

*Approved 7/8/08*

**Minutes - Vertebrate Pest Council  
Nov. 6, 2007  
Circus Circus – Reno, NV**

Present: Fagerstone, Marsh, Shelgren, Baker, Howard, Taber, Schnabel, O'Brien, Timm

Meeting called to order at 8:10 by Kathy Fagerstone, in the absence of Council chair Minoo Madon. Kathy shared with the group an email from Minoo, informing us that he had major surgery in October and subsequently suffered a minor stroke. He has returned to work within the past few weeks.

Updated minutes from the July 11, 2007 Council meeting were distributed. Schnabel moved, Howard seconded, acceptance of the minutes as distributed. Approved.

Other agenda items (using minutes of 7/11): legislative update from Mike Taber.

Business Manager's report: no significant issues since last meeting. Terry received a check from the Nebraska online store for Proceedings sold; no specific accounting was sent, but Terry is in touch with Stephen Vantassel.

IPM Vertebrate Advisor: Bob reported that after 2 failed searches, the position will be re-opened in January or February. Bob and Duane both know of people who have expressed interest in applying. Mike indicated he would be pleased to show candidates around the Kearney R&E Center and the surrounding area.

Bob also indicated that the UCD campus is near to releasing 2 CE Specialist positions for re-filling, and the Wildlife department has discussed making Desley's former position its #1 priority. Howdy noted that he and Betty have contributed seed money toward a graduate student scholarship fund in wildlife damage at UCD.

New Business: Committee Reports

Local Arrangements: (Terry) – no report.

Program: Kathy is waiting for Charlie to get back to her with speakers and titles for the symposium on human health concerns in fresh agricultural produce. She currently has 60 abstracts including 3 poster submissions that have been accepted and confirmed, and is expecting perhaps 15 more from Charlie. Kathy will send out the list of accepted papers to Council; other late additions can be added up until the time the final program needs to be in place (mid-February). Kathy is also still pursuing potential keynote speakers. Council discussed a few additional potential topics and speakers, whom individuals will pursue and get back to Kathy regarding possible invitations.

Exhibitors: John O'Brien indicated letters have gone out to our list of potential vendors. The 1-page contract form has been modified to work in concert with the on-line registration; exhibitors will fill out the contract and send it back to John, and then will pre-register on-line once that

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becomes active. It's a bit too early to tell how many vendors will be responding. John will confirm with Terry and the hotel rep the space we're wanting to use for exhibitors.

Field Trip: Duane indicated the SD Convention & Visitors' Bureau has contacted Duane indicated they will assist with all arrangements with locations and bus companies. Plan to visit at least one ag production facility (i.e., a landscape nursery producer).

Registration: Bob reported that efforts are underway to get the website at RegOnline active before December 1. For branded logo give-aways, Mike suggested a clip-on cleaning cloth for binoculars / glasses; other suggestions are waterproof notepads; small LED flashlights. Other suggestions are welcome; send ideas to Bob by January 1.

Continuing Ed: will be handled by PAPA. Rex Baker indicated PAPA wants program info soon; papers need to be classified as to category (laws & regs, etc.). Kathy, Terry, and Rex Baker will work together to send forward the program info to PAPA /DPR. Headings of sessions and titles of papers need to be very descriptive, so they're easy to categorize according to appropriate categories of credit.

Publicity: (Paul) No report. Jon S. will contact Paul and get going on this.

The group discussed using email to communicate among Exec Board and Committee Chairs as needed, and anyone who needed input could ask for a conference call as appropriate.

2010 Conference - Sacramento

Holiday Inn Capital Plaza facility has been confirmed and negotiated for the 2010 VP Conference. Terry has done a good job in negotiating with the hotel sales staff; the contract is signed. Meeting space is in the Holiday Inn facility. Dates are Feb. 19-26, 2010.

Legislative Update – Mike T.

Efforts toward bills for continuing ed and training for nuisance wildlife personnel made it through the legislator, and were vetoed by the Governor. Mike's opinion is that these were vetoed due to ignorance and lack of info at the executive level; they don't realize that Fish & Game's exams and content of their materials are not applicable to the current situation. Essentially, it's never a high enough priority (for funding) for CDF&G to revise the content of the licensing curricula. CDF&G also got burned by legislated mandates for take, methods of take, and euthanasia. Essentially, all efforts to try to provide informed input were ineffective. CDF&G's philosophy is that methods of take etc. need to be regulatory, not legislative. This is correct; the problem is that CDF&G can't get funding to go with mandates they may be handed to work on such items (which are not high priorities, statewide).

Duane noted that AB 1729 got passed and signed. It dropped many requirements for licensing falconers, among other things. The bill was promoted by CDF&G. It has some useful invasive species language; red fox is classified as a non-native invasive (separate from the native Sierra red fox), as is the Eastern fox squirrel. Regulations have just been put forward, in support of this legislation. There will be more emphasis on some of these issues (e.g., coqui frogs), listing

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'restricted species', so that quarantines and eradication can occur. The adoption hearing for the regs is scheduled in early December.

Next meeting: Monday evening 3/17, at the Westin (Presidential Suite).

Adjourned at 10:40 am. To meet for lunch at 11:30.