

**Western Field Ornithologists
Board of Directors
Videoconference
Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 1-4pm PST
(continued coronavirus pandemic)**

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

Board Members and Officers present: Jonathan L. Dunn, *President*; Kurt M. Leuschner, *Past President*; John H. Harris, *Vice President*; Shaun F. Wilde, *Treasurer/Membership Secretary*; Liga L. Auzins Wurster, *Recording Secretary*; Wendy L. Beers, Kimball L. Garrett, Daniel D. Gibson, Susan S. Gilliland, Karen A. Havlena, Robin Leong, Don Marsh, Andrew Mauro, Kristie Nelson, Diane E. Rose.

Board Members absent: Matthew Baumann, Robert Gill.

Guests: Philip Unitt, *Editor, Western Birds (WB)*; Judith Dunham, *Editor, eNews*; Nick Komar, *President, Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO)*; Chip Clouse, *Chairperson of 2023 CFO Convention*; Maci MacPherson, *Administrator*.

Note: We have 41 **Action Items** which are embedded in the text to save space. Much ground was covered in this meeting resulting in the longest minutes.

MINUTES

1:03pm Meeting called to order, welcome and roll.

Jon: Approval of Minutes from 1/26/22 with corrections.

Motion to approve 1/26/22 minutes by Don, seconded by Diane and passed unanimously.

Joint Meeting with Colorado Field Ornithologists(CFO): Don Marsh:

We have Nick Komar, President of CFO and Chip Clouse, Chairperson of the 2023 Convention here with us today. This is a good opportunity to get CFO and WFO together up in the Colorado Mountains.

Nick Komar: We are ready to work with WFO. We are due for a meeting up in the mountains and we chose Beaver Run in Breckenridge. They have sent us a proposal which we have not accepted yet, as we are still deciding on dates and arrangements for costs and lodging. Chip, the Chairperson of our Conventions Committee will be working on this as he has experience with ABA Conventions. We expect lower participation (75-100 CFO attendees) than other locations as this is a more expensive tourism destination.

Chip Clouse: I have experience as a vendor for WFO events. In 2007 I was ABA's Assistant Manager for Conventions, Conferences and Tours. I am a new Board member with CFO, so I am looking forward to working with CFO conventions and WFO.

Nick: If we move the date back to early August it would be about \$40 lower per room per night.

Chip: Initially the estimate was about \$188/night without the hospitality tax. The August price dropped to a little bit more than Reno. Access to meeting rooms was free as long as there was a certain food tab built up. The resort has shuttles for the ski season. It's possible that there would be some options for shuttles although it may be something that people might have to pay for. **ACTION ITEM:** I would like to talk to Beaver Run about all the options, meeting space, meals, hotel rooms, and shuttles, etc. I have not seen any of the contract and do not know what is in it at this point. We would be doing a lot of the leg work but not all of it. **ACTION ITEM:** If it is going to be a joint convention we should have a Joint Committee, people from CFO and WFO. I know Jon had said we could do a 50-50 split but maybe we want to do it by percentage based on membership and how many people actually showed up. If 60% is CFO and 40% is WFO then we might split it that way. We should use one registration system and share the information.

Nick: **ACTION ITEM:** We should negotiate on how to handle the members we have in common. We need to establish a Joint Committee and you might want to pick a Chair as we have our Chair. **ACTION ITEM:** Maybe we can pick up vans for the field trips. .

Jon: Don, since you are on both Boards and came to us for the proposal of the CFO involvement, you need to be involved from our end with some additional help from WFO.

Don: Yes. Jen needs to be apprised of the registration issues. In any event, we will be exchanging information, i.e., importing and exporting stuff from one system into the other. **ACTION ITEM:** If anyone wants to send me any questions, ideas, etc., please email me. Thank you, Nick and Chip.

Nick: Thanks everybody.

1:30pm

Meetings Committee: John Harris:

2022 Reno Conference:

Report: I want to report, and then Diane will speak on some things, i.e., registration and safety concerns. I want to leave time for Kimball to talk about the science sessions.

