

**Western Field Ornithologists
Board of Directors
Teleconference
Wednesday, January 29, 2020 1-4pm PST**

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

Board Members present: Kurt M. Leuschner, *Pres.*; Thomas O. Blackman, *Past President*; Jonathan L. Dunn, *Vice Pres.*; Suzanne M. Carota, *Treas./Membership Sec'y.*; Liga L. Auzins-Wurster, *Rec. Sec'y.*; Philip Unitt, *Editor, Western Birds (WB)*; Kenneth P. Able, Matthew J. Baumann, Wendy L. Beers, Kimball L. Garrett, Homer M. Hansen, John H. Harris, Karen A. Havlena, Edward R. Pandolfino, Diane E. Rose, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Christopher W. Swarth.

Board Member absent: Bryce W. Robinson

MINUTES

1:00pm Meeting called to order, welcome and roll.

Motion: Minutes with corrections from November 6, 2019 accepted unanimously via motion to approve by Chris and seconded by Kimball.

1:04pm **FINANCE:**

Treasurer's Report:

2019 Budget: Suzanne: I want to review 3 basic items from the 2019 budget, a few small items from 2020, and also approval for the 2020 budget. You all have seen the financial statements for 2019. Our cash balance is at an all-time high of \$389,000. The net income was \$57,000 which is very favorable to budget. Trip income was \$27,000 including the Tasmania trip. Net income from publications was favorable to budget due to the delay of printing the *Inyo* book. The conference was profitable at \$19,000. Scholarship donations were \$22,000. Publications donations were \$11,000. **WB** page charges were \$8,000. Book sales, namely, *Birds of Gambell and Saint Lawrence Island*, has been very popular. As of today we have about 50 copies in inventory of the 300 that we printed in November. We also sold 10 e-books of the *Gambell* book as of yesterday. *LeConte's Thrasher* has been a \$11,000 loss to the Publications Fund. *Trends and Traditions*, has been a \$5,000 loss and *Gambell* a \$3,000 loss. *LeConte's Thrasher* is coming in worse than expected, but *Trends* and *Gamble* are coming in better than expected. Also of note, Buteo Books purchased books at a 40% discount – a *Thrasher* and 6 *Gambell* books. Wings purchased 15 copies of the *Gambell* book, also at a 40% discount. Of the print of 300, we have 190 *Thrasher* books left. We only sold 7 in 2019. The *Trends* book, we originally printed 200, and we have 53 left. We sold 16 in 2019. Of the *Gambell* book, we printed 300 and have 49 left. We also sold 10 e-books.

Suzanne: In 2019 the social media donations were \$885, i.e., Facebook and PayPal. In 2019 we also received a \$1,000 anonymous donation directed to the Publications Fund. It is the third year in a row that we received it. We also received an insurance claim notice from an attorney who alleges an incident happened in Tasmania. We printed 300 copies of the bird checklist.

Steve: The checklist potentially gets outdated every July depending on the new changes from the AOS. We don't have to print this every year, so I think printing 500 copies and assume it is good for two years, would be good. We'll see if they last through any taxonomic changes that may happen this year. We printed 300 last time and they went quicker than we expected. I am currently getting a bid. We heard yesterday that none of the CBRC changes are going to happen soon.

Jon: Tom Benson said the next likely species to be added would be the yellow-browed warbler, probably before the July 1st Supplement of the AOS. I agree with Steve in printing 500 copies. The price is \$3.00 each or 10 for \$25.00 as listed on the website.

Ed: People have donated through e-bay, PayPal, Network for Good(Facebook) and Amazon. In the last minutes an Action Item states that we are going to tell all our members through the Newsletter and WFO e-mail about how they can do that. As I recall, somebody was going to give me the information (what they need to do) so I can put it in the Newsletter.

Kurt: Bryce might be somebody to ask. (He's not on the call) At the very least, Ed, you could mention all those ways to contribute in the e-mail and people will figure it out, as they already have.

ACTION ITEM: Bryce will assist with figuring out how to make a contribution through e-bay, PayPal, Network for Good(Facebook) and Amazon.

