

Western Cave Conservancy

213 Elm Street w Santa Cruz, California 95060

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Western Cave Conservancy, held Saturday, August 15, 2009

Pursuant to notice duly given to the directors and the advisors, the regular meeting of the Western Cave Conservancy was held on the above day and date at the home of Rolf Aalbu.

ATTENDEES

Rolf Aalbu, Director/Vice President
Robert Martin Haye, Director/Treasurer (via conference line)
Jerry Johnson, Director
Marianne Russo, Director/President
Eileen Belan, Director/Secretary
Bruce Rogers, Director
Mike Spiess, Advisory Board
John Moreno (via conference line)
Bruce Rogers (via conference line)
Pat Helton (via conference line)
Sherry Hartwig, Volunteer Coordinator
Dale Hartwig, Volunteer Coordinator
Heather McDonald, Editor

President Marianne Russo called the meeting to order at 1:17 pm

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 correction to the date in the final paragraph.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President Marianne Russo. (See attachment)
Vice President Rolf Aalbu. (See attachment)
Treasurer Martin Haye. (See attachment)
Secretary Eileen Belan. (See Attachment)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

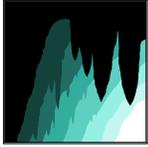
PR Committee, Vacant position, no report prepared.

Research Committee Rolf Aalbu (I don't seem to have this report via email, please resend)

Rolf also added that caves that are on the Important list generally have two endemics and Clay Cave has at least three. Rolf suggests the WCC should go forward and put some effort into Clay Cave.

Acquisitions Bruce Rogers

Crystal Ball Cave in Utah. Bates family has taken care of responsibility but in 2005, did not renew the mining claim on the cave. Now the mining rights for the cave are for sale on e-bay. At the time of the meeting, there was still about five hours left on the bidding but no bids so it is unknown what is going to happen. There is essentially happening right now. The Bates family doesn't know what is happening and was shocked at the progress. It is required by law that if you purchase a mining claim, you must have at least \$500 in improvements each year to keep the



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claim. Martin thinks Dale Green is the contact and Bruce will try to contact him and let him know we will help if necessary.

Stewardship Martin Hays

Two projects ongoing are the Weller Property and Windeler Project. (Marianne will talk about the Weller Project.) There have been three work trips working on Windeler Cave. Now it is more secure than before with a gate and plug. Future goals would be to replace concrete plug and have an approved management plan. More discussion is ongoing and looking at more to be done within a year. Martin wants to make it clear that the caving community is running the cave. Scott Redenbaugh and Chuck Chavdarian have now been placed on the the Windeler Committee.

Human Resources Jerry Johnson (Jerry, please forward report via email, I have hard copy)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Weller Natural Preserve Manager's report: Marianne(See attached report)

Open house will be scheduled for Spring 2010.

Windeler Cave Project. (Martin, nothing more to add from committee reports.

Newsletter

Heather plans on the next newsletter to come out in November 2009.

White Nose Syndrome, Marianne

AT ICS Marianne spoke at length with Joel Despain regarding WCC policy. Agreed policy should be to use decontamination procedures used at the ICS. Another option is to have a set of gear used only in one cave but since our caving could include several caves on one trip so that was not a viable solution. Marianne also talked about a problem with burrs getting into shoes and laces and not being removed before future cave trips. She agreed there should be some procedure at Rippled. There was some discussions regarding what the WCC recommendation should be and if it should be a suggestion or requirement. Marianne suggested at least to say no equipment used in the WNS area to be used in our area and to advise people to clean their gear after each cave trip. Mike Spiess suggested the Western Region and WCC should have the same policy. Marianne will make a presentation at the regional meeting regarding our suggestion for a WNS policy.

New Director of Public Relations and PR committee Focus:

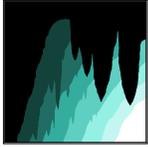
The PR Director needs to be sure to not only deal with the big money making stuff but dealing with the "day to day" items. Marianne read the job requirements. Rolf suggested we compose an email and ask each advisory board member if they are interested.

Crystal Ball Cave:

Marianne is looking for suggestions. Bruce suggests that we wait to see if it dies a natural death. Other suggestions would be to send emails to WCC members and ask them to write letters. A list of bullet items so each person can write in their own words. Martin suggests we contact Dale Green and work with him. Bruce will contact Dale Green. Rolf has some information regarding an insect found deep in the cave. He will forward the information to Bruce.

Insurance:

Martin investigated current insurance. He has a good lead on another insurance and it looks good that the WCC will be getting a price break next year.



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Future WCC Public Meetings

There were several suggestions for the location of the public meeting in 2010. Included were the Great Valley Museum in Modesto, Ralph Squire's place in Columbia, locations in Chico or at the McConnell Corporation.

SJVG Regional (September 12-13)

There was clarification from Marianne as to why the dinner mentioned the WCC but we weren't actually doing the food. She was advised that they don't expect to make money on the dinner but if there is money made on the regional, it would go to the WCC.

Clough Cave Restoration

No new news as Joel is not available.

Dragon's Gate Cave

No news from Doc Kellenbarger.

Name "Western Cave Conservancy".

Someone brought up that they are bothered by our name "Western" Cave Conservancy. There was some discussion regarding territorial name. It was suggested that there be an article and include something about the fact the WCC would welcome other cave conservancies in the "West". There was a suggestion to put something on the web site about why we are the Western Cave Conservancy.

Cave Conservancy Paper:

Marianne edited a paper on successful cave conservancies written by John Wilson and Diane Cosineau. One of the main factors for success was being in a location where there are a lot of caves to buy. Management structure needs to be independent, not run by any grotto. Risk management but not overdone, for example insurance on everything. Good leadership is essential and success in resource gathering. The paper is available. Marianne will see if it can be scanned and sent out.

MOTIONS:

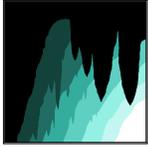
Whereas phone conferencing has become a standard feature of WCC board meetings: and this brings more participants to board meetings: and toll-free participant access can be obtained for low cost to the Conservancy: Therefore resolved that for today August 15, 2009 and henceforth, WCC will pay the cost of toll-free conferencing for each board meeting.

(B2009-03-01)

WCC hereby adopts the job description for Public Relations Director as presented and modified at this meeting August 15, 2009.

(B2009-03-02)

Motion carried unanimously.



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Meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm

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 15, 2009.

Eileen Belan
Secretary