

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Western Cave Conservancy, held Saturday, October 24, 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 CSUC University Farm as guests of Mike Spiess.

ATTENDEES

Rolf Aalbu, Director/Vice President (via conference line)
Robert Martin Haye, Director/Treasurer
Jerry Johnson, Director (via conference line)
Marianne Russo, Director/President
Bruce Rogers, Director (via conference line)
Mike Spiess, Advisory Board

President Marianne Russo called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

The agenda was approved as proposed.

The minutes of the August 15, 2009 meeting were approved with corrections as they have been distributed via email.

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

Public Relations – vacant position, but Marianne prepared a report. (See attachment)

Short-range: newsletter in November, mail to updated list from NSS

Long-range: goal to fill the position of PR director, in hopes to update web site, restore newsletter production rate, fundraising campaigns.

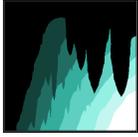
Discussion of making new displays for regionals, conventions, etc. There are many different ways to do make our own that are inexpensive, look nice, and travel compactly.

Research – Rolf Aalbu (See attachment)

Species found in Mexico is indeed new. Will work with G.O. from Mother Lode Grotto who is also an entomologist, works as a part-time teacher at Sac State.

Acquisitions – Bruce Rogers (See attachment)

Addition re Avalanche: Fran Herbst first contacted WCC through the Conservancy's phone number, and Martin directed her to Dave, who subsequently sought help in getting pictures from others. Martin's understanding from Fran is that the FS applies every year for funds to purchase a bunch of properties in the area, including Avalanche, and this year she wanted to spruce up their proposal with some pretty pictures since the Avalanche property is more or less the star of the set. Addition re: Orange County mine: board members present each in turn expressed opinions. Consensus seemed to be this is not part of our mission, and that we can offer peripheral support but not get directly involved.



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Stewardship – Martin Hays (given verbally)

Brief overview of Windeler progress; more details in Committee of the Whole below.

Human Resources – Jerry Johnson (See attachment)

Filed written report for the first time. Suggests a new director position: Director of Cooperative Projects or something similar. Also suggests multiple reminders about upcoming board meetings to get greater participation.

Martin will volunteer to help out with board recruitment, but needs to be reminded of that commitment.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

Request has come in from Tracy Audisio, who belongs to a small group of students that goes out into the field to do biologically related things. She and Geo (of MLG) would like to do a small geology/biology trip at the Preserve. She plans to spend an hour or so prior to the cave trip to brief them on safe caving practices, conservation, etc.

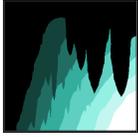
Opinions of those present:

- Rolf had reservations regarding MLG rules but was reassured that this would fit within WCC management rules in which Board can authorize trips for any purpose. He would like to go on the trip to oversee, teach, and participate.
- Bruce quite positive that this is a marvelous opportunity and in line what the preserve is for; we would want a report back from them.
- Mike Spiess very positive – emphasizes some minimum ratio of cavers to novices; set level of minimum training; they may be able to rent helmets from Sac State adventure club.
- Jerry: agrees fully with Bruce. The Preserve has a role it can play in many different ways – teaching conservation, vegetation management lessons, etc. The introductory part with an hour-long safety/conservation discussion might be too short.
- Martin: also very positive.
- Also Rolf had an interesting suggestion of accumulating some donated caving gear in the field house for various purposes (workers who need something extra; a trip with novices that are coming up for an education purposes, etc.). Mike suggested collecting a few dollars to pay for the equipment, but there are liability problems with requiring payment. Even if we don't do that, why not hand them a brochure and an envelope? And we can certainly ask for donations as long as we don't require them.

Scheduling open house in spring – weather-wise, April can be outstanding or not so great. Clough cave project will also be next spring, so how to mediate the schedules? Martin suggests we schedule open house first and schedule the Clough project around it. **May 1** has been set as a tentative date.

Unauthorized visitation: two small trips by a set of young men. Nothing noticeable was disturbed, and of course they signed in or we wouldn't even have known about their trip. Is this a big problem? Should we do nothing? Should we put something on the gate or the register? But then they might not sign the register.

