

Western Field Ornithologists' Board of Directors

Teleconference Meeting

Monday February 27, 2012, 12:00-2:13 pm

Minutes prepared by Liga Auzins, *Rec. Sec'y.*

Board Members present: W. David Shuford, *Pres.*, Edward R. Pandolfino, *Vice Pres.*, Robbie Fischer, *Treas.*, *Membership Sec'y.*, Liga Auzins, *Rec. Sec'y.*, Kenneth Able, Carol Beardmore, Dan Gibson, Kimball L. Garrett, Robert E. Gill, Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta, Kurt Leuschner, Frances Oliver, David Quady, Debbie Van Dooremolen.

Board Members absent: Jon L. Dunn, Robert Gill, Brian Sullivan.

Guests: Philip Unitt, *Editor, Western Birds*, Catherine Waters, *Past Pres.*

SYNOPSIS

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ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Action Item 1: Consider income producing trips by All

Action Item 2: Newsletter re Life Memberships by Cat

Action Item 3: Detailed membership file to some BODs by Robbie

Action Item 4: Test the registration website by All

Action Item 5: Become a keynote speaker for WOS by All

Action Item 6: Introductions to So Cal birding organizations (for Ed) by Cat

Action Item 7: Survey members on future meeting site preferences by Ed

Action Item 8: Hosting group from West by Phil, Cat and Ed

Action Item 9: Organize BOD Retreat by Brian and Cat

Action Item 10: Contact Bob Ridgely by Kurt

Action Item 11: Explore possible trip to Mazatlan area by Carol

Action Item 12: Research digital publication by All

Action Item 13: Encourage submissions to *WB* by All

Action Item 14: View pages of pre-publication *RBC* by All via contacting Cat

Action Item 15: Actively seek recommendations for youth scholarships by Robbie

Action Item 16: Send out note to BOD for Service Award candidates by DaveQ

MINUTES

12:00 pm Meeting called to order, roll call, welcome.

Acceptance of minutes from November 2011 Teleconference of Board of Directors Meeting.
Motion (by Kimball, seconded by Ed) to approve minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

12:05 pm FINANCE AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (Robbie)

Update (Finance): I have sent out a recap of our Finance Committee Meeting. The primary responsibility today is to take a look at the budget and approve the budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Update (Membership): Renewal reminders have been mailed. I will have a better idea of where we by the end of March.

Proposal: DaveS: Approval for the 2012 Budget as is as recommended by Finance Committee.

Motion: (by Ken, seconded by Debbie) to approve budget. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Ed: It is pretty clear that we cannot cover all of the fixed expenses with just the membership dues, etc. We need to consider an income producing trip being made into an annual event. The trip that Kimball and Jon led last year more than made up any potential shortfall.

- Robbie: Last year's income was about \$81,000, and fixed expenses were about \$76,000. The annual meeting created additional funding and so did the trip.
- Robbie: It has been at least four years since we increased dues and I do not recommend it.
- DaveS: Maybe every 5 years would be a good time to review that, by considering inflation alone.
- Dan: Besides the note at the bottom of the last page of *WB*, can we make clear to the membership that Life Memberships and becoming a Patron are always something that people can do.
- Cat: I can
always make a note of it in the next newsletter.
- Carol: It's on
our website somewhere.

12:28 pm FINANCIAL REVIEW (DaveQ)

Report: There is a summary in the Committee Reports sent out by DaveS. Dan Singer expressed a willingness to undertake this financial review after reviewing backup materials sent by Robbie. We will move toward a brief formal agreement between him and the Board and then we will talk about remuneration and a schedule. He will complete the review comfortably before our May conference call. If you have any particular point you would like to have addressed please send them to me. I think it would good for him to create a rough outline of the types of things he will look at after which I will see if there are things we want covered. I want the review to be his independent review. It is to look at financial management as well as the health of the organization. It is inclusive.

12:32 pm ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE (Ed)

Petaluma Conference September 26-30, 2012

Update: There is an outline of our schedule in the Committee Reports sent out by DaveS. We are particularly rich in the number and variety of workshops. We plan to go live with registration toward the beginning of April; therefore Robbie and I will need to have all the details on the field trips, workshops and I.D. panels in the next week. Thanks to Frances, Ken and Kurt. As I have done in the past, we will send out a website for all the Board members to test. Every year people turn up 5 or 6 mistakes that need correction, so it is real important for everyone on the Board to do a test registration.

