



Western Cave Conservancy

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Minutes for the Spring Meeting of the Board of Directors on Saturday, April 27, 2013

Held at California State University, Chico, CA

Next Meeting:

August 3, 2013, at 1pm at Bruce & Pat's in Fremont, CA

Call to Order: at 1:16p

Attending were: Bruce Rogers (President), Marianne Russo (Secretary), Jerry Johnson (Director of Volunteer Resources), Mike Spiess (VP & Treasurer), Dave Smith (SAG member & visitor), Pat Helton (Recording Secretary)

Attending by phone: Kelley Prebil (Director of Stewardship), Neil Marchington (Director of Special Projects)

Approval of the Agenda

Mike Spiess's name is misspelled on the agenda. With this correction, Marianne moved, Mike seconded; all in favor.

Approval of Draft Minutes of January 19, 2013, Meeting

Mike moved, Marianne seconded; all in favor.

Marianne brought the printed minutes from last meeting, which must be signed by Marianne and Pat so that it can be submitted to our bank (Bank of America).

Officer Reports Discussion

Officers and directors briefly recapped their emailed reports and discussed any questions.

President's Report: Bruce Rogers

Bruce gave a recap of his written report. Re combining the WCC Newsletter with the CalCaver, Mike suggested that perhaps WCC could have an item in each CalCaver rather than devoting one issue each year to the WCC, as Matt Bowers had suggested to Bruce.

Vice-President's Report: Mike Spiess

No activities to report.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Spiess

We're staying within our means. Mike finally got the debit card issues squared away with the bank and was able to send our donations to POST and Sempervirens Fund, per the motions passed at the last meeting. Has not yet heard back from them.

Needs to get the latest list of directors and their terms of service.

Should we have a line item in our budget for continuing membership with other organizations?

It was agreed that we should do that in future budgets.

It was also agreed that the signatories for our bank account should be Mike, Marianne, and Bruce.

Secretary’s Report: Marianne Russo

Marianne recapped her written report. The member database for last year & up to the present for this year is up to date. Sent out renewal letters & thank-you letters. A large number of emails bounced, so she’ll be sending postal letters to them. Now that it’s all up to date, she plans to keep up to date on renewals & thank-you’s. Marianne will ask Martin if he’d like to just forward all WCC mail to her to handle—she can scan checks and handle the necessary processing.

There were a few people who have resigned from their position as Advisors, including Steve Deveny; Steve said that he’d contacted someone in the WCC for some info on Nevada caves and despite repeatedly requesting, never received a response. Bruce will look into the problem and find out how we can work with him.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Relations Committee Report: Vacant Position

No Director; no report.

Acquisitions Committee Report: Bruce Rogers

Bruce reviewed his report and gave more details about his plans for future work. (In the final item under plans for next quarter, the name “David DeVenny” should be “Steve Deveny”.) He also discussed the possibility of working with the Institute for the Study and Integration of Graphical Heritage Techniques (INSIGHT) in Emeryville, CA, to create 3D images of caves, and Mike suggested this could be used in other caves, and the discussion continued to possibly working in a cave in Death Valley. This could be very exciting.

Property Stewardship Committee Report: Kelley Prebil (attending via telephone link.)

Re Jef Levin’s recent trip where the key didn’t work: It’s possible that the key was the wrong one, but it did get twisted somewhat in the lock (it did not break off). Kelley will be going back there with several others soon to investigate the problem. Then Jef can reschedule the trip. They will also do an NCRC pre-plan. No work yet on the ladder inside. (Wayne Cedidla helped with welding the new gate at Weller—perhaps he would be willing to help with work on the ladder. Marianne will contact Wayne to ask him.) Kelley completed her report to the Forest Service.

Mike asked if reports such as this are archived someplace. There was some discussion. Marianne said that we need to talk with Martin about this when we next meet with him to discuss WCC history.

