



Western Cave Conservancy

213 Elm Street ■ Santa Cruz, California 95060

Voice or fax: (831) 421-0485 ■ Email: mail@westerncaves.org

Minutes for the Fall Meeting of the Board of Directors on Sunday, November 02, 2014

*Held at the home of Mark & Sharon Bowers,
4116 Loch Lomond Way, Livermore, CA*

Next Meeting January __, 2015

At the office of Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST),

_____, Palo Alto, CA

Call to Order: at 1:17pm

Attending were: Bruce Rogers (President, Acquisitions Director), Chuck Chavdarian (Director of Land Research), Mark Bowers (Director of Public Relations), Martin Haye (Treasurer), Marianne Russo (Secretary), Pat Helton (Recording Secretary); Advisors: Jim Lakner, Peri Frantz, Bill Frantz, David Weaver

Attending by Skype/phone: Mike Spiess (VP), John Moreno (Advisor)

Approval of the Agenda

Added items: PR Report

Approval of Minutes of the August 17, 2014, Meeting at the home of Bruce Rogers and Pat Helton.

Pat corrected one item in the minutes: Instead of “Approval of Minutes of August 03, 2014” it should have been “Approval of Minutes of May 03, 2014”. Approved by acclamation.

Officer Reports Discussion

The reports were recently emailed to Directors and Advisors. Officers and Directors briefly recapped their emailed reports and discussed any questions.

President’s Report: Bruce Rogers

Recapped his report. Participated in Santa Cruz Land Trust’s San Vicente Redwoods tract public mtgs; they intend to put in a trail system the length of the property, avoiding the mountain lion areas and incidentally the quarry area. Visited the current “dig” going on at Empire Cave...looks good. Visited Mercer Caverns during the Regional and spoke with the manager, Steve Rawlings, who is willing to display our brochures there and also to help host a day when we could be there to help with cave education. Also spoke with Kenny Laidlaw about helping with setting up an East Bay Regional Parks cave inventory. 18 Oct we attended memorial service for Dixie Pierson, bat researcher. Attended the 36th annual Empire Cave Cleanup yesterday. 24 Oct worked with Marianne to help paint the new Tool Shed at Weller Preserve—looks great. Worked with Gretchen Baker on the Lehman Lint Camp, which is covered in the latest Western Caver, along with an article about the WCC.

We have been invited to have our January public meeting at POST Headquarters in Palo Alto. Need to know what day works for us so that we can reserve the day. Suggested Saturday 24 January 2015. (Does not conflict with the CRF Mtg on January 10.)

Discussion about brochures: need more printed; BR said he will start getting those next week; Peri has some stock of the old brochures, David Weaver can take some to Black Chasm in about a week, and they need to be corrected: minimum membership now \$25 rather than \$20, and we have no thank-you gifts to hand out for donations.

Vice-President's Report: Mike Spiess

Vice President is alive, Martin found \$20 discrepancy. Life is good.

Treasurer's Report: Martin Hays

We have been getting statements from the Papke Estate. House was sold recently, it looks like things are winding down on the process, and we should be hearing from them in the next few months. Martin will evaluate & come up with a recommendation for investment.

The financial report shows that our “expenses” at Weller but it should be shown as an improvement on the property. Peri offered to assist with QuickBooks and how to reflect this in our accounting. Martin said that Dan is also learning bookkeeping so he can help as well. Mike said that he was waiting until the power installation at Weller was complete until changing the books.

Martin said that he's hesitant to scan checks and email them unencrypted to Marianne; David Weaver said that in Adobe Acrobat the .pdf file can be encrypted and Marianne will need to login to retrieve it. Good solution.

Jim Lakner later asked about the potential investment into the National Speleological Foundation, as discussed at past meetings. Peri was able to explain how the NSF handles the funds (as an investment broker). Martin previously invested through the NSS, which was handled differently. Martin will continue to look into our investment options so that we'll be able to invest the bequeathment from Papke's estate.

