

Revised Draft 8/19/08

Approved 11/4/08

Minutes

Vertebrate Pest Council

July 8, 2008

UCCE / Ag Commissioner's Offices, San Diego County

Members Present: Rex Baker, Kathy Fagerstone, John O'Brien, Dennis Orthmeyer, Terry Salmon, Mike Taber, Bob Timm

Guests Present: Roger Baldwin, Victoria Hornbaker

The Council meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m. by Terry Salmon, in the absence of chairperson Mino Madon.

The Business Manager's report was distributed by Terry and reviewed with the group. Terry discussed the income and expense summaries from the 23rd VP Conference, including the problems with the hotel contract and charges. He explained that many of the problems in our not reaching the required number of sold hotel rooms (the required hotel room block) were due to the hotel being full on the Sunday and Monday nights prior to the Conference, and Conference participants going to alternate hotels because they couldn't successfully book a room at the Westin for the entire Conference. Terry successfully negotiated reduced fees owed to the Westin because we exceeded our original estimates for catering costs, and the hotel failed to accurately count all Conference participants who were booked into the hotel.

Terry noted that from current accounts and projections involving the 23rd Conference, it looks like income exceeded expenses for the event, and that we will be in the black.

O'Brien moved, and Baker seconded, acceptance of the Business Manager's report as distributed.

Minutes of the Nov. 6, 2007 Council meeting were distributed. Orthmeyer moved and O'Brien seconded they be approved; there were no dissenting votes.

Minutes of the March 17, 2008 Council meeting held at the time of the Conference in San Diego were distributed. Baker moved and Orthmeyer seconded they be approved; there were no dissenting votes.

Old Business:

Council Membership

Following a review of recent actions to increase Council membership and encourage new members such as new professionals in our field or in a related field who are interested in joining, Salmon moved that **we accept the following individuals as 'permanent' Council members:**

Peter Bonkrude (CA Dept of Public Health - Redding):

Roger Baldwin (UC-IPM, Kearney Ag Center)

Victoria Hornbaker (CDFA-Sacramento)

Dirk Van Vuren (UC Davis)

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The motion was seconded by O'Brien. Baker offered an amendment: that **we accept Peter Bonkrude as a Regular Member** (3-yr term) rather than as a permanent member. The amendment was seconded by Orthmeyer. Brief discussion followed confirming that this would be appropriate. The **amendment was approved** with no dissenting votes. Following this, the **motion as amended was also approved** with no dissenting votes.

Conference Proceedings Sales

Via the Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management (ICWDM)/UNL Store, we have sold 131 copies of Proceedings in approximately a year, including 67 copies of the 22nd Proceedings. It was noted that it seems as though sales have increased very substantially, including older volumes. Terry thinks we should continue this arrangement. No action needed to be taken.

Revision of "Guidelines"

Terry explained that this document, which is continually being updated, helps committee chairpersons understand their individual roles and provides wisdom and guidance for various aspects of conducting the Conference. **Terry will send the current version to the most recent (past) committee chairs.** Once revised by them as needed, the revision will be distributed to the newly-appointed committee chairs in preparation for gearing up to hold the 24th Conference in 2010.

23rd Proceedings Update

Timm summarized status of papers for 23rd Proceedings by means of distributing a brief tabular handout. Out of 67 papers and 11 posters presented, to date he has received 47 manuscripts from papers and 10 poster manuscripts. Timm thanked the members of the Council who have served as peer editor reviewers for these papers, noting that 26 papers and 5 posters had completed the editing process and many of these were currently in layout process, being done by Pamela Tinnin. Timm still is in hopes of having the entire Proceedings to the print shop by about September, as he plans to be overseas on sabbatical beginning in January 2009.

Timm initiated discussion regarding options for printing the Proceedings, based on his experience in working toward reprinting the papers from the April 2007 Urban Coyote Symposium (part of the 12th Wildlife Damage Management Conference). While Whitehall (in Florida) has been excellent in terms of price and quality control since we began using them in 1990, Timm has found a company (InstantPublisher.com) that potentially can give us the same quality at a reduced cost, plus has the capability of adding a ISSN bar code to the cover, which would permit commercial booksellers such as Amazon.com to more easily market our Proceedings. Timm will continue to explore this and other options between now and the time we go to print, and will communicate with the Council Executive Board if a change in printers is deemed beneficial.

New Business:

Council Officers

Terry explained the normal process of selecting officers and the succession from chair-elect to chairperson. Terry Salmon recommended, on behalf of Executive Board, that **Kathy Fagerstone be elected Council chairperson** for the 2-year period, and that **Bob Timm be**

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chosen as chair-elect. Baker so moved and O'Brien seconded; this was passed with no dissenting votes.

Terry Salmon then handed the agenda for the remainder of the meeting to Kathy Fagerstone.

24th VP Conference

The 24th VP Conference is scheduled and has already been advertised for Feb. 22-25, 2010, at the Holiday Inn - Capitol Plaza, in Sacramento. **Terry will review the room block with the hotel**, as stated in our current contract with the hotel, based on our San Diego experience, to try to avert the sort of problem we had with the Westin in San Diego.

Terry noted that both Charlotte Carson and Gerry Miller have expressed interest in helping with the field trip, and offered the opinion that we should probably have a Council member appointed to coordinate this with them and have oversight. Orthmeyer indicated WS' willingness to assist with the field trip. Terry suggested that Paul Gorenzel would be a logical person to be involved; it's Kathy's call as chairperson whom to appoint. Kathy will contact Paul to verify that he is willing to serve as field trip chairperson, and will provide him with info we've discussed on possibilities and sites. Mike Taber knows Michelle at Wingmaster Falconry, who has volunteered to do a demo for our field trip, if that works into the schedule. The group discussed the opportunities to do such a demo either at an area airport or in the Sacramento River wetlands / Yolo causeway areas.

Committee Chairs:

Program Chair is a critical position. The possibility of individuals arranging individual symposia within the program was discussed as a past model that has worked well at times, taking some load off the Program Chair. A suggested symposium topic offered was "Urban Wildlife". Mike Taber is willing to give a try at pulling together such a symposium. Terry indicated he would be willing to be the Program Co-chair, under the condition that there are symposia that will be organized by others, to be a part of the Conference program.

Arrangements: It helps to have someone who is somewhat near the Sacramento area. Victoria Hornbaker volunteered to serve in this capacity.

Continuing Education: Rex Baker will be willing to do this.

Publicity: The difficulty in doing this effectively and creatively was discussed. No decision was made on who might fill this role. Timm indicated that we still had about 200 remaining scratch pads advertising the 24th Conference, which could be distributed at future events (e.g., the annual meeting of the TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group in Miami, in November; the WERA-95 meeting; the 13th WDM Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY, May 4-8, 2009). Anyone wishing to take some of these to an appropriate meeting should contact Bob Timm in advance.

Commercial Exhibits: John O'Brien volunteered to take on this responsibility.

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Registration: Some of the registration process was late in happening for the 23rd Conference, due in part to it being our first time to use RegOnline.com as a service provider, and due to the fact that the program was late in getting finalized, which meant that we were adding or deleting speakers close to the time of the conference, and some communications between committee chairs was missed or ineffective. Timm noted that there was unexpected confusion concerning Conference participants who fell into multiple categories (e.g., speaker, poster presenter, student, exhibitor, etc.). Problems in speakers' ability to upload PowerPoint files to the website also created stress and discontent.

After further discussion, it was suggested that we could set up a system for **submission of Abstracts to RegOnline.com**, well in advance of Conference pre-registration, and thus obtain the abstracts in a standardized format to which everyone who needed access could have it instantly via the web. **Terry Salmon and Kathy Fagerstone will work with Bob Timm and his assistant Amber Shrum at Hopland in attempting to get this set up** well in advance of the 24th Conference. To do this will incur per-transaction costs from RegOnline, but it was felt to be worth the costs to assist in standardizing these abstracts and making them easily available to everyone.

25th Conference Location

Timm reminded Council that upon agreeing to be considered for chair-elect, he would need assistance from existing Council members (including those who might retire before 2012), and that he wanted Council to seriously consider holding the 25th VP Conference in Hawaii. It was recommended that we check possibility of Monterey, CA, as an alternative site. John O'Brien will be in Monterey soon and will investigate with regard to the former DoubleTree Hotel facility near Fisherman's Wharf. Timm will follow up some conversations he has had with Robert Schmidt regarding appropriate conference sites in Hawaii; the Big Island might be preferable. Kathy will ask other NWRC folks she knows who are familiar with facilities in Hawaii.

Alternate-Year Workshops

Three workshops for March 2009 need to be planned in conjunction with PAPA. Salmon explained to the newer Council members the history and procedure of cooperating with PAPA on these events. We have also previously discussed holding a 1-day workshop targeted toward Agency personnel (e.g., Fish & Game, DWR, DPR), as some of these folks really need to have current information and an informed understanding of vertebrate control in California.

Following further discussion about the workshops, it was agreed that **Terry Salmon, Victoria Hornbaker, and Roger Baldwin will work with PAPA to plan 3 workshops** at locations to be selected with PAPA input. Terry will send out info from past workshop programs to others on Council, to help move this planning forward.

It was also a consensus that we need to have further discussion about holding an agency-targeted workshop; we may want to run these in-house, rather than with PAPA assistance.

Rex Baker expressed the opinion that someone needs to **go to the Ag Commissioners' annual winter meeting** to talk about what Council does and why we need their cooperation. **Terry**

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Salmon will pursue this. Rex knows of commissioners who are interested in participating with our Council.

Timm indicated that in a recent email, Desley Whisson asked for Council input on needed website updates or changes; Bob ask that such suggestions be communicated directly to Desley or channeled through him to Desley in the coming weeks.

Council Support for Vertebrate IPM Advisor - UC

Previously, the Council committed to supporting the UC IPM Vertebrate Advisor with operating funds (for a 'various donors' account); **Terry will research previous Council action and bring this to our agenda** at the November meeting.

It was agreed that the next Council meeting will be held **Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008, at 8:00 am, in Reno, NV** at Circus Circus (prior to the annual WERA-95 meeting).

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:05 pm so that the group could proceed to lunch.

Minutes drafted and submitted by Bob Timm, chair-elect