

**Western Field Ornithologists Board of Directors
Conference Call Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 7, 2015**

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

Board Members present: David Quady, *Pres.*; Tom Blackman, *Vice Pres.*; Suzanne Carota, *Treas./Membership Sec'y*; Liga Auzins, *Rec. Sec'y.*; Ed Pandolfino, *Past Pres.*; Jon Dunn, Daniel D. Gibson, Homer Hansen, Susan Kelly, Kurt Leuschner, Larry Modesitt, Frances Oliver, Diane Rose, Steve Rottenborn, Dave Shuford, Catherine Waters

Absent: Raymond VanBuskirk

MINUTES

1:05pm Meeting called to order, welcome, roll call

Minutes from June 11, 2015 annual meeting held in Billings, MT passed unanimously via motion to approve by Dan and seconded by Tom.

Next BOD Meetings: Will be held on Weds. at 1PM in January, April and July 2016 with specific dates to be decided.

1:08pm ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Committee Chairs were confirmed and are as follows: Awards: Ken Able; Conservation and Science Policy: Steve Rottenborn; Field Trips: Kurt Leuschner; Finance: Ed Pandolfino; Meetings: Tom Blackman and Susan Kelly; Nominating: Tom Blackman; Outreach: Frances Oliver; Publications: Dan Gibson and Catherine Waters; Scholarships: Homer Hansen.

An amendment to WFO's bylaws was agreed to and it now reads.

BYLAWS IV. I.

Renumeration. The Directors, President, Vice President, and Immediate Past President of the Society shall receive no compensation for their services to the Society. All members of the Board of Directors may be reimbursed for expenses reasonably incurred by them in the performance of their duties for the Society.

1:15pm FINANCE COMMITTEE

Report: As of 9/30/15 the balance in checking and savings is \$206,285. September 2015 YTD net income of \$14,277 is favorable to budget by \$20,790. The favorable variance is primarily due to: \$6,000 from the Billings Conference plus \$14,000 for Trip Income which will be partially offset by expenses by the end of the year. Page/PDF Income is favorable by \$2,000. Membership Income is unfavorable by \$1,700. We are on track to break even or have a small profit by year end, which would be favorable to the budget by approximately \$7,000.

1:27pm Recommendation: The recommendation that WFO policy regarding changes to Scholarship Fund be to charge for 'lost revenue' from WFO Conference field trips and workshops as well as direct costs. Finance Committee voted 6 to 3 in favor.

Motion made by Jon, seconded by Larry to implement the above recommendation by the Finance Committee and passed by a vote 8 to 5 in favor of the recommendation.

ACTION ITEM: A spread sheet was sent to all board members on 10/3/15 to be completed and returned to Suzanne by 11/15/15 so the budget can be presented at Jan, 2016 meeting.

We currently have 1,170 domestic members, a decrease of 30 since 12/13/14.

Discussion: Both rates for annual membership dues and page charges were discussed and it was agreed to increase them.

Motion to increase annual membership rates to WFO from \$35 per year to \$40 per year and to increase page charges from \$25 to \$30 and to start with the beginning of the new year made by Dan, seconded by Diane and passed unanimously.

Note: A review of WFO's honoraria will be discussed later in the meeting in an executive session.

1:48pm Announcement: It was agreed to by the Board to make changes to the 'Installment Plan for Life Members.' They will no longer receive early-sign-up privileges until they are fully paid up. Current members who fit in this category will be grandfathered in, in other words they will continue to receive early-sign-up privileges.

2:07pm Discussion: Last year we donated \$500 to the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (WFVZ). We would like to continue to contribute annually but at a lesser rate. This new rate can be reviewed every other year.

Motion made by Jon, seconded by Cat and passed unanimously to make a contribution of \$250 annually to the WFVZ.

Recommendation: As WFO incurs significant costs mailing separately back issues of *Western Birds (WB)* to members who sign up or renew in the second half of the year, it was suggested that we investigate a policy change whereby members who are added in the second half of the year, will begin receiving *WBs* until the following volume number (they would still have access to *eWB* from the time they join).

ACTION ITEM: Ed P. and Suzanne were assigned to analyze this and make a recommendation to the Board at the January BOD meeting.

PUBLISHING COMMITTEE

2:15pm *Western Birds (WB)*

Report: Dan reported for Phil who is out in the field. Issue 46:4 will be published on 3rd of December rather than the end of the year.

Report: Tim is in process of putting back issues of *WB* on the web. He is at least half-way through and should be finished by the end of the year 2015.