Secretary's Report: Marianne Russo

Marianne said that we received a donation from someone unrecognized; discussion identified the person, who is a non-caver but likes the conservation idea. All agreed that we need a way for the donor to send an email/post a message via the PayPal donation page...

Recapped info from her report. Some suggestions from Martin & Mike about how to post into the database. She said that she's not sending out an end-of-year solicitation for donations this year, as many people have been very generous to us already. She will post a message on FB and to the NSSWest lists thanking everyone for their generosity and saying that she's not sending out an end-of-year this year (that may remind others to send donations anyway).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The reports were recently emailed to Directors and Advisors. Committee Chairs briefly recapped their emailed reports and discussed any questions.

Acquisitions Committee Report: Bruce Rogers

Recapped his report. Visited SanVicente Quarry with Jim Lakner and Nick Schmalenberger and Chuck Chavdarain on August 27. They visited the adit which is the first item we need to map. All the historic records that CEMEX had were destroyed when/before they sold the property to POST in 2010, so we need to do maps and geologic evaluations that may have been done before.

5 Oct Pat & I visited the Gathering of the Native Peoples(ck name) at Coyote Hills. We talked with numerous people there, saying that we're trying to find an appropriate name for a recently-mapped cave in the Las Trampas area. The tribal representatives were very impressed & appreciative that we're trying to "do the right thing" in honoring the historic peoples. We now have several contacts who can assist in finding an appropriate name.

Worked with Chuck Chavdarian on writing/modifying a lease agreement for Cave of the Catacombs.

Will be soon announcing work at San Vicente Redwoods. Will be making a December trip to WhiteMoon Cave with Jessica Oster to retrieve the black boxes & glass plates that were placed there to collect data.

Has discussed w/Chuck Chavdarian about combining this position (Acquisitions Director) and his (Land Research Director).

Land Research Committee Report: Chuck Chavdarian

Last mtg reported on continuing talks with Mr. R. H--- about lease/purchase of CotC land. Recapped his report here... Mr. H--- has now approved the draft lease and wants to meet to sign it. Now working on a date to meet. He also thought we might be interested in another parcel that he owns (parcel 20). Bill Frantz said that if, toward the end of the 5-yr lease, Mr H--- wants to go with a conservation easement, talk with Bill because he's done a lot of research into conservation easements. So over the 5 years we need to be consistently "good neighbors" and work hard on the cave gating and visitation. Someone commented that we don't have "recreational" as one of the purposes of visitation, but "educational" is still one of the purposes; many visits could be "educational". Peri mentioned that we should have a management plan, and Mark commented that we need good trip leaders to promote education. Our first obligation will be installing the three gates, and they should be bat-friendly (David Weaver has seen bats there). One of the gates will be non-openable to secure a small opening.

David Weaver said that yes, he would be willing to help work on this project several hours per month. Mark Bowers agreed that he'd also be interested in working on the project.

Once this agreement is in place, we can then talk with the neighbors who own the Sink Cave property.

Chuck Chavdarian also has found another native American name for the cave at Las Trampas.

Public Relations Committee Report: Mark Bowers

He has nothing to report for the past quarter, but plans to start a blog. He will send writings to others for review before officially posting or emailing them. He's talked w/ Matt Bowers about filming that KNPB wants to do...more discussion will be done about this.

July 16, 2016 should be reserved for a major event in Ely NV. This will be part of the opening ceremonies for the Convention. They will be presenting a \$20K mural to the city, commemorating the discovery of Lehman Caves, and it would be important for the WCC to have a large presence for that event.

Re the membership list w/emails: Pat will send this to him, preferably before leaving today.

Special Projects Committee Report: Neil Marchington

Neil was unable to attend this meeting. He did send a report that Bruce Rogers recapped at the meeting.

Stewardship Committee Report: Kelley Prebil

She sent her email report this morning but was not able to attend (the "official" report was cleaned up and edited by Bruce Rogers):

=====

Hi all!

I'm on my cell phone so this isn't in proper format by any means. I've been busy with job interviewing, packing, moving back to SF, and unpacking so I haven't had any time this quarter to properly give attention to my WCC duties.

We did have an Out-of-Area trip to Windeler in September led by Ron Davis. I'm still working on rescheduling mine to try and fit it in before the end of the year. My schedule and Mother Nature may squash that though. We really need that rain though!!

I'm mostly moved in now so hopefully once the dust settles I'll be able to focus more on Windeler. One thing the committee was discussing was changing the number of trips per year (downgrading) and possibly the format of how we have everything. Stay tuned!

Kelley
Kelley Prebil
kelly@pearlsgirl.com

=====

a) Weller Preserve Manager's Report: Marianne Russo

It's been a very busy quarter at Weller. They've been planning to built the Tool Shed a few years ago and this year really tried to get it going. Jerry has had health issues this quarter and that redirected attention at times. Between Konrad and Terry and Marianne, they got a lot of work done on the shed. The roof is on and most of the painting is done. They will then build a deck between the Tool & Stool Sheds, and Jim & Claire Lakner donated a lot of pavers which will be used around the deck and near the building.

Power is now installed at the Preserve! Power has been run to the building and it's already been useful to run extension cords to work on the Sheds with power tools! There was a lot of support for this project and it's a big improvement in the property. Marianne explained about the PG&E requirements that we spend at least \$123/year for the first three years, and then that requirement is completed.

The possibility of drilling a well was discussed and it's not in our plans because it is too costly.

She has prepared and submitted a budget for next year.

(Konrad?)[yes] will help with the sheetrocking. If possible, they will start work again on the vegetation management soon. There was more discussion about internet and the toilet and options: septic tank, vault serviced twice a year, do we need a 30-gal tank for water to flush, etc?

b) Windeler Cave Report: Kelley Prebil

Martin said that the security system at Windeler is not working. Mark said that Galen Herbert (a friend of his) is interested in and very willing to help with this. Martin and Galen will talk about it and see what they can accomplish.

Public Relations Committee Report: Mark Bowers

a) General Report on Activities: Mark Bowers

b) WCC Newsletter: Vacant Position

No director; no report.

Science Committee Report: Vacant Position

No director; no report.

Volunteer Resources Committee Report: Vacant Position

Marianne Russo reported that Jerry Johnson is stepping down as Committee Chair. Bruce and others said that they'd like to have him remain as a Director if he's willing—he has a great deal of knowledge about our issues and we value his advice as a Director.

Board recess (10 min) at 3:05pm – Reconvened at 3:21pm as Committee of the Whole for general discussion of issues.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

General Issues and Potential Projects:

1) *Scheduled Work Meetings:* *After the success of several small working group meetings, we should schedule more work meetings to continue working on the Board Manual, Job Descriptions, etc. BRING YOUR CALENDARS! There are several items that need working on in the near future, including re-writing the VP position and looking for a new Newsletter Editor as well as Volunteer Resources and Science Directors.*

Any interest in a work meeting during this busy period? Mark Bowers was interested, and others agreed. We all agreed on a tentative date of 07 December 2014 at our house, 11am-ish.

2) *With the change in facilities available at Weller Preserve/Rippled Cave, where should we go from here? Should the current usage continue or should we explore other uses of the Preserve and cave?*

Some suggestions were made, but it was agreed that at this point we shouldn't really attempt to encourage a greater number of events there. A caving trip once or twice a month, the occasional First Aid or NCRC training, some vertical practices, etc. are reasonable uses. The limiting factors would be parking and the Stool Shed capacity. We could also promote the cave & field house use for grottos via blog & newsletters. We could also rent a Port-a-Potty for large events like NCRC trainings so that we (Marianne) don't have to service our own potty so often.

