

**Western Field Ornithologists Board of Directors
42nd Annual Board Meeting, Pueblo, Colorado
Thursday, August 17, 2017 11am – 4:00pm**

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

Board Members present: Tom Blackman, *Pres.*; Kurt Leuschner, *Vice Pres.*; Suzanne Carota, *Treas./Membership Sec'y*; Liga Auzins Wurster, *Rec. Sec'y*; Dave Quady, *Past Pres.*; Jon Dunn, John Garrett, Kimball Garrett, Daniel D. Gibson, Homer Hansen, Karen Havlena, Larry Modesitt, Diane Rose, Frances Oliver, Steve Rottenborn, Dave Shuford

Guests: Phil Unitt, *Editor, Western Birds, WB*; David Gillilan, *Pres., Colorado Field Ornithologist*; John Harris, *WFO Board candidate*; Wendy Beers, *WFO Board candidate*

Board Member absent: Susan Kelly

MINUTES

11:00am Welcome, Lunch and Group Photo

11:44am Meeting called to order, roll.

Minutes from 3 May 2017 Conference Call accepted unanimously via motion to approve by Jon and seconded by Diane.

11:45am FINANCE COMMITTEE

Budget Report: Suzanne handed out two financial reports, the agenda and spreadsheets. On the report the first item is the balance sheet. As of July 31, 2017, we have \$292,000 which includes committed funds. The Mike San Miguel Publications Fund is \$109,000. The Scholarship fund is \$19,000. All other cash is basically \$164,000. The total of those three is \$292,000. Suzanne broke down the cash accounts since we are here together. We have \$124,000 in CD's, and we have \$64,000 in another CD account at US Bank, that we just opened with the help of Tom and Kurt. We have \$102,000 in the money market which is not restricted. Suzanne sent out a new report which is called an activity statement. The idea was to take the budget and break it down into 6 categories. If you look at the bottom line, it shows a \$33,000 loss but it tells you where our money comes from and where it goes to by activity. The first column is our operating expenses budget is interest and donations from random places. Then we have the column for our budget for **WB**, which also contains the membership dues which pretty much offsets the expenses of **WB**. We break even, even though the balance is a negative \$220. The next column is conferences, which reflect 3 conferences right now. Next, any donations and expenses to Scholarships will be reflected in this column. The Publications column reflects ongoing projects but excludes **WB**. This column is the most unknown as we don't know how these projects will turn out. The New Mexican book project has been rolled into other projects. The last column is Trips for which Kurt contributed input for the budgets of our planned trips. Hopefully this type of representation of the budget will be useful to all. Board responds very positively to the representation of the 6-column budget. It gives more information as to where the money is coming from and where it is going. If there are any questions, please let Suzanne know. The next page is the actual budget as of July 31, 2017. The Board gets this report quarterly and the Finance Committee gets it monthly. The next page is a forecast as of

August 15, 2017. It combines where we are as of July 31, 2017 and some of the recent expenses. Depending on what Pubs Projects does, it will be better than the budget.

Fundraising Report: Fundraising this year drove the budget. The forecast looks way better than the budget. The other thing that happened this year is the fundraising activities.

12:15pm Scholarship Report: Under other items is the Scholarship fund, we had a lot more outgo than income so far. We need to discuss how we are going to keep the fund viable for the 2018 budget. We did not get a contribution from Pasadena Audubon for the scholarship this year, but they did contribute to AV Change publication this year. Diane will reach out to Sierra Foothills Audubon Society who contributed to AV Change but still may contribute to the Scholarship Fund. Pasadena Audubon has a growing group of young birders whom they would be very happy to send as scholarship recipients. Buena Vista contributed \$500. About this time last year Dave Q. sent a report to each of these Audubon Societies describing our scholarship activities in the preceding two years. We did not receive any response. It seems as if we have lapsed somehow with Pasadena. They have always been a great contributor to the Scholarship fund. Maybe we should reach out to them, i.e. do a field trip for the express purpose of raising scholarship funds. Homer did a synopsis of the scholarships several board meetings ago. At that time, we were planning to get monies from Audubon Societies and our members. Also, if something came up, that is what the general budget fund is for. A general outreach program has not been in place. It has been up to the presidents or past presidents. It would be useful to have one central person, perhaps Suzanne, in overlooking these efforts. Maybe we should have a session outside the Board meeting and come up with a presentation.

