

**Vertebrate Pest Council Meeting – August 9, 2011
UC ANR Building, Davis CA**

Meeting was called to order at 10:09 by Bob Timm.

Members In attendance:

Rex Baker
Roger Baldwin
Craig Coolahan
Charlie Crabb
Kathy Fagerstone (by phone)
Brian Finlayson
Amna Hawatky
Victoria Hornbaker
Howdy Howard
Stella McMillin
Peter Newman
John O'Brien
Dennis Orthmeyer
Robert Schmidt (by phone)
Duane Schnabel
Jon Shelgren
Mike Taber (by phone)
Bob Timm
Dirk Van Vuren

Guests: David Kratville (CDFA)

Introductions

Agenda was reordered to allow those on the phone to get off sooner

Old Business

VPC Web Site

Discussed how the new web site is working. Seeking input if people see anything that needs to be adjusted.

The goal is to make this the primary communications for the Council. We talked about the fact that minutes and other documents will be in the password-protected 'Internal Communications' area.

There was a discussion about getting digital images from the UC ANR's Repository ('Vertebrate Pest Control Library') via the site. Peter Newman will look into how this might be done and how we manage access. Peter will report back to the council about what he learns.

Peter talked about linking out web site to various social networks such as LinkedIn and Facebook.

Update on new UC positions

A vertebrate pest Cooperative Extension specialist is one of seven positions that are likely to be funded and filled by UCANR. Questions remain about how the positions will be sequenced and when recruitment might occur. When filled, it is assumed this position would be in Davis; however, in general there are issues about where these positions will be located.

VPC has committed to providing ANR with startup funds for vertebrate pest specialists or area advisors (similar to the \$10,000 provided for R. Baldwin's position). Timm will confirm our commitment with UC DANR.

Rex Baker suggested we also ask some of the federal agencies like USDA to indicate their support for this type of position.

New Business

Location for 2014 Conference

Timm reported on his conversations with the Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference. The idea was to look at the possibility of a joint conference in 2014. This could be held in Hawaii. Other potential locations that are on our list are Palm Springs, Orange County, Reno, and Santa Barbara.

Another group to cooperate with is the national conference on feral pigs, which is being held in Texas in 2012 and potentially could be held in California in 2014. Advantages of holding a joint conference with this group were mentioned, and deserve further discussion with the pig conference's organizers.

Victoria brought up the idea, which was discussed at the recent Wildlife Damage Management Conference (sponsored by the TWS Wildlife Damage Working Group), about possibly merging that conference with ours. It was noted that ours is a more internationally-focused Conference, and no support for such a merger was forthcoming from Council.

There was a discussion about the limits on government travel to areas considered as 'resorts'.

The site selection committee for 2014 will be Rex Baker, Victoria Hornbaker, John O'Brien, and Charlie Crabb as the Business Manager.

Change in Business Manager Assignment

Rex Baker moved and John O'Brien seconded to move responsibilities of Business manager from Terry Salmon to Charlie Crabb. Passed unanimously. The date of the transfer will be set by Terry and Charlie.

25th Conference Planning Update

Roger Baldwin provided an update on the abstracts submitted to date.

There was a discussion about the possibility of doing a full-day session on urban wildlife issues. Other topics include animal disease and food safety.

Roger asked about input on what might be missing from the program. There were a number of suggestions surfaced for Roger's consideration.

We talked about how to provide input to Roger. Members were directed to let Roger know their concerns about the papers submitted.

The members reviewed the list of abstracts submitted to date. Roger took a straw vote on the papers that were identified as having raised concerns.

There was some brainstorming about possible topics.

Approval of Minutes

Timm asked for approval of the minutes from the March 2, 2011 Council meeting
Moved by Howard and second by Orthmeyer. Approved

Old Business:

Conference Proceedings

Timm reported that the proceedings and CD has been sent out. Hardcopies cost us (printing costs) about \$9.15 each. CDs cost slightly more than \$1 each to produce. Mailing costs for hard copies of Proceedings have increased considerably for those shipped outside the U.S.

Conference Guidelines

Most guidelines have been updated, with the exception of the publicity and program chair. The registration guidelines are also outdated. Rex Baker is developing the guidelines for continuing education chair. All guidelines are accessible to Council via the website.

New Business

25th Vertebrate Pest Conference

Keynote speaker still needs to be identified. Karen Ross, CDFA Secretary, was a name suggested by some. Roger Baldwin and Bob Timm will pursue this possibility, with assistance from Victoria Hornbaker and Duane Schnabel.

Arrangements

Victoria updated the council on local arrangements. She provided a breakdown on the costs for the meal functions.

There was a discussion about the need to adjust the room block. This is necessary to account for the 'resort' designation and the resulting travel limitations for state and county employees.

Victoria also got a proposal from the Aquarium to do a reception. Cost would be close to \$11,000, which all felt was beyond our budget capabilities.

50th Anniversary

Talked about a special reception to recognize the milestone and to recognize some of the founding members of the Council.

Discussed doing something formal either on Tuesday at lunch or during the Tuesday evening reception.

Commercial Display

John O'Brien talked about the current plans for the commercial display. The time for the display will be shortened up based on comments we received in the past; most likely displays will remain active through Wednesday evening, with take-down on Thursday morning.

John will be contacting vendors soon, so if anyone has input for John let him know soon.

Continuing Education

The requirements for getting continuing education hours are becoming more challenging. Rex Baker will work with Baldwin to align the program content with the continuing education reporting requirement.

Field Trip

Peter Newman has been exploring opportunities. He did approach the Monterey Aquarium and they really do not have any special options for us. He is exploring the opportunity to visit the harbor to talk about sea lions. He is also looking at doing something with the Leafy Green standards and food safety issues. Other ideas were looking at pig damage to crops or golf courses.

Publicity

Van Vuren talked about trying to get information about the conference. He has targeted newsletters for a variety of organizations that all reach a different market. Dirk asked for any ideas that people may have about communication channels that might have an audience that would be interested in the conference.

We talked about the use of social network and identification of other organizations that might be of interest in the program

Poster Session

Stella McMillin is working to try to drum up more student interest.

Registration

Will be using the web to accept registration. Some of the lessons learned from last year will be incorporated in the registration process.

Sponsorship of Activities

LiphaTech has offered to host lunch for the field trip. Other conferences have done this routinely. This represents a shift in past practice but we need to talk

Approved by Council 6/28/2012

through the process; there was general agreement that this would be a helpful supplement to our Conference budget. John O'Brien, Peter Newman, and Charlie Crabb will work up the proposed structure for possible approval by the Executive Committee.

Business Manager's Report

The budget report for calendar year 2010 from Terry was shared with the Council. Bottom line is we spent \$7,600 more than we had in income for that calendar year; this does not include Proceedings costs incurred during early 2011. We talked about the reality that our expenses have exceeded our income and that we need to be deliberate in setting our registration fees moving forward.

Next Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 25, 2011 in Davis.

Meeting adjourned by Bob Timm at 2:40PM.

Minutes drafted and submitted by Charlie Crabb