There was also a bit of discussion about how to pay for a Port-a-Potty that would be serviced on a regular basis. Marianne will find out how much it costs. We also discussed the various possibilities of asking for donations to help pay for our expenses.

3) *Wish List:* *Should we continue attempting to discuss this or have our efforts to obtain needed items via email, telephone, and word of mouth bringing in the needed items/funds without a formal Wish List?*

At Weller we will need ladders (Marianne & Jerry will be removing theirs, and the ladder into the Big Room needs to be replaced also), basic tools, portable heater, etc. Marianne commented that we really don't want lots of castoff items that aren't much use there, but we definitely could use a futon or other such item where someone could lie down if they became ill or injured there. We also need items for other areas besides Weller, such as educational signs. This would help promote the WCC to the public, who could then go to our Website and make donations. We could also post signs thanking specific donors for specific items.

This led to a side discussion about Education—should that be a separate position or combined with PR and split off when it develops more fully?

4) Combining the Acquisitions and Land Research Director's positions: *It appears that these two positions overlap to a great degree. Should we combine them?*

It was agreed that the positions can be combined. Motion will follow.

5) Cooking gear: *We have a modestly large amount of cooking gear that was returned to us this spring. Marianne and Jerry do not have room to store this anymore. Where should this go for storage?*

It would be nice to find a new Banquet Coordinator who could put on meals at events like the Regional, but we don't have someone at this point. Marc Hasbrouck did a very good inventory of the equipment. It was suggested to store it at Weller for now, and that seemed like a pretty good temporary solution.

The discussion continued to discuss the ladders at Weller. In the past, a ladder was used to access the Big Room, but it's no longer being used for that. The problem is that by providing a ladder for cave access means we are inviting visitors and thus negating the California Sportsman's Law –i.e. opening us up to law suits. Thus visitors will have to bring their own ropes & vertical gear to access the Big Room.

6) Other items presented at the meeting:

None.

Re Bank of America Signatories: Marianne is the only current signatory, and it should currently be Marianne Russo (Secretary), Martin Haye (Treasurer), and Bruce Rogers (President). All three individuals need to be at the same bank at the same time, and they need to have a copy of the minutes reflecting that the Board agreed who should be signatories and authorizing them. Marianne, Martin, and Bruce will get together and come up with a date that they can meet at the bank and make this happen.

Peri inquired about the possibility of the WCC sponsoring a Western Speleological Library. There are 3 issues: what to include in it (digital or paper or both), where to host it, who would organize/run it. Due to these unresolved issues, nothing has yet been done about it. Bruce explained that he has received personal libraries from several individuals and is preserving as much as possible; some boxes of documents were recently sent back to the NSS HQ via the Frantz's. At this point, however, there is no official WCC policy about sponsoring/hosting a library.

Brief board recess to craft motions arising from discussions and reports as needed.

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

MOTIONS:

Appointments of new Board of Directors – if applicable:

None needed.

Appointments to Advisory Board – if applicable :

None needed.

Any policy decisions coming out of the Committee of the Whole:

Whereas the duties and responsibilities of the Acquisitions Director and the Land Research Director overlap and are often redundant, be it resolved that those two Committees are combined into the Acquisitions Committee and that the Land Research Committee is dissolved; and that Bruce Rogers is stepping down as Acquisitions Director, and that Chuck Chavdarian is appointed to be the Acquisitions Director.

Martin moved, Marianne seconded, all in favor.

Resolved that Marianne Russo (Secretary), Robert “Martin” Hays (Treasurer), and Bruce Rogers (President) are authorized to be signatories on all Western Cave Conservancy accounts.

Mark moved, Chuck seconded, all in favor.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Board of Directors (our Annual Public Meeting) will take place at the Headquarters of Peninsula Open Space Trust, Palo Alto, CA, on January 24, 2015, at 1pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:03p.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Pat Helton, WCC Recording Secretary