ACTION ITEM: Coordinator needed for Outreach and/or Fundraising

Suzanne discusses the Scholarship Fund. She does not want to make any judgments but she does want everyone to look. We had a lot more going out than in. It is only \$19,000. It is going to be \$12,000-\$13,000 by the end of the year. How do we keep this budget viable as it is declining and we should focus on that in 2018. John Garrett will reach out to Pasadena Audubon and Diane Rose to Sierra Foothills Audubon. Dave Q. will send out a letter to the Audubon Societies mentioned. He provided a report about this time for the Fortuna meeting to each of those Audubon Societies, describing our activities in the preceding two years and he got *no* response from any of the three societies. Jon D. does fundraising field trips for the Publication Fund, perhaps someone can do this for the Scholarship Fund. Last year Homer did a synopsis and at that time we were at about \$12,000. Principally we receive our income from the Audubon Societies. We need a consistent outreach program as had been done by the Pres. or Past Pres. Homer is willing to be the 'Overseer' of generating funding for the Scholarship Fund. Also, what are we doing with our general Fund? What do we want to promote? There is no law that says we cannot use money from the General Fund for Scholarships. Buena Vista Audubon, whom Tom knows very well, called and said they have this very young person we would like to come to the conference and we will pay his expenses. They were going to give us \$1,000 per year. Something like this could be a trend for the future. Maybe we should send out a flyer to all the Audubon groups with a picture of the young birders in front showing how successful this program is and hopefully this will help us raise more funds. Elisa, one of the young birders, had some ideas on this also. When Homer arrived, the fund balance was \$5,000, it is now \$12,000-\$18,000. Frances has been the one to reach out to all the Audubon Societies and various conferences for youth scholarships, but how they act on it would be interesting to find out.

12:30pm STORAGE of *WB*

Back issues of *WB*: In her garage Suzanne has a complete set of *WB* issues 1(1) to 48(2) donated by someone in the last year and she does not want to keep them forever. Someone suggested we auction it off. Whenever Suzanne orders the number of *WB* copies for each issue, she has to overestimate because we don't know how many people will join during the rest of the year. She has been keeping the excess and has anywhere from 30 to 50 copies per issue. She doesn't mind keeping 6 of each but we should find a home for the rest. In the past we (Frances and Robbie) would slip a note in each issue and take them to the Bird Symposium in Stockton. Robbie could tell who joined after picking up a free copy. We could put them out at different events. It may not be cost effective. Jon D. offers to take them and give them out at his conferences and field trips, etc. The Board agrees to use these extra copies for outreach including the complete set that has been donated. We could also send a few to CFO for their conference. Dan G. has a bound set 1(1) to 30(4) also. Ventura might be a good place to auction the complete set. Suzanne can also bring the other back issues so that they may be distributed to other conferences. The first three years *WB* is called *California Birds*.

ACTION ITEM: Members of the Board will e-mail Suzanne when they need some *WB* copies (including the complete set), to give away at other conferences. E-mail Suzanne before Ventura otherwise she will bring them all to Ventura.

San Miguel fund balance: Jon D. asked Suzanne to look back historically at the balance starting in 2000 to 2016 and segregate the balance which was between \$75 and 28,000. and how it got to be there. So, Suzanne broke it down to money that came in from trips (\$45,000), page charges \$18,000, and \$11,000 from all other random donations.

Dave Q. contributed in completely changing the donate page on the website. We took off all the information regarding Patrons from the membership page. We put all the new changes to Patrons under DONATE.

