

Approved 8-17-17

Minutes
Vertebrate Pest Council Minutes
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sonoma Wine Country
1 DoubleTree, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

March 1, 2017 @ 10:00 AM

Attendees:

In Person: Roger Baldwin, John Eisemann, Greg Hacker, Stella McMillin, Jon Shelgren, Robert Timm, Charlie Crabb, John O'Brien, , Dennis Orthmeyer, Mike Taber, Paula Rivadeneira, Niamh Quinn, Dirk Van Vuren, David Kratville, Ashley Freeman, Marc Kenyon

On Phone: Ed Duarte, Kathy Fagerstone

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by J. Eisemann at 10:05 am.

2) Approval of Minutes

Minutes from November 2, 2016 were approved by unanimous vote.

(C. Crabb moved, J. O'Brien seconded)

3) Business Manager Report (C. Crabb)

The business manager reported that the current VPC checking account balance is \$62,132. That will decrease by \$5,000 when the deposit for the Doubletree Hotel for the 2018 Conference clears the bank. The current balance of the savings account is \$15,499.

The business manager reported on the results of his calculations to set the conference registration fee. For the 2018 conference, it was recommended that the registration fee be set at \$375. With attendance of 200 people we should break even with that fee. The calculations that the business manager used to set the registration rate for the 2018 conference and the VPC overhead are attached. The field trip is self-supporting.

The business manager researched banks to investigate the benefits of switching institutions but decided to begin mobile banking at our existing bank. The business manager also opened a credit card account for the Council to make it easier to pay for meals and conference expenses.

It was decided that bank information would be blacked out on the financial report spreadsheet that is included with the meeting minutes.

The business report was approved by unanimous vote. (J. O'Brien motioned vote, R. Baldwin seconded)

4) Old Business:

A. 2016 VPC Proceedings (R. Timm)

1. Manuscript Status: R. Timm estimated that the Proceedings will be sent to the printer in 6-8 weeks. There are 48 papers ready to go, 26 waiting for layout and 3 in the hands of reviewers. Seven papers have been withdrawn and 10 presenters did not respond to requests for their manuscripts. Three or 4 manuscripts were published elsewhere, and in some cases we are seeking permission from the journal in which they appeared to re-

publish them in the Proceedings. R. Timm will let Council know which journals are amenable to having articles re-published in our Proceedings.

A committee (R. Timm, J. Eisemann, P. Rivadeneira?) to determine the form of future Proceedings has not yet met. We will likely be using Dropbox to provide digital copies of the finished 27th Proceedings for students who registered for the full Conference.

2. Coyote Symposium: R. Timm indicated there are potentially 8 papers that authors will submit to be included in a special issue of the journal *Human-Wildlife Interactions*, to be published either in mid-2017 or in 2018. The papers will need to be peer reviewed and authors will have to pay page charges. .
- B. Lifetime Achievement Award (R. Baldwin): The council discussed what the award should be called (VPC Lifetime Achievement Award, Howdy Howard Lifetime Achievement Award, or VPC Founders Award). The pros of naming it after Howdy were that it is a common practice to name an award after a pivotal person in that field, Howdy was one of the conference founders, funded the conference a couple of times and had a deep commitment to the field. He also had an international presence which promoted the conference internationally. R. Timm suggested that we look at the articles about the history of the conference before making a decision. The general feeling of the group was either neutral or in favor of naming the award after Howdy. The current Lifetime Achievement Award subcommittee will propose a final title.

The Council discussed what criteria should be used to pick the recipient. It was proposed that it be someone who has made a contribution to wildlife management, either a researcher or a practitioner. It was discussed how much participation in the VPC would weigh on picking the recipient. It was proposed that it need not be someone who had been on the Council, but some affiliation with the Conference should be required. Too much emphasis on VPC participation would exclude international candidates. Using publications as an exclusive criteria would exclude field practitioners. Educators should be included. R. Timm suggested that VPC bylaws be reviewed for guidance.

A selection committee could include individuals on the Council as well as non-Council members. Past recipients could also serve on the selection committee.

Winners could be provided with travel costs, a plaque, and an honorarium (– suggested to be \$1000). It was also discussed that there could be a traveling plaque with all winners' names on it to be displayed at subsequent conferences

A subcommittee will present name choices at the next Council meeting. The new award and the initial award recipient will be announced at the 2018 conference.

