

WSU Transition Team Conference Call
Atlantic Call 1700 GMT Thursday, 19 January, 2011
Pacific Call 2400 GMT Thursday, 26 January, 2011

WSUTT Member Organizations & Representatives					
Member Organization	Representative	Initials	Role*	Jan 19	Jan 26
African Seabird Group	Ross Wanless	RW	P	A	
American Bird Conservancy	Jessica Hardesty-Norris	JHN		A	
American Bird Conservancy	George Wallace	GW			
Argentine Seabird Group	Pablo Yorio	PY	P		
Australasian Seabird Group	Peter Dann	PD			A
Australasian Seabird Group	Nicholas Carlile	NC			A
BirdLife International, Global Seabird Programme	Ben Sullivan	BS	P	R	
BirdLife International, Global Seabird Programme	Ben Lascelles	BL	A		
Circumpolar Seabird Group (CBird)	David Irons	DI	P	A	A
Dutch Seabird Group	Kees Camphuysen	KC	P		
European Seabirds at Sea Group	Stephan Garthe	SG	P		
Indian Ocean Seabird Group	Matthieu Le Corre	MLC	P		
Japan Seabird Group	Yutaka Watanuki	YW	P		
Medmaravis	Carles Carboneras	CC	P	R	
NW Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative	Melanie Steinkamp	MS	P	A	
Pacific Seabird Group	Pat Jodice	PJ	P	A	
Peruvian Assn for the Conservation of Nature	Liliana Ayala	LA	P		
Royal Naval Birdwatching Society	Steve Copsey	SC	P		
Soc for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds	Will Mackin	WM	P	A	
The Seabird Group	Linda Wilson	LW		R	
The Seabird Group	Russell Wynn	WR			
Waterbird Conservation of the Americas	Jennifer Wheeler	JW	P	A	
* Role: P=Primary Representative, A=Alternate Representative					
Associates (non-voting)					
Department of Conservation, New Zealand	Graeme Taylor	GT			A
WSU Interim Board Members					
Chair	David Irons	DI		A	A
Vice-Chair	John Croxall	JC		A	A
Secretary	Jessica Hardesty-Norris	JHN		A	
WSU Support					
Function	Contact	Initials			
Seabirds.net	Annette Henry	AH			
Seabirds.net	Grant Humphries	GH			A
WSU Secretariat	Marischal De Armond	MD		A	A
Attendance: A = Attended, R = Regrets Sent					

Minutes

19 Jan – DI called the meeting to order at 1703 GMT

26 Jan – DI called the meeting to order at 2402 GMT

19 Jan - DI asked JW to introduce Will Mackin, a new member, representing the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds. WM has been working in the Caribbean and Bahamas for many years and has been active in developing and managing the West Indian Seabird Atlas. Will is based in North Carolina.

1. Establishment of World Seabird Union

1.1 Constitutional aspects

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.

19 Jan – DI reviewed the background to incorporation and confirmed the incorporation documents have been filed with the Alaskan Government to establish the World Seabird Union as a Non-Profit corporation. Tax exempt status is still to be completed with the Federal Government which may take up to a full year. Interim Board members include DI, JC, NC, and JH. JC noted that Steve Mahoney from the Foraker Group needs to be recognized for his work as should JH and NC for the work and input they provided. As the incorporation/interim board members JC, DI, NC and JH had the greatest input on the incorporation documents related to Membership, Board and Officers The existing articles can easily be changed or updated. Once incorporated there is a legal obligation to hold elections for a new Board.

ACTION: 19 Jan – JC asks all WSU members to review the articles, with particular attention on the following:

- Article 2 Section 4 – Membership
- Article 3 Sections 4 and 6 – Board of Directors
- Article 4 Section 2 – Officers

1.2 Legal aspects

19 Jan - see 1.1

1.3 Financial aspects

19 Jan – see 3.7b

1.4 Representational aspects

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.

19 Jan - MD still to complete

2. World Seabird Conference

2.1 Establishment of “search committee” for WSC2

19 Jan – MD still to complete the hosting terms and commitment document

19 Jan – PJ reported that possible host nations may find it more feasible to host the 2nd WSC due to existing WSU/WSC structures and committees; the onus is not to be borne fully by the local committee

19 Jan - RW indicated that the African Seabird Group is interested in submitting a bid and putting together a consortium of partners to host the meeting.

26 Jan – JC noted that should there be multiple destinations interested in hosting, it had been agreed previously that the WSU would be asked to provide input on a preferred destination.

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.

