

# Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Western Cave Conservancy, held Saturday, January 30, 2010

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 Shasta Trinity National Forest Building, 3644 Avtech Parkway Redding, CA 96001

## **ATTENDEES**

Marianne Russo, Director/President  
Rolf Aalbu, Director/Vice President  
Eileen Belan, Director/Secretary  
Robert Martin Haye, Director/Treasurer  
Jerry Johnson, Director  
Bruce Rogers, Director  
Pat Helton, Advisor  
Heather McDonald, Advisor  
Matt Leissring, Advisor  
Rich Sundquist, Advisor  
Bill Brockel, Guest  
Steve Hobson, Advisor  
Jon Mulder, Guest  
Melanie Jackson, Guest  
Dave Young, Guest  
Brad Rust, Guest  
Jim Wolfe, Guest  
Liz Wolfe, Guest  
Peri Frantz, Advisor (via conference line)  
Bill Frantz, Advisor (via conference line)  
John Moreno, Advisor (via conference line)  
Gretchen Baker, Advisor (via conference line)

The meeting was called to order by President Marianne Russo at 1:14 pm

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

The agenda was approved as proposed.

The minutes of the October 24, 2009 meeting were approved with corrections.

## **Thank you**

To Steve Hobson and Brad Rust, for the room and food.

## **OFFICERS REPORTS**

President Marianne Russo: (See attachment).

Vice President Rolf Aalbu (See attachment)

Treasurer R Martin Haye. (See attachment)

Secretary Eileen Belan (See attachment)

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Public Relations** (Vacant Position) Marianne Russo stand-in. (See attached) First newsletters to go out with a request for donation and then separate mailing for people who haven't been members or haven't been for a long time. Fund raising dinner for Speleo Ed. April 24-25.

**Research committee**, Rolf Aalbu (See attached).

**Acquisitions:** Bruce Rogers (See Attached).

Regarding the property on the north side of Monterey Bay at the cement plant. The cement plant was temporarily shut down but now has been announced as being shut down permanently. Contacts have been made in an attempt to buy large packet of land. Per Steve Hobson, Shasta Caverns are back up for sale.

**Property Stewardship** R Martin Haye: (See attached)

Came up with a list of Stewardship items. Each week Martin adds list items and sends them out to see how people feel or what they think about it. Then Martin, after the first week, sends out the summary. After the second week, he sends the list items out with final decision.

Steve Hobson asked about access to Rippled. Marianne instructed that she needs to be contacted and key access will be arranged. There is no trustee program as there is with Windeler.

**Human Resources** Jerry Johnson (See attached.)

Jerry suggested a new Director, *Director of Cooperative projects* which would be someone to work with other agencies like Forest Service.

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**WELLER Management Report.** Marianne Russo. (See attached)

Jerry has a CD with the work done at Weller Preserve.

Discussion regarding Roger Mortimer bringing the Boy Scouts to help do work with a cave trip in the afternoon.

Agreement made to allow Roger's trip and to check NSS website for what is already agreed on for NSS position on scouting trips.

Discussion on Rippled Cave and requirements for logging the names of people on the trip.

Suggestion to have cave log on building and make it required that the "trip report" be filled out for every trip.

15 MINUTE BREAK....

Back to order 3:32 pm by President Marianne Russo.

Discussion on Weller Preserve rules. Marianne received some comments about her policy and some said it was a little negative. Martin suggested that the publicity section needs to be re-written. Martin suggests we adopt the current management plan as the interim management plan

and then see what comments are made. Bruce suggested that we cut off the comment response time to seven days. Peri suggested we don't include comments with the interim management plan.

Martin wanted to make sure that we mentioned the Weller Preserve open house in the next newsletter.

### **Future project and General Issues.**

Marianne is resigning as President

Martin is resigning as treasurer

Rolf is resigning as Vice-Chair

WNS...Marianne has a suggested policy. (See attached)

Marianne is looking for someone to be the volunteer liason between WNS and WCC.

Peri suggested that we run our questions through the NSS liason Peter Youngbear.

WNS lawsuit...regarding the lawsuit to close all federal caves. There was some discussion on what the future might be for federal caves. It was recommended that we wait for the federal meeting in two week and if there is any new information the policy will be rewritten.

Update on Avalanch Cave, right now it is not for sale but may be next year.

Ordway Project. Got a Fish and Game grant and Dan will be getting some information on that.

Steve Hobson will be getting more sale information on Shasta Caverns.

Matt Bowers joined via text to say that there is a website being developed to relay information about Millerton.

Brad Rust advised us that it is a slow moving process to raise Shasta Dam 20 feet. One of the options they are looking at is the concept of putting another dam on the McCloud river branch to block the river upstream from being raised.

Directors are going to be required to be members in good standing and advisors will be required to be members but a waiver can be requested from the WCC board. We will also be updating the web site so it is clear that the memberships are one year from the date of the donation.

Peri explained how life membership for the NSS works and advised how it is profitable for the NSS. Life membership will be revisited at a future meeting.

Volunteer time tracking is tabled until the next meeting.

Advisory Board Reappointments, Jerry suggests we reappoint everyone for a two year term in January. When their term is up, contact to see if they want to be re-appointed . Rolf suggested we add each member of the advisory board to the web site with a blurb about who they are maybe

why they want to be part of the advisory board. Steve suggested we have it a different time than the regular board so maybe the advisory board appointments would be done at the Spring meeting.

One of Martin's goals as the new President would be protection of caves on private lands. Let the landowners know we exist.

WCC needs to take a more active role as a watchdog to find out how protected our public land caves are.

Martin would like to expand the board to cover more of California. He would like to see someone in the far North and someone in the far South as part of the board. Martin would like more volunteers and would like to continue to strip down the bureaucracy. He will always be looking for ways to communicate more effectively.

Motions:

A2010-01-01- Bruce Rogers and Robert "Martin" Haye are hereby re-elected to three-year terms as Directors of the Western Cave Conservancy.

A2010-01-02- Michael Spiess is hereby nominated and elected as a Director of the WCC, with a term ending in January 2012.

A2010-01-03- Robert "Martin" Haye is hereby nominated and elected as President of WCC.

A2010-01-04- Marianne Russo is hereby nominated and elected as Vice President of WCC.

A2010-01-05- Michael Spiess is hereby nominated and elected as Treasurer of WCC.

B2010-01-01- The PR director is hereby authorized to spend up to \$1,300 for PR-related activities in 2010.

B2010-01-02- The Weller Preserve Manager is hereby authorized to spend up to \$1,200 for activities at the Preserve in 2010.

B2010-01-03- Whereas WCC wishes to simplify re-appointment of Advisory Board members and gather additional information about their skills and areas of interest, Resolved that all Advisory Board re-appointments will occur every two years at the spring Board meeting, beginning in Spring 2010; and Resolved that HR Director will contact each former and potential Advisory Board member prior to that time in order to inform them of any relevant changes to Advisory Board procedures, verify their willingness to serve and gather the aforementioned information.

All motions approved unanimously.

Next meeting will be: May 8, 2010.

Respectfully submitted by  
Eileen Belan, Secretary WCC