Suzanne: **Report:** The last thing on 2020 business is about the 2021 budget process. It's a question to the Board and it relates to the timing of getting the budget approved. Technically we should have the budget approved prior to the Treasurer expending any funds in January. I try not to pay any bills that I can postpone, or do anything that is not an emergency. The question is, can we get a Board meeting in December to approve the budget or wait til early January to approve the budget for the coming year? I know it's a really bad time for everyone. It's not something I need to know today but I would like to know if your schedules will allow for something like this: a Board meeting in December, roughly 3 months after the conference, have the budget done by then and have it approved at that time.

Discussion: Ed: I feel strongly that we need to do that. It's difficult to start the year and not have a budget. If we have the Board meeting in the first two weeks of December, before the Christmas Counts start, I think we can do it.

Jon: I agree with that, but I would do it before the 10th of December. I would push up the November teleconference Board meeting to October. That would be a good way to welcome the duly elected Board members to become part of the process. So that would make it a meeting in October and then early December, and then the next in May.

Jon: Maybe it could be a shorter call. This would get the new Board members involved early on.

Suzanne: My plan would be to do the budget in October, November and have it to go by early December. Do it all by e-mail prior to that and in early December have our Board meeting with the new President and approve the budget.

Jon: I think you still need an October Board call.

Kurt: Why don't we have a Board meeting in November and then do a quick Board meeting in December for the sole purpose of approving the budget. Jon will be President and he will set the Board meeting schedule.

Suzanne: What we won't have by doing it in December is the end of the year results. If I can get November 30th results by December 5th that would fine. I will start collecting budget requests from each committee earlier than I did last year.

Jon: Timing of the Board calls can be revisited at the next Board meeting too.

1:09pm

Membership Report: Suzanne: Total membership is 1,036; 9 Patrons are stable; 238 Life Members are stable. As of today 248 members have not renewed for volume 51. As soon as the budget is approved I'll have the mail house send out the snail mail renewals. We recently had a Life Member, Ms. McKinley, from San Francisco, purchase a Life Membership for George Rose, someone who has never been a member. Perhaps we should bestow Patron status on major donors. Currently, we have 9 Patrons. Our Montana friends have been major donors. Do they want to be Patrons is a question. Perhaps we should automatically make them formal Patrons. I would like to pose that to the Board for comments and thoughts. Patrons are listed on the website.

Discussion: Tom: I think the Board should decide if they want to make these people Patrons and then the President should contact these people.

Suzanne: What's the criteria? Is it someone who has consistently donated over the years or some who makes a one large donation? There are some people who have made some major donations towards the books, does that qualify? I did an analysis in the last 5 years for Chris Swarth for his donor recognition program, so I do have the data which I can share with those people who will be working on the criteria.

ACTION ITEM: Suzanne and Chris will consider criteria for major donors becoming Patrons.

Jon: To follow up on that, some of our major contributors are strictly anonymous. In principle I would like to see if it is possible to have a recommendation from Suzanne and Chris to the Board as to who should be invited, with the Boards approval. The President would then send an approach letter. The President could write, "The Board would like to make you a Patron," so it comes from the whole Board as a way of thanks.

1:25pm

2020 Budget Review: Summary: Suzanne: You have all seen the budget and you have also seen Tom Blackman's Word document of the Finance Committee's review of the budget. I would like to talk about the budget in general, and I would like to go through a list of one-time items or 2020 items that need to be discussed. The summary is that the budget shows a loss of \$55,000 and that is due primarily in printing *The Birds of Inyo* which is budgeted for October. That cost is \$27,000. Also included is \$7,000 to reprint *Birds of Gambell*. I think there is \$3,000 that the Board should discuss. It's a one-time expense that is related to the 50th Anniversary merchandise, based on the document from Tom Blackman, and the Finance Committee review. The basic assumptions in the budget is that the Reno Conference will be about \$6,000(it needs to be updated). We have two trips in the year, Coachella in October and Cuba in November. The Scholarship Fund receives \$12,000 in donations, broken down with \$5,000 from trips, \$2,000 from Audubon chapters, \$2,000 from the Bird-a-thon and \$3,000 from other individual donations. Was there a plan for the Bird-a-thon or is Dave Shuford going to do it again?

