



The Western Cave Conservancy

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Quarter 2 Minutes for the Meeting of the Board of Directors of April 9, 2011

Held at the home of Eileen Belan, Sacramento, CA

Call to Order: 1:09 pm

Present: Martin Haye, Mike Spiess, Jerry Johnson, Marianne Russo, Eileen Belan, Rolf Aalbu, Pat Helton, Marc Hasbrouck, Bill Papke, Jim Lakner, and Bruce Rogers; Neil Marchington and Kelley Prebil attended via conference phone.

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Minutes were approved by vote.

Any additions to agenda? Jerry: after reading the Windeler Management Plan, noted that it has a section on research and thinks it would be good to add to the Rippled Cave Management Plan. V. & F. Caves will be added to agenda just before food break.

Agenda approved by vote.

Reports Discussion

General:

Dan Snyder is taking over the paperwork on donations that Martin used to handle.

Kelley Prebil and Martin did the new Website, hopefully going to go live tonight.

The Clough Cave gating project was great.

Martin had to amend the 2008 tax filing for the IRS and California.

There's now an updated donor list on the Website.

Martin can now review books on his computer.

Discussion: Should the President personally sign thank-you letters for all donations over \$100? Marianne wants to keep it as it is, but the majority wants to change it to \$500. So donations of \$500 and over will go to the President for a personal note.

Eileen will be stepping down as Secretary at the end of the year; we will be looking for a replacement.

Discussion about how difficult it is to find volunteers.

President's Report:

Work on improvement. Work on Website. Work on Minutes.

Marianne Russo, Vice-President:

Clough Cave project: Old gate repaired and locked and new gate is being welded. Lots of challenges with welding on gate, but Bill Roberts was able to figure out something that worked. We will be going back in the fall to continue the restoration.

M@ Cave: Got a copy of the map from Dr. Bill Broeckel. Have map & article ready for the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report:

Mike Spiess has been working on the year-end. Financial report is done. Accounts are reconciled and current, and forms have been issued. Request with folks with credit cards that he needs statement to reconcile. Has been doing back up in drop-box. Discussion about whether we need a 1099 form.

Secretary's Report:

Eileen Belan: The reminders seem to be working well, and she's including a SASE with each letter. Discussion about revising the system a bit: Mike Spiess suggested first sending email reminders, giving the recipient an opportunity to use an online payment option. Then, if they don't have email or haven't responded in a time, send a paper notice. That could cut our cost of mailing. However, that also causes more work for Eileen, as she'd have to keep checking on who's responded. We need to do that re-checking anyway, reminding people if their renewal hasn't been received & is past due. Rolf Aalbu suggested even asking in the email if people would like a SASE.

Acquisitions Report:

Jim Lakner asked if we'd considered Santa Claus Cave for purchase or gating. Marianne Russo said that the owner, Doug Kettron, is not interested in selling at this point. He may be interested in having a cleanup, but probably not until after it's gated. Martin Hays mentioned that Dan Snyder has several possible leads to pursue and will report on them sometime soon.

Human Relations Report:

Jerry Johnson reviewed his report. There's a question about whether Tracy wants to continue as Editor. There are a couple of Advisory Board members who haven't paid WCC membership; they'll be consulted about whether they want to continue on the Board; they may ask to be excused from paying membership dues for one year. He hasn't had a chance to work on the Board Manual yet.

Public Relations Report:

Marianne Russo reviewed her report. New Website, FaceBook page, info on the Website. There are now 70+ "Friends" on the WCC's FaceBook page that Kelley set up. The newsletter is somewhat delayed because Tracy Audisio, the new editor, is working two jobs now, in grad school, and may need to step down. Bill Papke is willing to help out as (interim?) editor.

One donor asked that their name be listed as "anonymous" on the donor page of the new Website. Anyone can request to be anonymous when making a donation, and this will be made more prominent on the forms and on the Website. Why even list them on the Website or on the FaceBook page? So that viewers will know that others are donating to the WCC and it should encourage more donations.

There was some further discussion about the Website, including comments about the typeface of the new site being marginal.

Neil Marchington has just offered to help out as editor, possibly taking on the position. This will be discussed later.

Bill Papke has included the WCC in his will; there was some discussion about how we can encourage others to do this. It could be mentioned in the thank-you letters, on the donor form & Webpage, in a newsletter article each year or so, etc. Neil Marchington mentioned that the NSS has this option and that it counts towards Conservation membership.

Marianne Russo reminded everyone to consider writing articles for the newsletter. She will also give Kelley Prebil some more info for the Website, and reminded everyone about the upcoming Speleo-Ed at Lodgepole Campground in Sequoia Nat. Park (weather permitting), where there will be a dinner to benefit the WCC as well as Marianne's famous Schnapps Tasting.

Scientific Research Committee Report:

Rolf suggested that "Science Research Committee" is more grammatically correct than "Scientific Research Committee". He's talked with _____ about it, and will talk again. Geo Graening, Tracy Audisio, Joel Ledford, and the Spider Crew were added. Rolf wants to biologically evaluate Rippled Cave, Windeler Cave, & _____ Cave.

Stewardship Report:

Windeler Cave: Mining claims have been filed & recorded, as discussed at the last meeting. The new claims are not held by WCC but rather by individuals who happen to be part of WCC, so that people searching for caves in public records won't note them. The existing placer claim on the property is owned by G. Alexander, acquainted with Ralph Squire (a "dowsing friend"). He gave her a copy of the WCC Newsletter, and she contacted Martin Hays; she is very interested in the cave and wants to see it. Martin explained to her that the cave is not easy to navigate & requires experience. She and another individual have been looking for the cave but have been unable to locate it yet.

The draft management plan has been written and will be submitted to the Forest Service for approval. We'll need to renew our arrangement with USFS soon. Beth Martinez checks in with Phyllis Ashley, who's in charge of the Windeler Cave MOU now.

The committee will work on flagging passages & trails within the cave.

Weller Preserve:

Marianne Russo : It's been a busy quarter, with two official and eight unofficial work days. The north boundary work is finished, and dead manzanita collection in the northeast section is done. There were few vehicle trips. One donation came from a Diablo Grotto caver, Jim O'Neill. A neighbor, Mr. Lilly, contacted Marianne after the SF Bay Chapter trip, because some of the drivers were unsure of the Rippled Cave location & turned around in his driveway. He went out & spoke with them; and he wanted Marianne to know there are San Francisco young folks looking for the cave. The cave map is coming along slowly.

Committee of the Whole

Kitchen equipment:

Kaedeann Doppelmeyer (our "official" WCC Chef) was unable to attend and is represented by Marc Hasbrouck. They suggest that the WCC purchase some kitchen equipment for the

fundraising events (at present, personal equipment belonging to Marc, Kaedean, Eileen Belan, etc. are donated for use at each event). He distributed a list of the proposed equipment (does not include a 3-burner stove; we currently use one belonging to Marianne Russo & Jerry Johnson). The items could currently be stored with Marc & Kaedean. There was also discussion about an individual who has, and may be getting rid of, a trailer with a mobile kitchen; stay tuned. Bill Papke also offered to donate a very large cook pot and some salad bowls. How about a fundraiser drive for this purpose? There was the suggestion to ask who has some of these items to donate (but they need to be high-quality, commercial-grade). WCC receives the proceeds, good PR, and new members from the dinner fundraisers; it was decided to allocate ~\$700 to purchase the needed items.

New Website:

Apparently SquareSpace has a limited number of design options. Should we add photos? There should be no outside photos, but inside-cave photos would be good. Martin Haye has already made some updates to the site. Directors' email addresses @westerncaves.org are available from the Website, and some of the directors are receiving lots of spam. Martin suggested we "hide" the addresses as images so they can't be found via automated searches.

Donor gifts:

Eileen Belan still has a number of the purple WCC thermal mugs and fleece vests, and the storage takes a lot of space; they are also difficult to mail to the donors. Martin Haye will take the remaining purple mugs to Speleo-Ed as giveaways. Martin will also ask for donations towards the cooking equipment fund.

