

MINUTES
VERTEBRATE PEST COUNCIL
Redwood Room #1, Portola Hotel, Monterey, CA
October 12, 2010

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Robert Timm at 1:25 PM Pacific Daylight Time. In attendance: *Roger Baldwin, Brian Finlayson, Paul Gorenzel, Victoria Hornbaker, Stella McMillin, John O'Brien, Terry Salmon, Jon Shelgren, Robert Timm, Mike Taber.*

2. Approval of Minutes of the June 9, 2010 Meeting

Minutes had been previously distributed by email, and a few corrections submitted. Motion to approve by Victoria Hornbaker, second by Roger Baldwin. Minutes approved as previously corrected.

3. Business Managers Report

Terry Salmon had no formal report but noted that with assistance of Amber Shrum, collection of an unpaid VPC registration bill due from DPR had been accomplished, and that all other invoiced registrations from the conference had been paid. Terry also reiterated that for future conferences, registration payment by purchase order would not be an option, as most collection problems have been tied to these purchase orders.

4. Old Business

a. Updates to Council Conference Guidelines by Robert Timm: It was reported that the updates are progressing, and that this is a key task for the Council in order to keep current with changing guidelines for the conferences. Guideline chapters have been submitted to date by Paul Gorenzel (field trip), Victoria Hornbaker (Arrangements), and Roger Baldwin (Poster Session / Student Awards).

b. Update on progress of 24th Proceedings by Robert Timm: Progress is slow but steady. There were a total of 80 papers and posters from the Conference; of these, approximately 5 manuscripts that are either not forthcoming or have been returned for major revision and are not expected to be returned. The projected cost for printing the Proceedings is between \$7-8 per unit, with approximate shipping cost of \$600.00 from the printer, based on 500 copies. This does not include mailing cost of individual copies to Conference participants. We hope to be able to go to print in 4 to 6 weeks. It was also reported that sales of existing proceedings continue to be good, through our arrangement with the Internet Store associated with the Univ. of Nebraska-hosted Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management.

c. Website Update by Terry Salmon / Robert Timm: We continue to investigate the possibility of using a UC server to host a revised VPC website with increased functionality, with no monthly server cost to the VPC. Robert Timm distributed a draft list of website content; Council is encouraged to provide additional suggestions on content and functionality. The revised site should permit access by Council members for internal communication, as well as improved publicity and information to the general public. If no UC policy problems are encountered, a "trial" website will be built and a link to it sent to Council for members' review and comment in the next few months. We will be able to retain the www.vpconference.org URL.

d. Planning for PAPA-VPC workshops (Feb/Mar 2011): The subcommittee for the workshops is made up of *Roger Baldwin, Victoria Hornbaker, Stella McMillin and Robert Timm*. A draft list of speakers and topics was provided; efforts are being made to standardize the program for all sites as much as possible, to simplify application for DPR CE credits. PAPA needs the final program by November 8, 2010 to request DPR approval and to produce a publicity mailer. Victoria Hornbaker will contact the local county agricultural commissioner's offices to ask if they will provide speakers to introduce some content for laws and regulations. Terry Salmon has contacted Judy Letterman at PAPA and proposed to split profits from these workshops, with PAPA receiving 75% and VPC 25% of funds remaining after expenses have been covered; he has not yet heard back whether PAPA has accepted this arrangement. The dates and locations of the workshops are:

Weds. Feb 16, 2011 - Chico
Thurs. Feb 17, 2011 - Stockton
Tues. Mar 1, 2011 - Visalia
Thurs. Mar 3, 2011 - Rancho Cucamonga

e. Storage of Proceedings and Other Materials at TB1 UCD: Paul Gorenzel and Terry Salmon reported that existing storage at the present site is OK for now, but the time is coming when it may need to be changed. CDFA in Sacramento is still a possibility if needed. Terry Salmon agreed to discuss the possibility of the University of Nebraska storing more proceedings with Stephen Vantassel. An inventory of Proceedings on hand is still needed.

5. New Business

a. Action on new Council Members. Robert Timm and other Council members had contacted Rob Atwill (UCD), Sherlan Neblett (L.A. County Ag. Comm.), Cheryl Wilen (UCCE San Diego Co.), John Eisemann (USDA NWRC), Peter Newman (UCCE San Diego Co.), and Amna Hawatky (DPR-Sacramento) regarding their interest in applying for Council membership. Rob Atwill has not responded, and Sherlan Neblett and Cheryl Wilen both regretfully declined the invitation. *John Eisemann, Peter Newman, and Amna Hawatky* all expressed an interest in serving on the Council. Victoria Hornbaker moved to make John, Peter and Amna regular members (3-year term appointment). John Shelgren seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

b. Field Trip Ideas for Monterey (2012). Paul Gorenzel and Terry Salmon suggested the following ideas: Sea lion habitat in the Monterey bay/wharf areas; Salinas Valley leafy green tour, with a speaker to cover the recent *E. coli* outbreak; Elkhorn Slough goose poisoning overview by *Stella McMillin*; Salinas Valley farming operations review including vegetable harvest and rodent baiting; and Pacific Grove golf course review discussing deer, waterfowl, and raccoon problems. It's expected that the field trip will draw 80 to 100 people.

c. UCCE advisor and specialist positions to be hired in 2011-12. Robert Timm discussed the importance and possibilities surrounding the proposed hiring of approximately 20 new CE specialists and county-based farm advisors in the next 12 to 18 months. Bob, Terry, Roger, and others within UC are working to propose these include 2 regional IPM advisor

positions (parallel to Roger's current position) and 1 CE specialist position likely to be located in Wildlife Fish & Conservation Biology at UCD; these nominations are due November 15, 2010. The Council discussed the possibility of providing support funding for these three positions, should they be implemented. It was agreed that *Kathy Fagerstone* will be asked to write a letter of support on behalf of Council, to encourage UC's moving forward with these positions. Terry Salmon moved that Council direct *Robert Timm* to contact *Kathy Fagerstone* to write a letter to UC ANR administration, stating that Council is committed to providing start-up funding similar to that provided by Council to Roger Baldwin's position, for any such wildlife damage Extension position to be hired within the next 18 months. Roger Baldwin seconded, and the motion was approved.

Comment [r1]: Not sure this is the case is it?

6. Additional Announcements/Topics of Interest

- a. 14th Wildlife Damage Management Conference, Nebraska City, NE, April 18-21, 2011. No publicity or call for papers has been seen yet. This conference is sponsored and hosted by the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group of The Wildlife Society.
- b. 8th European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference, Berlin, Germany, 26-30 September 2011. This conference has been announced by email and a web link is available.
- c. 15th Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference, to be held in Sydney, Australia, 20-23 June 2011.

Council members present noted that it is not too early to begin considering potential sites for the 26th VPC, scheduled to be held in later winter 2014. Robert Timm noted he has initiated correspondence with Tony Peacock in Australia to propose a combined Australasian - US VP Conference to be held in Hawaii in spring 2014. However, the Australians are just as reluctant to hold their conference in New Zealand as we are to move ours outside California. Bob will continue to pursue this possibility.

7. Selection of date and location for next Council meeting

Through group discussion, it was decided that the next Council meeting should be held Wednesday March 2, 2011 at 2:00 pm at a location (to be announced) in the Ontario area.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm, and Council members who so desired took a tour of the Portola Hotel facilities led by Doris Lopez (Catering & Convention Services Manager) and Keshia Abeyta (Sales Manager).

Minutes drafted by Mike Taber.