As about a week ago, we had about 90 rooms reserved. The total number of room nights is 419 which puts us into about 65% of our room block number. We must get up to 85% of the room block to avoid any penalties. I am still looking for some field trip leaders. We are okay for the Thurs. and Sun. full day trips but need help on the Sat. morning trips. **ACTION ITEM:** Kurt, Maci and I will help in the mornings when the field trips set off in terms of getting organized. On the workshop front we recently lost Bryce Robinson, so I am looking for a replacement. **ACTION ITEM:** If anyone has ideas about potential substitute workshops please let me know.

Diane: For registration, C-vent requires that people 'opt-in.' The next group to register is anyone who is a member, or a field trip leader, or a scholar and that is on June 19th. They will *all* get invitations. They just click 'yes', it immediately takes them to registration. **ACTION ITEM:** From Kimball I will need the list of people who are presenters of science papers so that I make sure they get invited. We have done all the planning for the various rooms, all we have left to do are the setups for each room. We have it all set up for the reception. Registration is on track as long as I get everyone to 'opt in.' Online right now as far as our WFO page, at the bottom of the conference page, it has a schedule when the field trips are and then it has it by every day also. You can look at what's available and plan your schedule.

Andy: I am an attendee to the conference. What is the need for our assistance. The other thing I wanted to throw out, is that Steve Brad has a cabin up there and has contacted me. He is willing to do a field trip. Maybe the Sat. am trip you are looking for might work out. **John H.:** I will call you

Diane: Everybody will be carpooling as we will not be using vans this year. The driver will have to go to the parking structure and bring their vehicle over. John H. is planning on having the sign down by the street as people are pulling in to go with their field trip group. Not only will they meet at Prefunction Room A, but they will also have a way to line up downstairs. **ACTION ITEM:** That's why we need people, because if there are 4 trips leaving within 15 min of each other, you want to have that sign up so people know where to line up. Hopefully only 3-4 cars per field trip. Maci said she would help me at the desk getting everybody mustered. We put out the signs and the lists of who's going on each trip with their email addresses so we can do the e-bird reports. **ACTION ITEM:** Those are the jobs we need help on. In the past we have had people come in and eat dinner at the banquet who haven't paid. There is going to be the silent auction table and that is where we really must watch so that people don't slip in. We have more registrants than people that go to the banquet.

Karen: **ACTION ITEM:** I will recruit Great Basin Bird Observatory (GBBO) people to watch all of the banquet doors with me.

Diane: Two years ago I wrote the Safety Terms and Conditions rules. Do we have to provide registrants with masks? The rules state to bring your own mask. Then we must have Purell bottles around for attendees. The last time I was in Reno, I noticed that none of the staff was wearing a mask.

Shaun: Why don't we do something like 'masks are appreciated' and you have a box of masks available?

Diane: **ACTION ITEM:** We should have about 100 masks on hand for 300 registrants.

Robin: **ACTION ITEM:** I can provide hand sanitizers if you want but they're in gallon size containers. I can get a box that contains 4-gallon sized bottles. It's 8% alcohol based.

Jon: Ron Mallory has been in touch with me about doing a pre-trip excursion. With Board approval I want to do a carpool trip operating out of Susanville. Ken Able has tentatively agreed to help on Sept. 5-6, so it would be the Monday and Tuesday night in Susanville. The Mallorys need to be there. It would be myself and the Mallorys and then that leaves space for 9 others. We should factor in the costs, but meals would be on their own, so maybe we should add \$250, which would be \$125/night, or should it be more? We should raise a little money for the organization. Ron has asked for this, and I would like to keep him in good spirits as perhaps he has another matching grant appeal.

John H.: We talked about this and thought we might do it in a simpler way rather than involving C-vent. We would send out an email to members and then they would email somebody, and it might be Jen or Maci. As soon as we fill the 9 slots, we would cut it off and send these people an information sheet about how the trip is going to work, the itinerary, where the meeting place is going to be, and what people need to bring, etc.

Shaun: **ACTION ITEM:** You can meet with myself and Maci to plot out the details and we can do a promotion. **ACTION ITEM:** You should pencil out the details to make sure that you are covering your costs.

