

Draft?

MINUTES OF THE VERTEBRATE PEST COUNCIL MEETING
Conference Call
July 9, 2009

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen Fagerstone at 10:00 AM Mountain Daylight Time. Participants called in to the conference call.

Participating: Rex Baker, Roger Baldwin, Peter Bonkrude, Kathy Fagerstone, Howdy Howard, John O'Brien, Dennis Orthmeyer, Terry Salmon, Robert Schmidt, Mike Taber.

2. Approval of Minutes of the March 25, 2009 Council Meeting

Motion to approve by O'Brien, second by Howard; passed.

3. Business Manager's Report (Salmon)

Terry Salmon reported that the state and federal tax and sales tax forms had been filed. He also discussed a letter received from the Attorney General of California stating that the VP Council should have been filing yearly statements with the Attorney General's office indicating that the VPC is a charitable trust and paying a \$25/year fee. The letter indicated that payments would be due back to 2001. Terry called the Attorney General's office and was told that if the back fees were paid by the end of July, there would be no fine. Terry identified four years in which the \$25 fee was due (when income exceeded \$25,000 for the year), so he paid the \$100 in fees.

4. Old Business

A. Alternate-year workshops (Terry Salmon, Roger Baldwin): The workshops went well. Attendance was about 250 in Salinas, 300+ in Sacramento, and 300+ in Anaheim. The Council has not yet received payment from PAPA.

B. Support for new UC IPM Vertebrate Pest Advisor – Kathy Fagerstone: The Council issued a check for \$10,000 to support Roger Baldwin's research and extension activities at UC. A thank you letter was received from Roger.

5. New Business

A. 2010 Sacramento Vertebrate Pest Conference: Committee updates.

1. Field Trip – Paul Gorenzel has been gathering ideas and will begin putting together the trip later this summer.

2. Arrangements (Hornbaker) – Arrangements at the Holiday Inn are under control. It was decided that the Council dinner will be off-site on Monday night, so a location needs to be determined.

Terry voiced concern about the room block and whether we should seek to reduce the number of rooms committed. Council thought that, given the current economy, reducing the number of rooms required would be a good idea. Terry offered to call the hotel and see what our options are.

3. Exhibitors (O'Brien) – At the March meeting it was decided that exhibitors be required to pay a \$300 exhibitor fee and a registration fee. After some discussion during today’s call, council members decided that anyone in attendance at an exhibitors booth will be required to register for the conference. John will post the fee schedule and information for exhibitors as soon as the registration website is running.

4. Registration (Salmon) – Council members decided on the following registration fees:

Preregistration	\$275
Late registration	\$325
Daily registration	\$100
Late daily registration	\$125
Retirees	\$100
Students	\$ 25

Terry indicated that the website (RegOnline) should be activated by August 1.

5. Continuing Education (Salmon): PAPA will track continuing education credits for the 2010 VPC.

6. Publicity (VanVuren) – Dirk has the VPC advertised on various wildlife websites. The Council offered to provide email information on commodity groups to Dirk so he could send notices to the groups advertising the Conference.

7. Poster Publicity/Student Recruitment (Baldwin) – Notices have been sent to the Berryman, TWS student chapters, California campuses and are on the VPC website telling students \$500 awards are available for participating in the conference by presenting either a poster or an oral presentation.

8. Program (Salmon) – 42 abstracts have been received. The deadline for abstracts has been extended until January 1 with a notice that abstracts will be accepted on a space available basis. Council members discussed which abstracts to accept.

Potential workshops/symposiums (names listed to flesh out).

Urban wildlife – Mike Taber, Craig Coolahan, Bob Timm—this group will be getting together in August to plan talks

Invasive vertebrates – Kathy Fagerstone suggested a few talks or a

panel dealing with rodent eradication on islands, as this is currently a contentious topic. She will follow up.

Vertebrate Control measures for public safety – Bonkrude, Salmon, Coolahan—Peter suggested a talk on the history of California plague. Kathy will try to find a speaker on the prairie dog/ferret plague vaccine and will check with Ken Gage at CDC to see if he would be interested in attending.

Reducing environmental risks in dealing with wildlife control – Salmon—Terry suggested topics such as combining ZP and anticoagulants to reduce risk, or using broadcast vs. bait stations. Mike Taber suggested lead ban and condors as a topic.

Feral cat regulations and management—Mike Taber and Rex Baker suggested as a potential topic

September 1 was set as the date for symposium organizers to provide names of speakers, contact information, and abstracts to Terry Salmon.

B. Location of next (2012) conference – John O'Brien, Craig Coolahan and Victoria Hornbaker visited the Marriott and the Portola Hotels in Monterey in April. John provided an overview of each site to Council. If the VPC were held in the Marriott, the plenary would be in the convention center and the other sessions in the Marriott. If held in the Portola, all sessions would be in the hotel. The Council preferred the Portola but expressed concern about the \$189 non-government room rate at the Portola vs \$133 at the Marriott. A conference call will be set up between John O'Brien, Terry Salmon and the Portola to negotiate better room rates. The Council gave Terry and John the authority to decide on the hotel for the conference based on their negotiations.

C. Website Management—Terry Salmon. Desley Whisson is currently the webmaster for the VPC website. We pay for her attendance at the conference as reimbursement for this service (up to \$2000). Terry would like to put some extra things on the website (such as a pass-protected site for Council) that are beyond Desley's capabilities to set up. Terry suggested that the Council continue to use Desley to manage the website but that we look for a web designer for specific tasks. Mike Taber offered to send Desley and Terry the contact information for a student he has used for web design.

6. Next Meeting - The next meeting will be in Monterey during the TWS meeting September 20-24.

7. Adjournment -- Robert Schmidt moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 PM. Second by Howdy Howard.