Chris: I talked with Dave and he would be willing, if the Board wanted, to do a WFO Bird-a-thon at some point in the future. I did not talk to him about him doing his own Bird-a-thon, but we did talk about doing a member-wide Bird-a-thon, like many organizations do.

Suzanne: I am going to remove the Bird-a-thon from the budget. Next is one-time expenses. Ken Able, there's \$7,000 to reprint 200 copies of the *Gambell* book.

Ken: We do need to reprint soon. We are down to 50 copies and the book is selling well. The only question is whether you want to do 200 or 300. The price differential reprinting 200 is \$4,920 and 300 is \$6,730. The storage issue essentially is trivial. I canvassed the Publications Committee on this and the minimal response I got was favoring 300, so I recommend 300. There are no set up costs. We subsidize every book that we sell.

Suzanne: The book is selling for \$50 and it costs us \$70. Since there are no setup costs maybe the loss would only be \$10 a book. We are in the business of educating ornithologists. Maybe in the future we will get better at pricing.

Jon: If we get a bestseller like the *Gambell* book in the future we should look to break even to help compensate for the books we lose a lot of money on.

Suzanne: Do you want me to change the budget to increase by \$1,800 dollars to print 300 copies versus the original planned 200 copies? There is an agreement of the Board. Is there any money in the budget for advertising and promotions of the book?

Ken: There is going to be another ad coming out in *Birding* in the spring, so you will be getting another bill then for the same amount in the spring and after that there should be no additional expenses.

Jon: We committed to that earlier on when the deal was negotiated with ABA.

Suzanne: Therefore I am going to reduce the budget for the ad from \$1500 to \$500. Next we are reprinting *Trends*. There is \$3,000 to reprint 100 copies of *Trends*. We only sold 16 in 2019 and we have 53 left of the 200 that were printed.

Ken: I would think that we would like to wait to make a decision until later in the year when we can see what is going on with sales. Once we get down to 25 copies maybe we can rethink that. It only takes a number of days to reprint it.

Suzanne: There is \$17,000 dollars available to print 200 copies of the *Inyo* book in October.

Ken: I am told that I should have the finished manuscript in 1-2 months. I've been told the same thing before. I hope to get this done in 2020. I told Bob Gill I would carry this project through to completion. I think we should keep money in the budget to do it in 2020, but it won't be until late in the year. I also don't think there is any reason to print 200 (\$3568) copies as it will be a small market item and I think the number printed should be 100. I have a bid for \$2327 just for the printing 100. It does not include the set up.

Jon: We don't know how it will be distributed, i.e. bookstores, Mono Lake Committee, etc. I am worried about 100 being too low. Just risk it and go with the 200.

Suzanne: I recommend that we leave it in there as it is and if at some point the timing changes or the quantity changes, we change it then.

Jon: Agreed. If outlets sell it we can do the same 40% reduction on cost. Barbara Kelly is going to be the point person on the marketing for the book.

Ken: Also in terms of fundraising, she and Chris are working on a plan for fundraising for this thing, but they can't do anything until we get the manuscript accepted. Barbara is ready to go as she is in a holding pattern right now. She and Chris have lots of ideas how to raise money for this book;

Suzanne: There is \$1000 in the budget for the Publications Committee project for review of new publications.

Ken: That's honoraria for new projects, if they appear, then Bob Gill will need to get reviews done. For the ISBN numbers you had budgeted \$500; it is only \$295.

Jon: Reviewers of manuscripts get an honorarium and a free copy of the book. Publications Committee agrees.

Scholarship budget: Suzanne: There is \$8,000 in the budget for 10 scholars this year and \$500 for a student reception at the conference including dinner for all of the students. I don't know the definition of students but that is a new item. There is \$1500 for scholarship expense for the 50th Anniversary. The Finance Committee says that they do not support this item without further details. A Board of Directors discussion is needed. Is anyone from the Scholarship Committee prepared to respond to Tom's letter?

Discussion:

Homer: The \$500 for the reception is an added expense that's mostly for cookies, drinks, and pizza. An example is when the students are hustling off to some place and coming back helter-skelter because of the timing of the sound ID contest. The goal is to allow the students to go directly to these events (sound or photo quiz). It is really more like a \$200-\$300 addition.