Jon: **ACTION ITEM:** If the Board has a suggestion as to what to mark it up at the end after costs, please send me an email. We have a June 15th deadline For the Call for Papers. Right now we have commitments for 4 presentations out of 15. Almost nobody submits abstracts for the talks until the deadline. **ACTION ITEM:** I would appreciate it if people would share or volunteer to talk. Lean on people who might have good things to present or contact universities that might have someone available. If anyone has any thoughts or suggestions just email me.

Phil: **ACTION ITEM:** We want to present our work on the gray vireo in Baja. We have one more week of field work to do from Sierra San Pedro Martir so we might have something coming up the end of May or the first part of June. I won't be able to write the abstract before the deadline.

Kimball: **ACTION ITEM:** I will reserve a spot in the schedule for you. I am doing the same for Bob Gill and Colleen Handel. Elisabeth Ammon, Director of GBBO, has the Call for Papers. She said they have some presenters. We will get it done.

1:55pm **Treasurer's Report: Shaun**

I would like to introduce Maci MacPherson and welcome her to the Board meeting. She has been an absolute pleasure to work with. John H. and I reviewed many candidates and it's great to have Maci's enthusiasm and skill. She's organized, strategic, and she gets things done. Maci why don't you share a little bit about yourself and some of the projects you have been working on.

Maci: Hi everyone. I am enjoying every minute of working for WFO. We have accomplished quite a bit as we have gotten 'thank you' letters, both emails and paper copies, out to folks, as well as the new renewals, and handling some monthly donations. It's been great working with Shaun and Jon. I am looking forward to meeting everyone in September. I am located in Missoula, Montana. I am an avid birder and a naturalist. Most of my career has been with the National Parks as well as Montana State Parks as a Park Ranger. I enjoy talking to people about birds and wildlife, history, and our public land. Let me know how I can help.

Membership: Update: With Maci on board we have been pushing a little bit more on membership because we noticed that we had 170 people who did not renew this year. We sent out the renewal envelopes but we aren't getting a good response. **ACTION ITEM:** Is there someone or a process, where you would want to review that list and encourage those people who may not have renewed?

Jon: Shaun, when we last visited this question seriously we divided the lapsed members among Board members who contacted these lapsed members. **ACTION ITEM:** Perhaps the first thing would be to share the list and maybe some Board members would like to write to a few of them.

Shaun: **ACTION ITEM:** Tomorrow I will share the list with the Board and then let Maci know who you are reaching out to so we can track that so not everyone is trying to reach the same people. Even though 170 haven't renewed, I would say that renewals according to the budget are coming in at a good level. We are not seeing a degrading number on the budget.

Finance: Update: All of you have received the current finance report. On the expense side there are 2 things I wanted to bring to your attention. We hired a tax accountant as per our last Board meeting. The taxes are done, filed and we have paid the tax accountant. The other expenses that you will see is that Kurt ordered some merchandise for the conference so several of those invoices have already been paid. We made really good progress on the income side. We had strong donations in Pubs (\$13,000), the Mallory Matching Grant, and scholarships (\$1700). The total on the Mallory Matching Grant as of this week is \$30,900. I want a shout out to everyone as \$30,900 is

phenomenal. This is a great bonus for WFO. The promotion for the *Birds of Inyo* book brought in a lot of extra dollars. **ACTION ITEM:** At the next Board meeting I can tell you exactly how much that was. We received a \$5,000 check from the Eastern Sierra Audubon which counts for the match. That was phenomenal. We also received a check for \$3,000 last week for something I wasn't expecting, from a private donor.

Robin: I have a question on membership. You talked about how many people did not renew, but I want to know how many people joined?

Shaun: Total members are over 600.

Robin: I would expect we would have new members joining because they want to go to the conference.

Shaun: I had about 5 members join in the last few days. We are also seeing students join.

Diane: **ACTION ITEM:** Shaun, if you could send me that list, I will send registration invitations for these new people.

Bylaws Update: Jon:

This is an ongoing process. The next steps we take will be very important and we will give you a progress report then.

