

MINUTES OF THE VERTEBRATE PEST COUNCIL MEETING
Olive Room - DANR Building
Davis, CA
28 June, 2012

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by John O'Brien at 10:00 Pacific Standard Time. In attendance: *Rex Baker, Roger Baldwin, Charlie Crabb, Brian Finlayson, Paul Gorenzel, Victoria Hornbaker, Howdy Howard, David Kratville, Stella McMillin, John O'Brien, Dennis Orthmeyer, Jon Shelgren, Robert Timm, and Dirk Van Vuren.* Also participating via conference call were: *John Eisemann, Kathy Fagerstone, Peter Newman, and Robert Schmidt.*

2. Approval of Minutes of the 9 August, 2011 Meeting (Davis, CA)

Motion to approve by Howdy Howard, second by Charlie Crabb. Minutes approved.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 5 March, 2012 Meeting (Monterey, CA)

Motion to approve by Charlie Crabb, second by Howdy Howard. Minutes approved.

4. Business Managers Report

Charlie Crabb provided business reports for the 4th quarter of 2011 and the 1st and 2nd quarter for 2012 although the report from the 2nd quarter 2012 is not yet complete. Collectively, the VPC currently has \$52,273 in its checking account and \$15,275 in a CD. Expenses from the VP Proceedings are not yet included in the most recent report, nor are PAPA's expenses for the Conference.

Charlie also advised the Council that we have historically not had liability insurance for Council meetings, workshops, and conferences. Charlie has now procured liability insurance for these events. Charlie mentioned the need to provide details on Council overhead and will be providing this in a future meeting. It was also mentioned that the Council will need to provide start-up funds for the new UC ANR Wildlife Specialist position to be recruited later this year, and may potentially need to provide additional support for one or two UC ANR Wildlife Advisor positions in 2013.

Motion to approve the business report by Victoria Hornbaker, second by Rex Baker. Minutes approved.

5. Old Business

2012 VP Conference Review

a. Program by Roger Baldwin: General feedback indicated that the Conference was well received. Potential areas to address in the future include utilizing newer software for presentations, organizing the program so as to maximize CE credits, and increasing poster and vendor displays. A survey was also distributed to Conference attendees to provide feedback on the Conference. We received feedback from 104 attendees. Highlights of this survey included: 1.) attendees had a very favorable opinion of the Conference, 2.) primary factors influencing the attendance for the Conference included presentation topics, social networking, and the compilation of the Proceedings, 3.) urban wildlife management, rodent control, introduced/invasive species, and vertebrate pesticides were the preferred session topics, and 4.) preferred locations for the 2016 Conference included the North coast, the San Francisco Bay area, Palm Springs/Palm Desert, Napa/Sonoma, and Santa Barbara, while the Los Angeles area was by far the lowest scoring. Eight survey respondents also indicated that attendance in Hawaii for the 2014 Conference would be difficult given the location.

b. Continuing Education by Rex Baker: An overview of the process was provided. The VPC Program Chair should enlist Judy Letterman to help set up the Final Program to help maximize the number of CE credits awarded by CDPR due to their new awarding policy. Rex also indicated that the process for Hawaii would be difficult and will require a short bio for all speakers. This information should be included in the “Call for abstracts” to ensure we have the necessary information to complete the CE requests.

c. Registration by Bob Timm: Registration for the Conference was positive, with a large number of walk-in registrations reported. Overall attendance for the Conference appears to be in-line with past Conferences.

d. Proceedings by Bob Timm: We have a total of 82 potential papers to include in the Proceedings. So far, 56 manuscripts have been received and distributed to Council members for peer-editing; 45 have been submitted back to Bob with editorial suggestions. No response has been received for 10 papers, indicating that they may not be submitting a paper for publication. Overall, adherence to author guidelines has been better this year than for past Proceedings, perhaps due to the distribution of paper copies of the guidelines, as well as an electronic copy. Bob also mentioned that Rex Marsh has submitted a review paper on the use of paraffinized rodent baits and suggested that we include it in the Proceedings. The schedule for printing the Proceedings is fluid, but may occur around October.

e. Commercial Displays by John O’Brien: We had 10 commercial displays for the Conference. The venue provided an excellent location for the displays. We also benefitted from including Sponsorships at this Conference. It was suggested that we further pursue this Sponsorship option for future Conferences. Special recognition was provided to Peter Newman for the creative design he developed for posters to recognize the Conference sponsors.

f. Field Trip by Peter Newman: We had 85 attendees and received 5 hours of CE credit. We received many positive comments on the field trip. Official thank you letters were sent to all speakers and organizers of the field trip. A special thank you was extended to Dale Huss who provided Ocean Mist Farms and their conference facilities for the Field Trip lunch.

g. Arrangements by Victoria Hornbaker: We received positive feedback on the venue. Victoria noted that it was more expensive than other locations, but Charlie Crabb indicated that this was offset by their willingness to renegotiate the room block. Comments were provided as to whether or not a ready room is needed, and if we should provide a ready room on the day before the Conference starts. The future arrangements chair should consider this need.

h. Publicity by Dirk Van Vuren: A quick overview was provided and it was noted that an electronic reminder for registration to the Conference should be sent out to increase exposure.

