

DRAFT MINUTES

Draft minutes 24th EBCC ExCo Meeting, Prague, Monday 16th September 2002

ExCo & Observers: David Gibbons (chair), Richard Gregory (minutes) Anny Anselin, Tibor Szep, Martin Flade, Przemek Chylarecki, Ward Hagemeijer, Juha Tiainen, David Noble (Observer BTO), Des Callaghan (Observer BirdLife International), Ruud Foppen (Observer SOVON)

Special invitations: Uygur Ozesmi (Erciyes Universitesi, Kayseri, Turkey), Petr Vorisek (Coordinator: Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring, Prague) & Karel Stastny (Czech Society for Ornithology, Prague).

Apologies received from Alexander Mischenko, Lorenzo Fornasari & Gerard Boere (ExCo Advisor)

1. Chairman's welcome

David Gibbons welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was being held immediately prior to the Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring workshop in Prague.

2. Minutes of the last meeting of ExCo

Minutes accepted. A small number of items required clarification:

Monies owing by the European Topic Centre - Ward explained that a contract let to Wetlands International included a sub-contract to EBCC for information supplied on European birds (to the value of ~1000 €). The contract would end in February 2003.

Action: Ward to liaise with Anny over invoicing once the work was complete.

Feedback to EOU - Martin Flade had contacted the local organisers of the EOU Saxony conference to volunteer an EBCC-related session on monitoring, but there had been no further communication. ExCo suggested three themes, revolving around monitoring common birds: long lasting monitoring schemes, newly introduced monitoring schemes, and the Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme. It was suggested that Petr Vorisek could organise this session.

Action: Richard to discuss with Petr. Petr/Martin to liaise with EOU. ExCo to consider appropriate speakers at its next meeting

Birds in Europe II - Des Callaghan and David Gibbons had co-written a piece on *Birds in Europe II* for *Bird Census News* as agreed.

3. Delegate List

An updated delegate list had been circulated to ExCo just prior to the meeting. The information had been updated largely through email communication with delegates and through Petr's work in establishing a network for Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring. Just over half the delegates had confirmed their willingness to continue in this role and confirmed their details. Further work was required to update the remaining delegates.

Action: Richard to incorporate corrections from ExCo and from the workshop and pass on to Martin Flade as 'Delegate Officer'. Anny to send Martin the address list for Bird Census News to allow a further cross check.

4. Financial report

Anny Anselin presented the financial report (see Appendix). Overall, EBCC funds remain in a healthy state. In connection with this, Ward mentioned that there was some uncertainty over the costs that should be levied for data requests. The existing mechanism for this is that the organisation servicing a request should assess the actual costs of data extraction and provision, and then double this amount as the charge. EBCC would then receive half of this amount, with the remainder going to the organisation responsible for data extraction (e.g. BTO, SOVON). In discussion, however, it was felt that some 'common sense' was also required so that the costs matched the expectations of those requesting the information. After discussion, ExCo agreed that two rates should operate; one for individuals, non-government organisations, charitable organisations, and academic institutions without special funding, the other for commercial, government organisations and academic institutions with funded projects. Provision of part of the data set would cost 250€ and provision of the full data set 500€. Added to these figures should be the estimated costs of data extraction and provision set by the organisation dealing with the request.

Action: Richard and David to draft a new set of guidelines on data costs and to circulate these for comment.

5. Bird Census News

Publication was proceeding to schedule. The 2nd edition for 2001 and the 1st for 2002 had been published. It was agreed that a summary of the Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring workshop should be written by Richard and Petr for inclusion in BCN to appear, if possible, in the 1st issue of 2003. Ward also suggested web publication of the workshop papers through the various clearing-house mechanisms.

6. Foundation status

Ruud Foppen had discussed Foundation Status with his legal contact in the Netherlands. Ruud confirmed that EBCC needed to use a Notary in Dutch Law to register an organisation for Foundation Status in the Chamber of Commerce. Ruud suggested that ExCo should look to employ a Notary and set them the task of addressing any questions or uncertainty relating to the draft constitution, since they were best placed to answer them. The costs of employing a Notary would be in the region of 1000€-1500€. The annual cost to maintain Foundation Status would be 30€. Ruud believed that ExCo, or perhaps the Board, would be financially liable for the activities of EBCC, and that ExCo should insure against this. Once again, Ruud suggested that we take a Notary's advice on this matter. The intention was that EBCC should be in a position to take on Foundation Status at the earliest opportunity, which is at the meeting of the Board in Turkey in 2004.

Action: Ruud will send comments on the draft constitution received from his contact to David.

David will then finalise the constitutional papers as far as he is able, and to note the outstanding / unresolved issues. Ruud to identify a Notary, with international experience in this area. David to make contact with the Notary in liaison with Ward and Ruud (as Dutch speakers).

7. Website

The website 'ebcc.info' had been registered. Someone from Les Underhill's group would be able to develop a web site for a reasonable fee. ExCo had been asked previously to prepare information for this site, but little progress had been possible. Uygur suggested that a student might be able to develop a site on the basis of what had been learned from the KusBank project in Turkey at a cost of as little as 200€. In the interim, while the new website was under development, Tibor volunteered to take and post information on to the preexisting EBCC site.

ExCo also discussed the potential use of subscription groups on the web to facilitate discussion on bird monitoring topics and Pan-European monitoring. Such debate would help to foster communication between countries and the exchange of information and ideas. The consensus was that such developments would be highly desirable and would help to further EBCC's aims.

Action: ExCo to consider individuals with the relevant web expertise who might be able to help in developing a new website. ExCo to prepare information suitable for the web. Uygur to assess the potential for web design to be undertaken linked to KusBank, and to inform David of progress on this issue.

