

**Western Field Ornithologists Board of Directors
Conference Call Meeting
Wednesday, November 6, 2013, 1:00-4:00 pm PST**

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, Tom Blackman, Jon Dunn, Kimball L. Garrett, Daniel D. Gibson, Ed Harper, Kurt Leuschner, Joyce Meyer, Frances Oliver, Dan Singer, Catherine Waters

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 August 22 2013 conference in Olympia, WA meeting passed unanimously **via motion to approve, as amended, by Joyce and seconded by Dan G.**

Next BOD Meetings: Confirmed conference calls for 5 February 2014 and 21 May 2014, both to be held from 1pm to 4pm PST.

1:10am FINANCE COMMITTEE

Report: Financial Software: Final recommendation on financial software selection is APLOS, an online software program. APLOS will be up and running by the first of the year and ready to go by October 2014. This new cost will be entered into the 2014 budget.

- **Action Item: Dan S. will give costs of new software to the Treasurer for the 2014 budget.**

Report: Investment Sub-committee recommendations: Sub-committee is meeting Thursday.

- **Action Item: The committee will have a report with recommendations before the Feb 5 board conference call.**

Discussion: The Board gives the committee the authority to make detailed decisions, i.e., banks, CD types, etc. The accepted basic policy is that we will not invest in anything that is not FDIC insured. The only caveat being that we have something in a credit union where they have a guarantee similar to FDIC.

Report: WFO Finances: The quarterly report was sent out to all Board members. The October receipts are not in as yet but we are doing as expected.

Report: 2014 Budget: The Treasurer needs budget requests from all committee chairs for the 2014 budget by December 16, 2013. The Publications Committee has the largest amount of input for that. The Treasurer will put together a timetable to review with the Finance Committee in January and present it for approval at the February Board meeting. The Publications Committee may not have exact dollar amounts at this point in time, but by Dec 16th there should be some solid numbers to see. Some of the items will not be incurred until 2015.

- **Action Item: All committee chairs need to submit their budget requests by Dec.16th**

- Action Item: Treasurer will present 2014 budget at next BOD meeting in Feb.2014.

1:20 pm PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Update: Status of electronic *Rare Birds of California* (eRBC): A report will be sent out shortly. You can look at the book at www.wfopublications.org and keep testing it. Any changes will be reviewed once a year and we will insert reasonable changes in terms of ease of use of the site. Our projected 2014 launch can be put in our WFO New Years newsletter.

- Action Item: Cat will give report on eRBC updates
- Action Item: All should review the eRBC
- Action Item: Ed Announce launch of eRBC in the New Years newsletter.

Update: Status of electronic *Western Birds* (eWB) beta version: A mock-up was just sent out to everyone. We were hesitant to put it on www.wfopublications.org so we will host it on another website and it is downloadable to a reader or iPad. By reformatting we can make it available online also. This would be a password-protected site to which people can go to read and download pdfs of an article. This site will be available soon. eWB is in addition to or in lieu of the printed journal. WFO saves the cost of about \$14/year to print and send out WB if someone opts to take the e-version only and not the print version.

Report: Many people, i.e., Peter LaTourette, John Sterling, and Joe Morlan (in the past) have wanted to have the photography in WB to be directly related to content, therefore we found four potential companies as alternatives for printing for eWB. Cost amounts will be reviewed after these companies have seen a current hard copy of WB so they can make a bid on duplicating that. This would include printing the covers individually instead of two at a time. The criteria used for identifying these four companies was: 1) that they have the ability to do electronic publication as well as print publication; 2) that they had a long history of unbroken printing and that they have a stable future; 3) that they have a scientific journals; and 4) that they be in the U.S. All of them are corporations, and three have been passed down through families and expect to do business for at least twenty more years. Right now we have four companies bidding on printing WB with individual color covers. It would be our responsibility to have these covers match the content. We have an individual who has asked to be included in the color covers portion of it. Updates will be reported as they occur.

- Action Item: Cat will provide a date for putting eWB online before Feb 5
- Action Item: Cat will apprise of updates as necessary.

Report: Status of survey of members regarding eWB: There was much negative reaction to some questions so we decided to table it for now. Dan G. suggested stamping "Time sensitive material" on envelope to let people know there are time sensitive announcements inside.

- Action Item: Ed P. and Cat will work on a new questionnaire.

1:40pm Report: Budget for Avifaunal Change Symposium at 2014 WFO Conference in San Diego:

Bob and Dave S. have been soliciting authors through various avenues and people have responded with ideas, so at this stage it is a work in progress. They can use more ideas, so let Dave S. or Bob know if you know individuals who might have the kind of information appropriate

for this volume. Phil will refer Paul Collins to Dave S. and Bob. The symposium will be part of the regular plenary session for the 2014 conference.

- Action Item: All solicit ideas for Avifaunal Change Symposium.

Budgeting for the volume publication was done by Cat using the budget for *Bird Species of Special Concern (BSSC)* from Allen Press as a guide. The cost would be somewhere between 10-14% in excess of that budget for the new volume. That does not include our budget which would consist of distribution, artwork, editing, formatting, etc. Besides having Allen Press bid on it, the aforementioned four companies will make a bid after they have seen a copy of *BSSC*. By the next Board meeting we should have some hard numbers to complete the budget. Since these companies have 'on demand printing,' we will ask them to bid on 500 and not 1000. The final decision can be made by the BOD if necessary. The actual cost for this will be a 2015 item. The pricing of the book is predicated on what kind of bids are received, information which Cat will send out as soon as we receive them.

- Action Item: Cat to submit budget before Feb 5 for Avifaunal Change Symposium publication.

