

**Western Field Ornithologists Board of Directors  
Conference Call Meeting  
Wednesday, June 05, 2013, 1:00-3:30 pm**

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, Daniel D. Gibson, Kimball L. Garrett, Ed Harper, Kurt Leuschner, Joyce Meyer, Frances Oliver, Dan Singer, Brian Sullivan, Debbie Van Dooremolen

**Board Members absent:** Robert E. Gill,

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

**MINUTES**

**1:00pm Meeting called to order, welcome, roll call**

Minutes from December meeting unanimously approved **via motion by Joyce and seconded by Dan G.**

**Next BOD Meetings:** Confirmed for 22 August 2013 from 11:00am to 4:00pm at the WFO Conference in Olympia, WA. The next conference call will be 6 November 2013.

**1:07pm FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Report: Proposal for Cash Reserve Policy:** The Cash Reserve Subcommittee (Dave S, Ed P, Dan S, and Dave Q.) examined possible higher returns on our cash balances. They recommended keeping a year's worth of expenses completely liquid, keeping another amount with a varying amount of liquidity available for special projects, and a third amount kept for longer term investments. This means of the \$135,000 available we would divide \$35,000 between our current checking account and a new money market account, \$50,000 would be put into I-Bond, and the remaining \$50,000 into a ladder CD. Dan Singer will research these details.

**Announcement:** Dan Singer has agreed to move into Robbie's Treasurer position when she vacates the position at the 2014 meeting.

**Update: Financial Software:** Dan S favors online software but will continue to research both online and stand alone systems. Costs of both systems are similar. He will make a decision by the third or fourth quarter of this year in order to implement the process in early 2014. For the first 8-9 months of 2014 he will duplicate Robbie's work and get the system up and running so that when he takes over the system, he will be able to generate our reports.

**1:12pm PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Report: Electronic *Rare Birds of California (RBC)*:** The digitizing of **RBC** is incomplete at time as the program that the maps were copied from is electronically unstable. This is expected to be solved in the near future.

**Report:** Progress on the availability of ***Western Birds (WB)*** online will be reported in the next meeting. The first number of 2014 might be our first electronic publication.

**Proposal: Possible new publications:** The possibility of holding a WFO Symposium at the 2014 San Diego Conference with the papers published by WFO as the second in our monograph series (*Studies in Western Birds*) was discussed. Robert Gill is available to edit that volume with assistance from Dave Shuford. One possible topic/title for the symposium was suggested as "Trends and Traditions," covering things like population trends, distributional change, new methods in gathering information on migration, regional patterns, taxonomic changes, etc. WFO would solicit manuscripts for the symposium. We need to coordinate with the meeting chairs at the San Diego meeting and with Ken Able. Primarily we will seek individual contributions. We might need 15-20 papers.

- Action Item: Dave S will have a specific proposal at the August conference. Everyone should send their suggestions as to theme and ideas to Dave ASAP.

**Discussion: Birds of Montana:** Jeff Marks is 90% done. Most species accounts are online. He is looking for funding to finish although he will be going through another publisher. Jeff Marks is planning to attend the Olympia meeting.

- Action Item: Tabled until August meeting with author for decision on whether to underwrite this project. Ken Able will follow up with the author in meantime.

**Report: *Western Birds (WB)*:** Issue 44(2) is going to the printer by end of this week. For issue 44(3) we are currently awaiting the CBRC report, as we have published for the last several years.

**Discussion:** Our latest volume on SORA is vol. 40, 2009. We planned to put **WB** on SORA within two years of publication.

- Action Item: Phil will follow up with Tim to make sure that **WB(41)** is on SORA. **WB(42)** is expected on SORA sometime during the first quarter of 2014.

**Update:** Cat and Dan G have put together a comprehensive questionnaire for our membership regarding transitioning to the electronic **WB**.

- Action Item: All should examine this and send questions or ideas to Dan G and Cat. We want to keep the questionnaire relatively short so prioritize the questions in your feedback.

## 1:35pm CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

**Report: Olympia Conference 2013:** Registration for Olympia is going way ahead of expectations. Our projection was in the 160s and we are now at 155. Total field trip capacity is over 80% full. Some people interested in coming may not have a field trip option on Thursday or Sunday. Joyce and Black Hills Audubon have been a tremendous help in putting these field trips and leaders together.

**Discussion:** We may not have any options left to us for additional field trips and/or leaders.

- Action Item: Joyce will check into possible field trips for Sunday and/or Thursday.
- Action Item: Ed will look into getting a map showing the local areas.

**Update: San Diego Conference 2014 (Sept. or Oct.)** Ed and Tom Blackman narrowed the hotels down to two. Tom has been extremely helpful as has been the San Diego Tourist Bureau

contact. Hotel rates are expensive in San Diego. One hotel is the Marriott in Mission Valley with great facilities is \$129 per night but there is a charge for parking in variously scattered lots which is not conducive to the kind of space we need for our trips. The other is a Marriott Courtyard next to the airport, but prices are higher, \$149 per night.

