

**Western Field Ornithologists Board of Directors
Conference Call Meeting
Wednesday, May 21st, 2014, 1:00-4:00 pm PDT**

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

Board Members present: Ed Pandolfino, *Pres.*, David Quady, *Vice Pres.*, Robbie Fischer, *Treas.*, Liga Auzins, *Rec. Sec'y.*, W. David Shuford, *Past Pres.*, Kenneth P. Able, Tom Blackman, Jon Dunn, Kimball L. Garrett, Daniel D. Gibson, Robert E. Gill, Ed Harper, Kurt Leuschner, Joyce Meyer, Frances Oliver, Dan Singer, Catherine Waters

Guest: Phil Unitt, *Editor, Western Birds (WB)*

MINUTES

1:03pm Meeting called to order, welcome, roll call

Minutes from February 5, 2014 conference call passed unanimously **via motion to approve by Kimball and seconded by Cat.**

Next BOD Meetings: The next meeting will be at the San Diego Conference on 9 October 2014 to be held from 12noon to 4pm PDT.

ACTION ITEM: Dave Q. will get a consensus via an e-mail survey and set meeting dates for the following year.

1:05pm FINANCE COMMITTEE and Membership Committee

Proposal: New Treasurer: As Robbie will be stepping down as Treasurer and Membership Secretary at the San Diego meeting, we found a very qualified candidate, Suzanne Carota, who has been a long time member. Based on the by-laws the Board can approve and vote this position in at anytime. This gives Robbie a chance to transition and make sure Suzanne is ready after the San Diego meeting in October.

Motion to elect Suzanne Carota as the new Treasurer/Membership Secretary made by Cat, seconded by Ed H. and passed unanimously.

Update: Approval of recommendation regarding CD purchases: In June Robbie and Dave Q. will sign the forms and send a check to California First National Bank to open the account. We need a formal resolution by WFO to open this account, a copy of which had been sent out to the Board. Three people, the Finance Committee Chair, the Vice President and the Treasurer will be named as WFO's agents over the long term.

Motion to adopt the resolution as outlined by Dave Q in his memo made by Ken, seconded by Dave Q. and passed unanimously.

Proposal: Amendment to our spending policy: Our previous policy stated that a Committee Chair, even if they had money in their budget, could not make an expenditure unless it was mentioned specifically in the budget as a line item. We are proposing an amendment to the policy which states that "within their annual budget, the Committee Chair can approve single expenses up to \$100 as long as it is consistent with things that their committee needs to accomplish." The proposal to amend the spending policy was approved.

1:12pm Update: New financial software: Dan S. will start the set-up process with the new Treasurer-elect, Suzanne Carota. By our next meeting we will have things well underway when Suzanne takes over in October.

Report: Financial/Membership Reports: Financial reports have been mailed to the Board. We have 75 new members since the beginning of the year which compensates for the 89 people who did not renew. We are at about our historic high with 1,081 memberships.

1:17pm PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE:

Results: Electronic WB Survey: The following is a summary of the survey of two questions regarding electronic **WB**, 1) 'How often do you read **WB**?' and 'If we had an electronic version of **WB** would you be willing to opt for that instead of the print version?' Almost one-third of the people responded with over 40% of those saying that they would like the electronic copy and forgo the print copy. In terms of mailing and printing costs we might save about \$1500/yr if ONLY those who responded agreed to forego a print copy. If that percentage applies across the whole membership we could save about \$6000/yr. The membership fee would remain the same whether or not the member took the electronic version.

1:20pm Update: Status of electronic WB: A breakdown of costs was sent out to the Board based on the lowest bid that was received from four companies for electronic publication of **WB**. Tim Brittain's bid of \$200/issue was the least expensive by a factor of three, mainly as he does not have a corporate structure. The issue with Tim's work is being able to have a plan B in place if something should happen to Tim. The electronic publication involves purchasing and maintaining an ongoing database. Each individual member will have their own user name and password. It will involve coordinating with our Membership Chair. We are seeking a "sense of the Board" regarding a price of \$200-300/issue for electronic publication of **WB** and the subsequent management of a password-protected database. Everyone would have electronic access. The people, who were willing to opt out of a print version, would not receive the print version. There will be a nominal initial cost when we begin building the database, but thereafter it should be a small maintenance fee.