2013 Annual Conference

Report: We are close to finalizing the 2013 conference in Olympia, WA in mid-Aug. or early Sept. This conference will help us create a stronger link with the community in WA, particularly the WOS (Washington Ornithological Society). Jay Withgott and Jon Dunn visited with the WOS in WA as well as the Black Hills Audubon Society in Olympia and discussed things that could be done to bring the two organizations closer together. Since then Dave and I have had some conference calls with Jack Stevens, the President of WOS, who has gone to his Board with some ideas including looking into the possibility of having a joint meeting. WOS also has an annual conference. We looked at the possibility of having a joint conference (WFO/WOS). They wanted to have their 2013 meeting in Eastern WA, a site which wasn't going to work well for us. The best solution is to have a joint WFO/WOS meeting with Black Hills Audubon as host. We will be responsible for most of the planning and organization but they would be helping us with things like field trips, speakers, etc. I think this accomplishes most of what Jon and Jay set out to do in getting that relationship strengthened. We hope to have dates picked out in the next month or so. In the spirit of creating stronger relationships between the two organizations, I would like to add that, WOS will probably have their 2013 regular meeting in June in Eastern Washington and they specifically asked that if someone from WFO would be willing to come up and give their keynote talk. I put that out to any members of the Board who are willing, just send me an e-mail. We do not have the exact dates, probably sometime in June 2013. We also talked about offering free membership to each other's members, i.e., any WOS member that attends the joint conference will automatically become a WFO member as would any WFO member would become a WOS member.

2014 Annual Conference

Discussion: For the last several years we have alternated sites between CA and outside CA every other year and we have also alternated between No Cal and So Cal. With that in mind I would like to suggest that our 2014 meeting be in So Cal. Other places, i.e., Montana and Utah have been mentioned as well. I would be interested to hear what the Board thinks about having the meeting in San Diego and maybe have a tribute to Guy McCaskie and what he has contributed to the WFO organization over the years.

- Phil: It would be terrific if there was some way in which the WFO conference and the San Diego Birding Festival could be conflated. Our community is really mobilized for this annual event and it takes up a lot of people's energy. I wish there was some way of achieving economy of scale.
- Cat: I would volunteer to make the introductions between Ed and Ann Hannon, who is the driving coordinator behind that meeting. There are some very strong organizations in the north county and I can talk to Andy Morro who is the President of Buena Vista Audubon and also a member of WFO.
- Kimball: I would like to add that the Pasadena Audubon group seems incredibly good at making things happen and are very supportive of WFO. I would like to see them approached about this.
- Robbie: Four or five years ago we actually polled the Board and created a matrix of what the important states were. We actually voted to have the meeting in CA every other year.

- Kimball: To keep things historically correct, when we opted to meet outside of CA every other year it was because in the first decades of this organization we were meeting in CA 2 years out of 3 or 3 years out of 4. It sounds like it was compromising towards CA but it actually was meant to be the opposite.
- Ed: It might be interesting for us to ask the members what they prefer. I could add that as a question on our post meeting survey for the 2012 meeting to see what the membership thinks.

Report (Ed): In the last few years we have provided rooms and honoraria for the workshop presenters, typically one night and \$100. The Committee suggested that we should increase the honoraria this year for the workshop people because they do so much work and that is what is driving the budget this year as compared to last year, in addition to the increase in room costs. It is not because we cannot afford to do it. Last year we also had 10 free rooms which we will not get this year. In my budget I was just comparing last year with this year.

12:52 pm SUGGESTION FOR A ONE DAY BOD RETREAT

Announcement (DaveS): There has been a suggestion that in conjunction with the meeting in Petaluma that we have a one day Board Retreat. Brian and Cat have been discussing that.

Proposal (Cat): Brian, (who is not in attendance today), brought up the idea of the future direction of WFO in the next 5 years. He felt the easiest way to do this was to take away from the meeting format, sit down some place and informally talk about a few chosen topics, and find out what the organization sees for itself going into the future. I promised to champion this at today's meeting. It is one extra day of hotel expense, but for the future benefit of WFO, I think it is really good for us to do this on the Monday following the meeting or one day before the meeting starts

