird Group Conference

Qualifications:

Over 20 years of experience planning, coordinating and designing events in Hawai'i (Oahu, Kauai and Hawaii Island) and the continental United States, Mexico and Costa Rica.

Successful coordination of both large and small scaled weddings, fundraising events, corporate functions, conferences, competition sporting events, retail events and grand openings.

Previous Event Coordinator for 10 previous PSG Conference's (most recently 2024, joint conference 2025 and virtual conference 2026) held in California, Hawai'i, Oregon, Washington, Mexico and Costa Rica.

Rate:

\$8,700.00 plus travel (hotel, airfares, car (if needed) and Hawaii State Tax (4.712 %)

Planner will work with local committee to plan the 2027 PSG Conference include the following services:

- Work with the committee and program chairs to develop conference schedule
- Budget creation and updating
- Assist in the development of the sponsorship packages, letter and donor spreadsheet
- Develop the local committee due date checklist

- Work with the local committee on ordering, designing of conference merchandise and swag items
- Coordinate monthly meetings with local committee
- Assist with registration setup, questions and updates
- Negotiating service contracts with vendors
- Work with all vendors to finalize conference day details
- Manage timeline for all vendors
- Contract hotel and arrange a room block
- Manage onsite registration and check in during conference
- Manage merchandise sales throughout conference
- Work with Silent Auction Chair to facilitate auction setup
- Coordinate Student Travel Award distribution
- Point of contact for volunteers on opportunities and scheduling assignments
- Planner will provide an event assistant onsite throughout the conference

To secure services a 25% deposit will be due at the time the contract is signed. This deposit is non-refundable and deducted from the total balance due. If additional services are needed hours will be billed at the discounted rate of \$75 an hour.

Project Completion Date:

Event will be held on February 2027 (TBD date) in Vancouver, Canada. Wrap up meeting to be held within 30 days of event.

 [PSG 27 - LE Proposal.pdf](#)

 [PSG 27 - LE Contract.pdf](#)

Motion to accept event coordinator proposal and contract for 2027 Annual Meeting: (11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

Local Committee Reports

See Chair Elect Report and PSG 2027 Vancouver Meeting Proposals above

This years meeting is in sound financial shape. We saved considerable expense by not contracting someone to manage the conference platform. Carrie Kovalick has taken that role and we will dedicate her hours for the meeting to the meeting budget. There was some flexibility in how funds raised can be allocated to help with these costs.

Fundraising for this meeting was over \$15K, which helped with the budget. We budgeted for 150 people registering, but we had more than 180 people registered (some of these fees were waived). This meeting is financially secure due to this strong registration. Costs for most waived registrations are coming from restricted funds, which do not impact the budget.

The real advantage of this virtual meeting is that people from under-represented regions are able to attend. Including China, Australia, Europe, Russia. We will hear from a broader geographic scope than usual.

JL - There were some issues with employers requiring a program ahead of time to register, how did this impact registration?

DL - There have been issues with US and Canada government employees getting approvals. There were some people who had to withdraw for these reasons. This was probably balanced by the people who could attend from other regions.

DL - Some of the pacing for planning an on-line meeting were a surprise relative to an in-person meeting. Usually PSG is more flexible on the abstract deadline, which was not possible with the virtual format. This could be something to consider if we do future virtual meetings. This information should be communicated to incoming chairs.

Auckland 2028

Ariel-Micaiah Heswell

A brief summary of the current status of your committee/group with emphasis on what has been completed, is in process, not yet started and/or issues you encountered and solutions.

- Auckland 2028 - still on track, I have received the Letter of Support from the PSG EXCO. Tataki Auckland has reserved the University of Auckland venue for February 2028, but the exact conference dates, and specific building venues at the University, as well as the location of the dinner and field trips, need to be confirmed - potential locations are already compiled. This is aimed to be sorted out by the end of 2026 in preparation for 2028. The members of the local organising committee will also be finalised by the end of 2027.
- Communications with current PSG members in Asia/Oceania have improved; however, I am still slightly restricted on how to contact the current members in the region, and it would be beneficial to have updated information about current members. Maybe there could be an email address for all members in the Asia/Oceania regions, which can be frequently updated? Also, I tried having a Slack channel for Asia/Oceania members however, that did not seem to work or reach everyone so I am sticking with emails for communications.

Thank you for the letter of support which has helped get things started. Working with Justine to secure a venue and dates.

