

Approved by Council 10/2/2014

Minutes
Vertebrate Pest Council
June 26, 2014

CDFCA Plant Pest Diagnostic Center, Sacramento

Call to Order

10:03 am: John O'Brien

Council Members in Attendance: Roger Baldwin, Charlie Crabb, Ed Duarte, Ashley Freeman, Marc Kenyon, Stella McMillin, John O'Brien, Dennis Orthmeyer, Jon Shelgren, Mike Taber, Bob Timm

Council Members in Attendance by Conference Call: John Eisemann, Kathleen Fagerstone, Robert Schmidt

Others Present: Michelle Dennis, Jennifer Gordon

Note: Eisemann had to leave the meeting at 11:00 am. Meeting notes were taken by Eisemann, Fagerstone, Timm and Baldwin.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Nov. 13, 2013 and March 3, 2014 Council meetings we approved with minor edits as previously submitted via email; moved (Orthmeyer), seconded (Kenyon)

Business Manager's Report

Crabb reported the Council is doing pretty well financially with \$15,375 in time deposit and \$58,230 in checking. However, not all 26th conference expenses are yet in and we will still need to pay for publication of the Proceedings. We will probably be in the black on the 26th Conference. Report approved; moved (Taber), seconded (McMillin)

Old Business

a. 2014 Conference Review

Program (Eisemann): Lots of positive feedback, and we continue to receive it. Appreciate everyone's assistance; Doug Ekery and Gary Witmer with AV assistance; Amber Shrum with registration and many other tasks, and others. The only complaint noted was that there were too many good talks and folks couldn't get to all of them. O'Brien noted the organizational PowerPoint slides John E. used were very professional. Taber asked if any criticism was received, esp. on WildCare presentation by Kacmarcik et al; Baker and McMillin have reviewed manuscript. Timm will make sure this paper meets our standards before including; McMillin noted it needed considerable re-working. Taber noted that a couple NZ participants in the audience took the speaker to task on her conclusions and weak data.

Registration (Timm): Two hundred and twenty five (255) people registered for the conference, about 10 more than Monterey in 2012. There were fewer single day registrations than past conferences. International registrations probably doubled. Amber Shrum's assistance with registration and her presence at the conference were invaluable. Charlie noted there were some agencies requiring that we register as a vendor with the

Federal Government; some counties wanted us to provide IRS 1099 forms for certain registrants. The total number of USDA Wildlife Services attendees exceeded the federal purchasing limit, causing more red tape. Eisemann noted that he had to personally justify his attendance 3 separate times. Procedures for agency personnel to register seem to be getting more onerous.

Proceedings (Timm): If we receive papers from all presentations the Proceedings will include 117 papers. To date, Timm has received 65 manuscripts. He has received promises of submission from about half of the remaining 52. We need to check if any of the delinquent manuscripts include student presenters who received travel funds from the Council.

Commercial Exhibitors (Baldwin): Six (6) commercial exhibitors were in attendance at the conference. Some exhibitors chose not to attend due to the high overall cost of setting up a booth in Hawaii (travel, freight).

Posters (Baldwin): Seventeen (17) were on display at the conference. The poster boards worked very well, but a bit pricey to rent. Eisemann had one comment that the placement of the boards restricted the audience's movement across the atrium.

Field Trip (Fagerstone): Approximately 90 people went on the field trip, filling two buses. Many positive comments were received including the quality of the presenter/talks at planned stops as well as the presenters on the busses. The schedule ran a bit long, partly because of rain on the highway at one point. Hilo location for provider of lunches worked out well in terms of lower cost than hotel catering; she initially had some problems getting a bus company willing to take larger coaches over new Saddle Road. Charlie noted that fees for field trip were approximately adequate to cover the costs incurred.

Arrangements (Crabb): Overall, worked well. Have to be on guard for excessive expenses, as negotiation is required. The hotel worked to help us contain costs, once we drew the line. For the most part, staff was responsive, including AV, even though they adjusted their cost downward considerably. Evening reception and food were well done and appreciated by attendees.

Continuing Ed (Baker, update provided by O'Brien): Rex indicated he'd not be doing the CE again. Numbers of attendees who wanted credits was low, which wasn't surprising given the location. The process for justifying credit hours is increasingly difficult to meet DPR requirements. Taber noted that having Judy Letterman physically attend and staff a table at the conference there was valuable. Her presence will pay dividends in the future, for her knowledge base, even though we incurred her travel costs.

VPC 'Handbook' (Timm): Bob noted the VP Conference Planning 'Guide' is very helpful for committee chairs undertaking a task for the first time; some of the chapters are a bit out of date, and it would be good if committee chairs would revise or add to these so that for the next Conference the committee chairs can benefit from our recent experience.

