

Meeting Minutes: Western Field Ornithologists' Board of Directors Meeting, March 15, 2010 via Conference Call

Prepared by Elisabeth Ammon

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY:

Elisabeth will check into NV outfits to give us a quote on Alan M Craig award statuette.

Board will submit 2010 nominations for Alan M Craig award to Cat/Dan, if any besides the one already identified.

All board members will think hard about possible board member candidates, particularly from WA and CO. **Dave K** to contact Ted Floyd for ideas. Ideas submitted to **Dave K and Cat/Dan**.

Dave K will update board on officer nominations and new potential board members.

Board members besides Cat, Jon, Dave K encouraged to pledge \$\$ contribution to New Mexico book. Can then be turned into membership request to match. Please submit pledges to **Dave K and Cat/Dan**.

Jon will share thoughts on gift membership rewording with Cat.

All board members will review website ASAP and provide suggestions, praise, etc. to Ed and Cat. More non-California photos are also requested.

All board members will comment on Max's artwork (gull head) for special use promotional materials (t-shirt, newsletter, etc.). Submit comments and any ideas for other artwork from this artist to **Bob**.

All board members will react to the concept of student/research grants as a service by WFO. Submit comments to **Cat/Dan**. Full discussion at fall meeting, if some consensus exists.

All board members in charge of events during the WFO Coachella meeting will submit final description, bios, schedule, logistics details, and costs (?) **by April 10 to Ed** for the events they are planning, including workshops, field trips, keynote speakers, etc.

MINUTES

10 a.m.: Welcome, roll call

Participants: Cat Waters, Elisabeth Ammon, Jon Dunn, Ed Pandolfino, Dave Quady, Bob Gill, Gjon Hazard, Kimball Garrett, Dave Krueper, Debbie vanD, Osvel Hincosa, Carol Beardmore, Tom Ryan, Robbie Fischer

10:05 a.m.: Approval of minutes from December Meeting

Motion to approve by Elisabeth, seconded by Dave Q, accepted unanimously.

10:10: Old Business

10:10 Item: Awards – Dave Quady report. See also committee reports. The Western Field Ornithologists award for descriptive ornithology description updated.

Discussion: No review comments from board yet, but Kimball likes it. Service award – “Alan M. Craig” award, see update from Cat’s email. Plaque/statuette inscription idea discussed. Award discussed consist of: Lifetime membership, lifetime free WFO registration, certificate. Plus statuette?

Action: Elisabeth offered to look into costs. Dave Q will send photo to Elisabeth. Nominations for award requested from board (one person already identified).

10:25 Item: Nominations – Dave Krueper report (See also “cheat-sheet” of board membership). Replacement of 4 board member needed this year, incl. pres, vice pres, and secretary.

Discussion: Kimball suggested that based on WFO membership proportions (thanks to our treasurer), we should make effort to get WA and CO board members. Dave K will contact Ted Floyd for more ideas. Board should submit names to Dave K.

Action: Dave K is currently investigating options for replacing the 3 officers, incl. the options of moving existing board members up, or having new board members be officer. More on that from Dave K in the next month. Dave Krueper will provide all with a copy of current potential nominees.

10:30 Item: Birds of New Mexico – Dave Krueper report. Nothing new to report. Waiting on sample account. Funding challenge to board which can then be a challenge to membership.

Item: Birds of Montana is in the works (Jeff Marks and University of Oregon Press), but is currently stalled out due to economy, but they would be interested in WFO support, if and when they pick up the project again. Montana Audubon should be included in effort.

Discussion: None

Action: None

10:35 Item: Publication of Birds of Sonora – Osvel report. No new developments, project at same stage as in December meeting, but Osvel working on it. Developments will be reported at fall meeting.

Discussion: None

Action: None

Item: Alaska special edition for Western Birds – report Robert Gill. Working on it.

Discussion: None

Action: None

Item: Birds of New Mexico fundraising within Board

Discussion: Jon is pledging \$250, so is Dave K and Cat. Other board members encouraged to contribute, as well, if they wish.