Suzanne: It is a \$500 increase because the original money was rolled into the cost of the scholarships. It's more a tracking mechanism.

Homer: Last year we budgeted \$10,000 for 10 scholars.

Suzanne: Okay. So what is your definition of students for that reception?

Homer: It's both the student scholar recipients and those, who through the registration process are 18 and under, who have always been allowed to attend for free. The average number for the past couple of years has been around 20-25 students.

Suzanne: I think there is different criteria. Under the student category we have people older than 70 who take advantage of this student category.

Homer: When we send out the invites through the registrar, Diane makes sure everyone participating is under 18 and/or a scholar recipient.

Suzanne: Does that include these goody bags that Lena has in mind?

Homer: No, that's a 50th Anniversary item.

Jon: I would like to ask about the reception. Is it your intention to have the parents there again?

Homer: We delegate them to the bar on their own. We intentionally try to keep them separate. It builds relationships among the parents. There are two parents that donated to the scholarship fund when they saw what we were doing. It's a positive thing all the way around.

Chris: The Student Committee decided to do something special for the scholars for the 50th Anniversary. We discussed holding an essay contest that would be open to all kids who are 18 years and younger. The idea was for them to write an essay that would discuss the effect of climate change on birds. We worked out the details of eligibility, the process, and the deadlines. We hoped to get approval by the Board to have \$500 allocated for this project and that money would be used to buy a pair of binoculars, probably from Red Star optics for the person with the best essay. Ed and I agreed to judge the essays. We are set to advertise it immediately. We would invite the winner to come to the conference. It's outreach to get our name out to more organizations and to show groups throughout the West that WFO cares about this kind of thing. It will be easy to coordinate, and it will reap some good benefits, good will, scholarship, etc., among young people.

Homer: The other part is Lena's \$500 for the goody bag. I think we can reduce this to \$1,000 versus \$1,500.

Homer: These goody bags would be specific to the scholarship recipients.

Kurt: Why don't we make it \$1000 even?

Chris: For \$500 you can get a pretty good middle of the line binoculars, i.e., Nikon and some other models. I ran these items by the people on the Student Committee, and they thought the models were good and the price was right.

Jon: Clay Taylor from Swarovski and Stephen Ingraham from Zeiss might comp on something like this as a donation to a worthy organization.

Chris: The guy from Red Star would give us a 10% discount, but I will try.

Jon: My only concern is that when the recipient gets them and puts them in a drawer.

Suzanne: The last thing on the Scholarship is this \$3,000 for a research grant program. John Harris submitted a really nice write up.

John H.: The basic idea was that the Programs Committee wanted to establish a small grant program that would target graduate students to support ornithological research which agrees with our mission and the Committee's mission. Our subcommittee was originally set up to judge graduate student submissions for scholarship and then it got tasked to draw up a program proposal. If anybody has any questions about it I would happily answer them.

Kimball: My only question is, in the title you say student research or internships. The body of what you talked about, which I fully approve of, seems to be a research proposal. So is it also meant to include internships as well or an alternate?

John H.: Sometimes there are internships that are basically research, so we would only support an internship that was research oriented. We will advertise the program appropriately, set up an application deadline for a call for proposals, the subcommittee would review the proposals, then the full Programs Committee would receive our recommendation and then it would go to the Board.

Kurt: Bryce said that he did not have an update except to say that Tim contacted Bryce and myself last week saying he is ready to move forward. Bryce is going to contact the website person, Todd and move forward with that.

Suzanne: Bryce needs to be made aware that we need a contract that is signed by two officers.

Financial Review: Suzanne: Tom contacted Matt last week and Matt sent me a request for bank statements. I sent him 50 files, so he is busy now.

Suzanne: The Finance Committee does not support the \$3,000 in the budget for 50th Anniversary merchandise unless they get further details presented to the entire Board plus a marketing plan is needed.