2:10pm

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Shaun

Report: The Finance Committee has been meeting regularly and we have made tremendous progress. The packet which you received shows what we have cleaned up to streamline our efforts. For the conference we will not be accepting cash. We are going to be accepting checks and credit cards and using a scanner on site. We want to streamline and reduce costs and to have software that will help us write reports, that will answer questions, and be more efficient overall. Part of what we want to do is to set up long term stability for the organization. What I did with the Committee is lay out questions like, 'What kind of accountability do we need to have?'; 'What do we need to do for membership?'; 'What do we need to do for Planned Giving?'; 'What do we need to do for a long-term fundraising strategy?'; 'What can we do to make a deeper Planned Giving Program?' In order to move in that direction of long-term financial stability, we want to make sure that we have 1) financial accountability; 2) a tax accountant; 3) legal counsel to review things; 4) to redo our Bylaws; 5) membership. We should also recognize our donors. We need look back to see our donor history, so we can approach our donors in an appropriate way. **ACTION ITEM:** We need better software. What we have is disparate and not connected and they do not speak to each other.

Planned Giving: The Planned Giving is so that our members who are aging, can leave a bequest to WFO, but to do that we need some of these other processes in place. We talked to other nonprofits, i.e., National Audubon. We gathered some good background material so we could begin to formulate what we felt might be the next step. What we have done is again in your Board packet, the basic Phase 1 - Planned Giving Language. It is so that a donor can leave a bequest through the percentage of assets, etc., so that they can leave in their will a bequest to us. The Committee would like to ask the Board's permission to go ahead and move forward with studying the basic Phase 1 - Planned Giving. To do that we need: 1) the Board's approval, 2) we need to take that

language that has been developed in that document and have that reviewed by legal expertise, whom we have identified. Then we can go onto promoting and letting people know, which is a whole other phase. This first phase is really about having a discussion here on the Board about the Phase 1 approach and ask Robin, Kristie or Kurt, our Finance Committee members, to weigh in on some of the discussions we've had and where they would like to take this.

Andy: For the Planned Giving Program was there an identified destination for these funds?

Shaun: There wasn't an identified destination; the person who makes the bequest can make that identification. So if the person wants to split the bequest across Pubs, Scholarship and General, that would be great. We don't want to define that for the individual who is making the bequest.

Andy: Let's continue to develop the concept and move forward. It's important that we approach the whole idea of Planned Giving from the standpoint of ultimately creating a long-term financial security for the organization. If somebody doesn't specifically designate how they would like to see their bequest handled, it would go into the General Fund. We have it within our ability at this point to say that we could put it into the Legacy Society and some long-term funds that would be allowed to continue to grow and create a future income stream for the organization.

Shaun: If you look at the chart in your Board packet, at Phase 1 – Planned Giving, the goal is to grow to a fundraising strategy and an investment strategy because the Finance Committee needs to make steps to get there. We can't do it all because we don't have some of the basics in place. I want to be careful with the languaging. We are calling it Planned Giving because in a subsequent plan we want to talk about the Legacy Society or the Legacy Recognition which we have as a Committee separated out from investment strategies. Right now, we are talking about wills and bequests which is the Phase 1 of the Planned Giving. We want to get to the point where we have the basics in place so we can have a fundraising strategy and an investment strategy which would talk about that long term financial growth opportunity for the money we have in hand.

Motion to authorize the Finance Committee to proceed with its plan, Phase 1 - Planned Giving, made by John H., seconded by Robin, and passed unanimously.

Legacy Recognition: This has nothing to do with investment. Robin and some Committee members did some of the research around forming a Recognition Society, recognizing Legacy Donors, those who give bequests to WFO. In the Board packet you will see some suggestions as to what we could do as far as Legacy Recognition. If someone makes a bequest prior to their demise, then we would recognize them with the different things that we thought about.

Robin: I think the Legacy Society consists of people who give from their Living Trust or wills but not a fixed amount of money now. That would be the other kind of giving, like Mr. Mallory is doing. I don't think we should make it a certain amount for the Legacy Society.

Shaun: This specific Legacy Recognition is for a Planned Giving gift. It is not for the donors that are donating in another way. This is specifically for wills, bequests, and that kind of thing. That is where we made the delineation. The discussion we had within the Committee was that we didn't feel it was right to put a dollar amount on this because you don't necessarily know if someone's bequest is \$500 or \$500,000.

Kristie: Whatever approach we use for the Recognition we could also use the template for donors that are giving like Mr. Mallory. We could have a similar recognition and appreciation but it's called a different thing.