1:24pm Membership Report: Membership has been declining about 50 net members per year for the past 3 years, which in theory, could lead to 0 members in 22 years. Per David Gillilan, *Pres., Colorado Field Ornithologists*, CFO is slightly increasing. The biggest increase comes at the convention where they offer \$20.00 for renewal. They have a fair number of younger people one or two of whom is on the CFO Board. Estimate on the demographics of CFO membership show that young birders (30 and under) might be about 10%. WFO gets many new members from the out-of-state conferences and then a lot of those drop off. Maybe there is a way to outreach to these new members by sending personal notes, etc. and maintain better human contact with them. WFO 'forces' the member to join since they want to go to the conference, but if it is a distant state that member might not renew. This is true for so many other organizations and their membership. Even in CA this happens. We have done numerous things to reach out to the membership and how many have renewed? Something like 50 out of 220. Out of the Fortuna conference 30 did not renew from about 300. It's a great idea to follow-up.

Under The California Young Birders Club website and their newsletter, there is a call for mentors. We should have someone reach out to them. We would like to get a volunteer.

CALL FOR MENTORS: Under the California Young Birders website and their newsletter, there is a call for mentors.

ACTION ITEM: We should reach out to the Young Birders Club by designating someone from WFO to mentor these young birders.

12:27pm Fundraising Efforts and Results (Paul H. Johnson Fund):

To date we have raised \$30,831 which is fantastic. Jon and Kimball wrote a fundraising letter. This letter generated a matching grant of \$10,000, which was generously donated by the Paul H. Johanson Fund. We want to thank Lee Lochie, the distributor of that legacy fund. She lives in Albuquerque. She is here at the conference and we will be taking her out to dinner tonight. Of the \$30,000 that has been raised, \$8,000 was raised before the letter went out from Jon and Kimball. \$12,000 came in as the result of the letter and \$10,000 from the match. We have a list of people who donated and we will collectively thank them at the banquet. We got several sponsors, Sierra Foothills Audubon, Mendocino Coast Audubon, Out of This World OPTICS (from Mendocino), Point Blue, all of whom are going to have their logos on the book.

12:30pm: Chandler S. Robbins Endowment:

Dan Gibson was instrumental in this transaction. He was the first person to do an American field guide after Petersen. It has Sonograms in it, which was rare in those days. He worked at Pawtuxet for decades and was the inspiration for generations of both zoologists and non-professionals. He was one of the first to conduct Christmas Bird Counts that reflected an exactitude, (i.e., same number of people) for decades and was very careful in trying to make them comparable. He started the Breeding Bird Surveys. C. Robbins has been famous in the ornithological community for over 70 years. He also did lots of banding of birds. There is an albatross, named 'Wisdom', on Laysan Island that he banded 60 years ago. He just recently died and it wasn't a passing of just anybody. Friends of Pawtuxet send this out: 'The perception of C. Robbins' influence on North American birds is way above most, and even most groups of people. He was the quintessential field ornithologist and that is why it is appropriate to make a donation'.

Kimball moves that we make a one-time donation of \$500 to the Chandler S. Robbins endowment and as subsidiaries of this motion, 1) let our membership know in our Newsletter and/or banquet; also, 2) included would be a letter from Tom, our Pres., saying things like many of our Board were inspired by Chan, that a few Board members had met him, and everyone used his field guide, etc. Seconded by Karen and passed unanimously. Suzanne will cut a check and send it to Tom so he can send it in along with a letter which he will share at our next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Kimball to share Chandler S. Robbins letter with Board.

12:40pm Western Birds (WB): Report: We had a phone conference of the Publications Committee a few days ago and Cat Waters made a summary of it which I we all should look at

12:41pm Presentation (ex tempore) by Phil Unitt: Prompted by the question from Jon of what does **WB** need, we contacted the printer and asked if we printed at our maximum size (to do 96 pages with 4 color signatures), what is that going to cost? He responded with an estimate that was barely more than what we are paying now. The other thing we talked about was why scientific journals are important and get some feedback how this might be packaged as a presentation for next year for the entire membership as part of the scientific program. **WB** is very important, otherwise the editor (Phil) would not have devoted the last 20-30 years of his life. Do we take too much for granted what the value of the scientific journal is? Dave G. and Phil just had a discussion that they were experiencing a decline in the rate of submissions for CFO. Today, do people just blog their