- Dan Gibson: I think it is an excellent idea and I think it should be a day tacked on at the end as too many people are going to be immersed in many 'not entirely completed' things before the meeting.
- Ed: I am 100 per cent in support of doing this. I can think of some specific things that we need to talk about as a Board and we just are not going to have enough time at the Board meeting, i.e., the gap in our income from standard fixed sources, making WB available digitally, fund raising options, etc. I agree it makes more sense to tack it on at the end. My only concern is that we have Jon Dunn committed to lead a post meeting field trip and he will not be around on Monday. That's an issue.
- Kimball: What I am hearing is that it is a great idea but it needs to be incorporated into all the meeting planning like a year earlier rather than trying to do it for this year's meeting.
- Ed: It is too busy at the beginning of the meeting, so can we wait for 2013?
- Cat: Do we need to have the full Board there? Perhaps something like 8 out of 13 and committee chairs.
- Dan: I think it is not likely that we are going to get a full Board to do it no matter when we try to do it.
- Cat: This is not about setting policy as much as it is about what we are and where we are going.
- Ed: I think it is really important for Board members to go on field trips and since we can't go on any on Thursday, I would urge members to go on Sunday and then have the meeting on Monday.

- Carol: I would recommend having the discussion points presented to the Board a week or so ahead of time so if you cannot go that you could at least provide a statement about your preferences. We should think about having a facilitator.
- Kimball: Since it is about exchanging ideas wouldn't it make sense to invite past Board members, past officers, or others who might be interested.
- Cat: I will come up with a short list of names from within the organization to be the facilitator and will find out if that is agreeable to DaveS and Ed.
- DaveS: It sounds as if we have a really positive response and that we should plan and set aside that Monday and work out the details. So Cat, can you get together with Brian and set a course?
- Cat: Yes, and we will identify an in house facilitator.

1:05 pm

OUTREACH COMMITTEE (Cat)

Report: I have a contingent of seven people led by Ron Martin from ND coming through So Cal from 'West of the 100th Meridian,' specifically because they went to our Idaho meeting and they traveled with WFO members on the OFO pelagic cruise last year. They would like to meet anyone who is on the Board in So Cal. Besides hosting at my home, I will be sending them out into the community to talk to some members.

- Phil: If you send them my way then I would be glad to host them here (museum).
- Ed: If you send them to No Cal Dave and I could show them around too.

Other opportunities (Robbie): I think we are missing opportunities to promote WFO at other bird associated events, i.e., San Diego Birding Festival, Point Reyes Festival. Perhaps we should look into having a WFO table at some of these major events.

- Frances: I know that at CVBS when organizations bring handouts, we set them out on a table. People will pick these up whether someone is at the table or not. In the past, Robbie has given me the old issues of *WB* to go along with the membership flyers. It makes a big impression on them.
- Robbie: We got 6-8 members this way from the CVBS this past year. I was wondering if there should be a formal effort of maybe 3-4 times a year to coordinate having somebody at one of these major events.
- DaveS: Robbie those are all good ideas and maybe you can kick that back to the Outreach Committee and have them discuss ways on how to move forward with that.
- Carol: There is one other meeting we might want to consider and that is NAOC coming up in November in Vancouver. Some of us will be there. I know they have tables for a certain amount of money.

1:15 pm

FIELD TRIPS AND EXPEDITIONS COMMITTEE (Kurt)

Report: Phil has been working with Robbie on this summer's Grinnell Resurvey scholarship opportunities for students. We have also two trips in the works for next year (2013), the Cuba trip (late April) with exact dates contingent upon Jon's schedule and then the northern Sierra trip in the summer.

- Cat: The Hokotoko Fdn. with Bob Ridgely has gone through some incredible changes in the last three years. He started taking groups into Columbia. He would still lead a trip for WFO.
- Carol: The NE Sonora trip is postponed, but I have a nibble to do something next winter in a natural protected area north of Mazatlan. I may have a report by the May meeting.
- Cat: Janet Ruth offered an opportunity for people who are field ornithologists to be involved in her sparrow work in AZ this summer. Someone from WFO would have to coordinate the people for her.

1:20 pm PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (Cat)

Digital Rare Birds of California (RBC) Report: We are on schedule for the digital publication of *RBC*. Everyone is going to have to help Tim find the artifacts. Our goal is to have it done in July, have two months to look through it and then make the announcement that it is available in whatever way the Board decides in the May meeting. It will be available by our Sept. meeting. If anyone is interested in looking at some of the pages of the book, please send me an e-mail I will send you an address where you can go and look at the progress.

Dickerman Issue (Dan) Update: I am currently looking over 10 papers for the Dickerman issue. Three have gone through review process, the authors have revised them, they are completed, and Phil has them. Two are in revision, two are out for review, one I will receive next week; one is being looked at by its coauthors and being sent out for review; one I have not heard from as yet.

