

MINUTES OF THE VERTEBRATE PEST COUNCIL MEETING
Olive Room - DANR Building
Davis, CA
19 September, 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, Lew Davis, Brian Finlayson, Paul Gorenzel, Victoria Hornbaker, Howdy Howard, David Kratville, Stella McMillin, John O'Brien, Dennis Orthmeyer, Jon Shelgren, Mike Taber, and Robert Timm.* Also participating via conference call were: *John Eisemann, Kathy Fagerstone, and Robert Schmidt.*

2. Approval of Minutes of the 28 June, 2012 Meeting (Davis, CA)

Motion to approve by Rex Baker, second by Charlie Crabb. Minutes approved.

3. Business Managers Report

Charlie Crabb provided business reports for the end of the 4th quarter of 2011 through 17 September, 2012. As of 31 December, 2011, the Council had \$30,701.82 and \$15,250.23 in its checking and time deposit CD, respectively. As of 17 September, 2012, the Council had \$45,684.29 and \$15,291.07 in its checking and time deposit CD, respectively. Charlie indicated that we still have some bills that we are expecting from the conference, most notably the publishing costs for the Proceedings. However, it appears we are on pace to at least break even from the 2012 Conference. Charlie also indicated that all budgetary information is now available on-line through the VPC website.

Motion to approve the business report by Rex Baker, second by Robert Schmidt. Minutes approved.

4. Old Business

Proceedings of Vertebrate Pest Conference update: Bob Timm provided a list of speakers who had not provided a paper yet. Of these, 2 papers were published elsewhere but the authors had provided an extended abstract for inclusion in the Proceedings, 2 papers were published elsewhere and could not publish in the Proceedings, 11 papers had not been submitted yet, while 3 papers were rejected after submission. So far, we have around 60 papers for inclusion in the Proceedings. This is a bit behind some previous years, although if we can get some of the other delinquent papers submitted, we will be pretty close to an average year. Bob is still hoping to have the Proceedings ready to submit to the publisher before Thanksgiving.

VPC Handbook revisions: John O'Brien reiterated the need to update Conference Chair guidelines where needed.

IPM vertebrate positions with UC: Bob Timm indicated that recruitment for the Human-Wildlife Conflicts Specialist position with the Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology is underway. The review of candidates will begin on 2 November, 2012. Bob also indicated that 2 Area Advisor positions have been proposed to UC DANR.

One proposed position would be housed in northern CA, while the other position would focus an urban-suburban wildlife conflict in southern CA. The status of these positions is yet to be determined, but favorable input was received on these proposed positions in the past.

5. New Business

Site selection for 2014 VP Conference: Victoria Hornbaker made a trip to Hawaii in July 2012 to check out potential Conference sites. After consideration of the 4 potential hotels, Charlie Crabb indicated that the Hilton Waikoloa Village on the island of Hawaii was selected. Room rates for the Hilton were set at \$180 per night. We have reserved 552 rooms for the Conference. The dates of the Conference have been set for 3–6 March, 2014. The Hilton Waikoloa Village is a large facility with many services for Conference attendees and their families. The available meeting space is sufficient to hold up to 3 concurrent sessions if needed. There will be plenty of space for Commercial Exhibits in the Promenade. The hotel has also agreed to set up a Wi-Fi hot spot in the Promenade if needed. Self parking for the hotel will be \$15/night; valet parking is available at \$21 per night. Special concessions from the hotel include: 1) free meeting space with food service minimum of \$12,000 and 85% room occupancy, 2) one complimentary room night for every 50 occupied guest rooms, 3) complimentary two-bedroom presidential suite for the duration of the Conference, 4) a discounted rate of \$140 per night for staff, 5) complimentary internet in all guest rooms during conference dates, and 6) group rates can be extended for 3 days pre- and post-conference. Also, Victoria's flight to survey the potential Conference sites was paid for by the Hilton. The hotel has provided postcards for us to send out as announcements for the Conference.

Committee Reports by John O'Brien:

a. Program chair: John Eisemann contacted Gary Witmer and Will Pitt, NWRC, to gauge their interest in arranging two 1–1.5 day symposia on invasive species and rodents. They agreed to take the lead on these symposia. Bob Timm asked if an earlier time-frame for abstract submission was needed for this Conference; John Eisemann indicated that earlier efforts on announcements and advertisements would likely be more important.

Victoria Hornbaker suggested that we might place more effort on inviting individuals from Asia to the Conference given the closer proximity of Hawaii to these countries. Victoria indicated that the hotel is willing to assist in this effort. John Eisemann also indicated that he had contacts in Asia that he would pursue.