Kurt: We can reduce that amount to \$1,600 We are going to order 48 of these water flasks at a cost of about \$800, which we could sell these for \$25. They're are going to be of good quality, double walled insulated water flasks with the WFO logo, although is won't say 50th on it. We had to stick to the one-color design. Black was the only color we could use against a white background. The balance is for binocular straps, which are also going to cost about \$800 for the 50 straps of different colors, and have Western Field Ornithologists printed on them and a little Sabine's gull. Homer's been leading on that one. They cost us about \$15 each and we could sell them for \$20 to break even or \$25 to make some money for WFO.

Suzanne: I can now adjust the budget and will wait until the very end of the meeting to ask for approval from the Board.

Chris: I appreciate Karen's help. The Outreach Committee would like to have a Donor Reception Sunday evening for a couple of hours to say 'thank you' to those who have made special donations and to our Patrons. We will also invite all the Board members who wanted to come. This would be in a restaurant not far from the hotel and we would provide a light meal along with a few drinks. We would like to budget \$1,000 for this.

Ed: My understanding was that Jon was also going to lead a field trip for these folks the following Monday morning, which will require keeping a van which will be an extra \$120 rental fee plus \$60-70 for gas. That would be an extra \$200 added on.

Jon: I don't want any more than 10 people to come on it. Otherwise it becomes less special. We could restrict it to the van and one car. The trip will run until midafternoon, where I would get the van back to Enterprise to make sure we only get charged for one day.

Kurt: Probably people are going to following you in their personal cars anyway. They are going to drive home from Tahoe; they will not drive back to Reno.

Suzanne: I think we should consider Jon's extra night at the hotel as well.

Kurt: Make it \$1,500 to cover all these extra costs.

Publications: WB: Phil: I circulated the report by e-mail. Please refer to that report and ask me if you have any questions. We will continue with our 50th Anniversary logo throughout this year.

Removing password protection: Ken: We need to address the question of password protection to access the whole issue of **WB** on the website. You have all read Ed's information about it. Kimball said, "The horse is already out of the barn, so we no longer have pass protection on the individual articles." If anybody is industrious and cheap enough they could download all the individual pdfs, print them and put together their own issue of **WB**. I don't see that happening on a large scale. It seems to me we already made the decision and right now we are causing extra work.

Motion: Ken moves that we remove the password protection from the individual full issues of WB on the website, seconded by Diane and passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM: Ed will tell Tim of the deletion of the password protection on the website.

2:40pm **OLD BUSINESS:** As there are no Bylaws revision updates, we will keep this on the Agenda to revisit it in the future.

Jon: If somebody else on the Board can get the most recent approved file of the Bylaws I would be willing to edit them.

Ed: FYI, I am looking at a Word document labeled revised and adopted 2006, but in the document is says it was revised October 2015. I will send it to Homer so he can sort through both versions to see the latest version.

ACTION ITEM: Homer will review the Bylaws and send the latest version to the Board.

Kurt: We will continue to keep the Bylaws on the Agenda for next time.

2:44pm **Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO):** Kurt: I did talk to the President, Nick Comar, and check their website. We are still offering CFO members a discounted \$20 membership to WFO. They took off their offer off of their website. Nick has appointed a CFO liaison to WFO, Walter Wehtje. He is supposed to contact me. Nick was asking if we had a CFO liaison. I may be it for now. Nick sounded interested in doing a partnership with us, i.e., youth programs, conferences, etc. There is definitely interest in keeping the partnership going. CFO is putting together a 10-year plan for the next 10 conferences. He asked if we wanted to be part of that and I said that there is no way we can plan that far ahead as I didn't know when we were coming back to Colorado at this point or if we wanted to do a joint meeting with them.

ACTION ITEM: Kurt will keep talking to CFO and report back and checkup on their liaison, Walter Wehtje.

Jon: The President (Kurt) should be the CFO liaison (Majority agreement)

2:48pm **WFO Newsletter: Update:** Kurt: I have totally given up on John Garrett ever doing it. We gave him so many chances. We don't have anybody volunteering at this point.

Jon: Maybe Chris Swarth would be excellent as he has a nice chatty style, and is involved in so many aspects of the organization. He also organized our last retreat. Even if it took him 6 mos., we would be doing better than we are doing now.

