

Draft?

**MINUTES OF THE VERTEBRATE PEST COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Meeting and Teleconference**  
**Ironwood Room, Portola Hotel, Monterey, CA**  
**September 21, 2009**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen Fagerstone at 8:45 AM Pacific Daylight Time. Participating in Monterey: Kathleen Fagerstone, Roger Baldwin, Dennis Orthmeyer, Dirk VanVuren. Participating by teleconference: Rex Baker, Peter Bonkrude, Paul Gorenzel, Howdy Howard, Terry Salmon, Robert Schmidt, Jon Shelgren, Mike Taber.

**2. Approval of Minutes of the July 9, 2009 Council Teleconference**

Motion to approve by Robert Schmidt, second by Rex Baker. Minutes approved.

**3. Business Manager's Report (Terry Salmon)**

Terry Salmon reported that he signed the contract with the Portola Hotel in Monterey for the 2012 Vertebrate Pest Control Conference. They required a \$2000 deposit. They guarantee a room rate of \$135/night or the federal per diem rate.

Terry also paid a \$5000 deposit to the Holiday Inn in Sacramento.

Rex Baker asked if the Council had been paid by PAPA for the workshops. Terry indicated that he would check on this.

**4. Old Business—Need for a Web page designer**

Terry reported that Desley Whisson will continue to update the web page but does not have expertise in design. Mike Taber indicated that he knows someone who would be willing to do a web design for a fee. Terry proposed that Desley continue to do the overall webpage management but that the Council seek a bid for redesigning the page to increase its functionality and to enhance its look. One change proposed is a site for Council members only where bylaws, minutes, etc. could be posted.

Rex Baker moved that Council direct Terry and Desley to identify a web designer and request a cost for redesigning the website to add a members-only function and enhance the web page look. Mike Taber seconded and the motion passed. Terry will contact Desley to see how to accomplish the redesign. Mike will have the web designer he knows contact Desley directly. Terry and Desley will bring a proposal with cost back to the Council.

**5. New Business**

**a. 2010 Sacramento Vertebrate Pest Conference Committee Updates**

**1) Field Trip:** Paul Gorenzel briefed Council on plans for the field trip. The attendees will first walk to a nearby crow roost and Paul will lead a discussion on problems caused by the roost. The group will then get on buses and proceed to the Sacramento airport where Dennis Orthmeyer will organize presentations. They will then proceed to the UC Davis campus where a graduate student will discuss either a tree squirrel project or a cliff swallow project. A buffet lunch will be served at the dining hall on campus. After lunch 3 presentations will be given: 1) Death of trees at the arboretum on campus caused by a heron roost, and the use of lasers, distress calls and projectiles; 2) A long term nest box study on the Putah Creek and problems of invasive species accessing nests; 3) Either the tree squirrel project or the cliff swallow project. Paul agreed to write a brief description of the field trip for the preliminary program.

Terry suggested an added demonstration on how an ATV with a spreader on the back is used for putting out anticoagulant baits.

Paul will make arrangements with a bus company. He will need to find out where the bus can pull up to the hotel. It was suggested that Victoria Hornbaker could help with the bus company details. We will want to reserve 2 buses but have a cancellation option in case we only get enough attendees for one bus. Paul requested guidance on how much to charge for the field trip. Terry indicated that we charged \$50 per person for the last field trip.

**2) Arrangements/Commercial Exhibits:** Terry Salmon reported for Victoria Hornbaker, who could not make the call. Arrangements are proceeding well for the Sacramento meeting. A discussion was held regarding evening events. In the past a no-host reception was held on Tuesday night and on Wednesday night, heavy hors d'oeuvres were served. Council decided that in Sacramento, a welcome reception will be held on Tuesday night with "heavy hors d'oeuvres" in a room where commercial exhibitors are located. On Wednesday a poster session will be held right after the meeting ends at 4:30 PM, with drinks available until 6 PM. Commercial exhibitors would also be present at that event. It was suggested that both commercial exhibits and posters be set up for the entire meeting.

Discussion also occurred regarding a speaker breakfast and an open house that would provide an opportunity for foreign speakers to get together.

**3) Registration:** Terry Salmon has been working with Amber to set up Reg On-line within a week or so. He would like Council members to register early to test the system. He will not be having speakers submit their powerpoint presentations through the on-line system. Instead they will place them in a file vault.

**4) Continuing Education:** Terry Salmon and Rex Baker will work with PAPA to get continuing education credits figured out early. They may work with speakers to have them alter their titles to better fit the requirements of continuing education needs.

**5) Publicity:** Dirk VanVuren provided a list of places he has advertised the VPC, including:

Western IPM Center Newsletter, TWS Newsletter, TWS-L listserve, Mammal-L Listserve, PAPA, the “Feral Flyer” newsletter (Australia), WDAMAGE listserve, Pest World, CA Almond Board newsletter, Admin. Comm. for Pistachios newsletter, CA Grape and Tree Fruit League, CA Walnut Board newsletter. It was suggested he add CAPCA, Wildlife Control Technologies magazine, and the Berryman Institute web page. Kathy Fagerstone will make sure the VPC is put on the Wildlife Service’s annual list of meetings.

**6) Poster Publicity/Student Recruitment:** Roger Baldwin reported that he currently had 4 posters submitted. He expects 12-14 posters.

**7) Program Development:** Terry reported that 55 abstracts have been submitted so far, of which 13 are from students. Four of the abstracts have been accepted conditionally, with the requirement that the submitter must register by the first of the year.

Kathy reported that Tony Peacock, Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, Canberra, Australia, has accepted an invitation to be the Keynote speaker in the plenary session.

Kathy reported that speakers for the rodenticide session being developed by John Eisemann, Gary Witmer, and Katie Swift were almost finalized. She agreed to follow up with John Eisemann to get a final list of speakers and titles to Terry.

Craig Coolahan, Dennis Orthmeyer, and Mike Taber met 2 weeks ago to develop ideas for talks on urban wildlife. There are 2 talks on urban coyotes and 3 on feral cats, but additional talks could be presented on raccoons, skunks, and opossums. Rex suggested that Bob Timm be contacted to see if he would submit an abstract to provide an update on coyotebites.com.

Talks are still needed on laws and regulations to fulfill the training requirement of 4 hours every 2 years.

**8) Editor:** Bob Timm will edit the proceedings, with help from Council members.

**B. 2012 – 25<sup>th</sup> Vertebrate Pest Control Conference**

A contract has been signed with the Portola Hotel. Rex Baker suggested that we talk to the hotel about lowering the room block by 15% in case we do not get a large attendance.

**6. Selection of date and location for next Council meeting**

The next Council meeting will be a conference call on Thursday, January 14 at 10:00 AM Pacific Standard Time.

**7. Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM**