

**Minutes
Vertebrate Pest Council**

August 17, 2017 @ 10:00 AM

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Plant Pest Diagnostics Center
3294 Meadowview Rd, Sacramento

Attendees:

In Person: Roger Baldwin, John Eisemann, Greg Hacker, Stella McMillin, Jon Shelgren, Robert Timm, John O'Brien, , Dennis Orthmeyer, Niamh Quinn, Dirk Van Vuren, David Kratville, Marc Kenyon, Brian Finlayson, Victoria Hornbaker, Aaron Shiels (guest)

On Phone: Charlie Crabb, Ed Duarte, Kathy Fagerstone, Paula Rivadeneira; Ashley Freeman

1) Call to Order

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

2) Introduction

Aaron Shiels was introduced to the Council. He has been a research biologist at NWRC for 6 years, first at the Hilo field station and now at Fort Collins. He focuses on rodent management and eradication in tropical environments, but will also be working in agricultural rodent control. He works with Gary Witmer.

3) Approval of Minutes

Minutes from March 1, 2017 were approved by unanimous vote.

(D. Orthmeyer moved, R. Timm seconded)

4) Business Manager Report (C. Crabb).

The business manager reported that the current VPC checking account balance is \$52,637.30. A check to Fess Parker Hotel to finalize the contract for 2020 has not yet been issued, and it should be about \$5,000. The payment for the PAPA seminars has not been received yet. Expenses (\$4,000 - 5,000) for printing the Proceedings also need to be paid. The savings account balance is \$15,522.17. Please see 3 attached handouts.

PAPA has not yet responded to our request for a proposal to handle registration. They are still undergoing staffing changes and are currently hiring a management team.

The business report was approved by unanimous vote.

5) Old Business:

- A. 2016 VPC Proceedings (R. Timm): Copies of the Proceedings were distributed. The rest will be mailed at the beginning of next week. The Proceedings mailed internationally have already been mailed.

There was discussion about making the Proceedings available online, possibly through the E-Scholarship site run by UC Davis.

- B. VPC Handbook Update (R. Timm): All updates received have been posted on the website.
- C. Lifetime Achievement Award (R. Baldwin): It was decided that the name of the award will be the Walter E. (Howdy) Howard Lifetime Achievement Award. The award will include a plaque, free conference registration, travel stipend, and about \$1000 honorarium. There will also be a traveling plaque that goes to all VP Conferences. The VPC Bylaws have been used to help establish the criteria for the award. Please see handout for more information.

The options for announcing or presenting the award at the 2018 Conference were discussed. One option was to acknowledge Howdy and announce the award and the other option was to announce the first winner at the 2018 Conference. The second option would require advertising soon and having nominations due by November 30, 2017. R. Timm will discuss with Howdy whether he supports the idea for the award. It was decided that the number of awards given in a particular year would be decided by the committee based on the number and quality of nominations. The announcement will go on the website. It was decided by unanimous vote to initiate the process right away (D. Van Vuren moved, D. Orthmeyer seconded).

- D. 2017 PAPA Workshops (R. Baldwin and E. Duarte): There were some glitches in these seminars but the speakers were good. No feedback has been received from PAPA. We are still considering CAPCA as an alternative for 2019.

6) New Business

- A. Membership Reinstatement (J. Eisemann): It was decided by unanimous vote that Victoria Hornbaker be reinstated as a council member (J. O'Brien moved, D. Van Vuren seconded). It was also unanimously approved that she would be a permanent member (R. Timm moved, J. O'Brien seconded).
- B. 2018 Conference
 - 1. Conference Coordination (J. Eisemann): The NWCOA has reserved the same hotel on the two days following our conference (Friday and Saturday). They would like to coordinate with us and possibly offer evening training on Thursday and Friday (a general course or urban bat management). It would work well if we held the commensal rodent symposium on Thursday and offered a one-day registration to attract NWCOA attendees. This arrangement would also benefit the vendors and sponsors. We may also attract some speakers from NWCOA. We may put a page of advertisement in our program for them. J. Eisemann will follow up with C. Crabb and M. Taber about these possibilities and the executive committee will decide before the next meeting.
 - 2. Lifetime Membership (J. Eisemann): Lifetime membership for R. Schmidt was approved unanimously (J. O'Brien moved, R. Timm seconded).
 - 3. Program Chair (S. McMillin, N. Quinn, M. Kenyon): We currently have about 45 submitted abstracts and will need to have at least 76 for a full conference. We hope to get a full day wolf symposium. M. Kenyon will coordinate that. N. Quinn will lead the rodent symposium.