Martin asks: do we want some sort of surveillance system at Rippled? If we contact them what could we tell them that would improve instead of degrade their behavior? We can't assume they're



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not serious, nor that they're serious. Board in general liked the idea of a logger at Rippled. Martin will keep this in mind as he's designing the Windeler security equipment, to make some sort of data logger for Rippled.

Good suggestion to mount solar panels to power a light at night on the field house. Whatever the system it should be kept cheap as there has been a recent rash of solar panel theft statewide.

Mike has come up with a short web-based form we can use to report number of participants, type of trip, comments, etc. and collate them. Marianne will try it out with Rippled and depending on her experience we could extend its use to Windeler, Clough, etc.

A tentative date of Sunday November 8 has been selected for Marianne, Jerry, and Martin to meet about the Weller management plan, review Jerry's changes, and finish up the management plan. Marianne will email a copy to Rolf so he can review it.

Windeler Cave Project.

Martin reviewed the state of things, decisions the committee has made and is trying to make, trustee program, etc. The Board approved in general with how things are going; it was stressed that initial trips should be inventory trips and that participants should be drawn into those trips based on their qualifications rather than committee membership. General agreement that regular ("tourist") trips, while they will have a suggested work component, shouldn't start until inventory trips are completed.

Martin will need to get in contact with the Mi-Wok District Ranger in addition to his existing contact with Beth Martinez (Mi-Work District Program Area Director), since the Ranger is the one we would call in the event of a possible break-in.

Advisory Board Procedures.

Jerry's proposal met with general approval. [copy his proposal from the agenda]

White Nose Syndrome: WCC Policy?

Several of us will meet and draft a policy. Rolf expressed desire to wait, or at least keep it simple for now.

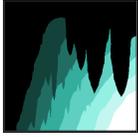
Newsletter Update

The proposed topics met with general approval. [copy list from the agenda]

Membership Drive 2009

Let's try to get the grottos to give us their snail-mail lists, or if they balk, ask if they could send out a bunch of newsletters with generic appeal letters if we give them a stack. Mike says: We should try to include grottos outside California, to help boost our perception as having a broader reach. Mike also suggested that we come up with an electronic appeal for grottos that have an email broadcast list.

Record Keeping issues:



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Martin and Eileen need to work out a system for getting all the minutes, public and private, up to date.

General agreement that Dan's system of keeping a "Policy Manual" of important resolutions organized by topic needs to be revived, so we don't duplicate or contradict ourselves and so that new board members can get quickly up to date on prior important actions of the board. Martin and Marianne will meet with Eileen to work this out.

Possibility of a new Treasurer.

Very good news: Mike Spiess is volunteering to become WCC Treasurer, and also to join the WCC Board. This would free up Martin who is interested in becoming President, thus freeing up Marianne who is interested in becoming PR chair. This general plan met with approval from those present.

SJVG Regional.

At some point we may get proceeds from the last Regional, but it's expected to take a while.

Upcoming 2010 Annual meeting plans.

General agreement, if Steve Hobson can get several people interested in attending, that we should hold our annual public meeting up north, probably in the Redding area, to help bring northern California and southern Oregon cavers into the Conservancy.

First choice date: Saturday January 23; backup date Jan 30.

Back-up location if Redding doesn't pan out: Great Valley Museum in Modesto

Ordway Project

Martin will ask Dan to get Marianne the info she needs for the Ordway Project letters she proposes to write.

Clough Cave Cooperative Project Update

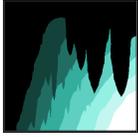
Joel thinks this project is very likely to get funded, and would be a two to three weekend affair. WCC is volunteering to coordinate the effort and gather the participants. How are we going to do this?

Marianne will take the organizational lead. Mike will take the lead on the welding sub-component, to understand what Joel needs and possibly help with the welding, or at least help to vet volunteer welders. Mike, among many other talents, is a welding instructor.

MOTIONS:

RESOLVED that the Director of Stewardship is hereby authorized to spend an additional \$2,500 on the Windeler Cave project.

(B2009-04-01)



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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 October 24, 2009.

Martin Haye
temporary recorder