

MINUTES OF THE VERTEBRATE PEST COUNCIL MEETING
Plant Pest Diagnostic Center, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Sacramento, CA
22 August, 2013

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by John O'Brien at 10:08 Pacific Daylight Time. In attendance: *Rex Baker, Roger Baldwin, Charlie Crabb, Ed Duarte, John Eisemann, Brian Finlayson, David Kratville, Stella McMillin, John O'Brien, Dennis Orthmeyer, Duane Schnabel, Robert (Bob) Timm, and Dirk Van Vuren.* Participating via conference call was: *Kathy Fagerstone.* Also attending were guests Michelle Dennis (CDFA) and Jennifer Gordon (CDFA).

2. Approval of Minutes of the 25 April, 2013 Meeting (Stockton, CA)

Rex Baker moved to accept the minutes. Second provided by Charlie Crabb. Motion approved.

3. Business Managers Report

Charlie Crabb provided the business report. As of 20 August, 2013, the Council had \$26,028.98 and \$15,336.92 in its checking account and time deposit CD, respectively. Charlie indicated that we have not received payment from PAPA yet, but that he expects payment sometime around mid September. Charlie has not quite finished with the final financial breakdown from the 25th VP Conference, but expects the financial report to be completed in the near future. The report will be presented at the next VPC meeting.

In other news, Charlie Crabb indicated that the mailing list has been updated. Further updates will come in the near future. Charlie and Bob Timm also noted that the University of California Cooperative Extension office in San Diego County covered printing and mailing costs for the initial 2014 VPC advertisement, but they will not be providing this service in the future. We will need to seek other options for mailing.

Rex Baker moved to approve the Business Report. Second was provided by Duane Schnabel. Motion approved.

4. Old Business

Proceedings of Vertebrate Pest Conference update: Bob Timm noted that the Proceedings had been printed, and distribution was completed in May 2013. The VPC still has not received payment from the University of Nebraska School of Natural Resources Map and Publication Store for any Proceedings sales. Bob will be checking into this to make sure we receive proper payment for all past sales.

IPM vertebrate positions with the University of California (UC): Roger Baldwin provided an update. He noted that UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) should begin recruitment in February or March, 2014, for the Area Advisor position in southern CA. 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. He also noted that through conversations with Kassim Al-Khatib (Director of the UC Statewide IPM

Program), it appears likely that the IPM Advisor position formerly held by Roger Baldwin will be filled in the future. However, this has not been officially determined by UC DANR, and if this position is filled, it will likely be toward the end of 2014 at the earliest. John O'Brien reminded the Council that we have agreed to provide start-up funds to support the new Area Advisor in the South Coast region. After some discussion, it was suggested that we hold off on determining the exact amount of financial support that we will provide until after the 26th Vertebrate Pest Conference so that we can better predict our financial status moving forward. Rex Baker moved to adopt this position. Second was provided by Dirk Van Vuren. Motion approved.

5. New Business

Committee Reports

a. Program chair: John Eisemann reported that we currently have 84 submitted abstracts for oral presentations. He is anticipating at least 3 more to be submitted soon. We also have 7 abstracts for posters. Collectively, abstracts represent speakers from 9 different countries. John also mentioned that we have 13 presenters from NWRC and that it was extremely likely that, at most, only 7 will be able to attend. Also of interest was the fact that we currently only have 3 abstracts submitted that focus on managing bird damage.

John provided a draft schematic of the program schedule. Following this schematic, we would likely need a third break-out room for one day of the Conference. The Council was in general agreement that this was possible and a good idea. John also mentioned that there is currently strong momentum for developing a symposium on managing feral cats. Robert Schmidt has agreed to serve as symposium coordinator with assistance provided by John Eisemann.

John indicated that Kathy Fagerstone has agreed to serve as the Keynote Speaker for the Conference. Bob Timm suggested that we set a date to send out the preliminary program. The Council decided that we would shoot for the first of October as a deadline to mail the preliminary program.

b. Arrangements: Charlie Crabb has been in contact with the Hilton Waikoloa Village to address questions pertaining to arrangements as they have arisen. He reported that commercial exhibits and posters will be housed in the open promenade adjacent to our presentation rooms. He provided visual diagrams of how these exhibits and posters could be arranged.

Rex Baker suggested we approach the hotel about the possibility of housing most Conference guests in the same area of the hotel property. Charlie indicated that he would look into this. Rex also proposed the idea of pursuing a sponsor airline for the Conference. The general agreement from the Council was that this was unlikely to result in lower costs for most travelers, so this was not pursued further.

c. Field trip: Kathy Fagerstone indicated that buses are currently available for the field trip, but we cannot receive a price quote until the route has been decided. After some discussion led by Kathy, it was decided that a northern route that ended around Hilo would be the best option for the field trip. She indicated that we could stop at the airport

in Hilo to address some vertebrate pest issues. Kathy is also going to inquire into the possibility of coming back on the Saddle Road as a way to see different sites on our ride back to the hotel.