discoveries on line and that is considered science? Two ideas behind a scientific journal like this are peer review where an article submitted gets circulated to reviewers, that the associate editors and I think are suitable to the reviewer. The reviewers make their suggestions; they may say yes this is suitable for publication in our journal; what needs to be done to make it suitable for publication; if it is not suitable then why is it not suitable. We as editors including the associate editors, give feedback to the author that these are the issues that need to be addressed to get this to a place where we would publish it. Then the authors revise their manuscript and send it back. Then I will copy edit it, send it back to the author and ask them to approve it for publishing, then I send the manuscript to Tim Brittan for typesetting. Tim generates a proof that will be basically as what is printed in the journal. Then that gets sent as a .pdf to the authors for any final corrections, and then it comes back to Phil who coordinates with Tim, the assembling of the various articles, of what will fit in an issue and then it goes to the printer. The physics of putting a journal together in print is a little tricky. Our journal is stapled together. We have found by scientific experimentation that 96 pages is the maximum that is feasible to do. The few times we published more than 96 pages we had to use perfect binding to hold them together. This goes outside our usual budget so we would need to plan for something like that. The 96 pages right now seems to jive with the number of manuscripts we are receiving right now. The mechanics of the printing process: The printer has big sheets of paper that cover 8 pages on a side and they fold it up in a particular way, like origami and it is cut. One of these pages will be in color and is called the signature. If the other pages are not in color, then we don't have to pay on those. So, that's what Ginger Johnson has been doing for us forever, figuring out that Sudoku puzzle on how to fit those figures as close to possible as to where it is cited in the text. Well we have four color signatures therefore we are well within our budget which leaves us a lot of flexibility. As well as just what we can put in, i.e. graphs.

WB in my (Phil's) opinion fills a unique niche in the ecology of science. Just in the same way that our organization does--in membership, board, contributors, both amateurs and professionals. We are ever becoming more unique among the sciences in that we promote democratization of science, i.e., that it is just not for the people in the ivory towers, who have access to many million dollar NSF grants. I maintain this democratization of science is very important. To have amateurs who may not have been drilled into all the stuff that contributes to a big scientific journal. It is important for us to help those people along. For these people to contribute to a larger scientific journal is definitely next to impossible. For us, we put more effort into developing the manuscripts. A good example of this is one that we are going to have in our next issue (48:3), on the taxonomy of the elegant quail. You may recall from our Fortuna meeting where Diego Blanco gave a talk on that and he was mentored by James Maley of the Moore Lab at Occidental College. Now they have a manuscript that has been reviewed and accepted. We have mentored both Diego as one of our scholarship recipients to the point that he is submitting his first article to a scientific publication and we are cultivating James Maley who is also a young professional. He contributed the description of the new subspecies of the Mangrove Rail from Honduras, although it is outside our usual area, I thought that was a worthwhile investment. How much of that kind of ornithology do you see in journals these days in respect to our contributors as well as our membership and the kind of science that we publish. This is my version of a pep talk for **WB** in the ecology of science. Now that I have just extemporaneously given you this presentation over the course of this meeting and you will be hearing about it over the course of the next few months. It is important to present this to our membership as a whole; to our publications committee over the phone. Boards applauds Phil's extemporaneous presentation.

In his talk, maybe Phil can also include how **WB** came about, it's a little off topic but it shows just how important **WB** is. That is why most of us are here, because we believe in it. We have had two

editors in a whole lifetime of 50 years. There have been Board members that have learned how *WB* is produced, heard about the Associate Editors and how *WB* comes to life, particularly the friendly approach in working with authors where instead of just rejecting a manuscript outright, we work with them to bring it to fruition. Peer reviewed scientific papers hopefully carry clout in conservation issues. A lot of articles have an impact on the actual science and policy now and well into the future. All of these things need to be inculcated to the membership in your presentation and then hopefully they can recruit other members after having a better idea why it is so important to recruit WFO members. Basically, the whole audience will applaud that we have gotten something interesting. Phil and Suzanne discussed that 3 years' reserve for our normal budget for *WB*.

ACTION ITEM: We think this talk would be a great opener for the second day of the science sessions in Ventura.