It was suggested that we might highlight invasive species and rodents in the Plenary session. Council members agreed that this may be worth pursuing. Also, Rex Baker questioned where we should place presentations that we anticipate will receive laws and regulations CE Credits. The afternoon session on the final day of the Conference may be a good time-slot for these presentations. John Eisemann indicated he would be happy to accommodate Rex if he was interested in putting together a session on laws and regulations.

b. Arrangements: Charlie Crabb indicated that the Commercial Exhibits will be placed in the Promenade. Charlie also indicated that we had enough room for 3 concurrent

sessions. We also have the meeting room facilities for Monday if needed. Howdy Howard suggested that we pursue an agreement with airlines to provide a discounted rate on flights to Hawaii. John Eisemann indicated he would be happy to accommodate Rex if he was interested in putting together a session on laws and regulations.

c. Field trip: Kathy Fagerstone indicated that our selection of the Hilton Waikoloa Village will impact our field trip options given its location on the island. Will Pitt will assist Kathy with field trip preparations. Possibilities include a discussion of feral cats, a trip to coffee plantations, and a trip to Volcano National Park (VNP). However, VNP is 2.5 hours from the Hilton, so this may be difficult. Kathy can also check with field trip organizers from the recent TWS Conference to gain ideas from their agenda.

d. Publicity: John O'Brien indicated that the Executive Board plus Dirk Van Vuren had a conference call on 10 September, 2012, to discuss publicity options. It was suggested that we use other Conference mailing lists where possible to increase our potential audience. John Eisemann indicated that post cards are handy reminders of Conferences; Bob Timm is getting the VPC mailing list from Peter Newman so that we can mail post cards and advertisement flyers to potential attendees. We can also distribute flyers at The Wildlife Society conference in October. Kathy Fagerstone will contact Gary Witmer to see if he can distribute flyers at the Invasive Species Working Group during The Wildlife Society conference; Bob Timm will do the same for the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group. Mike Taber indicated that Memory Sticks could be used to serve as advertisements for the Conference. Charlie Crabb pointed out that we need to increase Conference exposure through our website as well.

e. Commercial displays: Roger Baldwin received a mailing list from John O'Brien to contact about participating in the 2014 VP Conference. Roger will mail this list to Council members so that they can identify potential vendors not currently on the list. This list could be bolstered by adding attendees at The Wildlife Society conference that are not on the current list. Rex Baker suggested perusing the professional trade magazines for potential advertisers; Mike Taber will send copies to Roger. We may consider contacting vendors in Australia as well; Kathy Fagerstone has contacts in Australia that may be interested. John O'Brien indicated that given the unique location of the Conference, we need to contact commercial exhibitors early to ensure adequate attendance.

John Eisemann suggested that we might consider providing general sponsorships for the Conference. We could provide different levels of sponsorship and exposure depending on the funding provided. Charlie Crabb strongly suggested that we offer sponsorships for the social rather than indicating that vendors have sponsored the social given that vendor funds do not come close to covering the cost of the social. Victoria Hornbaker indicated that the hotel can assist with printing needs if needed.

f. Poster displays and student presentations: Stella McMillin will reach out to Hawaiian students given their past attendance and close proximity. Roger Baldwin indicated the need to increase poster presentations at the 2014 Conference. It was

pointed out that posters may be preferable for non-English speakers. Kathy Fagerstone suggested that incomplete studies could be provided via posters by individuals who were also providing oral presentations on separate topics. Mike Taber indicated that we could consider using sponsorships to increase the funds we have available to support students.

g. Registration: John O'Brien indicated that adding the "Commercial Exhibitor agreement" to Reg online would be a great help; Bob Timm indicated that this could be done. John Eisemann pointed out that some attendees will likely only attend the invasive species and rodent symposia. However, the Council decided that a special registration would not be warranted for these attendees as they could take advantage of the 1-day registration option that will be provided.

h. Continuing education: Rex Baker indicated that CDPR is willing to work with us to increase the number of CE credits available at the 2014 Conference. Victoria Hornbaker suggested that we could submit a separate agenda for presentations that we anticipate receiving CE credits for. This will be explored further. Rex also indicated CE credits from Hawaii would be more difficult to collect, as someone may need to be present at all sessions to collect signatures of attendees who are interested in CE hours.

2013 PAPA Workshops: Roger Baldwin has been in contact with Judy Letterman on specifics for the Workshops. The proposed locations are San Leandro, Fresno, and Anaheim. The specific dates will be determined soon. The program topics have been determined, and potential speakers have been identified. However, we have not been able to contact speakers yet, as the official dates are unknown.

Site Selection for 2016 Conference: Charlie Crabb has received proposals from 3 venues in Anaheim, 1 in Industry, 1 in Costa Mesa, 2 in Garden Grove, and 3 in Newport Beach. Prices and details varied considerably for each site. Charlie will provide the site selection committee with additional details.

6. Additional Business: None provided

7. Next Council meeting was not set. We will attempt to have the next meeting in concert with one of the PAPA meetings in March 2013.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 PM.

Minutes prepared by Roger Baldwin.