The current versions of the 'Guide' are posted on the VPC website under "Internal Communications".

b. New Extension Positions (Baldwin):

Niamh (pronounced "Neeve") Quinn has been hired for the So. Calif. Area vertebrate pest Cooperative Extension position. She starts on Oct. 1, based at the South Coast R&E Center in Irvine.

Two more area advisor positions are currently on UC ANR list: Locations are the Kearney Agricultural Research & Extension Center at Parlier, CA (focusing mostly on ag), and a No. Calif. (Sierra Foothill or Hopland) position, with possible focus on avian management. Timm noted that comments of support are needed to convince UC CE administrators that these positions are essential. Timm distributed a 4-page explanatory memo on how to submit comments to the ANR website. O'Brien and Crabb will sign a comment submitted on behalf of the VP Council.

New Business

a. Membership:

Niamh Quinn has requested membership; her letter and CV have been distributed. The motion to add Niamh as a Regular Council member was approved. Motion (Crabb), second (Baldwin)

A motion to advance Terry Salmon and Rex Baker to Lifetime Membership was approved; Motion (Schmidt); second (Crabb)

The suggestion to advance John Eisemann to "permanent member" status was made; this action was approved; motion (Orthmeyer), second (Crabb)

Desley Whisson and Peter Newman have been deleted from Council membership on the basis of the by-laws stipulation requiring evidence of participation. They have been written letters by John O'Brien thanking them for their service, and if their situation changes, they can request reinstatement.

Crabb noted the need to continue to identify new potential Council members and bring them on board.

b. Election of Officers

By vote of those present, the following were elected: Chair – Roger Baldwin; Chair-elect: John Eisemann. John O'Brien relinquished the gavel to Roger Baldwin.

c. 2016 Vertebrate Pest Conference

Location: Newport Beach, CA

2016 Conference Committee Chairs (as advanced by Roger Baldwin):

Program: Stella McMillin (lead), Marc Kenyon, Dirk Van Vuren
Arrangements: Charlie Crabb
Editor: Bob Timm
Registration: Bob Timm, Ashley Freeman (& Amber Shrum)
Field Trip: Niamh Quinn
Commercial Displays: Ashley Freeman
Continuing Ed: Ed Duarte (Lead), David Kratville, Michelle Dennis
Publicity: Mike Taber (& Dirk Van Vuren)
Posters & Student Scholarships: Kathy Fagerstone

Potential Conference Topics, Symposia

Urban Coyote Symposium - Timm
Invasive Species - ??
Bird Management - Baldwin
Green energy facilities & conflicts – water quality, wind farms, etc. - Fagerstone
Disease & public health issues - Freeman

d. 2018 Vertebrate Pest Conference:

Baldwin suggested considering: Napa, Santa Rosa, Eureka, Tahoe, Bay Area, San Diego, Reno. Discussed San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Chico, and Berkeley. Charlie noted problem of ‘resort’ designation based on hotel name or location for state and federal employees. Site selection committee: Crabb, Freeman, Baldwin and Eisemann. Discussion noted the importance of field trip options near the meeting site.

e. PAPA/VPC Workshop Planning:

Judy Letterman has mentioned a need to start planning for March 2015. Preferred locations are Fresno, Anaheim, Escondido, Sacramento. Based on Council discussion, it was decided to recommend Sacramento, Salinas, and Escondido, presuming logistics can be arranged by PAPA for these locations.

Topics & Speakers: Ed Duarte will chair program development. Others to assist: Stella McMillin, Dave Kratville (volunteered by Michelle Dennis).

Potential Topics for Workshops: trapping & laws; rodenticide changes; use county staff from Ag Commissioners’ offices; health & disease (A. Freeman); Niamh Quinn for commensal rodents in Escondido; Mike Taber for bird damage and techniques; Stella McMillin for testing for pesticide misuse; food safety issues in Salinas; gas cartridge issue – Fed. Register notice published 6/25. Mike Taber noted the need to elevate understanding about pesticide uses (e.g. fumigants, rodenticides) and relationship to risk to kit foxes in Bakersfield area.

Additional Business & Announcements

Bob Timm noted he is officially retiring from UC on July 1, but will have emeritus status and will maintain an office at either Hopland or at the UCCE office in Ukiah.

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Scott Hygnstrom (University of Nebraska - Lincoln) is moving to University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point to accept an endowed chair position. It is unclear how this will impact the Wildlife Damage Management program at Nebraska

Next Council Meeting

Thursday, October 2, 2014, in Sacramento at CDFA – Meadowview.

Meeting Adjourn

12:42 pm to have a catered lunch.

John D. Eisemann
July 21, 2014