DOI's (Digital Object Identifier): We are in the DOI system now. The principle behind them is that anything that is published would have its own DOI so that if something on line gets moved to some other source it can be found directly. A few years ago, at our museum in San Diego, we needed to change all the web addresses and that is very dire as all the links go dead, etc. So, if you plug into Google the DOI, then you should get a link that goes to this article. We paid about \$150 to get into the system. Now in our bibliography, if the article has a DOI we have to put that number in there and then we go register each one of those DOIs. In theory, it should work. Maybe Tom, can stress the importance of *WB* in the conservation and scientific community. Many people who attend these conferences, are some of the most loyal members we have. We should make the DOIs a high priority because we want people when they search on certain topics, that they find the appropriate DOIs. That's important. We should complete the DOIs for our past issues. Anything less than one page does not get a DOI number. On the online *WB*, can you go directly from the article DOI number to the actual article? Phil no. Is it worth Tim Brittain's spending extra time to make those clickable rather than the reader taking the extra two seconds to block and copy and paste. So, the point being, in trying to make this accessible, if you want to have longevity in the bibliography some of it will be to ours but most will be elsewhere. Phil will talk to Tim about bringing the hyperlink to the paper. What is the process for doing the back issues of *WB*? Is it something you, Phil must do or Tim, to register those DOIs? Somebody must do it. Each one takes only a few seconds. But we have been publishing for 48 years. The time involved would probably be 50 hrs. Can we ask a student to do it? It would take somewhere between 25 – 50 hrs. to register all old issues of *WB*. We also need to talk to Tim because this number is in the .pdf of the issues that come up now, it should come up when it is searched on, but those old issues will not have that and that must be added in. So, that's a task that would take even more time. Added in where? We have a file for that issue for that article on line on our website, so somehow the DOI would need to be linked to that article on the web. So, that's another task, i.e., make the DOIs and register them. Tom., Phil, and Tim will discuss the DOIs and quantify them so at the next meeting they can present the needs of the DOIs. We can then decide if we need it or not. Kimball I think it is important that we have a consensus of what Dave S. brought up.

ACTION ITEM: Review items in above paragraphs and update progress for the next meeting.

Progress Report on *WB*:

WB 48 (3): I would estimate the 15th of Sept. for sending that out. Everything is copyedited now and has gone to Tim. The publication date should be the date it goes out. This number will carry the newsletter which will have three things in it: The Patron issue, the smoking policy, and The Chandler S. Robins endowment.

WB 48 (4): Will be devoted largely if not entirely to a paper on the birds of Middleton Island of Alaska, it will be very interesting.

WB 49 (1) We will have reports of both the California and Hawai'i Records Committees. It will be our first report of the Hawai'i Records Committee.

The issue of Google Scholar: it's not showing up in Goggle Scholar. It is not clear but it does show up in Google. All these electronic devices need constant testing and maintenance.

1:14pm Trends and Traditions: Avifaunal change in western North America and the eastern Pacific:

Report: We are making progress. Bob Gill, Dan Gibson, and Dave Shuford talked just before this meeting and it looks as if the publishing date is pushed back to 2018. We have 25 manuscripts, 13 of which are ready to be copy edited, there are 6 that are close to that stage, there are six that are out for revision and of those 6, 3 have substantial revisions which will take time. Phil's going to start on copyediting in Sept. and we estimate It will take about 3 months which puts it into Dec. Tim has to lay out the copy once it is copyedited. We will send in the documents for editing and copy editing as they become ready. The book will be ready sometime in early 2018. There are 3 co-editors: Bob Gill, his wife Colleen, and Dave Shuford. We sent out a fundraising letter stating that we will get this product out. Our members are going to say 'Where is it?' The letter indicated at the end of the year, so we are concerned that we made this promise to them and then the book takes so long. This kind of book is very hard to schedule with so many authors. The next book on LeConte's thrasher is just one author instead of 25 as in Avifaunal Change. It takes a lot of time. How do we keep the authors motivated to keep the project going? It seems to be a tremendous problem. We try to urge them and try to give them a deadline and encourage them to get it in. When you have multiple authors, we are asking every author to come in at the same time, whereas for things like **WB** papers can come at various times. Phil: This volume also represents a big chunk of output of part of my museum and we admit to being slow at some of this. In the newsletter, we should put the status in there. We should put the status in the newsletter since this reaches our membership. Some of the authors finished a year ago and they are wondering about the status of the book. We want the whole thing to be good, so if it takes a little longer so be it. The authors are told in the beginning about the process including page charges, so they should be prepared for the page charges.