ACTION: 19 Jan - DI – to contact his Norwegian contacts about pursuing a bid to host

2.2 Collation/editing of WSC1 Handbook on how to put on a WSC (to assist the next group that takes on the task)

19 & 26 Jan – no update

3. WSC Legacy developments

3.1 Seabirds.net

ACTION: Oct 27 - DI to ask GH to move forward with this Seabirds.net proposal from Dragon Fly

19 Jan - DI noted that this work has been transitioned from the previous company in Alaska to Dragon Fly and invited everyone to visit Seabirds.net and provide input to GH on recommended updates

26 Jan – GH indicated that Dragon Fly has been preparing for a professional cleaning and updates (including a discussion forum). This is expected to be completed in time for PSG. GH will be setting up a table at PSG for people to access the website, set up personal user accounts and profiles (including photo, areas of interest et al), and begin process of inputting database content. Social media functionality will also be incorporated into the site. GH will be organizing a planning meeting for the Seabirds.net team during PSG regarding how to maintain the site, its twitter and facebook content. Member search functionality will be in place after PSG.

3.2 Seabird colony databases (Monitoring and Register)

19 Jan – DI reported that the Circumpolar Seabird Colony Register is being used as the model for developing a Global Seabird Colony Register (GSCR). Links to this, and data entry for this, is expected to be available on Seabirds.net prior to the PSG meeting. Birdlife is planning to enter some readily available data from their databases. PY and PD will be supporting the GSCR with data from their respective regions.

26 Jan – DI reported that Argentinian data has been entered into the register. PD noted that he will work on getting Australian info loaded. JC indicated that data held by BirdLife for sites which did not qualify as marine IBAs would be made available for entry to the GSCR.

GT indicated that the NZ group is about a year away from being in position to enter their data

ACTION: 19 Jan - DI asked that all members confirm with himself or JC about data they have that can be added to the GSCR

19 Jan - RW offered access to a small database from his region

ACTION: Oct 27 - Member organizations to provide or assist in providing logos to DI of outside agencies providing data to the site

19 Jan – DI reminded everyone that if their organization is providing data to the GSCR that they are to send him their logo to be added to the GSCR site. DI and JC will produce a summary of the status of the GSCR in due course.

3.3 Seabird tracking databases

19 Jan - JC reported that Birdlife, in response to dataholder requests, is considering how an electronic database for non-procellariform seabirds might be developed, including in association with Movebank.

26 Jan - In response to a query, JC indicated that BirdLife maintained an inventory of known (as well as published) tracking studies and routinely requested submission of appropriate data to the Global Procellariform Tracking Database. A considerable volume of new data have been received recently.

3.4 Seabird-at-sea databases

19 Jan - RW indicated that Kathy Kuletz has taken over this initiative

19 Jan - JC indicated that with 500,000 seabird-at-sea records in their database, the SCAR EG-BAMM group should not be overlooked as a potential partner in this initiative

19 Jan - DI also indicated there is a North Pacific Pelagic Seabird Database that will be online soon and could contribute to the global network.

26 Jan – GT indicated that some work is underway in NZ to digitize a diverse set of NZ data records

ACTION: 19 Jan - DI to contact Kathy Kuletz for updates on the Seabird-at-sea database plan

3.5 Indicators of performance, productivity and population status

19 Jan - DI noted that there is nothing to report and that this group is moving forward as planned

3.6 Mortality events

19 & 26 Jan - no update

3.7 Other topics

a. WSUTT Annual Report for 2011

19 Jan – DI indicated that an “annual” report has now been completed on the WSU activities (and was circulated with the Agenda for this call). This report will be available on the Seabirds.net website soon.

ACTION: 19 Jan - MD to circulate the WSUTT Annual report to the WSC database, with any necessary updates and an appropriate cover note from JC & DI, following the upcoming PSG annual meeting

b. Letter to Pacific Seabird Group Executive Committee

19 Jan - DI summarized a set of documents (circulated with the Agenda for this call) outlining the history of, and to clarify the ownership of, surplus WSC funds. These will be presented to the PSG ExCo at the upcoming PSG Annual meeting. PJ noted that due to a variety of perspectives on this issue some resistance should be expected related to the transfer of these funds to WSU.

4. Other matters

19 Jan - MS offered appreciation to all who were involved in getting the incorporation documents completed

26 Jan – DI is recommending the development of an official WSU letterhead template

26 Jan – GT inquired as to who might be attending the Albatross & Petrel conference in NZ in August, as it may provide an opportunity to gather WSU people for planning meetings. JC expects to attend and would be happy to facilitate a WSU meeting.

ACTION: 26 Jan - MD to develop a WSU letterhead to be used for official correspondence and related uses

ACTION: 26 Jan - DI to poll WSU members about their attendance at the 5th International Conference on the Biology & Conservation of Albatrosses & Petrels (www.iapc5.co.nz) Aug 13 -17 in Wellington NZ. If an appropriate mass of WSU members are in attendance, then a WSU planning meeting could be coordinated.

5. Next Conference Call

The next scheduled calls are:

- Pacific Call 5 April (2400 GMT)
- Atlantic Call 12 April (1700 GMT)

19 Jan – DI adjourned the meeting at 1750 GMT

26 Jan – DI adjourned the meeting at 2439 GMT