

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, August 16, 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 Ash Mountain fire station in Three Rivers, California.

ATTENDEES

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

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

Guests: Pat Helton.

President Marianne Russo called the meeting to order at 1:43 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as proposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August 7 emergency meeting were approved as written. In addition, the minutes of the May 31 regular meeting were approved as written.

NEXT MEETING

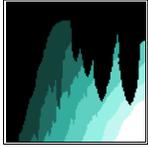
By consensus, the next meeting of the board of directors will be held in the Sacramento area at the home of Rolf Aalbu on Saturday November 1 at 1:00 p.m.

OFFICER REPORTS

President (Marianne, attached)
Vice President (Rolf, given verbally)
Treasurer (Martin, given verbally)
Secretary (Martin, given verbally)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Relations (Marianne gave a report in Don's absence; main accomplishment is recent newsletter)
Research (Rolf, given verbally)
Acquisitions (Bruce; attached)
Property Stewardship (Joel, given verbally; Windeler gate getting close to installation; many security questions still to be addressed)



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Human Resources (Jerry, attached; Board would like resignation letter from Dan Snyder; lots of discussion of potential advisors and directors).

OTHER REPORTS

Weller Natural Preserve Manager (Marianne, attached)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Committee was seated at 4:15 p.m.

Expanding the advisory board: Joel will contact: Shane, Cindy, Billings, Bernie, Glen Malliet, Charlie & Lynn. Bruce will contact Browns, Beaches, Wolffs, Rubles, Frantzes; Marianne will contact Sundquist, Hobson, Deveny, Baker. Martin will contact Ernie, Gilleland, Chavdarians.

At the fall meeting we will figure out which Director position(s?) we are recruiting for and draw up a final list of candidates. Discussion of trying to improve geographic diversity on the board.

Weller Field House, preliminary cost breakdown:

- Planning phase: \$862, including drafted plans, getting a street address, building permit.
- Site prep: \$48 dump, \$900 grading
- Foundation work \$345 + ~\$125 for beams.
- Building materials: \$3,367
- Donated labor: \$4041
- Scott's actual costs: \$895
- Finishing costs: roofing, paint, perhaps add'l grading, gravel. Total \$1,300
- Total cost: approx \$7,700. Marianne and Jerry plan to donate at least a couple thousand of that. Consensus was that WCC should reimburse the entire cost, and that Marianne & Jerry's donation would go toward it; that way the actual cost is reflected in the books.

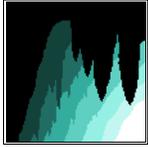
Weller Management Plan: A final internal draft is just about ready. After the fall board meeting we'll really get in gear and take it around to the grottos, as well as to as many neighboring landowners as we can.

Avalanche Cave: The grottos were actually able to take a trip this summer. Sierra Pacific has not logged the parcel yet; the timber harvest plan will expire after next year; unknown whether they'll be able to harvest before it expires, but there's little doubt: they'll most likely file another one right away. We don't know if they'd be as generous as last time in protecting the area near the caves.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy: it's a new, standalone state agency with management responsibility for a large area of the state. They have quite a bit of money, much from propositions. They are absolutely interested in buying land in the Sierra. They have a great web page with plenty of info, and they're on a six-month granting cycle. Maybe we should think big: Violin/Fiddler? Or even bigger: Cataract Quarry?

Gas fund: An idea was floated to have a WCC gas fund to reimburse volunteers (especially on the Weller Preserve) for their travel expenses. The directors felt this would be too complicated to manage in a way that was fair to all, but felt it would be a good to implement a similar plan to pay for pizza or other meal after work days, or for a cooler of drinks for volunteers.

Oregon Cave: If it ever comes to pass that the Park Service gives up the cave, we'll entertain possibilities then, but until that point the directors felt there's no vehicle for us to get involved.



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M2: We will ask Ernie to contact a local realtor to get some ground truth on the real value of the property, and then we will float an offer to the owners based on that information.

Windeler: there will likely be a work day in the next month or two. Joel will set up a focused work party with a limited number of people for the task.

The committee rose at 5:23 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

WHEREAS the road leading to the Weller Preserve is in a poor state of repair and WCC is one of the landowners who benefit from using it, resolved that President is authorized to pay WCC's share of the cost of upcoming road maintenance, the total amount not to exceed \$550. (Haye B2008-3-1)

WHEREAS the new Weller Preserve Field House is almost complete and its construction been planned and executed with an appropriate balance of quality and cost, resolved, that WCC shall reimburse expenses already incurred and the remaining expenses to be incurred to complete the Field House, the total amount not to exceed \$8,000. (Despain B2008-3-2)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 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 August 16, 2008.

R. Martin Haye, acting secretary