1:50pm Update: *Birds of Montana*: Cat, Ken, and Dan G. met with Jeff Marks in Olympia where Jeff expressed a preference to go with Oregon State University Press as a publisher for his book versus WFO (who nevertheless could be a back-up option as Jeff does not have a firm contract). A reader from OSU is currently examining some species accounts, after which OSU will make a decision. We are awaiting OSU's decision.

1:55pm Report: *WESTERN BIRDS (WB)* 44(3) has an error in that Figs. 5, 6 and 7 in the feature photo text got omitted but they will be run as *erratum* in 44(4). The pdf is already corrected so the SORA edition will be correct. We have more than enough material to fill 44(4) and some papers are set for 45(1). Phil has responded to the questionnaire from JSTOR and they will review the application. If approved, they will call Phil in a few months. If we are not approved by JSTOR it makes having our own online access through Google more important.

2:05 pm CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Report: San Diego Conference 8-12 October 2014: Tom and Phil are working on field trips.

Discussion: Ed P. is looking for additional WFO Board input regarding celebrating WFO's founding at the conference. We are thinking about having a presentation which covers the history and recognizes the founders like Guy and Pierre, in lieu of the usual keynote speaker. We need to get pictures from the 'old days.' People like Ron LeValley and Brad Schram have volunteered their photos. Maybe there can be some sort of photo album (5-6 pp) to be handed out with the conference packet and also have it online. We need to get additional data regarding the history.

- Action Item: All consider ways to approach presenting WFO founding history at conference and send to Ed P.
- Action Item: All collect or identify lists of past WFO presidents and conferences and send to Ed P.
- Action Item: All send Ed P ideas for sources of photos from old days and past WFO conferences.

REPORT: Results of survey from Olympia Conference 2013: Ed mailed results to all Board members. Results were very positive. A concern was expressed about some members getting priority for field trips. This will be explained in detail in the next newsletter so that everyone understands that the process is fair and transparent.

Report: Montana Conference 2015: Ed H. checked four cities in Montana. Billings had the best accommodations in terms of holding a conference and availability of vans, which are already on reserve. Billings has the great diversity of birds, especially grassland birds. Ed H. spoke to Andrew Gutenberg, a young artist who has done covers for American Birds, and he would be willing to do some artwork for the meeting. People, both in Billings and Bozeman, are willing to help out with field trips. The Billings hotel and convention center is looking forward to hosting WFO. It is being remodeled; banquet and break-out rooms are nice; it has lots of parking and is close to good birding areas. The discounted rates would be \$97/double during their high season. The dates selected are June 10-14th 2015. The next week is already reserved. This date was chosen as Montana Audubon has their festival in the first week of June. Since they have not set their dates for 2015, they may work around our dates. Stephen Densmore, who has done work on mountain plovers for decades, is a very dynamic speaker and would make a great keynote speaker. The University of Montana in Missoula and Billings are a good source for possible papers as they have wildlife biology studies. Due to limited options, we should put a contract together before the end of the year. Dave Q., Robbie and Ed P. will be looking over the contract. Frances and Ed H. are looking forward to organizing the meeting.

- Action Item: Ed H. and Frances will generate contract for Montana Conference 2015 by end of 2013.

2:25pm AWARDS COMMITTEE

Update: Swarth Award nominations, status and timeline: Dave Q., will send out the description of the Swarth Award to new members, Joyce, Tom and Ed H. We will not make the names of nominees known until we decide to recommend one to the Board.

Service Award: We are looking for nominations for this award, if any, for the San Diego meeting.

- Action Item: All seek possible candidates for Service Award.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Announcement: It is not too soon to look ahead for possible nominations at the San Diego Meeting. Ken and Dan S. will rotate off the Board so we will be electing two people to a first term with a possibility of a second term.

- Action Item: All seek possible candidates for nomination to BOD.
- Dave Q., will follow up with Mary Gustafson and Homer Hansen to see if they would still like to have their names put forward.

2:35pm OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Update: A committee meeting is set for early December. Frances sent out an updated file with the new business card design.

2:38pm FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

Announcement: An announcement was sent to all Life Members and Patrons that the Montana Field Trip, the New Zealand Field Trip and the Gull Workshop will be open to them one week before the rest of the membership.

Update: Cuba Field Trip 2015: We will try to schedule a November 2015 trip. Spring trips are getting to be too difficult to do.

Announcement: WFO has decided that we will not entertain domestic field trip proposals from groups or individuals working on a for-profit basis.

2:45pm WFO AND ADVOCACY POLICY

Discussion: Paul Baicich approached WFO to see if we wanted to sign onto an advocacy letter. This is not something WFO had done in the past nor is there a policy in place. Should WFO simply refrain from signing onto any of these advocacy letters or should we develop a process for deciding which, if any, we should support? Perhaps we should set up an *ad hoc* committee to bring a proposal to the Board for a vote. We already have advocacy through our publications, i.e., the gnatcatcher issue. It is common for major ornithological organizations to make resolutions which basically bring science and ornithology into an issue that affects policy. Let's not close the door to our ability to put forth our scientific knowledge in support of possible resolutions when appropriate. Ed P. appoints Ken, Cat, Dan S., and Kimball to an *ad hoc* committee to look into potential advocacy policies for WFO and give recommendations at the February Board Meeting.

- Action Item: *Ad hoc* Committee will make recommendations regarding advocacy policy.

2:50pm EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Robbie and Phil leave.

Motion made by Ken and seconded by Dave Q. and passed unanimously to go into executive session.

3:10pm Decision from Executive Session: To increase the compensation for the Treasurer/Membership Secretary by 10% retroactive to the Olympia Meeting in October 2013 through October 2014.

Motion made by Cat and seconded by Dan G. and passed unanimously to establish a policy where the Board would look at honoraria every other year.

3:16PM Motion made to adjourn by Cat, seconded by Dan G. and passed unanimously.