

Western Cave Conservancy

213 Elm Street • Santa Cruz, California 95060

Public Minutes of the Open session of the Regular Meeting of the Western Cave Conservancy, held Saturday, May 31, 2008

Pursuant to notice duly given to the directors and the public, the annual public meeting of the Western Cave Conservancy was held on the above day and date at the home of Kelley Prebil in San Francisco, California.

ATTENDEES

Rolf Aalbu, Director/Vice President
Joel Despain, Director (by phone)
Don Dunn, Director (by phone)
Robert Martin Haye, Director/Treasurer
Jerry Johnson, Director
Bruce Rogers, Director
Marianne Russo, Director/President

Absent: Dan Snyder, Secretary; Mike White, Director.

Guests: Matt Leissring; Heather McDonald; Pat Helton; Jim Hildebrand; Jim Lakner; John Moreno; Kelley Prebil.

President Marianne Russo called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as proposed.

NEXT MEETING

By consensus, the next meeting of the board of directors will be held at the home of Joel Despain on Saturday August 16 at 1:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

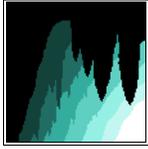
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

OFFICER REPORTS

President (Marianne, attached)
Vice President (Rolf, attached)
Treasurer (Martin, attached)
Secretary (Martin gave a verbal report in absence of Dan)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Relations (Don, given verbally)
Research (Rolf, reports attached)
Acquisitions (Bruce; reported verbally re: possible conservation easement for Sink Cave)
Property Stewardship (Joel, given verbally)
Human Resources (Jerry, given verbally)



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OTHER REPORTS

Weller Natural Preserve Manager (Marianne, attached)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Committee was seated at 2:20 p.m.

Rippled Cave / Weller Natural Preserve:

- Keeping high-school parties out: ideas included a video camera and possibly a sign indicating video surveillance.
- Management plan status: final revision of edits not done yet. An idea was floated to gather comments from the grottoes on the existing version. A PowerPoint presentation will be developed so that the plan can be concisely shared with grottoes, and their input can be gathered.
- Weller building fund plans: PR committee is starting work on a small drive to raise funds for the building. Estimated cost: \$7,000 - \$8,000.
- Use of Rippled Cave by NCRC for Mock Rescue & Rescue Pre-plan: Still pending. Event will be Sep 26 – Oct 4.

Conservation easement for Sink (aka Pit) Cave: Contacts and initial negotiations have been held with the owners (there are several) and indications have been positive so far. Have set up a tentative date to meet again and discuss conservation easements. Bill Frantz, our expert on CEs, will accompany the party.

Windeler Cave Project: The gate is coming along slowly, but it is coming along. Doug Bradford acquired a piece of 3/4" stainless steel, and Jim Hildebrand was able to find a high-quality cutter to get it cut gratis. Also have a very heavy stainless chain. Measurements will be taken in the near future, and the outer gate constructed. It would be nice if we can put something in the existing culvert, rather than dig out and replace the entire top section.

A recess was called at 3:00 p.m.

The committee was seated again at 3:15 p.m.

Millerton Lake Caves: There was a public meeting in Fresno, attended by Roger Mortimer and others. Meeting had 5 BLM, 6 cavers, 25 or so other people. The project is still ongoing and they are beginning to solicit public opinion. Bruce spoke to Tracy Roland of BLM; she asked about the possibility of getting a "virtual tour" of the caves, but nothing has happened on this.

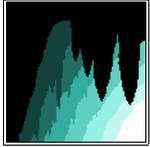
Avalanche Cave: Recently Marianne re-contacted the Sierra Pacific people and was surprised to find them remarkably friendly and open to one trip per year. They won't be harvesting the parcel this year.

Ordway Property: No change.

Church Cave: Steve Fairchild Jr. has backed away from the idea of running commercial tours through the cave. The gate on the Root entrance has been repaired.

M2 Cave: the price has been lowered – to \$2.3 million. We still consider it way above market value.

Website: Some files have been reorganized, but updates will probably wait until the next newsletter.



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Insurance: John Moreno and Martin will ask both their insurance agents for either a quote or a rejection. Rejection is useful to show that we tried to get insurance.

Personnel issues: A meeting was set for work on job descriptions and recruitment: June 17.

Newsletter planning: Some good news: Wayne Cedidla expressed interest in doing this. Heather will get him to help on the next issue, and will see how it goes. WCC can buy new publishing software for either or both of them if desired. Possible topics for next newsletter: Weller Building and Preserve news; Property tax exemption (sidebar); Windeler update; HP donation program. Deadline two weeks.

Dragon's Gate cave: There was a tentative request for a grant to help gate Dragon's Gate Cave in Nevada.

The committee rose at 4:15 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLVED, that the following volunteers are hereby nominated and appointed to the WCC Advisory Board: John Tinsley, Dave Cowan, and Dave Bunnell. (Aalbu B2008-2-1)

RESOLVED, that WCC renew its Volunteer Insurance policy with CIMA companies in the amount of \$665.76 for one year. (Haye B2008-2-2)

The board went into a short closed session at 4:30 p.m.

RESOLVED, that when personal conflicts arise between WCC volunteers, staff, and/or directors, the Conservancy's policy is to remain neutral to the extent possible and to not take sides. It is the intent of the Conservancy that the parties involved will put aside their differences in their work for WCC and will continue to contribute to the organization in whatever way they feel comfortable. Further resolved, that all WCC volunteers, staff, and directors shall carry on Conservancy-related discourse (whether in person, by email, or in writing) in a courteous and professional manner. Violations of this policy will be dealt with appropriately by the Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis. (Haye A2008-2-1).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

I attest that the above is, to the best of my knowledge, the true and complete record of business conducted at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Western Cave Conservancy held on May 31, 2008.

R. Martin Haye, temporary recording secretary