**Motion: Ed P moves that we approve to do a 10% profit sharing with San Diego Field Ornithologists assuming they are interested. Seconded by Kimball and passed unanimously.**

#### **2:10pm NOMINATIONS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**

**Note:** Two scholarships were available for the Olympia Meeting. One scholarship was awarded to Zoe McCormick. Robbie e-mailed this applicant to let her know about the opportunity. Joyce has sent out notifications of the scholarships for the Olympia meeting. Efforts continue in finding ways of recruiting candidates.

#### **2:15pm NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Announcement:** Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta has resigned from the Board. He will have one year left on the second of his two three year terms this August. Even though it will not take effect until Olympia, we should elect Ken Able into that one year remaining term which we can do as a Board and not take it to the membership.

**Motion: Dave Q moves that Ken Able serve the remaining year of Osvel's term beginning with the Olympia meeting. Seconded by Dan G and passed unanimously.**

**Report:** We have two people who will be termed out. Ken being one and the other is Debbie who completes the second of her three year terms. We have two three year term slots to fill. Kurt Leuschner has agreed to be re-nominated for the second of the three year terms for which he is eligible. Brian Sullivan has decided not to stand for a similar seat. We have four slots to fill and six total candidates: Cat and Jon who have been off the Board for one year; Kurt who is still on the Board, and three new candidates: Tom Blackman, Mary Gustafson, and Homer Hansen. We have apprised them what the board membership obligations are. Dave Q will send out a package of these bios to the voting Board in Olympia.

#### **2:20pm AWARDS COMMITTEE**

**Volunteer Award Discussion:** The Committee would like to get approval to bestow the Volunteer Award to Lena Hayashi and Heath Wakelee at the Olympia Conference.

**Motion: Dan G moves that we honor these two people with the Volunteer Award. Seconded by Ken and passed unanimously.**

**Note:** The awards that we have presented in the past for the Volunteer Award have been a framed Andy Birch watercolor. The total cost of framing and the accompanying certificate that all Board members signed, is close to \$200 per recipient.

**Swarth Award: Report:** There are two nomination packages. The Awards Committee will make a presentation not earlier than the San Diego meeting in 2014. It would be best if the names of the nominees are not made known until the recommendation is made to the entire Board.

## 2:25pm OUTREACH COMMITTEE

**Report: E-mail access to Members:** We found a good vendor to facilitate sending out e-mails to our members. The goal is to send out not more than one message per quarter and an additional message when appropriate. We have used it twice so far. Once to Life and Patron members so that they could register early for the northeast California trip and then subsequently sent to all members. The second announced the conference in Olympia, again to Life and Patrons first and then to all members. We are considering a short article and/or teaser on what is coming up in the next issue of **WB**. Hopefully this inspires people to take a look at the journal; it reminds people of what we do in terms of publication and it gives more publicity to the authors. Feedback on this is sought before the final pdf for the next issue of **WB**.

**Discussion:** It might be fruitful to put highlights of what goes on at a Board meeting. We should also strive to put something in the message that there is something that the membership can make use of. As to summarizing the articles that will be in the upcoming **WB**, this might be tricky, i.e., rewording someone's abstract? Ed will send a draft to the entire Board if he attempts to summarize the article.

- Action Item: Send ideas for the next President's message to Ed P by mid-July.

**Report: Ideas for increasing membership:** Frances is working with people in other states in developing an interest in WFO and plans to have a conference call and explain what we are looking for.

- Action Item: Follow up on ideas discussed at our retreat.

One of the things that came out of the retreat was to have business cards made up for each Board member and officer with the WFO logo, our website and our individual names and phone number and e-mail. We should be able to hand them out at the August meeting.

- Action Item: Frances volunteers to investigate making up these business cards.

## 2:36pm FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

**Update: Cuba March 2013:** The trip report for this is on the website. We should do another Cuba trip in 2015, hopefully with Kimball.

**Report: Northeastern California June 24-July 1, 2013:** This trip is ready to go, fully paid for, and participants are getting their trip information. We have been scouting Modoc.

**Report: 2014 trips:**

Ed Harper will lead a trip to Montana May 22-30, 2014, called 'Mountains, Prairies and Wetlands' for about 14 people. He is currently working on the business plan.

- Action Item: Kurt will work with Ed H. to put together a proposed budget including pricing, expenses and potential profit to WFO by the August Board meeting.

A potential 2 week trip to New Zealand in November through Nature Quest with Mark Hanger who owns the company and is from New Zealand and specializes in New Zealand trips exclusively, is being researched. This would be a good fundraiser. We could also add Maui to this trip.

- Action Item: Kurt will put together a proposed budget including pricing, expenses and potential profit to WFO by the August Board meeting.

**2:45pm General Discussion Item: Identification of members in our membership list:** This refers to a member who did not want to be identified by his name. The suggestion was made that a member should be identified either by their name or listed as anonymous and exclude pseudonyms.

**Consensus:** Phil will contact this member casually and explore his preferences.

**Amended Motion:** Ed P moves that we immediately remove the membership list from the website until discussion leading to a decision is made at the August meeting. Seconded by Dan S. and passed with one abstention.

**3:25pm Motion made to adjourn by Joyce, seconded by Brian and passed unanimously.**