10:40 Item: Gift membership wording – Jon Dunn: Still working on it. Cat and Jon will follow up by email

Item: WFO Field Trips Report. Tom Ryan.

Discussion: Cuba trip might be moved up by one week to October. Field trip description should be posted on website ASAP.

Discussion: Alamos expedition (Carol) got 1-2 responses so far. It's on the website, but not yet sent to the full membership (only people who are on the electronic list).

Action: Need to distribute announcement more widely. Maybe put it on Mexican listserves? But perhaps send to members first in newsletter, which will go out within a week.

10:45 New Business and Committee Reports

10:45: Item: Swarovski meeting – Cat report: Met with them.

Discussion: Will not fund us for WB color covers in 2010. None of the optics companies are making much profit at the moment, and they are not doing charities this year. But left door open for future sponsorship, especially if there is more of an electronics angle, e.g., on website, but not through WB. Kimball's idea: "Cash for colors" campaign? Robbie mentions that sponsorship requirements need to be defined, especially if exclusivity is part of the deal. Suggests that it should be discussed at fall meeting.

Action: Remove Swarovski link on the website. Cat and Dan will put sponsorship requirements and fee definitions on agenda for the Coachella Valley meeting

10:50: Items: Publications

Discussion: **Western Birds** – Phil (5 minutes): Cat filling in for Phil: First volume of WB late because one author (Red Crossbills) has to do some follow-up work on putting sounds on website. But the rest of the issue is ready to go, and the next issue is already in the works.

Action: None

Discussion: **Review and comment on website set up** – Cat (5 minutes): Board members need to critique and make suggestions. Need photos from non-California members. Photos should be sent directly to Joe.

Action: Send email to Ed and cc Cat with comments on website ASAP. Need to follow up on a policy for “close-to-exclusivity” for WFO.

Item: **Logo** - Robert Gill (5 minutes). Artwork was emailed around earlier.

Discussion: Purpose was originally for a t-shirt for Coachella, but then there was also discussion about updating WFO logo. T-shirt artwork is dealt with otherwise. So, the artwork can be used for other stuff (Hat? Meeting info? Newsletter? Other t-shirt? Other ideas?). The compensation for gull art will be covered by Bob. The artist is open to other ideas. Several board members like the flying Sab Gull logo on website, current hat not so much.

Action: Therefore, the artwork will likely be for special use purposes, rather than for replacing the logo. Board should comment on art.

11:00: Item: Open discussion of research grant for field ornithology - Several members have asked why there are no research grants.

Discussion: Question of whether we want to create funds for this. Cat feels it is basically a good idea, but does not want to take money away from WB. Some board members would rather see money go to WB, but small research grant to individuals could be possible. Perhaps one for students (\$500-1000)? Noted that much work is involved in such an award (award committee, review proposals, etc.). Osvel: Perhaps combine it with travel grant to conference?

Action: Tabled until fall meeting, identify individuals who would be willing to work on it. Please send general ideas, reactions, feelings about it to Cat and Dan. If there is anything resembling a consensus, then it might be followed up with proposal to board.

11:15: Item: Upcoming meeting status (Ed, Cat):

Discussion: Osvel reports on Post-WFO-meeting pelagic field trip to San Felipe in October? Osvel looked into it, would be ~\$350. He can serve as local host, but needs pelagic birders as field trip leaders. Would happen around the WFO meeting but not necessarily tied into meeting. The Lower Colorado River Delta Trip would be tied into meeting (2-3 d), i.e., immediately following the meeting.

Discussion: Ed’s deadlines for the meeting: Registration for Coachella starts May 1. All accompanying materials, costs, etc. for events, trips, workshops, keynote speakers, receptions, followup trips, etc. need to be submitted to Ed by April 10. Bios, descriptions, schedule, are required. Sci presentations currently scheduled from 12:30 to 3:30 Fri and Sat.

Action: Tom will check with local (southern Cal) biological consulting companies for sponsorships for Coachella meeting.

Adjourn (Move to adjourn by Elisabeth, second by Gjon Hazard, approved)