- Phil: It is quite possible that ten papers are going to be fatter than is convenient for us to publish. We might end up discussing spreading them over two issues but we should wait and see.

Birds of Inyo County (BIC) (Ken) Report: Just this week I had a communication with Tom and Jo. Things are moving along slower than we had hoped. They have a packet, a sort of sample of species accounts that they are just about ready to send out in the next month or so for review. There is still a substantial amount of work to be done on the manuscript. They have about 5 graphic items per species account plus tables and maps. Most of the GIS maps have not yet been made, and although they have someone in mind, this aspect will be time consuming. They hope to have it completed by the end of this year. I feel that is optimistic. My thought was to wait until we get these sample species accounts in hand and then go forward with possible cost projections. Also, I would like to get some basic parameters from the authors, i.e., how many pages are involved. There is a lot of information we need in order to make any sort of educated estimate of how big the project is going to be.

- Cat: A lot of us working with the digital *RBC* have realized some things about digital books. Regardless of how the Heindels view the book, we really need to have a professional to design the book, i.e., page layout, so that if and when we decide to publish it online it is ready to go.
- DaveS: That should be a policy from here on in. Ken, it sounds like they are expecting to have a huge amount of accessory material. We should evaluate to see if that is possible to do.

Birds of New Mexico (BNM) (Cat): We will be contributing to *BNM* probably a year from now is what I heard from Dave Kreuper last week. Sandy is in the final drafts of the book but that does not indicate any level of speed. NMOS is sponsoring a portion of the book as well.

Western Birds (WB) (Phil) Update: It is my goal to get *43(1)* out by the end of March. We have 3 papers typeset and 2 more copyedited. We received 26 manuscripts in 2011 of which 6 were rejected. We received 3 in 2012, none of which count toward the Dickerman volume. Again, by all means encourage appropriate people to contribute to *WB*. We do not want to be complacent.

1:35 pm ARCHIVAL STORAGE (Cat)

Report: We can probably obtain archival storage for free. Go Daddy has a fee but Google, for the amount we have now, is free. I will work with Robbie and Joe to open the account and we will have to figure out how to use.

- Phil: Is this a site that would also have material accessible, something like the *BIC* to store supplemental material that is too overwhelming to print but still could be accessible to the public?
- Cat: Right now I am only talking about our archiving. In regards to *RBC*, Tim wants to do something called a subURL for which we would be buying memory from Go Daddy. We would have to pay to have it put in a format that is presentable digitally.

1:38 pm SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (Robbie)

Report: The Scholarship Committee has discussed funding up to \$150 this year for one student membership in each of the Western States that WFO has a presence in. It is \$10.00 for each membership. I volunteered to get in touch with ornithological organizations or bird records committees to seek recommendations. The hope is that these recipients would then become interested in WFO and continue their membership

- Kimball: Robbie, you say states, but what about the provinces in western Canada or Mexico? I doubt if we have any members there, but what if there were some kind of outreach there?
- Robbie: Then we would be talking about closer to \$200 in scholarships for this year. It is not a question of advertising but talking one-on-one to someone who has some type of standing.
- DaveS: My recommendation would be to expand to Canada and Mexico if everyone agrees.

Report: Recently I have been in touch with Phil, Cat and Kurt on funding one scholarship to the San Jacinto Centennial Resurvey. They have had volunteers and students taking part. We need to get specifics and put an announcement on the website and determine exactly how much and what it is that we are paying for. Phil mentioned a sum of \$250. We are also looking to fund scholarship opportunities this year for one or two students for the Petaluma Meeting which would come out of the \$1,000 dollars line item in the budget.

- Ed: The actual cost will be about \$600 if we cover their room, banquet and incremental expenses.
- Robbie: We do not need to fund all three nights. Two nights, Fri. and Sat., should be fine which would be \$300 for the hotel. The scholarship then would be more like \$400 and include incremental expenses.

- Ed: Ideally we should have the details ready at the time registration goes live so we can have the scholarship details and application at the same time we announce the registration.

1:50 pm AWARDS COMMITTEE (DaveQ)

Report: There is a summary in the Committee Reports sent out by DaveS. For the Swarth Award, its inauguration was listed in *WB*. So far no one has contacted me on how to nominate someone. I personally think we should wait to make the first award until we have several nominations in hand and an adequate time to discuss them. It is unlikely that we will have a recipient to announce in September. I did notify Tom Schultz, the artist, that the award has been approved and that we would like to defer commissioning his work until we could see an award presentation on the horizon. Therefore there is no money budgeted in 2012 for such a painting. As for the Service Award I think it is up to people who have been on the Board for a long time to consider the people who have been of invaluable service to WFO and pick one or two to honor in Petaluma as soon as possible by next month.

