

MINUTES OF THE VERTEBRATE PEST COUNCIL MEETING
Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center
Stockton, CA
25 April, 2013

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by John O'Brien at 10:05 Pacific Standard Time. In attendance: *Roger Baldwin, Charlie Crabb, Ed Duarte, Paul Gorenzel, John O'Brien, Mike Taber, and Robert Timm*. Also participating via conference call were: *Rex Baker, John Eisemann, Kathy Fagerstone, and Dirk Van Vuren*.

2. Approval of Minutes of the 19 September, 2012 Meeting (Davis, CA)

Minutes were approved.

3. Business Managers Report

Charlie Crabb provided the business report. As of 23 April, 2013, the Council had \$33,082.15 and \$15,321.55 in its checking and time deposit CD, respectively. Charlie indicated that we have not received payment from PAPA yet. He also noted that he has added liability insurance for the Council, and he would like to add an audit committee at some point to oversee all account actions.

In other news, Charlie Crabb indicated that he has been working on the address/e-mail list for past Conference attendees given that the previous mailing list was corrupted. He has the U.S. mailing list organized, but the international mailing list still requires additional work.

4. Old Business

Proceedings of Vertebrate Pest Conference update: Bob Timm noted that the Proceedings have been printed and will be mailed shortly. CD production will be complete in the near future as well. They will be shipped with the Proceedings. The University of Nebraska School of Natural Resources Map and Publication Store has received their paper copies. They will be charging \$35 per book and \$15 per CD. Bob indicated that we need to check with the University of Nebraska to see if/when they have sent us checks for sales from past Proceedings.

IPM vertebrate positions with UC: Bob Timm indicated that Roger Baldwin has accepted the Human-Wildlife Conflicts Specialist position with the Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology at UC Davis. The UCCE Statewide IPM Program is currently negotiating to fill Roger's Advisor position. Additionally, the proposed Area Advisor position in southern CA has been approved for recruitment in early 2014. This position will focus on urban-suburban wildlife conflict in southern CA, and will be housed at the South Coast Research and Extension Center in Irvine. Financial support has been proposed by the Vertebrate Pest Council, but the amount has yet to be clarified. It was suggested that this be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

5. New Business

Committee Reports

a. Program chair: John Eisemann reported that the preliminary call-for-abstracts has been created and is ready for distribution ASAP. He also mentioned that it could be reformatted to distribute via e-mail. John has confirmed that Gary Witmer and Will Pitt will organize 2 full-day symposia, although these could be shortened to half-day intervals if needed. Ideas for other symposium topics were discussed and included:

- A continuing education credit section. Rex Baker indicated that it would be best to have 8 consecutive talks for CE purposes for Hawaii.
- Robert Schmidt contacted John Eisemann to inform him that John Hadidian from the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) was interested in supporting a symposium on feral cat management. Kathy Fagerstone suggested that if we pursue this topic, we should invite scientists from New Zealand and Australia to present given their experience with feral cat management. John Eisemann also suggested inviting USGS personnel to present. Mike Taber expressed hesitance in letting HSUS provide financial assistance for this proposed symposium. General agreement was expressed by other council members. Bob Timm suggested we express thanks to HSUS for the symposium topic, but let them know that we will not seek any financial support from them for this symposium.
- A session on non-lethal control options was considered by John Eisemann, but he decided not to pursue further.
- Dale Nolte has expressed an interest in organizing a symposium on feral pigs; it was suggested that this could be added to the invasive species symposium.
- John Eisemann indicated that Dale Nolte could put the Council in contact with scientists involved with research in wildlife diseases in the Pacific Rim area.
- It was also suggested that rat management in agriculture would draw researchers from China and other SE Asian countries. If we decide to pursue this topic, Grant Singleton would be a good choice to organize this session if he is interested.
- John Eisemann indicated that a session on contraception would be a good draw for our European audience.
- Plenary session speakers suggested by John Eisemann included: Hans Sin (who would provide a native Hawaiian perspective), Stephanie Whalen (who would provide a Hawaiian agricultural perspective), Mike Fall (who would provide a rodent management perspective), and Will Pitt. It was suggested that Grant Singleton could be a possibility for Keynote Speaker.
- John Eisemann asked if a theme was necessary for the Conference. The Council agreed that such a theme was not needed.

b. Arrangements: Charlie Crabb provided an update. He indicated that we have space for 3 concurrent sessions if needed.

c. Field trip: Kathy Fagerstone questioned if the Council was interested in conducting a two-day field trip. We were not. However, the Council was interested in pursuing the option of two concurrent field trips to different parts of the island. Kathy will explore this option. Kathy asked the Council if they felt duplication with The Wildlife Society's

Conference field trip would be a problem. The Council felt this would have little impact on attendance given different audiences. Bob Timm asked about the possibility of providing general field trips for attendees. He suggested that we check with local arrangements for options. We could also inquire about options from The Wildlife Society. Potential field trips of interest could include tours of Volcano National Park and snorkeling.

d. Publicity: Dirk Van Vuren provided an update. He indicated that the first call for advertisement went out about 3 months ago. The next round will go out with the call-for-abstracts. Kathy Fagerstone indicated that Glenn Conroy, Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, should be contacted about advertising the Conference in Australia. She also noted that information should be sent to Landcare Research in New Zealand. As of now, no Hawaii specific advertisement has been pursued, but John O'Brien suggested we do so. Rex Baker suggested that we contact the Hawaii Pest Control Association and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to assist in advertising to their local clientele. Bob Timm suggested contacting Robert Schmidt for local contacts to conservation groups. Bob also suggested contacting The Wildlife Society to see if they would be willing to provide their mailing list for Hawaii members, and he suggested sending out reminders 6–8 weeks after the initial call-for-abstracts is mailed.

e. Commercial displays: Roger Baldwin indicated that he had nothing to report on commercial displays but would be working on this topic in the near future.

f. Poster displays and student presentations: Stella McMillin was unavailable to provide an update. Roger Baldwin noted the difficulty in getting poster boards to the Conference site in Hawaii and suggested renting boards similar to what was used at The Wildlife Society conference at Waikoloa Village. Charlie Crabb indicated that he will look into this option. It was also suggested that we focus more effort on advertising posters in the call-for-abstracts. John Eisemann indicated he would attempt to do so.

g. Continuing education: Rex Baker indicated that Hawaii accredits per hour, so this could be a challenge. Also, Hawaii requires scanning in and out by attendees to receive credit. An alternative to the scanning process could include using punch cards. This obviously also provides an additional challenge. Given these logistical constraints, we will need to carefully consider how we put together the program to maximize CE credits for attendees. Judy Letterman indicated that PAPA could assist with CE for California. Rex Baker indicated that we could consider negotiating with CAPCA for this service as well. Charlie Crabb made a motion to negotiate with PAPA about handling CE credits, second provided by Mike Taber. Motion approved.

h. Sponsorship levels selection: Rex Baker provided an example of sponsorship opportunities that were provided at the Southwest Ag Summit. Charlie Crabb indicated that we could provide several options for sponsorships. They just need to be clearly defined. These sponsorship options should be provided early to maximize sponsorship participation. Charlie will draft a list of sponsorship levels and will submit this list for review by the Council members.

Approved 8/22/13

2013 PAPA Workshops: Roger Baldwin indicated that the PAPA seminars went well. The feedback from audience members in the Bay area was positive. We have not received feedback from the Fresno or Anaheim locations yet. Attendance at the three seminars was as follows: Bay Area = 128, Fresno = 200, Anaheim = 395.

Site Selection for 2016 Conference: Charlie Crabb indicated that he had been negotiating with the Crown Plaza Anaheim Resort and the Fairmont Newport Beach. Charlie provided details for the proposals. Roger Baldwin provided additional details from his site visit of these locations. After discussion, Bob Timm moved to accept the Fairmont Newport Beach proposal. Second provided by Paul Gorenzel. Motion passed. Charlie will begin hashing out additional contract details with the Fairmont.

Membership: John O'Brien indicated that Amna Hawatky resigned from the Council due to a change in job duties. Ed Duarte, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner in Alameda County, was proposed as a new member of the Council. Rex Baker moved to approve his membership; second provided by Bob Timm. Bob indicated that it is great to have someone from the Agricultural Commissioner's office on the council. Motion passed.

6. Additional Business: None provided

7. Next Council meeting set for 22 August, 2013. The meeting will occur in Davis, although the exact location is yet to be determined.

Charlie Crabb moved to adjourn the meeting; second provided by Roger Baldwin. Meeting adjourned at 12:16 PM.

Minutes prepared by Roger Baldwin.