

MINUTES OF THE VERTEBRATE PEST COUNCIL
Westin Hotel, San Diego
July 11, 2007, 10:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order (Madon)

The meeting was called to order by Mino Madon at 10:15 AM.

In attendance: Rex Baker, Craig Coolahan, Kathy Fagerstone, Paul Gorenzel, Mino Madon, John O'Brien, Terry Salmon, Duane Schnabel, Jon Shelgren, and Bob Timm. Mike Taber, Bob Beach, and Rex Marsh notified the Council that they would be unable to attend.

2. Approval of Minutes of the March 7, 2007 Meeting (Fagerstone)

Two corrections were made to the minutes: 1) O'Brien was not capitalized on page 3; 2) meeting was misspelled on page 4. Corrections will be made. Bob Timm moved the minutes of the March 7, 2007 meeting be approved. Seconded by John O'Brien. Motion passed.

3. Business Manager's Report (Salmon)

A. Financial Status: Terry Salmon reported that at the end of 2006, cash on hand totaled \$68,791.17. Income was \$58,357 and Expenses were \$62,036. Expenses for the conference were itemized for the Council. Rex Baker moved that the Council accept the report. Bob Timm seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

B. Proceedings Sales: The VPC is now set up to have the Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management sell our proceedings. We have not yet received an update from Steve Vantassel on sales.

C. Acceptance of Credit Cards: Terry brought up a proposal regarding accepting credit cards. He proposed suspending our ability to accept credit cards for the 18 months after a Vertebrate Pest Conference. It costs \$30 per month to provide the service, which is only used for the 6 months prior to the VPC. Discussion on this issue was deferred until the discussion on VPC registration.

D. New business manager: Terry reported that Charlie Crabb is now retired and would be interested in becoming the business manager. The suggestion was made that this could be considered after the upcoming VPC.

4. Old Business

A. Survey results on CDs—Terry Salmon will summarize survey results from the postcard included in the 22nd Proceedings at the next meeting. His feeling was that approximately equal numbers of respondents would prefer to receive a CD or a hard copy of the proceedings.

It was suggested that the Council provide an option on the VPC registration form for purchasing a CD. Duane Schnabel moved that we include a check-off on the registration form to gauge interest in an electronic version of the proceedings and to provide a CD for an additional \$5. John O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion passed. During subsequent discussion it was decided that we will still print 500 hard copies and provide one to each registrant.

Rex Baker suggested that, because we have a lot of older volumes of proceedings still available, we should explore the idea of sending an announcement to university libraries that proceedings are available. Steve Vantassel could do this. Terry Salmon suggested that the Council could provide a set of proceedings to about 50 libraries at no charge. He will check with the Davis librarian to see if that library would be interested in the idea. This would be a way to get the proceedings into circulation at university libraries. Terry will report back at the next meeting.

B. Update on Proceedings Sales/Individual Article Sales through Internet Center for WDM website—Bob Timm will try to have a report at the next Council meeting on sales from the Internet site. Bob will also talk to Steve Vantassel to see which volumes are indexed and electronically available (the last 3 are currently available).

C. Informational report on the 12th Wildlife Damage Management Conference, Corpus Christi, TX, April 2007—Bob Timm reported that there were about 240 attendees at the conference. The plenary session was excellent and was built around The Wildlife Society. The WDM Working Group is looking at New York for a potential site for the 2009 meeting. Gary San Julian will be chairing the conference for 2009.

D. Listing of Call for Papers for the 2008 VP Conference—Kathy Fagerstone reported that the call for papers is out and the deadline was extended from July 15 to September 30.

E. Status of Vertebrate IPM Advisor Position Search—Terry Salmon reported 2 searches have been done, resulting in only 4 applicants, none of which were well qualified. The university is considering this a failed search and has closed the recruitment. However, the University may be willing to reopen the position if the Council requests it. Terry suggested that the Council sponsor students to come to the VPC with a side trip to the Kearney Res. & Ext. Center near Fresno, CA. He feels that if the Council says it will recruit 3-5 interested individuals through this mechanism, the University would be willing to reopen the search in February 2008 and close it at the end of April. In the meantime, Terry will work on a public relations document promoting this position.

Terry Salmon made a motion that the Council authorize up to \$15,000 for recruiting for the position of Cooperative Extension Wildlife Pest Management Advisor—IPM. Rex Baker seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

5. New Business

A. 2008 VP Conference Committee Chair Reports:

1. **Local Arrangements** (Salmon)—A tour of the Westin facilities was provided at 1 PM.