Code of Conduct Committee Report

 Annual COCC Report to EXCO February 2026.pdf

Tom Good

Currently have six members and no new cases came in this year. This can be attributed to greater understanding in the community and moderation of the list serve. We had a meeting in January to check in that committee members were all still willing and able to serve. A new member will be trained on duties. We discussed another ExCo training session in the coming year.

A goal for this year is to review terms of reference to confirm that these are in alignment with all other guidelines.

DL - It is great to have a short report from this committee. Combined with the report from Communications that the list serve did not need to reject any submissions indicates a good cultural direction for PSG.

JL - Would be good to get this training session scheduled with ExCo soon.

Aleutian Tern Technical Committee Report

 2025_PSG_ATTTC_Annual_Report.pdf

Committee leads were not able to join

Scripps Murrelet and Guadalupe Murrelet TC Report

[W SCMUGUMU_2025_tech_report_18Feb25_final.docx](#)

Committee leads were not able to join

Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee Report

[W 2025MMTC_AnnualReport.docx](#)

Committee leads were not able to join

Tufted Puffin Technical Committee Report

[W 2025 TUPU Technical Committee Report.docx](#)

Peter Hodum

We met this morning from 10-1130. The committee did not have a chance to meet last year with the meeting in CR. This was our first meeting since 2024.

Theresea Berg has advanced the conservation genomics project that was initiated through the TUPU committee. This is an on-going project where we are soliciting samples that can contribute here.

TUPU Conservation Coordinator has been appointed through Audubon, which has helped to initiate more meetings.

Mark Hipfner noted that TUPU at Triangle Island have shifted the initiation of breeding by several weeks at this site. It suggests that changing marine conditions are impacting this colony. Put forth the idea of a collaborative project to investigate phenology across the range. There was interest in collaborating to better understand what is going on. Because RHAU share this range and co-occur on many islands, it would be interesting to look at phenology for both species together.

DL - Thank you for the overview. Nice to hear the interest in the phenology question across the range. From PSGs perspective it is nice to hear there is an initiative to work across the range. Also interesting to think about other Alcids that have shifted phenology, COMU are nesting later at many sites with BAEA predation

JL - Does anyone from committees or delegates have ideas of how PSG can take on a greater role with some of these threatened species, especially given the reductions occurring at the federal government for US and Canada.

SP - Burrow nesting seabirds in general are difficult to monitor. We could consider how to collaborate among working groups to monitor these species. PSG could help spearhead collaboration among different research groups.

DL - Within Oregon groups have gotten together to establish puffin priorities. This has since been adopted by the state of Oregon as a monitoring program for TUPU

JL - Can we use working groups to foster collaboration for working across regions/species/research groups?

PH - Having meetings between the leads of the WG may help to identify and push forward collaboration opportunities.

PO - Perhaps PSG can play a role in identifying knowledge gaps that are not being addressed by governments, like what is happening with forage communities and climate change.

DL - I've always admired how the Alaska National Wildlife Refuges prepare an annual report of what happened across colonies and understand what was happening at a broader scale. Perhaps that could be a useful model for bringing together information across our region.

SP - Tom Good is involved with reporting on conditions in the California current, so there could be some large scale reporting.

TG - What we are planning right now are measures related just to productivity, but there are other metrics that relate to seabirds that are out there.

PO - Is there PSG presence at this meeting?

<https://meetings.pices.int/meetings/international/2026/pelagic/scope>

DL - Not officially, but there could be members who are involved.

JL - I can help you post about this on the list serve to find out.

AS - NOAA puts together ecosystem status reports each year for Alaska reports. These include information on oceanography and fisheries.

PO - It would be useful to know better what is going on within the PSG community to understand what is happening in forage communities across the range.

DL - This sounds like a great symposium opportunity for the next meeting. This would be a way for PSG as an organization to support this issue

PO/JL - Add an action item about convening leads of working groups to discuss coordinated needs, strategies, and opportunities for PSG support

Ornithological Council Delegate Report

 OC Annual Report to PSG 2025

Committee leads were not able to join

World Seabird Union Delegate Report

 Feb 2026 PSG ExCo Report from WSU Delegates.docx

Anna Vallery

Our report is mostly about the WSC happening in September and PSG is co-hosting the hybrid day of the meeting. The last day of the conference will be hybrid for people who cannot attend in person to present. It will be Sept 10th in North America. We are still working on some networking events. See the report for details on registration. We are looking for people that would be attending virtually who would be interested in helping with organization.

DL - What is the intersection between the WSU budget and the PSG budget for this hybrid day meeting?

AV - The discussion several months ago were that WSU and PSG would split costs and revenue from this day 50/50.

JL - We may still need to figure out how the Packard funding plays into this. We want that funding to go towards travel and accessibility of the meeting. This is beyond what was originally in the budget, so we still need to figure this out.

AV - The budget was approved by ExCo at the start of this. I can look up these numbers. Based on registration, we expect this to be revenue positive. There is also expectation that as travel awards are announced, some people will switch to virtual attendance.

JL/AV - WSU is covering the upfront costs of the meeting, so if it is profitable there will be no costs for PSG.

DL - Does in-person registration include the hybrid day?

AV - Yes, registration is included. We are looking for ideas on how to make the hybrid day more appealing for those attending in person.

DL - Will there be enough presence from ExCo to have an in-person annual meeting. Not many people indicated they expect to go so it may not be possible to hold an in person meeting.

DL - Thank you Anna for all your work facilitating this meeting.

PICES Delegate Report

The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (known as PICES) held its annual meeting in Yokohama, Japan, 8-14 November 2025, with the overarching theme “Innovative Approaches and Applications to Foster Resilience in North Pacific Ecosystems”. The meeting emphasized updating scientific approaches to address rapid climate change, and highlighted interdisciplinary, collaborative, and actionable science with the integration of local and indigenous knowledge (<https://meetings.pices.int/publications/Briefings/PICES-2025-Briefing.pdf>). This was the largest meeting in PICES history with over 600 participants from the core North Pacific countries (Russia, China, Japan, Korea, Canada, and USA), as well as other countries including representatives from island nations in the South Pacific. Unfortunately, many of our colleagues from the USA were unable to participate in this meeting because of furlough imposed as a result of a lapse in appropriations. One of the largest sessions explored ecosystem changes from both climate change and human activity, and several presentations described the increased frequency, intensity, and persistence of marine heatwaves, and how they are affecting coastal communities in the Western Pacific particularly during the 2023 marine heatwave. Our section – Marine Birds and Mammals – convened a workshop “Response of Top Predators to Unusual Oceanographic, Climatic and Anthropogenic Events in the North Pacific” with Drs Jennifer Provencher and Vladimir Burkanov as invited speakers, and a topic session (in collaboration with PICES/ICES – International Council for Exploration of the Seas – working group on Sustainable Pelagic Forage Communities) “Understanding the linkages between forage species and top predators and how they may affect resilience in North Pacific ecosystems”. Both the workshop and the topic session were well attended, and generated excellent discussion (for more information feel free to contact Patrick O’Hara, or consult the PICES annual meeting website: <https://meetings.pices.int/meetings#annual>). The next annual meeting will be hosted in Nanaimo from 24-30 October 2026, with the theme title “Actionable Science for a Changing Ocean”. Our section will again lead a workshop (in collaboration with a PICES advisory panel on scientific communications) and topic session (in collaboration with the PICES section on Climate Change Effects on Marine Ecosystems, and the Physical Oceanography and Climate Committee) PICES advisory panel – SciComm), with the workshop title “Stop Making Posters Nobody Reads: How to Make Your Science Stand Out” and a topic session “Oceanographic change and predator–prey dynamics: Emerging drivers of human–wildlife conflict”. The workshop this year will be a hands on training session open to all 2026 PICES Annual Meeting participants.

JL - You mentioned there was science you saw at an Asian meeting that you would miss otherwise. Can you expand on that?

PO - There were presentations on local conditions that we do not usually see. For example observations of changes in local eddy patterns that are changing under climate change.

JL - Are there any takeaways that would be useful for planning our Auckland meeting?

PO - We share species that migrate across the Pacific. If these meetings can help us better understand the challenges these species face in these other regions could help us understand the trends we are seeing.

DL - Will there be an opportunity to advertise PSGs next meeting at PICES?

PO - There would be. We could have PSG participation in the meeting.

DL - If you see opportunities for us to increase our communication and profile with PICES before the meeting that would be great. Please bring back any opportunities to increase communication between our groups.

PO - Lets connect on this over the next week.

February 23, 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 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, draft will be sent for review soon.
- Recruiting an editor for Pacific Seabirds and volunteers for the communications committee. (Chairs and Communications Committee)
- Develop region specific email lists.
- Schedule a Code of Conduct training session for ExCo before the summer field seasons start (Tom Good)
- 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: (11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)