

MINUTES
VERTEBRATE PEST COUNCIL
CDFR Room 133, Sacramento, CA
June 9, 2010 10:30 AM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Robert Timm at 10:30 AM Pacific Standard Time. In attendance: Rex Baker, Lew Davis, Roger Baldwin, Craig Coolahan, Brian Finalyson, Paul Gorenzel, Victoria Hornbaker, Dennis Orthmeyer, Terry Salmon, Robert Schmidt, Mike Taber, Robert Timm, Jerry Clark, Dick Dana, Stella McMillin, Jon Shelgren, Duane Schnabel. Attending via Teleconference: John O'Brien, Kathy Fagerstone, Peter Bonkrude.

2. Approval of Minutes of the February 22, 2010 Meeting

Motion to approve by Brian Finalyson, second by Roger Baldwin. Minutes approved.

3. Business Manager's Report

Terry Salmon reported that the 2009 taxes have been filed and supplied a financial report for review. It was noted that online registration for the 24th VPC was a significant improvement over past registration experiences in part due to the removal of the submission PowerPoint files by speakers as part of the registration process. The preliminary financial report showed two errors upon initial review which will be corrected. Motion to approve the financial report by Victoria Hornbaker, second by Roger Baldwin. Financial report approved.

4. Old Business

a. Recap of the 24th Conference by Terry Salmon noted that for the most part abstracts received were of good quality and resulted in a good mix of topics for the Conference Program. However, most abstracts were not received by the original deadline; thus, the incoming program chair will need to be flexible when considering receipt of these, due to a number of legitimate factors. Terry also noted that it was a great help to have two additional people working with him to coordinate with speakers and communicate the approval of pending presentations.

Victoria Hornbaker noted that communication with the caterers was challenging and needs to be more clearly defined in the future with regard to expectations and timing of catering events, such as coffee breaks, so there is minimal opportunity for extended expense to be incurred during the conference for food services. Victoria also noted that the hotel did not communicate with us, after conference arrangements had been made, that the space we used for commercial exhibits had subsequently been booked by another group for Thursday; thus, hotel staff disassembled the space without the vendors or our Council knowing about it in advance. A \$200.00 rebate was offered to exhibitors by conference organizers (Terry Salmon) several of which accepted, to offset the exhibitor fee, as we had not indicated to vendors that exhibits would not remain up through the duration of the conference. We will need to double-check space assignments with hotel staff in the future to avoid this occurring again.

John O'Brien reported that for the 12 exhibitors present it may have been just as beneficial to exhibit only 2 days instead of 3. This will be considered further prior to the 2012 conference.

Roger Baldwin reported that the poster presentations went well with a total of 10 presentations, 4 of which were student posters. There were also 10 student presentations given at

the 24th VPC. Roger conducted a survey of student participants (see attached report) which was returned with unanimously positive responses, also noting the desire for more social gathering opportunities for presenters and the appreciation of travel awards.

Terry Salmon pointed out that the practice of accepting Purchase Orders for the payment of registration should likely not be continued, as it is a hassle and requires continual follow-up to actually get payment, also resulting in confusion on which groups have paid within a single agency submitting multiple registrations (primarily CA Dept. of Water Resources). It was decided we would contact DWR in advance of the next Conference to inform them that we won't be accepting purchase orders, if we indeed decide to drop this payment option.

Paul Gorenzel stated that the response to the field trip was overwhelmingly positive. He noted that it would be good to have a "tour guide" per bus for future multiple bus trips and suggested that the Field Trip Guidelines currently in place should be reviewed carefully in the future for relevance and detail by those in charge of the field trip.

Kathy Fagerstone commented that as conference chair the overall review of the conference was very positive. She noted that the 2012 conference would benefit from an international speaker "mixer" if time allows. It was also mentioned that software compatibility between Macintosh and Windows based power point presentations was troublesome and could be avoided in the future by adopting a single format.

Roger Baldwin noted that it would be good for marketing purposes in the future to focus on distributing preconference information to The Wildlife Society student chapters and to the TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group. Robert Timm suggested that credits toward continuing ed for TWS-certified Wildlife Biologists might also be offered, and that we might wish to pursue this through TWS for future conferences.

b. Continuing Education. Rex Baker pointed out that the response to continuing education credits was overwhelmingly positive by attendees from California. However, the number of attendees from other states that took advantage of continuing education credits at the conference was so low that it doesn't seem to justify the additional effort to obtain accreditation from states outside California (see attachment). Two states, Nevada and Arizona, are reciprocal with regard to continuing education standards and opportunities with DPR. Rex will attend a class over the summer given by DPR which explains how to obtain accreditation. Staff turnover at the DPR office has made continuing education certification more difficult than at any time in the past. Rex also noted that it would be beneficial to obtain accreditation 2 or 3 months in advance of the conference, enabling professional associations such as CAPCA and PAPA to market the VPC as a CE opportunity for their members.

c. Update to Council Conference Guidelines reference document. Robert Timm sent out requests to committee chairs to update the badly-outdated sections of our Guidelines, and greatly appreciates everyone's effort, as this maintains our institutional memory of various tasks associated with holding the Conference. Some have already revised sections and responded; there's no rush, but it's probably best to finish this up while we still remember what went well and what needs to be changed or improved.