We still need to determine the price we will charge for the field trip. Also, we need to determine how we are going to address lunch during the field trip. Rex Baker informed Kathy that he would eventually need the agenda so that he could seek CE credits for the field trip.

d. Publicity: Dirk Van Vuren indicated that the second round of advertising for the Conference went out in June. Distribution for the third round of advertisement will occur in early October after the preliminary program has been distributed.

Bob Timm suggested that we heavily pursue advertising in Hawaii. Dirk will further pursue such options. Duane Schnabel suggested that the Council inform the Armed Services Pest Management Board about the Conference. They have many attendees who might be interested in attending the Conference.

e. Commercial displays: Roger Baldwin indicated that we still needed to determine the cost of commercial exhibits for the 26th VPC. It was mentioned that the rate for the 25th VPC was \$255 for the table and \$345 for registration (\$600 total). After much discussion, it was determined that we should increase this rate to \$800 total. This rate would include the table fee, plus one individual registration. If an exhibitor desired an extra table, the cost would be \$250 for that table. Roger mentioned that he has already received three inquiries (Motomco, Critter Control, and the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre) regarding additional information about commercial exhibits. The Council agreed that commercial exhibits should remain available until the end of the morning session on the third day. John O'Brien suggested adding exhibitor forms to RegOnline to streamline the process. Bob Timm indicated that this should be easily accomplished within the RegOnline program.

f. Poster displays and student presentations: Stella McMillin indicated that she had been contacted by several students about travel awards. She also indicated that she had contacted all student presenters from the 25th VPC to inform them of the opportunity to present at the 26th VPC. Charlie Crabb reinforced the stipulation that it is mandatory that all student presenters provide the Council with a copy of their Proceedings article before any travel funds will be allocated. Charlie also led a discussion on whether or not we could pay some student presenters with cash. This could be particularly useful to foreign students. It was determined that we could pay with either cash or check, but check would be preferred.

g. Continuing education: Rex Baker indicated that obtaining credits from Hawaii could be more difficult. He has solicited assistance from David Kratville, Stella McMillin, Ed Duarte, and Michelle Dennis (CDFA staff) to help share the load in completing the necessary paperwork. He noted that Hawaii will focus more on awarding CE credits for training on the safe use of pesticides and less on integrated pest management approaches to solving pest problems. Rex also noted that if we did not impose the requirement of

presenters submitting a paper, we might receive more abstracts for presentations that would yield additional CE credits. John O'Brien indicated some concern that this might set a bad precedent for the Conference and Proceedings. The Council agreed.

One possible alternative proposed by Duane Schnabel was to provide a subset of presentations within a morning or afternoon session that would yield CE credits. This would allow us to better record Hawaii CE units for attendees. This may be pursued further. There also was some concern about a lack of abstracts that would yield Laws and Regulation credits. Duane Schnabel indicated that one of the CDFA staff may be able to provide a presentation to bolster these CE units. Charlie Crabb also noted that Judy Letterman from PAPA would make the trip to Hawaii to assist with the processing of California CE hours.

h. Sponsorship levels selection: Charlie Crabb led a discussion on the development of potential sponsorships for the Conference. After some discussion, the following sponsorships were identified:

- 1.) Poster Session Sponsor at \$1,000
- 2.) Refreshment Break Sponsor at \$1,250 each (six available)
- 3.) Field Trip Lunch at \$1,500
- 4.) Portfolio Sponsor at \$2,500
- 5.) Speaker's Breakfast Sponsor at \$3,000
- 6.) Evening Reception Sponsor at \$5,000

2013 PAPA Workshops: Roger Baldwin provided feedback from the Fresno and Anaheim joint PAPA/VPC seminars. The feedback from the attendees was very positive.

Site Selection for 2016 Conference: Charlie Crabb provided an update on contract negotiations with the Fairmont Newport Beach. Charlie was able to renegotiate the room block down to a minimum of 450 room-nights. He also noted that a \$5,000 deposit has been placed with the hotel. The dates for the Conference have been set for 29 February–3 March, 2016.

6. Additional Business: Bob Timm provided an updated Council Roster to attendees. Ed Duarte informed Bob that he would get him his current office and cell phone numbers for inclusion in the Roster.

7. Next Council meeting set for 14 November, 2013. The meeting will occur at the Plant Pest Diagnostic Center, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento, CA. Start time will be 10:00.

The Council meeting was adjourned at 13:45.

Minutes prepared by Roger Baldwin.

Corrections provided by Charlie Crabb, John Eisemann, Bob Timm, and Dirk Van Vuren.