

Western Field Ornithologists
35TH Annual Board of Directors Meeting
Palm Desert, California
Thursday, October 14, 2010 1:00PM PDT

Minutes prepared by Liga Auzins

Board Members present: Dave Krueper, Robbie Fisher, Kimball L. Garrett, Elizabeth Ammon, W. Dave Shuford, Jon L. Dunn, Edward R. Pandolfino, Carol Beardmore, Thomas P. Ryan, Debbie Van Dooremolan, Daniel D. Gibson, Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta, Jay Withgott, Gjon Hazard, David Quady, Catherine Waters, Ken Able, Kurt Leuschner

Board Members Absent: Robert E. Gill

Guests: Philip Unitt, Kathy Molina, Brian Sullivan, Virginia Johnson, Peter LaTourette

1:00pm: Meeting called to order, Welcome, Photo of 2010 Board, roll call and acknowledgement to Kurt Leuschner for his great effort in organizing the Annual WFO Conference in Palm Desert

Liga Auzins introduced as secretary-elect and volunteered to take minutes.

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY (from October 14, 2010):

Old Business:

- Action Item 1:** Report on the unnamed WFO award. Awards Subcommittee (Ed, Jon, DaveS, and chaired by DaveQ)
- Action Item 2:** Report on Directors' Liability Insurance: Cat, as Finance Committee Chair
- Action Item 3:** Balance of copies of *BSSC* may be disseminated to Audubon: Cat
- Action Item 4:** Electronic Publication of *RBC*: Cat
- Action Item 5:** Consult with Andy Johnson re: Bob Dickerson issue of *WB*: DaveK

New Business:

- Action Item 6:** Research Regional Outreach membership programs: Cat and Jon
- Action Item 7:** Standardized time and dates for meetings: Liga
- Action Item 8:** Develop 'History of WFO' on website: Guy and Cat, all
- Action Item 9:** Tracking system for WFO materiel: Cat, Finance Committee
- Action Item 10:** Electronic storage of WFO record: Cat
- Action Item 11:** Letter that will document appropriate qualifications for IRS tax write-off for those Board members that qualify: DaveQ
- Action Item 12:** Request for artist sketches for *WB* by Ginger
- Action Item 13:** Members who have been acknowledged in other areas of their life please report this to Cat for newsletter
- Action Item 14:** Further discussion of San Miguel Fund
- Action Item 15:** Formalize a youth program the San Miguel Fund: Jay and Tom
- Action Item 16:** Robbie needs exact wording for subscript.envelope re: publications fund, etc.

Appended to the Agenda for the meeting were:

1. Honoraria level confirmation
2. Mission Statement comment
3. Action Item List addition to minutes
4. Requirements for IRS taxes (letter)

MINUTES

1:41pm Acceptance of minutes from March 2010 and August 2010 meetings

Dan Gibson moves, Debbie Van Dooremolen seconds, approved to accept minutes of March 2010 and August 2010 meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

1:42pm Agenda Item #1

Awards Committee Report (DaveQ)

- **Report:** The Alan M. Craig Award for service will be presented to Virginia “Ginger” Johnson for WFO graphics at the WFO Conference banquet
- **Discussion:** Consideration of an award for the contributions in the literature of WFO.
- **Comments:** **The Western Field Ornithologists (as yet unnamed) Award**, formerly the Grinnell/Alexander Award, for excellence in descriptive ornithology. WFO has a unique opportunity to award for nonprofessional contributions.
- **Action:** A subcommittee formed by Ed, Jon, DaveS and headed by DaveQ is appointed.

1:50pm Agenda Item 2:

Directors’ Liability Insurance Report (Cat)

- **Report:** There is a small nonprofit pool of insurances available which may be appropriate for WFO.
- **Action:** The Finance Committee will research and report on this at the next meeting.

1:53pm Agenda Item 3:

Publications Committee Report (DaveS).

- **Discussion:** We still have additional copies of *Bird Species of Special Concern* which may be disseminated to educational institutions and non-profits as a gift from WFO.

1:56pm Agenda Item 4:

Electronic Publication Report (Cat)

- **Discussion:** The Board voted last year to electronically publish *Rare Birds of California* either as a PDF file on WFO website or on its own website.
- **Action:** Phil and Cat will coordinate with publisher on this.

2:00pm Agenda Item 5:

Bob Dickerman Issue of *Western Birds* (DaveS)

- **Report:** We need a special editor for this edition who knows Bob Dickerman.
- **Action:** This will be researched and reported back at the next meeting.(DaveK)

2:03pm Appended Item 1:

Honoraria (Robbie)

- **Resolution/Action:** To maintain honoraria levels (amounts) at same level as those paid in 2009 calendar year.

