

**Minutes of the 13 December 2007 Conference Call of the Board of Directors  
Western Field Ornithologists**

*Recorded by Jean Brandt, Recording Secretary*

The conference call of the Board of Directors of the Western Field Ornithologists was convened by President David Krueper at 2:00 PM on Thursday, 13 December 2007.

**Present:** Board members and officers in attendance included: Elisabeth Ammon, Jean Brandt, Jon Dunn, Jon Feenstra, Robbie Fischer, Kimball Garrett, Bob Gill, Gjon Hazard, David Krueper, Ed Pandolfino, Tom Ryan, Dave Shuford, Phil Unitt, Debbie Van Dooremolen, and Jay Withgott.

**Not Present:** Carol Beardmore and Cat Waters.

**Welcome and Introductions** – Dave Krueper

- Krueper explained the agenda to Dunn, who missed the email.

**Minutes from 27 September 2007 Board Meeting in Las Vegas, NV**– Krueper

- MSC – unanimous to accept as written.

**San Mateo, CA meeting updates and discussions** – Robbie Fischer

- Fischer said that response to her emails about arrangements have been positive. Things are moving along well. She said monthly updates are a good idea. Waters will put out a time line.

**Work Shops**

- Pandolfino reported that he, Beardmore, and Waters are putting the work shops together. They expect to get them all nailed down within a month. He asked for ideas and for input from the board. Nothing has been finalized yet.
  - 1) Al Jaramillo is willing to put on workshop – he is very good. Topic to be determined.
  - 2) E-bird workshop. Brian Sullivan will present. Exciting developments. Hands on workshop (assuming hotel has web) and people can learn onsite.
  - 3) Banding Workshop – coyote banding station to be open – long day
  - 4) Conservation – San Francisco Bay is in the early stages of wetland restoration. A 50 yr. 1 billion \$ plan. We can take people to areas that have matured and what works and what doesn't.
  - 5) GPS workshop. Pandolfino needs help on this – can be very basic or can be more sophisticated. What level should we go for? Ryan said it should be kept toward field applications. Short and straight forward. Specific birding needs. Plus additional capabilities. Ryan will do this workshop
  - 6) Field sketching
  - 7) Ali Sheehey – web design
  - 8) Study skins at Cal Academy
  - 9) Sylvia Gallagher on field observation skills.
- Pandolfino says a minimum of 3 work shops and a max of 6. Dunn volunteered Dave Quady to give GPS if Ryan can't do it. Pandolfino suggested we bring in Bruce Webb.

- Dunn volunteered a shorebird workshop. Great site at south bay. Classroom and field experience. Fee should be charged. Money raised should go to a specific place.
- Presenters are not paid. Fischer says presenters get various perks at the conference. We don't make a lot of money on work shops. Dunn wants a consistent policy for board members. Perhaps do this the day after the conference.
- Garrett asked how workshops fit into the whole plan. Traditionally they are in the morning. Should not conflict with afternoon events.
- Perhaps we can do something on Wednesday or Monday.
- Garrett: what stage is Cal Academy at in upgrading their facility. Unitt said we should check with Mo Flannery of CAS on availability. Garrett can do a hands-on skinning demonstration.
- Keynote speaker: Carla Cicero? Barbara Stein (book about Annie Alexander) was also mentioned by Unitt. Garrett should know Cicero's decision re: her availability by the end of December, and will follow through with alternatives if needed
- Pandolfino – Al Jaramillo from San Mateo Co. is anxious to participate.
- Feenstra – Debi Shearwater will do 2 pelagic trips: Bodega and Monterey. Issue is that there are no reserved seats for WFO – boat will be open for discounted people on conference. Feenstra will follow through and will find out when she publishes her schedule as we have to work around that. There will be no financial responsibility to WFO and we should let Debi handle all reservations.
- Fischer suggested we could announce the pelagic trips in the newsletter included in the next issue of *Western Birds*. Shuford asked when registration starts. Fischer said June. October pelagic trips should not be filled early in the year and this should not be a problem. Unitt noted that *Western Birds* won't be finished until late February or so. Fischer can email people about the pelagic trips. Krueper said information should go on the webpage ASAP.
- Fischer: we need some kind of wrap-up for the board and Sunday trip/workshop attendees on Sunday night. Dunn agreed.
- Dunn asked if we are partnering with various Audubon Chapters in the area. Fischer said that we are not going to involve other boards. We won't have a lot of volunteers. We will use local people as trip leaders and they can have tables if they want. We need to control this better than Red Rock. She will manage this herself.
- Garrett – anything about 2009? No. Not until we talk with Cat and Carol.

#### **Field Trips – Tom Ryan**

- Ryan announced proposed upcoming trips
  - Baja Expedition April or October 2008 – Carol Beardmore
  - Cuba 2-14 November 2008 – Kimball Garrett
  - Eastern Venezuela – January 2009
  - Northern Nevada late 2008 – early 2009
  - West Mexico February or March 2009 – Phil Unitt/Thomas Ryan
  - Baja Birding Tour Spring 2009? – John Feenstra
  - El Triunfo – Dave Kreuper/Mike San Miguel 2009
  - Thailand – Jon Dunn 2010

- Ryan - Remove all mention of having a DONATION on trips. Replace with FUND RAISING. Difference is between actual cost and profit. Proceeds of trip will go to fund WFO projects.
- Krueper noted that we will not need to send letter after trip about donations.
- Fischer: we really don't need any wording whatsoever.
- Garrett: wondered whether people who have gone on past trips will be concerned with deleting donation/tax wording. Also mentioned that WFO keeps trip costs lower because leaders are not paid.
- Ryan will revise document and email it to the board. Does he need board approval? Krueper said we don't need a formal vote.
- Dunn will look at doing a trip to Thailand in March 2010. He will check with Will Russell of WINGS, Inc. to see if it is OK.