Andy: We have already identified that there are different ways of giving through Planned Giving other than through your will. That statement needs to be either broadened or generalized in some fashion.

Shaun: We can change that languaging. Participants can let us know and they don't have to share the amount at all. That is private information but they can say, 'We've written WFO into our will.' Knowing the amount is up to the donor.

Diane: I am more concerned about how this Recognition thing goes. If they put WFO in the will, we may not necessarily know so they wouldn't get recognized until after they die.

Shaun: That's correct. It's a choice they make when giving a donation or making a bequest and we recognize them. A lot of donors do not want to be recognized. It's a personal choice.

Andy: We would spell that out in our marketing brochures. If we invite them, they can let us know and we can provide them with recognition if they so desire. We will certainly respect their request to be anonymous. It is to our advantage to have some idea of people who have done this so we can follow up at the proper time. It might assist us in our future financial planning to be able to know that we have got \$1,000,000 coming in.

Shaun: We are going to have to market it, promote it, and develop it over time. What we are proposing today is the beginning stages of getting recognition. There were *ad hoc* approaches in the past but we need to recognize our donors, particularly if they want to be recognized.

Andy: Another important part of the marketing effort is if we can publicize a list of names, people who are friends of each other who included us in their bequests, trusts, wills, etc., then that encourages other people who know those people to do likewise. It's part of your overall process of building your funds.

Motion to move forward in developing the Legacy Recognition Program for our Planned Giving Program that we are beginning to establish made by Andy, seconded by Diane, and passed unanimously.

Shaun: The executive team feels we need to bring in support to help us with the Planned Giving materials and to make sure that it is meeting legal requirements. Kristie has brought forward and interviewed a nonprofit law firm. Dan King, who is a lawyer and a volunteer, reviewed the items that we would need to have a legal team look at. He also looked at the lawyer who specializes in nonprofit law that we have approached, a legal team out of Southern California, Jon Dunn, John Harris, and I met with Arthur Rieman, who is the principle in the firm, to discuss retaining his team services to support us over the next several months while we go through this process. The required retainer for our legal expenses would be about \$5,000. A retainer does not mean that we will use all \$5,000 but we do have to pay that up front to get the law firm to engage with us. The retainer would cover bylaws, contracts, Planned Giving and policy.

Jon: Just for the record, Daniel King is our official *pro bono* attorney for WFO. We asked him if he had reservations in moving ahead and he was supportive.

Motion to approve a \$5,000 retainer to the law firm that Shaun has identified for this purpose, seconded by Robin, and passed unanimously.

Jon: Thank you Shaun for being so well organized. Anything else to add?

Shaun: Thank you. I really appreciate everyone's support. Please reach out to me or the Committee with any questions or concerns you might have with this because it is complicated.

2:45pm

Other Committees:

Publications Committee: Kimball

You all read Phil's *Western Birds* (**WB**) report so I will let Phil expand on that, then I will make a few comments and then we would like to give Judith time to talk about the newsletter. **ACTION ITEM:** I assume there will be an appeal to the board to keep Judith apprised of what the Board is up to.

Phil: We are in line with previous years as far as submissions go. Thanks very much to the Associate Editors for keeping the review process on track. Issues with paper in the supply chain continue but don't seem to be onerous. The issue with the Search Engine Optimization, (SEO), is still hanging over our head because the people involved are not moving forward to my knowledge. **ACTION ITEM:** We need to set up a meeting with people who can actually do the work.

Kimball: Regarding monographs basically Ken Able and Bob Gill assure me that *Birds of Inyo* is on schedule. Photos and copyediting are progressing.

Jon: Kelli, the daughter, is working on all the photographs and additional things. A huge 'thank you' to Barbara Kelley as she raised quite a lot of money through her fundraising.

Kimball: In my brief report you can see the status of some of the other potential *Studies in Western Birds*, i.e., the Pribilofs and Dick Erickson's the birds of Baja submission which is off in the future. Bob was approached by his colleagues about a possible monograph on North American *Tringa* sandpipers. It is in the initial discussion stages. According to Bob, there is about an 8-15% price increase related to paper costs from Allen Press. It is going to increase the costs of everything we print. Phil, thanks for mentioning the Search Optimization (SEO) struggle.