ACTION ITEM: A mock-up of this site will be in place by the October meeting so that the Board can look at it and sign off on it.

This will be available with the **WB** Vol. 46 in 2015. Any member who has access will be able to download any article. One of the key objectives in producing electronic **WB** is to ensure that the articles are searchable through Google and Google Scholar. A motion is not needed at this time to allow Cat and the Publications Committee to proceed on the project.

1:34pm Report: Status of papers for Avifaunal Change Symposium. We have 31 papers committed for the Symposium; of those, 22 authors want to present in San Diego. This would make a full science session. Currently the general science session has 4 papers but historically abstracts do not come in early in the process for the science sessions. Posters are an option but we need a critical mass and we need to find time and space which may not be possible. We are in a good position with the number of submissions.

1:41pm Report: Sponsors to support Avifaunal Change publication: There might be some commercial and/or consulting firms that might be available for this. In the past, i.e., for *Bird Species of Special Concern*, (**BSSC**), the State of California contributed \$25,000. Other contributions were from

\$1000-3000. It is not too early to solicit from some donors, as we already have a whole list of abstracts. Dave S. has a list of donors for **BSSC** and we could follow up with that list.

ACTION ITEM: Cat will put the names of the potential sponsors on a spread sheet and send it to the Board members for input.

1:50PM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into executive session made by Dave Q., seconded by Joyce and passed unanimously.

Motion to come out of executive session made by Kimball, seconded by Dave Q. and passed unanimously.

2:25pm Electronic Rare Birds of California (eRBC):

The current version of **eRBC** on-line was discussed, resulting in two motions being considered.

Motion 1: Motion made by Kimball to leave eRBC version as it is now on-line until the Publications Committee and CBRC come up with a solution. Seconded by Jon and passed by a 10 to 4 vote.

Motion 2: Dave Q. moves that the Publications Committee and CBRC work together to arrive at a corrected version of eRBC to post on-line. Seconded by Jon and passed unanimously.

2:45pm Report: *Western Birds (WB)* All 45(2) needs is corrections to proofs from one author, which should be forthcoming in the next day or so, and we will be able to assemble that into pages. For 45(3) we already have seven articles accepted, not including the CBRC Report, which still needs an internal review. Hopefully CBRC members can expedite their review before the end of May so that there is time for external review.

2:48 pm CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Report: San Diego Conference 8-12 October 2014: Everything is going well for San Diego. The last critical piece we need before putting together the registration site is details on field trips which Tom is finalizing. We have everything in place for the workshops.

It would be nice to have an on-line version of pictures on the history of WFO. If we can produce something small enough that can go on the website and be downloaded we will get some version of that out. A print version to hand out at the conference is a possibility depending on costs, etc.

2:52pm Montana Conference 2015

Report: We are going to be talking to the Montana Conference Hotel staff on June 3rd. Except for the pricing of the rooms, Frances has completed the commitment on cash guarantee and thereafter a WFO Officer needs to sign the contract. We are in the process of trying to involve the Montana, Yellowstone, and Sacajawea Audubon societies; the last is from Billings and is very interested in helping out. Ed H. will be traveling and giving talks in Montana and will make further connections. Ed Dinsmore will give the keynote talk, on Mountain Plovers. Jon Dunn will be speaking on sparrows and Steve Hoffman, the executive director of Montana Audubon, might speak on raptors. Andrew Gutenberg is doing the t-shirt design.