V----- & F----- Caves:

Dan Synder, Martin Haye, Tom Inderkin, and Karole Ward went to find the caves recently. They found that the owner, Tom Kesler, has built a house there. They showed him where F----- Cave is located. He's not interested in selling the property, but may be receptive to a cleanup (V----- Cave's vertical entrance is filling with tossed-in trash). Martin suggested that WCC could do the cleanup; this could help maintain & enhance landowner relations, and the owner seemed interested in allowing occasional visits. There was some discussion. Rolf is interested because both caves have endemic species. Dan has the owner's information, and Martin will contact the owner.

Recruitment:

Need new people on the board, and new Secretary and President. Martin Haye: Kudos to all who have worked so hard on the Board. We'll need to fill the positions of President and Secretary at the end of the year. Suggestions: Peri Frantz for President? Ron Davis—he's currently vice-chair of Western Region, NSS, so may be too busy. Neil Marchington says he's still working on his Master's and working full-time and involved with his grotto work, so he might consider it in a year. Kelley Perbil? Pat Helton? Bill Papke? We need to put job descriptions on the Website. We should also contact those who have participated in work days at Weller Preserve or Clough Cave to see if they're interested in joining the Advisory Board. There was a suggestion about bringing in younger members by offering mentoring. Neil suggested having western grottos put a note in their newsletters asking people to consider applying to be on the Advisory Board. Rolf Aalbualso suggested recruiting reps from different areas around the West to be on the lookout for acquisitions, represent the WCC in that locality,

etc. Neil mentioned that Dale Green has started a cave conservation group in Utah. Could some positions be split and shared by more than one person? That would help to share the work and not overload individuals.

Need a charter for the Scientific Research Committee

Windeler Management Plan:

The Plan needs review by the Board and then should go to the Forest Service very soon. Send comments to Martin right away.

WCC files in Dropbox:

There are currently 10 Gb of documents in the Dropbox. Mike Spiess suggested setting up folders in the Dropbox for storing/archiving these items for future use, and Martin Haye will do that. There's a 50 Gb limit and there's enough space there now.

Should WCC committee members be required to be current WCC members?

Many Windeler committee members are not current WCC members—should they be?

Discussion: If all Advisory Board members must be members, then why not the committee members? On the other hand, the Windeler project is also an “outreach” project, so some of the Windeler workers are local. We could encourage membership among those individuals. Also, contributions of work are sometimes considered as the donation for membership, so perhaps their work should be applied in this way. This would have to be a small percentage of the membership, as we all do WCC work. There was much discussion about this topic, as well as the new member database currently in design. Mike suggested a list of membership types and definitions of them (Regular Member, Associate Member, etc.). There was also a move to appoint Kelley Prebil as the Director of Shakedown or Director of Shame, to get non-members to join the WCC.

Mike Spiess also suggested that the list of Advisory Board members online be linked back to the database so that the online list would always be up-to-date with the actual database.

Advisory board:

Update and alphabetize list? - The list will be updated and alphabetized.

Roger Mortimer would like to join - Roger Mortimer was approved & added to the WCC Advisory Board list.

Categories of memberships:

Also, not a formal motion but the Executive Board will decide on categories of memberships.

New Business:

Marianne Russo moved that Roger Mortimer be appointed to the Advisory Board. Rolf seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mike Spiess moved that the budget for the 2011 events food and supplies category be amended from \$1100 to \$1800 to include purchase of the needed kitchen equipment; efforts will be made to procure any of the equipment at lowest or no cost if at all possible. Jerry Johnson seconded. All in

favor. Motion passed.

Upcoming Meetings

Next WCC meeting: August 20, 2011, at the home of Martin Haye and Dan Snyder in Santa Cruz, CA

Meeting to discuss the membership database: June 4, 2011, at the home of Mike Spiess in Paradise, CA (Mike Spiess, Martin Haye, Marianne Russo, and Eileen Belan)

Adjournment: 4:59 pm