1:24pm Other publications:

Status of *Studies in Western Birds*: **Report:** Ken Able has a handout on Jay Shepard's LeConte's thrasher manuscript. This seems to be going well as there is only one author. Ken Able would be able to answer all questions but unfortunately he is not here. Tom will talk to Ken.

ACTION ITEM: Tom will get the Table of Contents for the LeConte's book.

Report: St. Lawrence Island: Paul Lehmann's manuscript on St. Lawrence Island. Most of the manuscript (99%) is focused on Gambell. Tom will encourage Paul to send Ken a Table of Contents.

Report: Other potential publications. Mendocino County Checklist by Bob Keiffer. He has in mind something larger than could fit in **WB**. The Heindel book, although there has not been communication, it may one day be on the horizon.

Report: California Bird Checklist: It is almost finished and we made corrections according to the latest AOS Supplement. Steve had his admin staff help him with that. Then Steve will send it to Jon for comments. There will be two different types of Checklists. One being the 10 column one and the other one that follows Fish and Wildlife format from some years ago. Developing an app for that is somewhere down the road for whoever would like to get involved. We should promote other states in the WFO umbrella area to look at the formatting of our checklist and design their checklists along our lines, so that there may be some uniformity among the checklists.

ACTION ITEM: It's not just finances that warrants a focused discussion but all the other things that we say we will do or should do like outreach, maintaining the website, etc. Great ideas are generated but the follow through goes through the cracks. We need to keep moving forward with all this. Who is going to take the next step, who is going to help Phil or Diane do whatever? Who is going to do it?

1:41pm ANNUAL CONFERENCES

42nd Annual WFO Conference, Pueblo, Colorado, August 16 to August 20, 2017

Report: We have 170 people at this conference. I think we were eclipsed by the eclipse to a great degree. We will probably break even at this conference. Everybody had a great time this morning and the committee did a great job in organizing the registration with everybody getting their packets, etc. We look forward to the rest of the conference.

1:43pm 43rd Annual Conference 2018, Ventura, CA, September 26-30 2018

Report: We have the venue and hotel set up and everything squared away, but we need a chairperson. Tom is looking for someone to step forward to take care of this. You have a committee in place but who knows their stuff but we need someone to coordinate. Kimball is not volunteering but he could be subsidiary to the chair, regarding fieldtrips, logistics, etc. What we need in this particular chair for the Ventura meeting is, someone that can answer questions from Committee chairs, etc., when they need things. Even though we have very responsible people doing their jobs, we need someone to bring it all together. Someone who will sign the contract, etc.

ACTION ITEM: We need a Chair for the Sept.2018 Ventura Meeting.

44th Annual Conference 2018

We need to find a location out of state. Alaska is not feasible. Reno was 2001. Las Vegas was 2007. Utah and Wyoming should definitely be considered but we don't know if the 2 WFO members in Utah and the 3 members in Wyoming, would suffice to develop plans in those states. Two members, Kurt and Homer with possible assistance from Jon, volunteer to explore possible sites and report back at our next meeting. Once you look at a site it needs to be checked against our Conference Guide, ('Ed's Bible') to see if it meets our criteria.

ACTION ITEM: Kurt, Jon, and Homer will explore a site out of state.

Further notes on Pueblo Conference.

Discussion: Bill K. from CFO has done a wonderful job in organizing the field trips. It is important to partner with the locals. It is hard to get the people involved in certain aspects if you don't know them. We need to have absolute trust in people which we did with Bill who was very organized and on top of everything so it all ran smoothly. It's hard to delegate when people aren't on the Board

because they don't know the routine. We have a pretty good format and there is no need for change at this time. The only thing that has changed over the last several years is the opening reception on the Thurs. night. We don't have one until half-way through the conference, Fri night. CFO holds a picnic on Thurs night and that has become one of their favorite events. It is the first thing that anybody does. It sets the tone. We did it in San Diego at the museum; it just depends on the venue. In Ventura, we could go to the WFVZ and have the reception there. Everyone seems to agree with this. The Mono Lake Chautauqua normally has a dinner too and that's one of the few times you get to see everybody. On Sunday, they have a picnic around noon after the morning field trips. They have a bird calling contest and a band and it's fun.