Kimball: The WFO Board is not going to define 'abundance' terms for authors. That's why we have an Editor of the series. If the author can define what they are doing, then that should suffice. It is an ongoing discussion with Dan Gibson and Shaun regarding participation of Bird Records Committees as committees of WFO and also page charges for the committee reports. We will continue to be vigilant about trying to recoup page charges from state committees that publish in **WB**.

Dan: Most committees do a timely job of anteing up for their page charges.

2:51pm

Newsletter: Judith Dunham, Editor eNews:

Kimball: Judith, congratulations on such wonderful newsletters!

Judith: I want to talk about the 'Get Response' transition, the process of sending out the emails, the budget, and lastly the upcoming Summer issue. In January 2022, Ed Pandolfino wanted to hand over the 'Get Response' responsibility and said that it was useful. Barely a week after that I had my first Zoom meeting with Todd Benton. I must say that he is a super star, is patient, and is happy to share his knowledge. That is how it all got done. All the emails that went to members had to say from WFO. With Todd's tutelage, I learned how to do a blast. I have done about 6 of them, i.e., scholarship fund, the conference and most recently the new issue of **WB**. When it came to the newsletter, Todd built the first newsletter and is going to help me with the Summer issue. When someone gets an email, whether it is a blast or is the newsletter, they can respond. They can just

hit 'reply' and it will go to both me and the online 'Go Daddy' email account. I can address any problems. **ACTION ITEM:** Judith will respond to 'Get Response' emails from the membership.

In the eNews, if you scroll through an article, you will see a comment feature. People can comment and then those comments go into the Word Press Dashboard, where I approve them. After each eNews, I check the comments maybe 3 times/day initially and approve them. I would like to see that if Board members find an article particularly interesting, to make a comment, thereby getting into interacting with the newsletter. I would especially like to see reports from students like the graduate student reports. It would be great to get support for people who contribute. The 'Remembrance of Terry Wahl' received 3 or 4 comments, one of which was a lovely one from his daughter.

Somebody from the distant past commented on the Ron Mallory article. I was able to dig out the person's email from the mailing list and send it to Ron, so they did not have to have a reunion in public; they are going to meet one another in Reno. In perusing the newsletter, if there is something you liked or wanted to support, please make a comment. So that is how everything is interconnected. Lastly, Todd and I connected the homepage with the eNews and also cleaned it up. Todd came up with this brilliant idea where we treated the rundown to May 15th for the Ron Mallory Grant as a time clock. One could see the line disappearing and disappearing and now it's over. The Board approved a budget of \$2,150. \$1,050 of that was for Todd. When he proposed that figure, I asked him if he was sure that that was enough. He has already spent that. About \$250 of that was to set up the new 'Get Response' account to make templates. The "Get Response" account impacts *all* programs of WFO. It's not only the eNews that benefits. Out of my budget came funds that improved all of WFO's programs. I had also asked for \$300 for Tim to place the content on the website. It was extremely inexpensive. \$600 was for proofreading because I thought if we were going to have long academic articles, I would need somebody else to read those. That's \$900 I haven't spent which I will use for the remaining issues of the year, the Summer and the Fall with Todd, and with someone else on his staff, who charges a lower hourly rate. Shaun said there were 600 members. The mailing list is 2100 people. At the end of each newsletter, I'm putting in a pitch to people who are reading the newsletter but are not members. There maybe 500 people who have not opened an email from WFO in 6 months. Generally, businesses go with a 3-month leeway and then you are dropped. There is a way to re-engage some of those on the mailing list. **ACTION ITEM:** I want to purge the mailing list with my remaining budget, or I will come back and ask for more money to accomplish this because it needs to be done. I can go in and look to see if the email has been opened. The email that went out with the most recent issue of **WB** had a 50% click rate. You can see by name the level of their engagement.

Don: The Website Committee is not spending nearly the money that we thought we might. We were working with Judith on the newsletter. A lot what is going on the website is coming out of the newsletter budget, not ours.

Judith: The Spring issue had a wonderful lead article on the Conference, and it had Kimball's wonderful book reviews. The format was great. The reports from the grad students were quite interesting. We had the profile on Ron, and we had an item on the publications project that Kimball did. Paul Lehman emailed me after the deadline for the Spring issue and said that he was retiring. He said that he might do that again. If you look at his column you will see that it is very time-consuming. He did it for 2 years during the shut-down. We don't have a lot for the next issue.