Note: Board discussed two candidates for the Service Award to be honored at the Petaluma Meeting; one from CA and one from outside of CA. DaveQ will send out notice to Board members to send suggestions.

1:55pm SPECIAL PUBLICATION ITEM (Cat)

Discussion: The Finance Committee discussed the possibilities of publishing *WB* digitally. Brian mentioned a very interesting point. How are we going to stay relevant to a group of people who do not hold a journal in their hand to read? Although *we* do this, there is a generation behind us who read from tablets, phones and e-readers. As an organization we should explore this. It is a complex thing because it involves membership. Do we offer it in addition to membership? Do we go to something like Amazon? Do we do pdfs? How do we hold it separate? If you get it free off the Internet how do we keep a membership? The Finance Committee is curious about how much it costs so we set up a subcommittee to investigate it. We really cannot do it without the membership and the Publications Committee being seriously represented on it. We are currently investigating it. Amazon provides magazine subscriptions that cannot be duplicated or forwarded. Allen Press and Tim Britton have a lot of experience with this. He is a designer for this type of thing and does a digital only astronomy journal.

- Carol: You might talk to somebody at COS or AOU and how they do their journals. Are we talking about having the journal available digitally as soon as the volume comes out?
- Cat: No, it would be an alternative. You could choose to receive the print publication or the digital.
- Kimball: Most organizations give you a choice. If you are a member you get the hard copy and you also have access to the digital. There is a price difference if you only get the digital copy. The digital version is available as soon as the hard copy and sometimes slightly beforehand. People tell me that they would join WFO but they do not believe in printed journals. If it were available digitally they would pay a membership to get it, but since they can't get it digitally they are not interested. This type of thing is going to happen more and more. We have to make it immediately available upon publication. The question is *how* it will be available only to those who pay as members.
- Carol: That is where somebody from COS could talk to you about the passwords.
- Ed: I am going to suggest that since it is such a huge and controversial topic that we need to discuss this at a significant part of a Board meeting or at the retreat at the end of the year. I don't think we will be able to do it justice in the last minutes of this Board meeting. There are many questions to be answered, including having this available through subscription via things like e-readers and tablets which is a different level of publication with all kinds of costs and issues associated with it. We have a lot more homework to do before we can even have a good discussion about it.

- Cat: The subcommittee that was formed from the Finance Committee was DaveS, Ed and me. We can hold this until the meeting in September at which time we may have more substantial information.
- Carol: We will get more Mexican memberships too because all them are online.
- DaveS: Another factor is that as some budgets of libraries go down they are less likely to be going with a hard copy that takes up space, so if you don't have a digital version of your journal you are likely to be dropped. There is cost cutting going on for journals overall.
- Ken: I don't think there is any question that this a direction in which we have to move, it's just a matter of how fast and the details. A lot of this already has been done by the national societies, i.e., *Auk*, *Condor*, who publish through UC Press and they handle the digital access through J. Stohr. You get authorized in order to get access to the journals. They do not have any option for downloading to a tablet as far as I know. All the other stuff has been worked out. I have no idea what it costs, but the details on exactly how to do it are out there. We just need to ask.
- Cat: Ken, why don't you and I talk about this so we can have online discussions and e-mails with DaveS and Ed and whoever else want to participate.
- Phil: If we could get everything from Tim Britton as a pdf and coordinate that directly with J. Stohr, then it seems like that would be an efficient route.
- DaveS: I think we definitely should get the conversation going on this and identify people who are going find out different information. I think there are two aspects to this: The technical aspect and the other is to make sure that we do it in a way that is going to enhance WFO and not take away from it, i.e., if people were to take advantage of the digital journal and pass it around.

2:10 pm NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Cat)

Update: For anyone wanting to submit nominations, send the names to the committee which is comprised of Carol, Cat, who is the Chair, DaveQ, Bob, and Jon. DaveS will be taking over in September. We will have a meeting probably in June to discuss and develop a document that we can present to the Board for review. Right now there are three viable candidates that will be able to stand for this year so far and that are also members of WFO and have an interest in being a serious volunteer for the organization.

DaveS (seconded by Dan) moved to adjourn. All: Agreed. Meeting adjourned at 2:13pm.

Liga Auzins,

Rec. Sec'y