Katie Swift from Liphatech would like to coordinate a special symposium about anticoagulant residues in non-target wildlife. This will be considered by a smaller group (N. Quinn, J. Eisemann, S. McMillin)

Charlie Eason has volunteered to be the keynote speaker but it was decided that Bobby Corrigan would be preferable to attract the commensal rodent managers. N. Quinn will contact him and S. McMillin will contact Charlie Eason.

4. Arrangements (C. Crabb): The program needs to be completed to determine the number of breakout sessions. There is an informal reception planned for Tuesday evening with a no-host bar and light hors d'oeuvres. On Wednesday will be a larger reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres. There will be a speaker's breakfast Wednesday morning. Coffee will be served at the mid-morning break and afternoon breaks.
5. Registration (C. Crabb): A smaller committee to decide this issue has not yet met. Amber is not able to perform this function. C. Crabb and Amber may be able to do online registration together using Regonline. Onsite registration would still be needed. C. Crabb and J. Eisemann will determine this by September 1 to ensure that registration is available by early September. No changes to the program will be accepted after February 19. We will extend abstract submission deadline to September 30 and release the preliminary program in October.
6. Sponsorships/Commercial Display (A. Freeman, C. Crabb): A. Freeman has sent out information to all on her contact list and has 5 commitments for commercial displays. Liphatech will be a sponsor. The commercial rate was raised because the hotel charges per table. There is a vendor form online and we may put some ads in the preliminary program.
7. Posters/Students (N. Quinn, P. Rivadeneria): There have been 6 poster submissions so far. A flyer will be sent to universities to target student poster submissions. P. Rivadeneira and C. Crabb will do research on buying easels for the posters. We could also use another laptop for someone to help with registration and load talks. Only one student has applied for the travel grant but 4-5 students are registered.
8. Field Trip (R. Timm, R. Baldwin): Potential stops include a vineyard (Gallo), a rodent project, Greg Giusti on cannabis, Wildlife Services discussing wild pigs or deer damage, M. Taber discussing bird damage, a livestock depredation demonstration, and a fencing program keeping deer out of vineyards.
9. Continuing Education (E. Duarte): E. Duarte updated the guidance documents. He will work in December and January on CE units. We may look into structural units but the Structural Pest Control Board requires outlines and questions from the speakers. We will also apply for vector control hours.
10. Proceedings (R. Timm): eScholarship, a function of the UC Library System, provides a platform for sharing open source papers from journals, Proceedings, and other UC-associated academic work. The platform is available to us to assist with submission and review of manuscripts from the VP Conference, but would need to be managed by us. This would make it easier for multiple Council members to be involved in producing our Proceedings, and would allow us to make its content available free of charge immediately upon completion. We could also choose to contract with a print-on-demand

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vendor, if individuals wish to purchase a printed copy. This could facilitate the Editor's duties being shared by several Council members. Bob will facilitate continuing discussion about how this might be put in place for the 2018 Proceedings.

11. VPC Proceedings Survey (R. Timm): Please submit comments within a week.
12. Additional Business (C. Crabb): Santa Barbara Visitors Bureau will comp us \$2500 to use for transportation for the field trip.
- 7) Next Meeting: December 12 at 10 AM in Sacramento at CDFA.
- 8) Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM