

World Seabird Union Transition Team Conference Call
Monday 24 October, 2011 at 22:00 (GMT)
and Thursday 27 October, 2011 at 16:00 GMT

Name	Initials	Oct 24	Oct 27	Representing
Dave Irons, Chair	DI	A	A	Circumpolar Seabird Group (CBird)
John Croxall, Vice-Chair	JC	R		
Liliana Ayala	LA			Peruvian Assn for the Conservation of Nature
Kees Camphuysen	KC		R	Dutch Seabird Group
Nicholas Carlile	NC	R		Australasian Seabird Group
Steve Copsey	SC			Royal Naval Birdwatching Society
Peter Dann	PD	R		Australasian Seabird Group
Stephan Garthe	SG		R	European Seabirds at Sea Group
Jessica Hardesty-Norris	JHN			American Bird Conservancy
Annette Henry	AH		R	Seabirds.net
Grant Humphries	GH	A		Seabirds.net Committee
Pat Jodice	PJ	A		Pacific Seabird Group
Ben Lascelles	BL		R	BirdLife International, Global Seabird Programme
Matthieu Le Corre	MLC			Indian Ocean Seabird Group
Ron LeValley	RL		A	PSG Treasurer
Carles Carboneras	CC		A	Medmaravis
Russell Wynn	WR		A	The Seabird Group
Melanie Steinkamp	MS		A	NW Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative
Ben Sullivan	BS		R	BirdLife International, Global Seabird Programme
Graeme Taylor	GT			Dept. of Conservation, New Zealand
George Wallace	GW		A	American Bird Conservancy
Ross Wanless	RW		R	African Seabird Group
Yutaka Watanuki	YW	R		Japanese Seabird Group
Jennifer Wheeler	JW		A	Waterbird Conservation of the Americas, Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds
Pablo Yorio	PY		R	Argentine Seabird Group
Marischal De Armond	MD	A	A	Secretariat

A – Attended, R - Regrets

AGENDA/MINUTES

Call to Action

DI called the 24 Oct meeting to order at 20:08 GMT

DI called the 27 Oct meeting to order at 16:05 GMT

Oct 27 – DI welcomed new representatives from The Seabird Group, Russell Wynn (replacing Norman Ratcliffe) and Medmaravis' Carles Carboneras (replacing Xavier Montbaillu).

Outstanding Action Items & New Business

1. Establishment of World Seabird Union

1.1 Incorporation and 1.2 Legal Aspects

Oct 24 & 27 – DI updated the status of conversations and work done to date on incorporation, as follows:

He approached an organization that provides assistance and guidance in Association affairs and registration and was complimentary about the work done to date on the proposed structure and organization of the WSU. He did offer the following primary comments:

- Our submission should include a business plan with a particular focus on what we are all about, where the funds to operate the society and its activities will come from and how they will be raised. Will we have our own fundraising arm?
- We will need to develop a set of bylaws & articles of incorporation
- We can submit our application and register in any state we wish. (DI suggested it would be done in Alaska unless a compelling reason exists to do so in another state)
- Incorporation is fairly quick and easy and can be done in a day, with incorporation being approved fairly quickly. Subsequently, filing for and receiving approval on 501C non-profit status with IRS can take +/- 6 mos.
- Once applications have been submitted and approved, annual recording keeping needs to be done and annual tax returns must be filed

24 Oct – Based on responses to date to DI’s pre-circulation of the draft documents for society incorporation support to incorporate has been received from PY, NC, PD, AH MS, DI, JC, RW and DI. During the meeting GH added his support to the recommendation and PJ abstained.

27 Oct – No additional comments were provided regarding DI’s draft incorporation documents, however the following questions and discussion ensued around incorporation in general:

- CC asked how incorporation will integrate with existing organizations.
- DI WSU is set up as a number of organizations coming together to complete objectives that individual organizations cannot complete by themselves. Members of the WSU are the liaisons between WSU and their organization.
- GW WSU suggested clauses may need to be developed to properly represent how individual organizations marks and logos are used in conjunction with WSU activities
- JW need to clarify exact reason for incorporation – i.e. to enhance fundraising and other activities that individual organizations cannot do alone.
- MS indicated that WSU can secure funds that are not available to individual organizations.
- MD indicated potential primary objectives are science and research collaboration and standards and fundraising.
- RL clarified that membership is by organization not individual.

All in attendance who had not previously provided feedback (i.e. CC, RW, RL, GW, JW) were in agreement to move forward with incorporation.

ACTION: Oct 27 - Based on results from both calls, DI will pursue incorporation based on GW/MS backgrounder and assistance as needed on a consultative basis with the Association expert he has been working with to date. MS volunteered to assist in pursuing this incorporation.

1.3 Financial aspects

24 & 27 Oct – DI reported that the books have been closed on 1st WSC and \$59,606 remains. Per the PSG minutes from Hokkaido, these funds are to be used for on-going initiatives related to WSC/WSU. DI is involved in discussions with PSG on access and use of these funds.

1.4 Representational aspects

As an organization of organizations it is important that member groups confirm their participation with the WSU initiative. Each confirmed member organization is to have a single representative seat at the table and is to confirm their representative’s contact name. Optionally, they can identify an alternate contact. All member organizations will be given a short profile on the WSU website complete with their logo, website address, information on their member numbers and their geographic representation.

ACTION: 27 Oct - MD to request each member organization provide the names and contact information and profile information on their organization for use on the WSU website and other appropriate applications/uses.

2. World Seabird Conference

2.1 Establishment of “search committee” for WSC2

24 Oct PJ noted that JC has received an expression of interest from South Africa. Furthermore, The Seabird Group has indicated they are not in a position to present a bid at this time. He also noted that PY has suggested that a South American option is unlikely at this time. Other areas to explore include Australia/New Zealand. MD noted that he has been in touch with a Tourism Bureau in Norway who is interested in hosting in conjunction with Norwegian members who participated in WSC1. It was felt that interest may be low due to an unclear expectations of the host organization which, with existing WSC planning committees and the work of the conference secretariat would put these commitments in a better context. Because of these supports the role of a local host is not as onerous as one may currently think.

ACTION: 24 Oct – PJ and MD to develop a one page overview outlining general terms and commitments of a local host working in conjunction with the WSC standing committees (i.e. Scientific, Student Awards et al) and the conference secretariat.

2.2 Collation/editing of WSC1 Handbook on how to put on a WSC

24 & 27 Oct – no updates

3. WSC Legacy developments

3.1 Seabirds.net

24 Oct - GH reported that due to a lack of technical experts delaying progress to date, he approached a NZ based company Dragon Fly for support. They are currently involved in similar work and had expressed interest in leading the development for Seabirds.net. DI circulated their two-phase development proposal for prior review. Each phase has been substantially discounted to \$5000 each. Phase one would be for personnel directory, login security and updating existing website, plus 3 days of training for Grant to help support committee involvement and on-going site work. Phase 1 would complete by Dec 31. Phase 2 is related to the interconnectedness of the disparate databases that would reside on the site. Call participants were strongly in favour of moving forward with this proposal as it ensures that this part of WSU’s product offerings (the other one is the WSC) needs to be fully functional, easily accessed and totally integrated as it will become the “regular” connection with the researcher community and the proper technical aspects of site outstrips the technical proficiencies of the Seabirds.net volunteers. Furthermore, the proposal supports the training of the volunteers to manage on-going maintenance once these functions are launched.

27 Oct – There were no additional comments from participants and approval was given to move forward as outlined.

ACTION: Oct 27 - DI to ask GH to move forward with this proposal

3.2 Seabird colony databases (Monitoring and Register)

Oct 24 & 27 DI is recommending an agreement was provided that the format of this database follow that of the Circumpolar Seabird Registry and should be named the Global Seabird Colony Portal. This portal would include the Global Seabird Colony Register (GSCR), Population Trends and Productivity Indices. The challenge now is to populate it. To this end Birdlife Intl has agreed to provide access to data they have on important seabird areas and lists of seabird colonies. This will be added to the database. DI also indicated that he has some funds to support data entry.

CC recognized the importance in having the databases populated as a way of having government agencies understanding its value and then adding their data. DI suggested any organization or agency providing data can also be given the option to include their logo on the site.

ACTION: Member organizations to encourage their members to add seabird colony data to the site. Data can be added individually or through links to existing databases that outside organizations may have and maintain.

ACTION: Member organizations to provide or assist in providing logos to DI of outside agencies providing data to the site

3.3 Seabird tracking databases

24 & 27 Oct – no update

3.4 Seabird-at-sea databases

24 & 27 Oct – no update

3.5 Indicators of performance, productivity and population status

24 & 27 Oct – no update

3.6 Mortality events

24 & 27 Oct – no update

3.7 Other topics (e.g. habitat restoration, marine spatial planning)

24 & 27 Oct – no update

4. Other matters

24 & 27 Oct - no other matters were raised

5. Next Conference Calls

- Atlantic Region 1700 GMT, Thu Jan 19 in UK
- Pacific Region 2400 GMT, Thu Jan 26 in UK

Please refer to the following online meeting tool to confirm the corresponding local time in the destination/time zone you will call in from. <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/meeting.html>

6. Adjournment

24 Oct – DI adjourned the meeting at 20:55 GMT

27 Oct – DI adjourned the meeting at 17:05 GMT