Conference Guidelines: Bob Timm indicated that the guidelines for Registration and Program Chair should be updated.

VPC Oral History: Bob Timm and Charlie Crabb recorded oral accounts of the history of the VPC from Dell Clark, Jerry Clark, Dick Dana, Lew Davis, Howdy and Betty Howard, Rex Marsh, and Charlie Siebe. These recordings will be edited to provide a video history of the VPC. We may schedule a short session to show this video at the next VP Conference in Hawaii in 2014.

New IPM Positions: Bob Timm provided an update on the Wildlife Specialist position to be hired later in 2012. The tentative time for advertisement is August. They hope to fill the position by early 2013.

Two new IPM Advisor positions that will focus on human-wildlife conflict resolution have also been proposed. One position is proposed for the northern part of CA, while the other position is proposed for southern CA. Comments can now be provided to support these positions. Rex Baker suggested that we provide this information at the County Agricultural Commissioners' meetings to allow them the opportunity to comment.

6. New Business

Nominations for the new chair elect for 2016 Conference were solicited. Rex Baker moved to nominate Roger Baldwin, second by Victoria Hornbaker. Motion passed.

Selection of New Committee Chairs by John O'Brien:

a. **Conference chair:** John O'Brien

b. **Program chair:** John Eisemann

c. **Arrangements:** Charlie Crabb with local assistance from local NWRC resources

d. **Field trip:** Kathy Fagerstone

e. **Publicity:** Dirk Van Vuren

f. **Commercial displays:** Roger Baldwin with assistance from Victoria Hornbaker

g. **Continuing education:** Rex Baker, with assistance from Stella McMillin and Victoria Hornbaker

i. **Poster displays and student presentations:** Stella McMillin agreed to serve as chair. Stella will not be able to attend; Charlie Crabb agreed to disburse student awards for Stella.

A few helpful comments and suggestions were provided to assist in planning the 2014 Conference in Hawaii. These included providing a special session or two devoted to Australians and other international attendees, providing free admission for Hawaiians in exchange for assistance running the Conference (e.g., manning Continuing Education and Registration booths), and potentially including a special section on native wildlife issues for Hawaiians. Dennis Orthmeyer also indicated that we could seek planning assistance from one of his District Supervisors who is from Hawaii.

Site Selection for 2014 Conference: Charlie Crabb

Charlie has explored potential sites on the islands of Hawaii (Big Island) and Oahu.

The primary benefit for the Big Island was the availability of more diverse and plentiful options for field trips. The primary benefit for Oahu was direct flights for international attendees. Hotel prices were roughly the same for both islands (\$170-\$200/night). At this time, Charlie is pursuing hotel options on the Kona side of the Big Island. Potential locations include Keauhou Bay Resort, King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel, Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort and Spa, and Hilton Waikoloa Village. We have not received any official feedback on location options in Hilo. Given input from various Council members, Hilo does not appear to be a preferred location.

Options for visiting these sites were discussed. Several of the hotels we are considering will reimburse flights if we end up booking through them. Charlie will look into these options further. Once we have one to several good options, Victoria Hornbaker will travel to the sites to determine their suitability. Rex Baker will assist if he is available. A selection will be made at that time. No official date has been set for the Conference yet, but it will likely be around the first week of March.

2013 PAPA Workshops: Stella McMillin and Bob Timm

Bob has been in contact with Judy Letterman from PAPA. They are again interested in working with the VPC to put on 3 workshops. She recommended locations in the San Francisco area; Fresno; and either Rancho Cucamonga, Anaheim, or Ontario. The proposed split for the workshops is 60% for PAPA and 40% for the VPC. The preferred dates for the workshops are February and March of 2013. Stella provided potential presentation topics and solicited input on other options. Stella, Bob, Roger Baldwin, and Victoria Hornbaker will work together to finalize the locations, dates, topics, and speakers.

New Member Recruitment: John O'Brien

David Kratville, CDFG, was proposed as a potential new council member to serve a 3-year term. Rex Baker made the motion to add David to the Council; second provided by Howdy Howard. Motion passed.

Site Selection for 2016 Conference: John O'Brien

The Council discussed several options. At this time, we are exploring locations in southern CA including Newport Beach and Anaheim. A committee including Charlie Crabb, Roger Baldwin, Victoria Hornbaker, and Rex Baker will explore these options.

Additional Business

Bob Timm mentioned that the use of falconers for wildlife pest control is increasing in California and provides a potential new clientele for us to draw to our Conference and workshops. This could be explored further.

Next Council meeting set for 19 September, 2012 at 10:00 in the Olive Room at the DANR building in Davis, CA.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Charlie Crabb, second provided by Victoria Hornbaker. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:20 PM.

Minutes prepared by Roger Baldwin.

Amendments provided by Rex Baker and Peter Newman.