Chris: Is this a high priority for you Jon, Kurt and the rest of the Board, that we do have a newsletter? I would have to get contributing material from people. I think we have to make sure that everybody at this Board meeting feels it's important and that they have news that they would like to share. If that were the case I would need to think about it a little bit.

Jon: Chris, I would be willing to help covering news that I think is important. If you would accept the main responsibility, I would be happy to work with you. I do think it is important and the members like it.

Kimball: I would be willing to help with content. Maybe we can figure a workflow and divide the topics to get full coverage. We need to get a schedule and the Board involved in contributing material and topics that we think are relevant to the Newsletter.

Kurt: The Newsletter is electronic except for the two people that I mail them to. I'll let John Garrett know we have a new Newsletter editor.

Jon: Let's try to get the Newsletter out by April and then we can figure out when the next one should be.

ACTION ITEM: (ALL) Send to Chris material for the April Newsletter.

2:53pm

Meetings: Update: Reno 2020 Ed: Diane and I had another site visit yesterday. The preliminary budget on this, despite the prices being unusually high, (the food is coming in much higher than we have ever been charged before), and there is no room for negotiation. If we stay within the registration fee that we got at the Albuquerque meeting which was \$150 for members and \$190 for nonmembers, and we stay with the fairly high cost of fieldtrips, \$50 for a full day and \$30 for a half day that will certainly exceed the profit that we will put into the budget which was only \$5700. If it turns out that we have a little financial leeway, we could possibly give the registrants a little break. There are 3 ways that we could do that 1) We could lower the registration cost, 2) we could provide a little bit more to fieldtrip leaders. They currently get free registration, a box lunch and some merchandise (cap or T-shirt). Maybe we could give the leaders free breakfast every day. The other option is the food is coming in very high, i.e., \$65 our cost for the banquet, so we could absorb some of our cost ourselves. Please think about these options and if you have any input, send me an email. (Registration costs, giving more to the field trips leaders or absorb some of the food costs). The Meeting Committee will decide once we have the full budget. Otherwise things are going well.

ACTION ITEM: (ALL) Send one of three choices for distribution of money for Reno meeting to Ed.

Kurt: The T-shirt is being designed by Bryce and it will have a Sabine's Gull for the design.

Kurt: Donor Reception: Holbrook Travel is sponsoring \$500 for our reception on Thurs. night.

2021 Utah Conference: Bryce doesn't have any updates on things, but he will have something to send us in the near future.

Jon: The Utah birders have been remarkably separate as a group, so I would like to see substantial progress before we get ourselves committed along those lines.

Ed: Just to let you know, that after the Reno Meeting I will not be getting involved in organizing further meetings.

Jon: Do you have any recommendations?

Ed: I think Bryce is a good person to take the lead on that.

Finding a new Science (Plenary) Session Coordinator: Kurt: I am keeping this on the agenda to remind us to consider this because it is Steve's last year in doing that. We need someone to take over.

Action Item: (ALL) Search for new Science (Plenary) Session Coordinator.

Student Programs: Homer: We already covered all the basics earlier in the meeting except for updating Sierra Foothills Audubon Society who will contribute again this year as they did last year.

Jon: You should also factor in Pasadena Audubon Society, although it will be lower than last year.

3:01pm

Outreach/Fundraising: Chris: I talked to Suzanne about the new membership/outreach subcommittee. Until we find an individual who wants to be Chair of that subcommittee, I am not too sure how to proceed on this.

Kurt: I will keep it on the agenda for next time.

Jon: I'll talk to Chris as we plan the Newsletter. Chris Dean made a great presentation at our retreat, we should make sure she stays included in the conversation with the fundraising.

3:05pm

Fieldtrips: Kurt: Thank you Phil for leading a very successful trip to Colombia.

Jon: I've heard raves about Kurt's trip to Tasmania.

Kurt: Phil, if you want to put anything regarding the Colombia trip on the website, send it to Tim.

Phil: We did have two birds out of their previously known ranges. I've already written a manuscript, but it needs to be looked at by our Colombia leader.

Kurt: We have Coachella Valley, Oct. 15-18, 2020 coming up. Jon and I are working on that. I've done it before so it shouldn't be too hard to put together another one.

Cuba is in November 2020 which we need to advertise (with Ed's help) soon. Gary is to get back to me this week.

Costa Rica 2021 with Jon and Mario Cordoba, and will be organized in March.

Kurt: With all the talk of the *Gambell* book, why aren't we doing a trip to Gambell? Maybe we have people who could lead that since Paul would not consider it for liability issues.

Jon: There are very limited accommodations and the four groups that go there have them already reserved for the season. Wings is now giving out comp copies to those who are signing up.

Kurt: If we want to keep the fieldtrips going we need some other people to step up and lead trips to different places.

ACTION ITEM: (ALL) Search for Fieldtrip Coordinator

Conservation and Science Policy: (Steve): No new news.

ACTION ITEM: (ALL) Search for Conservation and Science Policy Chair

Awards: (Jon): No announcements.

3:12pm

Nominating Committee:

Kurt: We have 3 openings coming up that we have to fill.

Jon: 2 people rotate off the Board and John Harris becomes the Vice President. There are 3 openings; 1 for the second term of John Harris and 2 full openings. We have 2 solid nominees. One, is Dan Gibson who would like to come back to the Board and is indispensable in the publication of *WB*. Another one is Susan Gilliland who sent in her CV and she would be indispensable in the Student Programs Committee and also a great Board member. We are trying

to contact the third person, Kristie Nelson, who would also be a great Board member. John Harris is going to try to reach out to her. Wendy Beers is up for re-nomination for her second 3-year term and doesn't need to send in her CV.

Kurt: I will send out those CVs from Susan and Dan to the Board. I asked Susan to write a welcome letter to let everyone know what she is about, and we will attach that to her CV.

Wendy: Will this be competitive; do you want other nominees or just stick with the 3 you are working on right now?

Jon: That's pretty much up to the Board. I used to love competitive elections, but now I am more sensitive to people who don't make it.

Chris: We might still need other nominations as we don't know what Kristie is going to say.

Wendy: I was just thinking about Andy Mauro who just moved up to Washington. He was involved with conservation in San Diego and pretty active with the Audubon Society down there.

Jon: Phil, would he be good for the Board?

Phil: He is really responsible. When he was with the 22nd Agricultural District, he basically ran the Del Mar Fair. He said it was like putting on the Super Bowl every day for a month. He's been on at least one of my trips as well.

Wendy: He was also on the Tasmania trip and he went to Cuba too.

Kurt: Wendy, do you want to reach out to Andy, if not this year, maybe next year.

Wendy: I will send him an email and sound him out and see if it is a fast 'yes' or 'no.'

Jon: If anyone on the Board has some possible candidates, please let us know. We are always looking for potential new Board members.

ACTION ITEM: (ALL) Consider possible candidates for Board.

Kurt: Suzanne, you had some questions about reordering mugs, and you wanted approval on that? We are down to 7 mugs, and maybe we should restock before Reno. 36 is the minimum order.

Jon: We should run out of our stock completely and then restock.

Suzanne: As far as the caps go, we will sell most of them. It could be a cash flow situation, where we are buying 3 years' worth of merchandise. It would be cash out the door that is sitting in inventory. I would like to order just what we need for the 1 year.

Kurt: The problem is that you don't get a good price if you just order a dozen. Usually on mugs and caps it's a 3 dozen minimum. Currently we are up to 5 different kinds of caps so we will keep what we are doing. We are currently down to approximately 15 caps. We are going to give caps to fieldtrip leaders, so let's do another order of at least 3 dozen.

ACTION ITEM: Kurt will assist with selling the 50th Anniversary merchandise.

Kurt: We won't order any mugs but we will reorder caps.

Suzanne: I really think we need a steering committee to help with the registration and merchandise because it has become a big job.

Jon: Get people from the Board and give us hours.

Kurt: Are we ready to approve the budget?

Motion: A motion to approve the budget as submitted with discussed changes and Suzanne will then send out the budget made by Ed, seconded by Jon and passes unanimously.

Kurt: Next meeting is May 21st at 1PDT, a *Thursday*

3:32pm

Motion: A motion to adjourn made by Karen, seconded by Jon and passes unanimously.