2:56pm SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Report: There will be three student scholarships offered for the San Diego Meeting. The impact on the scholarship budget will be about \$450 per chosen applicant. We need to wait until the conference is on line before we start pursuing applicants so that they can read it and see what they would be involved with. The Pasadena Audubon Society is going to consider giving some money from their Spring Birdathon to the scholarship fund.

2:59pm AWARDS COMMITTEE

Proposal: Volunteer Awards: Awards are proposed for Kathy Molina, who had served for more than ten years as Assistant Editor for **WB** and for Peter LaTourrette who served for longer than that as Photo Editor. We can get the certificates made up and a framed print of the Sabine's Gull to award. The award is for long and meritorious service.

Jon moves to endorse Kathy Molina and Peter LaTourrette for meritorious service awards for WFO, seconded by Dave Q. and passed unanimously.

3:02pm NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Review: Two nominees who were not elected last year, Mary Gustafson from Texas and Homer Hansen from Arizona, were contacted. Mary is still interested and she plans to attend the San Diego Conference unless she travels out of the area. Homer Hansen honestly doesn't feel he has the time to serve currently, although he might in the future. We spoke with Bob Toleno, a Bay area birder. Although he has been a member for only three years, he is paying to become a life member. He has attended all the conferences since he joined, he is enthusiastic, and he is in his forties. Also Raymond van Buskirk said he would definitely be interested and he is in his 20's. He attends all the conferences. The Committee is open to suggestions to be sure we have a third person who will stand for election to the two open positions on the Board. If you have suggestions please send an e-mail to Dave Q.

ACTION ITEM: All: Send names of potential candidates to Dave Q.

For incoming Vice president we have been in discussion with potential candidates, but we don't have a name yet.

3:06pm OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Announcement: New webmaster: Joe Morlan has given notice to resign as webmaster as of the end of May, and has agreed to help with the transition to the new webmaster. As a back-up plan, Tim Brittain is willing to step in temporarily and maintain the site. Alison Sheehey is willing to serve as webmaster. She has a lot of experience running her own website, but we are still interested in other candidates. If we have to approve someone before the next meeting we will probably have to do so via e-mail.

3:08pm OTHER:

Proposal: Annual gift to the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (WFVZ) to support their storage of our records.

Discussion: In the past WFO and the CBRC have generally maintained memberships with the WFVZ. We no longer represent a significant part of the WFVZ membership. We have no way of

compensating the foundation for what they do for us: they are our official address; they are the repository of the CBRC; archive some WFO history; they answer our phone calls. How do we compensate WFVZ for that? Maybe it is worth forming a formal relationship with the WFVZ. Perhaps Linnea Hall is willing to have WFVZ somehow be an official partner of WFO. And rather than just archiving the CBRC's records, if we give them a significant amount of money perhaps other State Committees, e.g., Nevada, could place their records at the WFVZ. It would be a sort of archiving institution for WFO. This might be an alternate way to move ahead in the future. They have a sponsoring membership starting at \$500. Why don't we invite Linnea to the Board meeting in San Diego? We could perhaps explore how to move ahead for both organizations.

ACTION ITEM: Cat will consult and come up with specific proposal at the October meeting.

3:17 pm Report: *Ad hoc* Sub-committee on Advocacy Policy: The committee would not refer to it as an advocacy policy. The sub-committee feels that WFO does have some responsibility in the area of conservation and science policy. What we really need is a process by which to identify important issues that are of regional or national significance. We have suggested a procedure to put some controls on the process. What we need here is a vote from the Board on our proposal (a memo was sent to the Board) in principle.

ACTION ITEM: Item tabled until October meeting.

3:42pm FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

Update: The dates for the Cuba trip are November 3-16, 2015. We are working out the details. Luis will be the leader.

Announcement: A central Sierra trip is being considered for 2016

Announcement: Jon, Larry Sansone and Cat are planning to put together a shorebird workshop for 2015 as a fundraiser.

3:48pm Motion made to adjourn by Cat, seconded by Kimball and passed unanimously.