d. Update of progress of 24th Proceedings was given with Robert Timm noting that he is still waiting on 10 papers but has the majority back from peer review and is hoping to complete final editing and publication by fall.

e. Survey results on 1-day and 2-day registrants, 24th Conference. Robert Timm had previously distributed by email an analysis of results from those conference attendees who registered for only one or two days, rather than for the full conference. The responses, plus a

quick economic analysis, showed that even though it involves more work registration-wise, it is likely in the conferences' best interests to continue to offer these registration options.

f. Website updates. Robert Timm and Terry Salmon noted that there have been some software problems and hurdles in getting our website to do everything we might desire it to do, i.e. have a searchable database of topics and authors of all previous VPC Proceedings volumes. Terry Salmon will investigate the possibility of moving our website from a commercial service to the UC's server using the new Site Builder options. If this is feasible, both in terms of UC policy and logistics, it might enable multiple Council members to have quick access, allowing more timely updates.

g. Other old business included a point of order by Terry Salmon regarding the election of Robert Timm as 2010-2012 council chair. Kathy Fagerstone formally nominated Robert Timm as council chair, second by Victoria Hornbaker, Robert Timm approved as council chair 2010-2012.

5. New Business

a. Request for "Life Member" status for Minoo Madon. Motion to approve by Terry Salmon, second by Robert Schmidt, Life Member status approved for Minoo Madon.

b. Membership status for "Regular" members (3 year term) to be approved as "Permanent" members for: Peter Bonkrude, Dennis Orthmeyer, Jon Shelgren and Mike Taber. Motion to approve by Rex Baker, second by Roger Baldwin, motion approved.

c. Recommendation for Council Chair-elect (to be chair 2012-14). Robert Timm recommended Mike Taber for 2012-14 Council Chair-elect. Motion to approve by Robert Schmidt, second by Paul Gorenzel, motion approved.

d. Committee Chairs for 25th Conference (March 5-8, 2012, Monterey) Robert Timm appointed Roger Baldwin as program chair. John O'Brien volunteered again to chair commercial exhibits, Dirk Van Vuren-publicity, Victoria Hornbaker-local arrangements and Terry Salmon tentatively would organize the field trip.

e. Planning for Alternate Year Workshops with PAPA (spring 2011). It was noted that the council would consider 3 or 4 meetings at sites throughout California and that council suggestions would be welcomed for topics, specifically laws and regulations oriented talks. These workshops may be particularly timely, as the new federal regulations limiting rodenticide sale to non-certified applicants are scheduled to take effect in early 2011. A northern seminar location of perhaps Chico or the Yuba City area was mentioned. A Planning Subcommittee was informally formed including Victoria Hornbaker, Roger Baldwin, Stella McMillin and Robert Timm.

f. Suggestions for additional Council members (possibly as "Regular" members initially) included the following: Rob Atwill (UC) or someone else with a focus in the food safety area, John Eisemann (NWRC), Peter Newman and Cheryl Wilen (UCCE –San Diego Co.), and Sherlan Neblett (LA Co. Ag Commissioner's Office). Robert Schmidt noted that the bylaws may suggest that the next step would be to solicit letters from these four and any other prospective council members expressing their interest in joining the council in order to facilitate further review.

g. Storage of Proceedings/other materials at TB1-UCD. Paul Gorenzel noted that upon his retirement at the end of June there may be a storage issue for proceedings and other VPC paperwork presently stored at UC Davis (TB1 shed and elsewhere) and that we should consider a future storage site. Duane Schnable introduced the possibility of storage space at a

CDFA leased facility in Sacramento. Storage at the University of Nebraska of extra copies of past Proceedings was also proposed. Further review will occur after Paul / Terry do an inventory of the items currently stored.

h. Other new business included the promotion of the 25th VPC by distributing preprinted VPC scratch pads at the upcoming Wildlife Damage Management Conference as well as PAPA Workshops. The possibility of exhibiting at the upcoming fall TWS conference was also discussed. No specific action was taken on these items. Robert Timm encouraged those whose email, mailing addresses, or phone numbers are changing to let him know so that the Council roster can be updated as needed.

6. Additional Announcements/Topics of Interest

Rex Baker offered a brief update of the regulatory status and review of Aluminum Phosphide and discussed a survey he is presenting in an effort to mitigate knee-jerk regulatory steps by EPA, following two human deaths that were the result of gross misapplication of the product in the state of Utah.

7. Selection of date and location for next Council meeting

The next council meeting has been schedule for Tuesday October 12, 2010, tentatively to be held at the Portola Hotel in Monterey (conference location for 2012), at 1:30 PST.

8. Adjourn to lunch at Vallejo's Mexican Restaurant

Meeting was adjourned at 12:52 PST. Retirements of council members Craig Coolahan (USDA WS), Brian Finalyson (CDF&G), Paul Gorenzel (UC Davis) and Terry Salmon (UCD/UC Coop. Extension-San Diego Co.) were recognized at lunch, including a cake arranged by Victoria Hornbaker celebrating this milestone. We were pleased that Lifetime Members Jerry Clark, Dick Dana, and Lew Davis could be with us for the meeting and lunch.

Minutes drafted by Mike Taber.

[Subsequent corrections by K. Fagerstone and R. Baldwin and incorporated](#)