

## Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Western Cave Conservancy, held Saturday, April 25, 2009

Pursuant to notice duly given to the directors and the advisors, the annual public meeting of the Western Cave Conservancy was held on the above day and date at the Weller Natural Preserve

### ATTENDEES

Rolf Aalbu, Director/Vice President  
Robert Martin Haye, Director/Treasurer  
Jerry Johnson, Director  
Marianne Russo, Director/President  
Eileen Belan, Director/Secretary  
Bruce Rogers, Director  
Don Dunn, Director

**Guests:** Bill Papke, Morley Hardaker, Pat Helton, Dale Hartwig

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

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

The agenda was approved as proposed.

The minutes of the January 17, 2008 meeting were approved as written with a slight correction in the Officer title wording. (Replaced "officers" with "directors".)(Replaced "Advisory Committee" with "Advisory Board".)

### OFFICERS REPORTS

President Marianne Russo. (See attachment)

Vice President Rolf Aalbu. (See attachment)

Treasurer Martin Haye. (See attachment)

Martin noted the IRS is redesigning the forms to file taxes and the 990N will now be used.

Secretary Eileen Belan. (See Attachment)

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

PR Committee Don Dunn (See attachment)

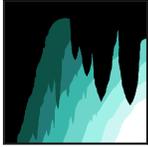
Research Committee Rolf Aalbu (See attachment)

Acquisitions Bruce Rogers (See attachment)

Stewardship Martin Haye)(See attachment)

The Rippled Management Report is still being worked on.

Human Resources Jerry Johnson (See attachment)



# Western Cave Conservancy

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## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

### **Weller Natural Preserve Manager's report: Marianne**

(See attached report)

Bruce Rogers offered to donate two long handled shovels.

Marianne talked about acquiring a chemical toilet as there have been some incidents of the present facilities being improperly used. Bill Papke has a chemical toilet he will donate but the condition is unknown.

The open house for the field house is tentatively scheduled for Fall 2009.

There was a report of a bat recently seen in Rippled Cave. It appears it is a rare appearance and no action will be taken at this time. It was suggested that if you are on a cave trip and see a bat, you leave the cave. It was suggested that an item be added to the register to ask if anyone had seen bats while in the cave.

Conservation easement: Marianne has been checking into getting a Conservation easement. This is to avoid the land defaulting and being sold if the WCC is no longer the land owner because of various reasons. Marianne will continue further contact with additional questions.

### **Newsletter**

Marianne has an outline for the newsletter and will get together with Heather so one can be sent out. It was suggested that it be sent prior to May 11 when the postage is raised.

### **Photo**

Bruce Rogers requested if you have a photo of Rippled Cave from the 1960's or 1970's he would like a copy.

### **Nevada cave**

There has been a request from the Nevada Cave Grotto for help with placing a gate on a cave in Northwest Nevada. Marianne talked to Doc Kellenbarger about the request and the cave has a difficult approach. There was discussion on a helicopter carrying the gate up to the cave for placement. More discussion and suggestions followed.

### **Donation request**

A recent \$1,000.00 donor requested the money be given by the WCC to the White Nose Syndrome (WNS) fund. There was discussion on attempting to set up a challenge so the donation was matched by other grottos, conservancies or individuals.

### **Insurance**

Martin Haye talked about the different insurance coverages the WCC now has and the yearly costs.

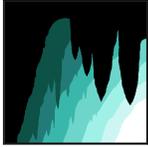
Volunteer insurance: Covers volunteers who might hurt themselves

D&O insurance(Protecting Officers and Directors)

General Liability Covers all property own, rent or occupy

### **Future WCC Public Meetings**

Since the WCC now includes Southern California members on the Advisory Board, there will probably be a future meeting on Southern California in a couple of years with the new members volunteering to publicize the meeting.



# Western Cave Conservancy

213 Elm Street • Santa Cruz, California 95060

## **Planning for the International Congress of Speleology**

The WCC will have a table at the ICS and Rolf has agreed to take some items with him to sell. Eileen will get together with Rolf before the end of July to make sure he has the items. Martin suggested that whatever we don't sell at the ICS, we could give away at the next dinner.

## **Weller Field House discussion**

Some discussion about plans for the Weller field house building: There was discussion on running wiring/electrical outlets throughout the building and to install an input plug on the outside of the generator to connect. At this time, there is no plan to connect to PG&E due to cost constraints. Then insulation and sheetrock can be installed. Marianne will check with the county to see what improvements can be made to the building without causing changes in the tax assessment. Marianne will also get an estimated cost of the doing the work and pass that by the Directors before proceeding.

## **MOTIONS:**

Whereas the National Speleological Society (NSS) has created a Rapid Response fund for facilitating critical research into the causes of White Nose Syndrome in bats; and Whereas this issue is of great concern to all cave organizations; and Whereas the Conservancy donating to the fund may spur other organizations or individuals to follow suit; Resolved that the Conservancy will donate \$1000 to the NSS Rapid Response Fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

Whereas Marianne Russo and Jerry Johnson have used personal funds to pay expenses related to the building project and maintenance projects at the Weller Natural Preserve for more than a year; and Whereas these projects have been planned well and executed with an appropriate balance of quality and frugality; and Whereas they have submitted itemized receipts for \$9,926.22; Resolved that Treasurer is authorized to reimburse them for these expenditures.

Motion carried unanimously.

Whereas General Liability and Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance are critical to protecting the Conservancy and its volunteers; and Whereas price of the current D&O policy seems high; Resolved that Treasurer is directed to purchase a lower-priced D&O policy if possible, if not to renew the current D&O policy; and Resolved that Treasurer is directed to renew the current General Liability policy; and Resolved that the Conservancy will not renew its Volunteer Insurance.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:06pm

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 April 25, 2009.

**Eileen Belan**  
Secretary