We had more discussion about this issue, using Drop Box or not, etc. Mike proposed making this an Action Item & all agreed that this is critical & we need to find a solution. Mike suggested that we use standard filenames for the reports, and the final decision was, for example, “WCC-2013-04-27 TreasurerRpt”. Dave Smith also strongly urged using PDF for our archives, since Word’s format has changed from .doc to now .docx, and other programs use different formats.

a) Weller Preserve Manager’s Report: Marianne Russo

Marianne reviewed her report. She said that Bruce had called PG&E to look into the cost of running power to the field house at Weller. Bruce said the over-the-phone estimate was very roughly less than \$10,000. Jerry added that he was contacted by a member of the new Redwood

Grotto who said that he has a Bobcat and offered to bring it to Weller if he could be of assistance there. Jerry explained that we're trying to encourage small pine trees so using the Bobcat wouldn't be a good idea there, but thank you! We may be able to get his help to dig a trench to bury the wiring if we do decide to bring power to the field house.

Marianne further discussed vegetation issues and will be trying some new Roundup Pro, applied directly to newly-cut surfaces of some stubborn growth, specifically toyons & madrones.

Rich Sundquist brought his son and other home-schoolers to Rippled and had a day of studying biomes. It was successful.

Volunteer Resources Committee Report: Jerry Johnson

Jerry recapped his report, emphasizing that we have three open directorships, which we need to fill and will be discussed later. On the Advisory Board, we had several people drop out, and many of the Advisors are a year or more in arrears in paying their membership. He discussed the general trend that many people these days are unwilling to volunteer for anything or even to continue attending meetings.

Discussion continued about getting more activity from the Advisors, what we expect and need, etc. There was also discussion about recruiting more Advisors and "advertising" more via the CalCaver, and Neil suggested sending items to the editors of grotto newsletters. It was agreed that we need more PR for the organization, and that these are all good ideas to pursue.

Special Projects Committee Report: Neil Marchington

Community 101 grant—they won it, but don't know how much yet. That money will be sent to the WCC and then we'll redistribute it to the Oregon High Desert Grotto; they will send the receipts with reimbursement forms to us and we will pay them.

Action Item: We need to put a reimbursement form someplace so that people like Neil can access it.

Science Committee Report: Vacant Position

No director; no report.

[Board Recess: 15 minutes - Reconvene as Committee of the Whole for general discussion of issues.]
Break at 3:18p – will reconvene at 3:30p

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

General Issues and Potential Projects:

- 1) ***Schedule Work Meetings:*** *We should schedule at least two more work meetings to continue working on the Board Manual and job descriptions, etc. BRING YOUR CALENDARS!!*
Marianne will call Martin & see when he may be available—looking at May 2-4.
- 2) ***Financial Records updating:***
 - a) *We need to produce a copy of the latest (Jan. 2013) Board Minutes, signed by the Treasurer, Recording Secretary, & Secretary, for Bank of America to update our financial records.*
Done.

b) *Decide just who will be signatories for the Bank of America card.*
Done.

c) *WCC Board Meetings open to the public: Should we make it our policy that all WCC Directors' meetings are open to the public except where confidential matters are to be discussed? Presently only the first yearly meetings are open to the public but most are open to Advisors.*
All agreed to open the meetings. Motion will follow.

3) Director's positions:

a) *In the August 19, 2012, meeting we voted to add three more Director positions to bring our total to 12. Do we need to advise the CA Sec. of State that we did change our Bylaws? Who should do this?*

No. Mike looked this up today and found that it's not necessary.

b) *We need a Public Relations Director and a Science Director. Who can we find to fill these positions? Chuck Chavdarian for PR? Geo Graening for Science?*

Geo and Chuck are both still interested.

Marianne suggested breaking this into several smaller tasks: fundraising; media; presentations; Mike suggested breaking it between internal & external PR. There was a lot of discussion about how best to fill this need. It's much easier when many things are happening, as when we were purchasing Weller, but not so easy now. Mike suggested that perhaps someone could bring more general conservation news to the attention of the members. Jerry added that we have done, and continue to do, several other projects that are worthwhile. For example, Jerry has installed cameras at Weller to identify some of the wildlife—we could do articles about what he's found.