2. **Program** (Fagerstone)—27 abstracts for oral presentations and 3 abstracts for posters were received so far. The deadline for abstracts was extended until September 30. The goal is about 75 presentations. Council members looked at the abstracts received and provided advice on acceptance and rejection based on experience with scientists who had not submitted papers in the past.

Some discussion occurred on potential invited sessions:

NWCOA session—Kathy reported that Steve Vantassel has offered to develop a session of interest to NWCOAs.

Public Health—Mino Madon is attempting to develop a session on public health. It was suggested that Mino ask Bob Beach to approach Tom DeLiberto about talks on avian influenza.

Food Safety Related to Wildlife—Kathy will contact Charlie Crabb and ask if he would be willing to organize a session that could include *E. coli* contamination of produce caused by pigs and *E. coli* contamination from birds in oyster farms. Kurt VerCauteren and Bob McLean might also provide papers or ideas.

Marine Mammal Issues—Terry Salmon will contact someone at the Scripps's Institute regarding conflicts with marine mammals. This could include hazing efforts for sea lions and conflicts with sea otters.

Bob Timm suggested that Kathy contact David Baron, the author of *The Beast in the Garden*, regarding being a keynote speaker. Bob had contacted him in 2006 but he had other commitments. Kathy will make that contact.

3. Exhibitors (O'Brien)—Following discussion about the fee for exhibitors, Rex Baker moved that exhibitors be required to pay \$300 above the registration fee. Terry Salmon seconded. Motion approved.

4. Field Trip (Schnabel)—Duane Schnabel presented a number of ideas for a field trip, including visits to 1) a large tree nursery to view rabbit, ground squirrel, or coyote damage; 2) an aquatic site such as Mission Bay to view shorebirds, snakes and rat; 3) a military site; or 4) a wild animal park. Terry Salmon recommended using the Balboa Bus company.

5. Registration (Timm)—Bob Timm looked at contracting registration through 2 vendors, X-CD and RegOnline. RegOnline would allow us to customize the form ourselves and allow access for multiple people. The cost would be less than what we spent in 2006. X-CD would require that we print the proceedings through them. Bob proposed to have online registration ready to go by the time the preliminary program would be available (October or November). Bob Timm moved that Council allow Terry and him to set up an online registration agreement with the vendor of their choice. Rex Baker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The question came up regarding offering a 1-day registration. In 2006, this was \$80/day. Council agreed to offer the 1-day registration.

6. Continuing Education (Salmon)—Terry indicated that we will continue to use PAPA to handle this.

7. Editor/Proceedings (Timm)—Bob suggested that Council may need to hire someone for the upcoming proceedings to do the page formatting. ~~He also thought the last proceedings was too large, and took too long to produce.~~

8. Replacing Terry Mansfield as Publicity Chair—The suggestion was made that Paul Gorenzel replace Terry in this position. Paul agreed and was appointed by Minoo Madon. Jon Shelgren stated his willingness to help organize publicity.

B. Sacramento site visit for the 2010 Vertebrate Pest Conference (O'Brien, Salmon & Davis)—Information on prices, facilities, parking, etc. were presented for both the Holiday Inn and the Doubletree. The facilities and the location were considered to be better for the Holiday Inn (close to Old Town). However, the dates available for the Holiday Inn were February 19-26, which is earlier than normal for the conference. A motion was made by Bob Timm to consider the Holiday Inn as the Council's first choice and to let Terry Salmon negotiate a contract. The motion was seconded by Rex Baker and approved. The site committee will look at the availability of different dates.

C. Letter of "Thanks" to Terry Mansfield—Minoo Madon will send a letter of "Thanks" to Terry Mansfield for his service as a Council member.

D. Potential speakers/participants from other countries seeking funding to attend the Conference (Fagerstone)—Kathy Fagerstone reported that so far only one individual from India had requested assistance and was politely turned down.

E. Request from USDA for mailing list (Timm and Salmon)—A request was received from Debbie Stahlman of USDA/NWRC for the VPC mailing list, which would be used for a beaver conference being organized by Dale Nolte and Dave Bergman. The policy of the Council is to not share the mailing list. However, Bob will reply to Debbie that if they send the meeting announcement, the Council can email it to the persons on the VPC list.

6. Additional Announcements

A short discussion was held regarding excess VPC proceedings. It was suggested that it might be valuable to send these to Ag. Commissioners. Duane Schnabel indicated that he can provide a mailing list for Commissioners. We will provide a list of proceedings available and have each Commissioner check off which volumes they would like to receive.

The next meeting will be in Reno on 11/6 during the morning.

7. Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.