2:17pm *Avifaunal Change volume*

Report: Dave Shuford and Bob Gill are vetting all entries and Ken Able will do the final go through. The book will be about 250-300 pages. The book will follow the same format, i.e., type face, print, etc. that the first of our monograph series did, (*Bird Species of Special Concern*). They have 23

papers in hand, all of which have been sent out for review. These are in various stages, with reviews received back for 18 manuscripts for which these reviews have been consolidated and returned to the authors for revision; for two of these, the authors have resubmitted revised manuscripts. We expect to receive 3 more manuscripts for a total of 26 which is enough for a monograph.

2:21pm FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

Both Cuba trips, November 2011 and March 2016 are filled.

The Central Sierra Trip, June 20-28, 2016, is set and we will likely start registration in November.

The Coachella Valley/Salton Sea Trip will be a four night trip occurring sometime in Oct. 2016 and to be led by Kurt and Jon.

The rosy finch trip is planned for January 2017 and will be led by Raymond and Dave Q.

A trip to the San Jacinto Mts is planned for June 2017 and will be led by Phil.

Motion made by Kurt and seconded by Susan to allocate half the slots in future trips for Life Members and the other half to regular members, passed unanimously.

2:32pm MEETINGS COMMITTEE

41ST Annual Conference of WFO

Fortuna CA, September 28 to October 2, 2016 (Susan and Tom)

Report: The committee had a conference call on 9/17/15 to discuss planning to date and confirm task assignments. Dave Q. and Tom made a visit to the River Lodge Conference Center during the last week of August to decide how various aspects of the venue should be laid out. They secured the dates with a deposit. The final contract will contain details i.e., reception area, food pick-up workshops, science sessions, field trip staging areas board meeting, banquet, a/v systems, silent auction, Friday's reception and the youth reception. Julie of Moonlight Catering will provide all food, i.e. breakfast and lunch bags (to be purchased via the registration process). The fire department has a liquor license that Moonlight will use and the servers will be from the volunteer auxiliary. Rob Fowler has been outstanding in putting together the field trips. He already has 12 full day trips and 12 half-day trips complete with descriptions and some trip leaders. Steve and Larry are working on the science sessions; Diane on the workshops; Homer on scholarships; Frances and Cat on vendors; Cat on book signing. Frances will be teaching Regonline to Susan and Larry with Cat assisting. Larry is working on confirming Nathan for the sound quiz and Ed H. for the photo quiz. The keynote speaker will be Mark Colwell. Steve will find two speakers to introduce the two days of science sessions. C.J. Ralph, Steve Howell, and perhaps a local Marbled Murrelet expert are being considered. They are investigating the four motels available to get the best deal and should have this worked out shortly. Contacts should be signed shortly with the River Lodge and perhaps Moonlight Catering.

ACTION ITEM: Regonline training for Susan, Larry and Cat

2:45pm SCHOLARSHIP/YOUTH PROGRAMS COMMITTEE (HOMER)

Report: For Committee Objectives, Scholarships, Scholarship Criteria, Budget, and Schedule please see Homer's highly detailed 6 page report as sent out by Dave Q. on September 20th under

the heading of Agenda. The Rec. Sec'y can also provide this. In short, the 2016 conference can provide for at least 6 scholarships and more if necessary as the current account balance for the Scholarship Fund is \$15,190 and the proposed preliminary expenditures for 2016 is \$5,200. They will start the advertising process for the Fortuna Conference April 3, 2016 with notification of scholarship opportunities and by June 15, 2016 expect to be notifying the selected recipients. For the Central Sierra Trip (June 20-28) the process will start in Feb. 1, and end with notification of selected recipients by Mar. 21, 2016.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Report: Dan Gibson recently traveled to Albuquerque NM for a Celebration for the Life of Bob Dickerman where he presented our first Swarth Award to the Bird Division of the Museum of Southwestern Biology at the University of New Mexico and installed the award commemorating Bob Dickerman. He is currently seeking an appropriate photo to place above the award.

CONSERVATION AND SCIENCE POLICY COMMITTEE

Report: Steve reported that the Committee recently discussed proposed Congressional changes to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act that would have weakened both laws. The Committee drafted an e-mail to the membership, which would have encouraged members to contact their Congressional representatives encouraging them to oppose the changes in these laws, but the proposed legislative changes were defeated before the e-mail was sent to the membership. The Committee will continue to consider possible WFO action on conservation issues as they arise.

OTHER: Diane suggested a bird-a-thon as to one way of raising funds for WFO.

BOARD MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

3:07pm **Motion to move into executive session made by Cat and seconded by Dan and passed unanimously.**

3:35pm **Motion to move out of executive session and adjourn meeting made by Cat and seconded by Susan and passed unanimously.**

In the executive session the Board agreed to increases for the *WB* Editor, *WB* Assistant Editor and a new honorarium for Recording Secretary.