Updating The Conference Guide.

Report: "Ed's Bible" or **The Conference Guide**. needs to be updated periodically, especially the budget model. People who are responsible for the budget should update, as should people of other various leadership positions, i.e. registration, that use the guide. For updating periodically, it has to be edited by somebody who is familiar with it and has at least an intuitive sense of what requires updating rather than having 5 or 6 disparate groups adding their piece with no coordination. Who wants to be responsible for it? How about the conference committee chair? Of course, this will change every year. Dave Q, suggests it should be someone who is experienced and is outgoing. Dave Q. and Frances agree to take on this job updating the guide every other year. Larry as Meeting Chair for the Pueblo Conference will give his updates to Dave Q. and Frances regarding the Guide.

ACTION ITEM: Dave Q. and Frances O. volunteer to review The Conference Guide every two years.

Kudos: Tom and the Board thank Steve for the wonderful job he did with the Science Sessions. The very beautiful T-shirt was done by John Schmitt of a Broad-tailed Hummingbird and he volunteered to give us the painting for which we received \$750 at the silent auction. Jon Dunn suggests that we use John Schmitt as our go to artist as he is very reliable and will do them for a nominal fee. Also, he listened very carefully about Jon's description of the primaries of the broad-tailed hummingbird.as it is depicted in the painting (and T-shirts). That is not to say if there is a great local artist that we would not use him or her. This policy is agreed upon by the majority of the Board. It should be decided by the Chair of the Conference.

ACTION ITEM: Jon will make a very very short presentation at our next meeting delineating our policy for choosing the Artist of the Conference.

Awards: We have 3 outgoing Board members, Dan Gibson, and Frances Oliver who are here and we thank them with a parting gift (of WFO wine glasses). Susan Kelly will not be running for her second term.

1:30pm BREAK

2:30pm Nominations: Kurt

2:40pm Motion made by Kimball, seconded by Diane to go into Executive Session, passes unanimously.

3:23pm Motion made by Kimball, seconded by Diane to come out of Executive Session, passes unanimously.

3:25pm The Board welcomes new Board members, Wendy Beers, John Harris and Ken Able.

3:40pm Conservation and Science Policy Committee: We haven't taken actions in the last year or so. The most recent action that we took was about a month ago with lighting and bird collisions. When issues come up and we hear about them we usually find that it does not warrant our making a recommendation to the Board. Over one year ago, we submitted the most recent action that we took which was to submit comments on CFW's proposal regarding the Tri-colored-Blackbird. It has not been voted upon by the Fish and Game Commission as yet. That's why we haven't done anything recently but if anyone has issues that you come across that you think the committee should consider write a letter to your representative or contact Steve, who will send it around to the committee and discuss it for merit according to our guidelines.

3:41pm Field Trips: Report: Nothing new to report. Cuba Nov. 2018 is on the horizon. There will also be a Northern California Sierra (Shasta and/or Trinity) in Summer 2018. John Harris volunteers to be Coordinator for this trip with the option to continue in this position if he wishes.

We do need someone who would be the coordinator for these trips. Someone who could make the hotel reservations food, etc. We could give them a slot in the trip or find a way to pay them to compensate them for their efforts. If there are any candidates in your mind, that would be great. We considered giving Lena Hayashi a service award because of her extraordinary work, but no one expects the candidate to match that. Maybe Lena would be willing to work with someone for one year to get them started. Lena could help in the advisory role. She probably has her own a 'bible' or could very easily prepare one. It is important that these trips run smoothly and that everyone is delighted with the trip and WFO.

Candidates for field trip leaders. We also need field trip leaders. We also need trip ideas, when a good idea comes up and it fits our mission, will raise money and is educational. To plan a trip, we set it up on Regonline and we send it out to the whole group, 'x' number of slots are opened up to the Life members and then Suzanne goes in and she tracks them down as does Frances after which the regular members get to register which fills up in minutes. Frances is teaching Diane on how to do Regonline for establishing field trips. The coordinator for the trip can go on the trip without registering.

