

**Western Field Ornithologists Annual Board of Directors Meeting
Boise, Idaho
Thursday, September 10, 2009**

Draft Minutes Prepared by Elisabeth Ammon

Board Members Present: Cat Waters, Dave Krueper, Elisabeth Ammon, Phil Unitt, Ed Pandolfino, Jon Feenstra, Dave Quady, Dan Gibson, Osvel Hinojosa, Jay Withgott, Debbie VanDooremolen.

Guests: Virginia Johnson, Kurt Leuschner, Alan Contreras

1:00 P. M. 1:20 P. M. Welcome All, Group Photo, Roll Call

1:20 – 1:25 Vote to accept minutes from August 22, 2009 Meeting

Motion/Vote: Last meeting's minutes accepted, after the addition of Debbie VanD as being present at the meeting.

1:25 – 1:35 Old Business Review

- **Donation letter – tabled to Dan, Cat and Dave K.** Due to unresolved questions about wording
- **Tejon Ranch – referred to Tom Ryan/Cat/Carol for set up.**
- **Special edition of Western Birds – tabled until a special editor can be identified**
- **First Class mail – completed by Dan Gibson and put into action by Robbie Fischer**
3 editors are taking advantage, the others kindly declined.
- **Decided: Website and electronic photo policy w/regard to mission statement – to be determined by webmaster, chair of the E – communication committee, editor of Western birds**
- **Pending discussion: Status of acknowledging volunteerism w/ a relevant gift (such as free basic meeting registration).**
A long-standing volunteer has been identified for receiving award, whether it's one of the official WFO awards (see below) or a separate one for outstanding volunteer services. To be decided in upcoming board conference calls.

1:35 Old Business

- **1:35 – 1:40 By-laws and Committees – Changes. See Gjon Hazard's report sent to you by email. [It is noted that this item has been new business and past business for over a year]. Deadline for writing: November Board meeting.**

Dan's earlier version, then Gjon's more extended version have been passed around the by-law committee, and recently to the full board via email attachments. Changes are regarding the governance of CBRC with WFO. Cat would like to close out discussion at this board meeting, then finalize the by-law language before the Nov board meeting, then have membership vote either by email or at next conference. Question is whether CBRC should be treated by the by-law as a standard board committee, with representatives reporting to the board. WFO supports CBRC

financially, wants regular reports, and be informed about budget and personnel changes as with other WFO committees.

Dave Q says that maybe the main thing to address is the budgeting and reporting on it. It seems that there is a general consensus on Dan's wording for rephrasing of the by-laws, but Cat requests that the informing of personnel changes be included. Ed suggests that language be added that restricts WFO voting rights on CBRC issues.

Cat delegated Jon F and Dan G to hammer out wording for final voting, hopefully before the end of this conference, or shortly thereafter. Rewordings are attached (**Handout 1**).

- **1:40 – 1:45 Birds of New Mexico: Proposal to have Dave Krueper represent WFO interests**

***Motion:** Dave K to be liaison between Sandy Williams (author) and WFO, as a representative of WFO interests. Approved with no dissent. WFO has already decided in earlier meetings that they are interested in being involved.*

Dave K's report on publishing status and plans: hardcopy, 400 pp, 1000 copies, 8 x 10, no photos, but range maps, 1-3 pages per species. Publishing contract has already been signed with UNM Press. Remaining costs that need to be covered for publishing: \$14k. Exact type of acknowledgment of WFO will still need to be worked out (size of logo, etc.).

Jay: Can we use image of book cover for promotion on our website as a book we have supported?

All board members, please send suggestions for WFO acknowledgment and book promotion to Dave Krueper by email.

New Business

1:50 Nominations

1:50 - 2:00 p.m.: Election

See handout.

Dave Shuford and Jon Feenstra are terming out at this meeting (Boise).

Question: Do we need CVs from all board members, including those who have previously served without submitting one? Generally, board agrees.

Board Voted on three nominants for the two Board vacancies and elected Kimball Garrett (California) and Robert Gill (Alaska) for three year terms. Carol Beardmore (Arizona) and Jon Dunn (California) were re-elected to the Board for second terms of three years.

2:00 Western Birds

- **2:00 – 2:10 100th Meridian:**

Suggestion by Dave K that “sphere of influence” of Western Birds be extended farther east based on ecoregion boundaries. Sphere of influence of WB included originally only the western states including the Rocky Mtn states. 100th Meridian is approx. 1/2 state farther east (see **Handout 3**), and would include all portions of the west with similar physical ecoregions.

Discussion on how submissions might come from a broader area. Questions about portions of Mexico, Canada and that the paragraph in Western Birds includes northwestern Mexico, as well.

Board agrees to change in concept and agrees that any decision to alter the wording in Western Birds from where we solicit papers would be the Editor’s decision.

Suggested new phrasing by Phil “...but particularly desired are reports of studies done in or bearing on NA west of 100th Meridian, incl. Alaska and Hawaii, western Mexico, and the northeastern Pacific Ocean. “ Wording will be developed by Phil.

- **2:10 – 2: 15 Birds of Sonora for Western Birds:**

Update on the birds of Sonora (Osvel); suggests that we make a special edition of WB that contains English translation (or rather, adaptation) of version on the bird chapter of biodiversity book, incl. species accounts and, maybe, species checklist. Or possibly as a “Studies of Western Birds”. The chapter is ~ 50 pages in current form.

Expected timeline: about a year. Osvel will distribute draft to group of WFO folks in November 2009.

- **2: 15 – 2:25 Researching Western Birds impact by use of a science index:**

See **Handout 4** on impact factor. This is the option of having WB rated as to its impact on scientific community. Advantages: Currently, WB does not have much recognition in scientific publication community. Therefore, folks like graduate students are not attracted to it, if it doesn’t have high impact factor. Disadvantage: If it gets a very low rating, it may continue to have low profile.

Cost of impact factor analysis for WB is being investigated by Osvel. Will report it at next board meeting.

2:25 Publications:

- **2:25 – 2:35 Rare Birds on web by October 2010**

October 2010 would be 3 years after book publication. < 250 copies remaining. Book publishing costs are already paid for. Web publication might stimulate sale of paper copies. Cat asked for opinion of authors, who were positive or neutral about possibility. WFO can promote web publication prior to release.

Dave Q suggests that publications committee explores the idea of making hardcopies available to discount book sellers prior to release on web (by Nov board meeting).

Motion/Vote: To make book available on web by Oct 2010. One abstention. Motion approved.

2:35 E-Communications/Website (Jon Feenstra)

- **2:35 -2:45 How's the website?**

- **2:45 – 2:50 Storage of WFO archives**

Cat would like to have electronic archive of all previous WFO documentation, incl. minutes, etc., that can be stored in a password-protected part of the website. Jon F will talk to Joe Morlan to see how we can make that happen.

- **2:50 – 2: 55 Make E communications a formal, rather than ad hoc committee**

Currently, only Jon F is on this committee. Decision to combine it with website committee, which already has a few other members.

2:55 Scholarships:

- **2:55 – 3:00 Birding competition for Mexico w/papers limited to WFO sphere: two years membership in WFO, paper published in Western Birds, scholarship to present paper @ WFO mtg. (full scholarship)**

- Tabled, Osvel will send email around with updates.

3:00 – 3:10 Finance Committee (Dave Krueper)

- **Tracking of WFO savings to separate 3 years operating expenses from funds available for other purposes**

How much of the WFO 3-year budget, other than 3 yrs of operating funds, is available for other projects? Dave Shuford has asked that we create a budget for the next 3 years, incl. allowances for inflation, price increases, etc., so that we know how much money is available for publications, scholarships, etc. Dave K will talk to Robbie Fischer (treasurer) to generate a 3 year budget projection. Motion approved.

3:10 – 3:20 Awards Committee (Dave Quady)

See handout. Dave Q requests action on approval of two awards outlined, and to appoint a committee of an Awards Committee (5 members) to work on task list on handout. All board members impressed with Dave Q's work on that. See **Handout 5**.

Phil suggests that we focus awards on "amateur" field ornithologists, rather than established academic mainstream. Discussion on whether that is necessary, but Dave Q suggests that body of publications should be a requirement for being nominated. But several board members feel that other accomplishments, plus non-peer-reviewed publications should also be considered in the nominations. Board discussed dropping the Grinnell and just making it the Alexander Award after Annie Alexander. It was noted that other organizations give a Grinnell Award.

Dave K's wording for awards: To create bridges between amateurs and professionals. Don't limit to a professional-level recognition. Does not have to be a strictly scientific contribution, but perhaps a "sustained superior contributions to WFO by professionals and amateurs".

3:20 Travel/Field Trips (no report from Tom)

- **3:20 – 3:25 Carol and Dave's report**

Committee working on 2-3 publications in special issue of WB on Laguna expedition.

Committee working on another expedition to Sonora for the 2010 breeding season.

3:25 – 3:40 Future Meetings: Ed, Kurt, Cat

Kurt Leuschner will be coordinating 2010 WFO meeting, Coachella Valley, CA. See **Handout 6**.

Other business: Virginia Johnson is requesting more sketches, illustrations for WB (1-2 an issue). She would like to have a backlog to draw from for future issues. Requests that folks send her suggestions on getting more donated.

Jay Withgott announces that a conservation fund in memory of Luke Cole is in the works, something like a preserve, preferably with access by inner city youth.