ACTION ITEM: I will write a reminder about the Conference. The deadline for the Summer issue is about June 15th and it will come out the week after July 4th. I will send out a reminder after today's meeting. **ACTION ITEM:** I have a note regarding a high school senior who was maybe involved with WFO and is now at Cornell. He/she wanted to write about their gap year. Does anybody know

who it is? No. In the future the newsletter is the perfect place to recognize people who are in the Legacy Society and memorialize those who have left the Legacy Society. In a past newsletter, I wrote about a Legacy Program and occasionally we would run an article on someone who is still alive and volunteers to talk about why they decided to provide a Legacy donation to the organization. I can see why Legacy donors don't want to discuss this as they would get pitched by everybody. That's where we stand today.

Jon: A huge thank you Judith for everything you've done. **ACTION ITEM:** Certainly, I and other Board members need to help you out with contributions.

Judith: I did see the newsletter as largely keeping in touch with members and potential members about what WFO does, to touch on all the different programs, and to promote WFO wherever possible in a professional way. I think the purpose and tone is to be welcoming and friendly so that it is understandable to everybody and that it doesn't take a long time to read because as soon as somebody puts something aside, they don't go back.

Judith: John H. forwarded to the Spring issue the 3 graduate student reports. Sierra Glassman, a young scholar, is going to be in the Summer issue. **ACTION ITEM:** More reports like this would be welcome. I would need somebody to approach other students for that and then to read it when it came in.

Jon: The Scholarship Committee has selected 6 students this year. Potentially each one could write a short paragraph, possibly with a picture, and send it to John H., as a way of welcoming the young scholars when they are there.

Judith: I think it a great idea and when you think about the Fall issue (middle of October), the Conference will already have happened so content will come out of the Conference.

Robin: In the future you might want to make as one of requirements for the scholarships to report on their work.

Judith: That's a good idea. **ACTION ITEM:** I will be sending out an email about the deadline for the next issue including what I have so far and the specs for the newsletter. We have specs about the photographs; you've seen the format. There are abstracts in the newsletter itself and then the main text goes on the website.

Dan: Don, I use the membership list as a means to find potential reviewers for things like **WB** which is not alphabetical.

Don: **ACTION ITEM:** I can get you a spreadsheet that is organized alphabetically. Maybe between spreadsheets, the one Ed created and the one that Shaun has, I can figure out and clean the list up, so it doesn't look like we have 2,000 members.

3:20pm Awards Committee: Karen Havlena

I sent out Cat Waters' nomination for a person who shall remain nameless for now for the Alan Craig Award. The fourth award is going to Bob Gill. Bob already knows about this. The nameless person does not know about his/her award. It's up to the spouse or significant other to inform the recipient of the award. All in favor say 'Aye.' All agree. Some of you are members of the ABA and saw their special May issue of *Birding* about people who do wildlife gardening. Cat and Robert Waters (p.52) have a wonderful article with great pictures.

Dan: It's important that Bob knew ahead of time because that's the only thing that would bring Colleen Handel to the meeting. Both will be there because they know about this.

3:25pm

Outreach/Fundraising Committee:

Birdathon: Andy: I want to alert Phil that I sent a private note about Sue Smith who is willing to give you a hand if you need any help. Congratulations on a fact-filled meeting here. If anybody has questions or issues about the Bird-A-Thon please drop me an email. I expect to have a Bird-A-Thon Committee meeting in June to reconvene and begin the process. I talked to Jen, and she is all on board and excited about putting together a draft contract. The Board will need to review and approve it at some point this summer. I would like to get her officially aboard so she can spend time getting this ready which I would like to do before the Reno Conference. I know she will have a lot on her agenda during the fall with our Reno Conference and with the San Diego Bird Festival. **ACTION ITEM:** There will need to be a new contract agreement during the summer with whoever we wind up going with for our Bird-A-Thon administrative platform. There were some issues and complications last year and we would like to make a change with the software. Jen talked with the Blue Sky people and she was enthused about what they had to offer. Several of us on the Committee reviewed Blue Sky last year, we are somewhat familiar with their program, and are similarly enthused.