ACTION ITEM: Look for candidates for field trip coordinator.

ACTION ITEM: Look for candidates for field trip leaders.

Frances will update smoking policy listed on Regonline. Also, not every Life member seems to get the early registration information, so now Frances will put up some information on website as to whom the member should contact to get this straightened out.

ACTION ITEM: Frances will update website regarding early registration information.

New Outreach Coordinator is needed as Frances is rotating off the Board. Frances put forth great effort in contacting western Audubon societies with little or no response. This position was put together at the Petaluma Conference several years back. It also included searching for possible

scholarship candidates, young birders group, and list serves. Someone needs to take on these responsibilities.

ACTION ITEM: Look for new Outreach Coordinator as Frances is rotating off Board.

3:49pm OTHER BUSINESS

Regonline: Eventually no matter which organization we use it is going to cost us money. Currently with Regonline we have a 5-year (til 2020) contract which costs us about \$800 per year. Regonline is planning to join another company and in so doing we will lose the history we have with Regonline. A company like C-vent will cost us over \$1,000 per year with an account manager who will be solely responsible for our organization. By the time everything gets done C-vent might cost us \$5,000. This is all FYI for the future. We will start to research other organizations so that by the time we need to change over we will have other ideas of what works.

Possibilities for future award candidates: Jon saw Alan Craig and Narca in AZ recently and Alan recommended that there were two people who should be thanked in our group. One of them is Jerry Johnson, who was invaluable to the organization in setting it up. The other invaluable person was Joseph Jehl, Jr.

4:02pm Website: We need to change our website. Maybe we should check with our young birders' group as they have a fabulous website. We should also check with Tim Brittain as he might have some ideas. If anyone of us sees something out there that you like, please send it to Tim so he can look at it. Larry had a referral which we might look at in the future.

We ask that Board members join in on field trips, thank the donors and also go out of your way to meet the Young Birders. As for thanking donors, always in Issue (1) of **WB** there is a list of donors who gave money the preceding year.

All agree that this was a great meeting and we thank our President, Tom.

Motion to adjourn By Larry, seconded by Steve and passed unanimously.

3:25pm Nominating Committee: FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES, USE TO HELP THESE MINUTES 4:

Report: We have three openings and we have five or six candidates lined up. Kurt is trying to get the bios by mid-June. Dave arranged bios from Wendy Beers and John Harris. We are working on getting a bio from Matt Baumann from New Mexico. Kathryn Hamilton, we think will be nominated. Both Ken Able and Shawnee Finnegan will be nominated. We have two Board members going off, both Frances and Dan are terming out. Steve wants to come back for another term. Susan Kelly is not coming back for a second term, so we have a total of three openings. One of those openings is a half term. Technically there are four openings, including Steve's position. Last year we decided to draw straws for the half-term position. In preceding years, the person with the least number of votes got the one term opening. We favor looking at the resulting Board composition and longevity and ask yourself several questions and let that guide you in deciding who will get the limited term. Kurt will invite all of them to the Board meeting. If there are other people to nominate, please let Kurt know that soon.

Other Business:

As registrar on the WFO site Diane sees a lot of people frustrated because either they didn't get early notification because they are Life members or they don't know when they can because when they go to the site it doesn't allow them to register. Life members are supposed to register early. It has to do with the IPS on their individual site that does not let the message through. They have contact their service people and have them look at it. It has nothing to do with us. We can put a message on the WFO Conference page saying, "If you are a Life Member and have not received the link by a certain date, please contact X, Y, and Z (the registration person who can send them the link.). We cannot open registration now on the registration page until we have gone through the Life Members and regular members because that web page is open to the world and therefore if you want to give first dibs to Patrons and Life Members you have to do it on the individual e-mail system. Sometimes it gets caught in spam. We have been dealing with this for 5-6 years. Part of the problem is that the response system that Ed P. uses, the database is not consistent with Suzanne's database. Therefore, we need to reconcile that list first. The other issue is that we only have 200 Life Members. Suzanne could theoretically send them an e-mail from her e-mail list and send it through g-mail saying if you don't receive instructions by a certain date please let me know.