3:40 - Executive Session (WFO board members only)

ATTACHED HANDOUTS

1. Suggested rewording of by-laws for CBRC committee issues, by Dave Q and Dan G.
2. Slate of current board membership.
3. Maps of 100th Meridian.
4. The impact factor of scientific publications.
5. Suggested awards to be awarded annually by WFO, prepared by Dave Q.
6. Early announcement of 2010 WFO conference in Coachella Valley, CA, by Kurt Leuschner.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

1. **All board members:** Identify special editor for special editions of Western Birds.
2. **All board members:** Decide on award for outstanding volunteer services, to be awarded in 2010 for the first time.
3. **All board members:** Decide on final rewording of by-laws regarding CBRC role. Jon Feenstra and Dan Gibson will finish the wording. Discussion of this item and resolution will be completed

and vote will take place by email or by November meeting. Gjon will insert changes into bylaws and membership will vote by email.

4. Birds of New Mexico: **All board members**: Send suggestions for WFO acknowledgment, ideas for book promotion by WFO, to Dave K. Dave Krueper will be representing WFO in this.

5. **Phil** will revise goal statement for Western Birds re 100th Meridian discussion.

6. **Osvel** will try to distribute draft manuscript on birds of Sonora before November conference call.

7. **Osvel** will investigate costs and potential benefits of impact factor analysis for Western Birds.

8. **Publications committee** and **E-communications/website committee** will prepare online publication of "rare birds of California" before October 2010, incl. venues for promotion.

9. **Jon F** will talk to **Joe Morlan** about archiving WFO records online with password-protected page on the website.

10. **Osvel** will send around updates by email on birding competition for Mexico with WFO rewards.

11. **Dave K** will talk to **Robbie** about preparing a 3-year budget projection.

12. **Dave Q and all board members**: Finalize all plans for WFO awards, incl. intended recipients, amounts for awards, etc.

12. **Carol** and **Dave K** will continue preparation of Sonora expedition, with updates to board.

13. **All board members** will engage with **Kurt Leuschner** in preparation of the 2010 conference. Preliminary task assignments from the board meeting

14. **All board members** will search for additional donations of original artwork to be used in Western Birds, to be sent to Virginia Johnson

Topic: **35th Annual Meeting of Western Field Ornithologists**:

1. Workshops – Gjon Hazard, Kimball Garrett. Responsibilities: Set up four workshops w/agreed upon topics w/Ed Pandolfino and Cat W, recruit workshop leaders, keep leaders and material development on schedule. Write up descriptions and faculty for workshops to be prepared 90 days in advance.
2. Science Sessions – Debbie VanDooremolen w/help from Jon Dunn (recruiting papers) and meeting team. All board members with editing skills are expected to help Debbie.
3. Field Trips/Field Trip Leaders – Kurt Leuschner, Jon Feenstra.
4. Field Trip Carpools and Send offs – Bob Gill, Dan Gibson
5. Lunches – Elisabeth w/assistance from meeting team

6. Overnight field trips – Carol and Osvel
7. Publicity – Dave Krueper
8. Sponsorships – Tom Ryan. Responsibilities: Recruit meeting sponsors
9. Out of the hotel social events – Kurt/Cat
10. Book silent auction – Dan Gibson. Responsibilities: Set up book
11. Key notes and panelists – Jay Withgott
12. Registration: Ed Pandolfino/Robert Gill
13. Exhibitors: TBA
14. Meeting Coordination, site of meeting, hotel negotiations, and other business: Kurt/Cat
15. Meeting Budget: Ed, Kurt, Dave K., Cat.

Executive Session: WFO Board members only in attendance.

Topic: **Board attendance at board meetings and annual meetings:**

A lively discussion ensued with it pointed out that one may have to miss the annual conference but that attendance at the annual board of directors meeting was to be encouraged. It was noted that a single day attendance at Boise for the Board meeting would not have represented an unreasonable expenditure of time or cost. Discussion about vetting potential board members .

Topic: **Electronically communicated voting and/or proxies.** A lively discussion. The board meeting attendees noted a quorum was sufficient for the meeting to be conducted and issues to be voted.

Topic: **Ginger Johnson – Gift of life time registration @ WFO Meetings and/or in addition to an original work of art.** All board members agreed that Virginia Johnson would receive life time free registration to WFO meetings. Voted on and carried. Original work of art - agreed upon but not specified. Presentation at meeting in Coachella Valley

Topic: **Submission of manuscripts to Western Birds.** Another lively discussion regarding various aspects of Western Birds. After a thorough discussion Dan and Cat will take this on as a project and report to Dave Shuford.

Topic: **Tejon Ranch.** Focus on cavity nesters, particularly Purple Martin colony. All other species are of interest, as well. Study to be conducted only on Conservancy Land as an expedition for our interested membership.

Topic: **Nominations for Board members.** Dave K. will continue discussions with Rodd Kelsey and Brian Sullivan re potential board candidacy. Identify other board candidates for 2010.