NEW BUSINESS

2:05pm Agenda Item 6:

Outreach(Cat)

- **Report:** The future of *North American Birds* (Brian)

- **Discussion:** An outreach with the new ABA President, about *NAB* would be helpful. WFO may want to contact them to see if WFO may want to give some kind of support through the organization called ‘Friends of *NAB*.’
- **Discussion:** WFO has the opportunity to help *NAB*, we can’t save it, but we can follow the actions surrounding *NAB* to see if WFO can make a difference somehow in the foreseeable future.
- **Resolution:** None

Regional Outreach

- **Discussion:** WFO could consider joining western ornithological societies, i.e., Oregon Field Ornithologists, Alaskan Field Ornithologists, NMOS, etc., as an outreach. We need to define which organizations we might work with.
- **Action:** Outreach organizations for outreach will be identified (Cat and Jon).

2:55pm Agenda Item 7

Standardized time and dates for meeting times

- **Action:** This will be looked into by secretary and reported back to Board.

Agenda Item 8:

History of WFO on website (Cat)

- **Action:** Guy and Cat volunteered will do a history of WFO for website. Contributions from other Board members are welcome.

Appended Item 2:

Mission Statement (Cat)

- **Comment:** A short WFO mission statement is currently on the back of our note cards and a longer one in each issue of *Western Birds*. Note cards are available from Cat for Board Member to use.

Appended Item 3:

Action Item (Cat)

- When minutes are reviewed there will be an **Action Item** (along with the Agenda) listing at the top showing which Board member or committee has volunteered to do what. This will remind everyone and clarify who is designated to a proposal or job.

Agenda Item 9:

Materiel Organization

- **Discussion:** Robbie suggested creating a tracking system for current WFO materiel, i.e., the location of various books stored and how many of them are there. For example, we may need to have the role associated with the items, i.e., the Treasurer is the keeper of 'certain' items. The role remains the same but the person holding this role may change and there needs to be a handoff and signoff. Perhaps purchasing two small hard drives would be helpful with some things, perhaps an offsite backup or a service that could store WFO records on a cloud.
- **Action:** The Finance Committee will review this.

3:08pm Appended Item 4:

Requirements for IRS taxes

- **Discussion:** If a Board member is integral to putting on a meeting/conference for a specific year and meet certain obligations they can write off expenses incurred in attending the meeting. There are very stringent requirements. The Board will decide who is eligible.
- **Action:** No vote at this time. DaveQ will format the appropriate letter for examination.

3:15pm Agenda Item 10:

Publication Report for *Western Birds* by Phil and Ginger

- **Report:** Issue 41-3 is in the mail. The PDF has been circulated. Issue 41-4 gone to the typesetter and we have more than enough papers and copy edited to fill the issue. Depending on holdovers from this issue, we will have more than half of Issue 42-1. Looking further down the line, if anyone knows of people doing interesting things, please encourage them to publish in *Western Birds*. We are fine right now, but we need to look ahead.
- **Action:** The president will write the "President's Message" in the next *WB* (41-4).
- **Comment:** Notice that in *WB 41-3*, the title to the book reviews column now reads "Software and Book Reviews."
- **Report:** The Graphics Editor always needs more submitted sketches to use in *WB* so if anyone can identify some appropriate people, please let her know. Perhaps this can

be broadcast through *WB* somehow. One can sign up for the newsletter electronically.

3:37pm Agenda Item 11:

Mike San Miguel Fund (Kimball)

- **Discussion:** The family would like to call it the San Miguel Fund.
- **Comment:** Upon review of Mike's past Presidential actions, it becomes clear that publications were a most important concern of his. He worked with corporate funding and pushed for publication fund drives, therefore, the fund should be used for publications regularly and repeatedly rather than a one shot effort and should be a WFO publication. The Finance Committee makes the final decision. Most of the people who have opinions regarding this are not on the Finance Committee therefore we should have it as a large agenda item at the next meeting.
- **Action:** Tabled

3:50pm Elections

- All nonvoting attendees excused

5:35pm Agenda Item 12:

Public Relations

- **Discussion:** How else to use San Miguel Fund: Formalize a youth program.
- **Action:** This will be presented at the next meeting by Jay and Tom.

OTHER REPORTS:

Alamos Expedition Committee Report

- **Report:** Carol and Osvel will give this report in the plenary sessions at the conference.
- **Comment:** Next year a possible expedition might be to the Austin Ranch in NE Sonora. The focus would be a "snapshot" of breeding species. The expedition will not be linked to the Arizona conference next year.

Tejon Ranch Report by Ed

5:42pm Meeting Adjourned