- C. 2017 PAPA Workshops (R. Baldwin): Thanks to R. Baldwin and E. Duarte for organizing these workshops. The Petaluma session had 137 people and 7.5 CE credits were earned by those in attendance. There were some glitches with the Petaluma session: the sound quality was poor, the room was opened late, refreshments were late, and computer help was not available.
- D. VPC Handbook: A. Freeman, C. Crabb, and E. Duarte have updated their chair positions. All others are encouraged to do so.

- E. Use of Gas Cartridges in the Central Valley: EPA Bulletins Live! has been updated to state that gas cartridges may be used in the Central Valley.

5) New Business

A. 2018 Conference

1. Program Chair (S. McMillin): The first Call for Papers was sent out in early February. July 7th is the due date for abstract submissions.
2. Publicity (M. Taber): We need to make a concentrated effort between now and July. Four advertising efforts were discussed: 1) the pdf of the Call should be put on the website, 2) advertise in the E-Wildlifer, but it costs \$700, 3) The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Damage Management working group quarterly newsletter, and 4) advertise in the Feral Flyer. It was also noted that we do not send hard copies of the Call for Papers to foreign addresses but could send emails.
3. Arrangements (C. Crabb): There will be a tour of the hotel meeting space at 1 pm. The Conference was here in 1992. Food has been difficult in the past with a lack of food nearby with the exception of pizza. It was later discovered that a new brewpub would be open adjacent to the hotel by the time of the conference. There is a big ballroom for break-out sessions.
4. Registration (C. Crabb): We need to decide if we go with PAPA, CAPCA or Amber Shrum.
 - a. PAPA - The PAPA website was clunky last time. Also PAPA appears to be in transition and to date has not been delivering the same level of service. Registration, CE support and AV support (projectors and screens) will be \$20/person which should be about \$5000 total.
 - b. CAPCA - CAPCA's proposal may be less than what we need. They will do online registration and onsite registration and CE for more than \$5000.
 - c. Amber Shrum - Amber would be paid directly and we would need someone else for CE registration. In this case, a Council member would need to volunteer to manage registration.
 - d. Another option would be Registration in a Box.

It was decided that the Council would table this discussion to see how the remaining PAPA workshops go. PAPA is the easiest choice and CAPCA is more complicated. The executive board will decide before the next Council meeting.
5. Sponsorships (A. Freeman): Sponsorships brought in a lot of money at the rodent academy. Payments were disorganized last conference so this time all payments should go through Ashley. Feedback from the vendors is that VPC is not a big money conference. Sponsorship includes the signage but not table. Target Specialty Products should be contacted to see how their sponsorship works. Vendors could have educational presentations as well as displays
6. Posters/Students (N. Quinn, P. Rivadeneria): Nothing to report.
7. Field Trip (R. Timm, R. Baldwin): Nothing to report.
8. Continuing Education (E. Duarte): Nothing to report.

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9. Proceedings (R. Timm): a subcommittee will determine the best form for future Proceedings.
 - B. The 2020 Conference will be at the Fess Parker DoubleTree in Santa Barbara on March 2-5. Charlie is arranging for a visit to pick the correct rooms. No deposit has been paid yet or contract signed.
- 6) Additional Business
- A. Search for another NWRC VP Council Member (J. Eisemann): J. Eisemann suggested that we invite Aaron Shiels, a rodent research scientist at USDA mentored by Gary Witmer. He will attend our Council meeting in July or November. This does not mean J. Eisemann is leaving anytime soon.
 - B. Predator Policy Meeting (D. Kratville): D. Kratville attended a Predator Policy meeting of the CA Fish and Game Commission. Issues discussed included feral pigs being redesignated as nongame and a 24-hour trap check. The carbon monoxide bill (ASB 634) is due to sunset on January 1, 2018, and may need to be extended. The next VPCRAC meeting will be May 3 in Susanville. DPR has seen bromethalin and zinc phosphide sales spike in recent years. A hog poison containing warfarin was approved by the US EPA and is currently registered in Texas.
- 7) Next Meeting: August 8th in Sacramento area (either CDFA or CDFW site).
- 8) Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:11pm