8. Relevant developments with the European Topic Centre on Nature Protection and Biodiversity and European Environment Agency.

Ward had been in discussion with ETC and EEA with regards links to EBCC and the provision of information to help in their reporting duties. They wish EBCC to provide information of various kinds to feed into the Kiev meeting in May 2003. The intention is that the work would be completed in this calendar year so that it was ready at the start of the next. It is likely that the work would need to be subcontracted to EBCC through another organisation such as Wetlands International or BirdLife.

Action: Ward, David and Richard to discuss with Dominique Richard (ETC NPB) in light of developments during the workshop.

9. Hungarian Conference Proceedings 2001.

Mike Blair had made good progress with the editing. Tibor still aimed to publish the proceedings in autumn 2002, but this might be as late as December.

10. Parnu Conference Proceedings

ExCo discussed the very long delay in the publication of the Parnu proceedings. Two possibilities were discussed. One would be to use RSPB staff time to help in the editing work, perhaps with some funding from EBCC. The other would be to find an external editor and pay them to finish the work with EBCC funds. The cost was estimated at 500€. Various editors had been suggested in previous meetings, including Ceri Evans and John Marchant.

Action: David Gibbons and Richard Gregory to take forward.

11. Turkey Conference 2004.

Uygar Ozesmi had circulated a summary of the discussions from the last ExCo meeting. ExCo agreed to discuss the conference in detail at its meeting in Turkey next spring, but would use the time available to deal with immediate issues. Uygar had discussed the publication of the conference proceedings in the Turkish Journal of Zoology. It is agreed that Uygar will act as a guest editor. Manuscripts are peer reviewed by two individuals. A Scientific Committee will need to be established to help with the editing work. This should comprise scientists both from Turkey and abroad, and EBCC ExCo members and observers would be willing to help in this task. Uygar asked for suggestions for suitable individuals. While EBCC wished to see a high and improving standard of publication in its conferences, it did not wish to exclude scientists and countries at different stages of development. A compromise suggested was that those papers that were not up to standard would still be published in the proceedings as extended abstracts. Such issues would need to be clarified with the journal.

A Scientific Committee would also be required to help in the planning and organization of the conference itself. The make up of this group would be similar to that suggested above, though it would probably be smaller.

Uygar planned to establish a web site advertising the conference in the near future. ExCo discussed the timing and content of the first circular. The intention was to produce a first circular after the next meeting of ExCo, but it would be desirable to produce it slightly earlier, perhaps in February 2003. It was suggested that this could be done via email discussion and following previous examples.

David Gibbons and Richard Gregory had brainstormed conference themes and speakers with RSPB colleagues and come up with the following additional suggestions:

Climate change – Brian Huntley

Agi-environment Monitoring - Szabolc Nagy

Training initiatives for monitoring – Richard Gregory, Chris Bowden, Paul Donald

Monitoring migration – Franz Barlein

Monitoring migration: Mediterranean Island Project – Fernando Spina

The importance of spatial scale in conservation - Bill Sutherland

Complementarity/hotspot analysis - Karsten Rabeck? Neil Burgess

Setting species priorities for conservation – Ali Stattersfield

Action: David Gibbons to approach plenary speakers. David Gibbons to write a letter of support for the conference as EBCC Chairman to assist in gaining external funding.

12. European Common Bird Monitoring

Petr Vorisek had organized a Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring workshop in Prague 16-19 September.

13. Recent data requests

The following were noted:

Carlos Vila, Uppsala University – Request Agreed

Joe Crocker, CSL Ecotoxicology – Request Agreed

Hans Schmid – Request Agreed – Being dealt with by Ward, an invoice should be sent shortly.

Monarch project – a further request had been received for further species. Since the project is externally funded, a suitable fee should be charged.

14. Any Other Business

Ruud Foppen reported that the Bird Avoidance Modeling project was starting in the Netherlands.

15. Date and venue of next meeting

ExCo will meet on 4-5 April 2003 at Erciyes University, Kayseri, Turkey. The meeting will start at 10.00 am on Friday 4 April and we will attempt to deal with all business on that day. The second day, Saturday 5 April will be used to visit some of the bird watching sites suggested for the excursions. Those attending should aim to arrive on Thursday 3 April afternoon/evening.

R.D. Gregory

24 September 2002

APPENDIX Financial report EBCC: period 01.04.2002-01.09.2002

All amounts are in Euro (€)

Assets on 01.09.2002:

1. Check Account

Account on 01.04.2002	1261,59
Account on 01.09.2002	401,59
Difference	860,00

2. Savings Book

Account on 01.04.2002	5074,13
Account on 01.09.2002	5074,13
Difference	0,00

3. Cash Money

On 01.04.2002: 54,05
On 01.09.2002: **54,05**
Difference 0,00

4. Total assets on 01.09.2002: 401,59 + 5074,13 + 54,05 = 5529,77 €

5. Total assets on 01.04.2002: 1261,59+5074,13 +54,05= 6389,77 €

6. Difference: - 860,00 €

Details on income and expenses since 01.04.2002:

Income:

- Bird Census News subscription	40,00	
- Sponsorship Bird Census News		
-Production 14/2 & 15/1		354,90
-Mailing	400,00	
Total income:		+ 794,90

Expenses:

- Travel & accomodation cost ExCo Brodowin (D)	900,00	
- Bird Census News production and mailing	754,90	
Total expenses:		- 1654,90

Difference: **- 860 €** (see 6 above).

Money to be expected in the future:

-Contract with ETCNC Paris: 1000 € (available Spring 2003)

Anny Anselin, 12.09.2002