We don't yet have a job description for the Science Director—we need to do that before we speak with an individual about accepting the position. It's now a high priority.

Re "land research", Mike suggested considering how critical a cave is for conservation and try to focus on those that need the most protection.

There was a lot of discussion about the many aspects of this entire issue.

c) *The Vice President's position needs rewriting to make it more useful. Do we have suggestions for tasks to be incorporated?*

Marianne suggested perhaps archiving duties? Mike even mentioned grant writing...?

But that can force an organization to branch into fields that are only marginally related to their original mission. More consideration about this is needed.

4) Speleo-Ed Seminar: *Who is going to the Speleo-Ed (May 17-19 at Millerton Lakes)? We need an up-to-date report to give to the assembled masses at the Western Region meeting that Saturday evening.*

Marianne and Jerry will be going to this, and Marianne will work with Bruce on this report.

- 5) ElevationWeb Design solicitation: *This outfit will donate \$1 for every \$1 the WCC pays ElevationWeb Design to do our web designing and such. Bruce personally thinks that this is a money sink because for every \$1 we get from them we have to pay them an equivalent amount of \$1. Of course they will attempt to get us hundred of thousands of dollars in contributions from the public as part of the deal.*

This isn't really appropriate for us.

- 6) Amazon donations: *Bruce has tried to find out just what is involved with little success. This is what Kip Baumann posted to Kelley Prebil, Marianne Russo, and Bruce on April 7, 2013: "I just became aware of the Southeastern Cave Conservancy receiving up to 5% for purchases made through a link to Amazon from the SCCi website. I certainly spend a fair amount on Amazon and thought it would be great if the WCC could also obtain a similar deal with Amazon. Here's a link to the SCCi website: <<<http://www.scci.org/>>>http://www.scci.org/>."*

Perhaps someone else with such interest can take this over and see just where one can sign up for this?

Mike (Treasurer) will look into this and follow up.

- 7) Check protocols: *Should we change check deposits from Martin to Marianne? Is the current system all right with everyone? Do we need to change this procedure?*

Marianne is very willing to do this, and will talk with Martin about it when we try to meet with him in early May. This could expedite donations and get bills to Mike quickly.

- 8) WCC Wish List: *We have a suggestion for a WCC Wish List. Who will generate this and where should this be posted/published?*

Agreed that we could put this in the grotto newsletters. Bruce asked that each Director bring to the next meeting their suggestions for items we need.

- 9) Mt. Hood Ice Caves Research Grant Request: *"You all may have seen the Feb NSS news story on the Sandy Glacier Caves on Mt. Hood. The Oregon High Desert Grotto is seeking grant funding to cover some of the scientific analysis. In summary, the grotto is trying to piece together some portion of the ~\$3K needed for Glaciologist Gunnar Johnson to do ash deposition, microbiology, and hydrology analysis. The grotto is also seeking an additional \$8K to support the expedition this summer for various equipment and transportation related costs, including a helicopter drop. Much of the equipment is simply too large and heavy to carry up and down the glacier safely. I carried a ~94 lbs pack off the glacier last September, a feat I'd frankly rather never do again. If the conservancy were interested in partnering on some of the research cost it would be highly appreciated. Any amount would be welcome. We fully expect to apply for multiple grants to fund the work." [quote from Neil Marchington]*

There was much discussion about this project and suggestions for other sources of funding. Possibilities include the Western Region, grottos, etc.

- 10) Open discussion about WCC activities/direction/volunteer participation: *Questions, comments and suggestions from meeting attendees. This is a chance to exchange ideas.*

No additional discussion.

- 11) Other items presented at the meeting: None.

MOTIONS:

That the WCC change its policy regarding attendees at board meetings to include any interested members of the community rather than be limited to directors and advisors.

Marianne moved, Mike seconded; all in favor

That the WCC reinstitute the Land Research Committee and recruit a director to oversee this effort.

Marianne moved, Mike seconded; all in favor

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will take place at Bruce & Pat's in Fremont on Saturday, August 3, at 1pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Pat Helton, WCC Recording Secretary

Marianne Russo, WCC Secretary