Student Programs:

John H.: Two days ago was the deadline for scholarship applications for the Conference. We have a great group of 6 youths that will be coming to the Conference. On the research grant program we had 9 applicants, 1 undergraduate and 8 graduate students. We will be making our final selection soon and will have information on the scholarship youth and the grant recipients. That's pretty good considering we haven't had a meeting in two years. We added to this year's application the expectation that the students give us a brief report after they have gone to the Conference. We will have some material after the Conference from those students as well as the graduate recipients. We thank Susan Gilliland for suggesting that.

Judith: Could you announce the recipients in the Summer issue and that they will be going to the Conference.?

John H.: **ACTION ITEM:** We can do that and also a summary of who will be getting a research grant. The recipients don't submit photos with their applications so we would have to request that and probably get their parents to sign a waiver form. Let me investigate that.

Jon: It just helps with recognition with the membership that people look and see their pictures and then see the actual youth at the Conference.

Outreach/Fundraising: Robin: **ACTION ITEM:** Now that I realize I can utilize Maci, our administrator, I can follow through with my idea of contacting all the bird clubs and Audubon people in the West to tell them about WFO.

3:38pm

Nominations Committee: John Harris

We do have somebody who is willing to stand for election to the Board, someone that was suggested by Dan Gibson, Daniel Ruthrauff. He has been an Associate Editor with **WB** for quite some time. He will be a great addition to the Board. Phil endorses him also. He would be good to have on the Publications Committee. We have approached some other people. I had a great

conversation with Sue Smith whom Andy suggested. Although she was very supportive of WFO, it is not a good time for her. **ACTION ITEM:** We have some feelers out to some other people, but we have 3 other openings so if anybody thinks of someone who they think would be a good Board member, please let me know and we will reach out to them. I hope within the next month or so to have recruited a couple of other people. It's an ongoing process.

Robin: I am aware this possible candidate is another Californian from the Central Valley, but I was thinking of John Robinson. He is an author of several books and a minority. He was very useful in the ABA. He has other connections that we could utilize. I have his contact information.

Jon: **ACTION ITEM:** Robin, since you were on the ABA Board with him and you know him best, just see what his interest would be and let John H. know. He's not a WFO member. You can give him a \$20 gift membership and maybe not this year but see what his interest is in the organization. Don, you are on the CFO Board, so you are recruiting for CFO too. Do you see anyone from Colorado?

Don: There is Nathan Pieplow.

Jon: Do you want to approach Nathan?

Don: **ACTION ITEM:** I will see people this week at the convention so I will give some hints out there.

Diane: Cvent charges 3.95% to process any kind of credit card, when the money comes in, we get charged. I would like to put a service charge of 3.95% to use the credit card on Cvent. I will not impose a surcharge.

Jon: My suggestion would be to get rid of Cvent as soon as possible.

3:43pm

Field Trip Committee: Kurt Leuschner

We are still trying to get the Cuba trip to go in January after being postponed twice. Gary Markowski has contacted me and will let me know when he is ready. Unless any of you have any trips you want to propose let me know this year or next.

Jon: There is some communication with Pat Bachetti with the Central Valley Bird Club, to do a short combined 2-day shorebird trip in August led by me, Jon Dunn.

Conservation/Science Policy Committee Report: Kristie Nelson:

There are no updates.

Jon: WFO has already taken a position on the Tricolored Blackbird and made a statement regarding the Tricolored Blackbird so we should all rally around that and have as much promotion on that as possible.

New Business: None

Jon: Congratulations Kimball on your retirement from the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History. Kimball still goes in on Weds. to view the collection.

Jon: Thank you all. A lot got discussed and a lot of actions taken.

Kurt: Before covid hit we had approved binocular straps with WFO on them, but never ordered them. I would like to order those before the Reno Conference. The order is for 50 straps totaling \$639. We can sell them for \$20 without any problem and make a little profit. If anyone needs help in putting on the strap, I will help with that.

Dan moves that Kurt go ahead with his order of binocular straps, seconded by John H., and passes unanimously.

3:50pm **Motion to adjourn made by Robin, seconded by Dan, and passed unanimously.**