### **Treasurer's Report** – Robbie Fischer

- Krueper referred to the documents she emailed to the board. (See attached). No discussion followed.
- Fischer reported:
  - That we received \$4750 in donations in response to the mailing to life members. Maybe another \$1000 is expected. She thanked the people who helped get the letter out.
  - Funding inside cover color: once we lost Swarovski, the decision bounced to her. The finance committee should be capable of making the decision.
  - Proposal: *Western Birds* budget will cover charges for inside color covers.
  - Upon approval of the Finance Committee, and with concurrence from either the President or Vice President, the Treasurer would have authority to spend up to a maximum of \$2,000.00 for WFO non-budgeted expenses without a vote by the Board of Directors. The Board shall be notified within 72 hours of any such expenditure. It is anticipated that this authority would be used judiciously however, and always with input and advice from the Finance Committee and from one or both the President and/or Vice-President.
  - Shuford questioned the wording. Fischer explained that Hazard is chair of the finance committee and Krueper is on all committees.
  - This is for non-budget emergencies. All avenues will be explored.
  - Motion to approve item 4 above without change in wording. MSC – unanimous.

### **Website Update** – Jay Withgott

- Withgott thanked the board for feedback. Consensus seems to be that we are on the right track with Tim Avery. Downside, it is taking a long time to address all the comments but he is working on them now. If you haven't replied, do so ASAP.
- Avery will create full website. It will be run by the board.
- Withgott mentioned the things that are to be included. The focus will be more on science than on birding.
- We should enable credit card payments whenever possible and control what we sell on the website. We shouldn't look like a store.
- Will ask Tim for better colors on the web pages as this was a big concern of the board.

- Garrett asked about the relationship with CBRC – this should be discussed before the CBRC meeting on 19 January 2008. Their only website is WFO.
- Withgott: how do we balance this if other states want equal presentation. CBRC is unique. Garrett said that other states should be a link.
- Hazard: we need page with links to other records committees. Will WFO be hosting them or will they do their own. We can offer them our website as an outlet.
- Krueper acknowledged that we have a responsibility to CBRC
- Hazard said that the webpage should treat all bird record committees equally and not show a preference to the CBRC.
- Withgott asked Krueper if Avery is designing a separate website for CBRC. Yes. But this has not been resolved.
- Fischer – do we have a budget for designing the website. (Referred to the minutes: Anticipated cost is: 5 hrs time per month, \$100 per month – not to exceed \$1000 per year; \$500 - \$1000 to make the design).
- Withgott said it may be more. Fischer asked if we have anything in writing. No. It is all verbal.
- Krueper said Ted Floyd would have this information. Dunn is uncomfortable that we do not have a contract. Krueper said that Avery is enthusiastic and agreed to money talked about but Dunn said we need something in writing. Krueper will call and get something and Withgott will keep on top of it.
- Withgott – what is the anticipated content be of Western Ornithology page? Decisions to be made.
- Withgott – we've got a lot of photos lined up (past meetings, etc). We should ask members if they have photos. Dunn said to ask Guy McCaskie.

**Membership Outreach** – Garrett has asked Feenstra to be on committee.

**Miscellaneous Business and schedule the next conference call**

- Fischer – *Bird Species of Special Concern* – Contract said that (the state?) going to spend \$25K in 2007. Do we need to update it for 2008? Are the funds obligated? Yes. Money may be carried over.
- Fischer – when will we make decisions on the budget? She needs a new one for 2008. Shuford will have a final copy of the manuscript by next month.
- Unitt needs manuscripts. Should have CBRC report for issue 39(2).
- Hazard – it is time to think of potential nominees for the board.

Next conference call date – March 4 or 6? Get back to Krueper ASAP.

Call ended: 3:30 PM.

**Attachments:**

Email from Robbie Fischer sent 12/11/07

BSSC - We had \$9700 dedicated to this book in the Pubs Fund. We have spent \$4050 so \$5650 remains. I have invoiced California Department of Fish and Game for \$3550 to date but have not received payment yet.

Rare Birds of CA - We had \$7600 dedicated to this book. I released all of it plus \$8773 from the publication fund. Operating funds paid an additional \$10,000 so the first \$10,000 in profit goes back to operating funds.

Our publication fund balance is at \$9,440 as of 11/30/07. \$4750 has been received through November from life members.

The Las Vegas conference netted \$4897. In my opinion, these proceeds should be considered operating funds.

We should keep our current membership prices for one more year despite postal increases. We should revisit this in 2008.

Please let me know if anyone has any questions. I anticipate we will discuss the financial update in the conference call.

**Q4 2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
AS OF 11/30/07  
WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS**

Balance in checking and savings 12/31/2006.....	\$71858
Total income 2007 .....	+81805
Total expenses 2007.....	- 79355
Balance in checking and savings 11/30/2007 .....	\$74308

\$9,440 of the current balance is earmarked for the Publication Fund

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Budget spreadsheets on file with Brandt.

