

*Type of Conference Call: Officers Meeting*

*Date of Conference Call: Monday, 25 April 2005 . 9-11am PST*

*Attendees: Pat Ormsbee, Alice Chung-MacCoubrey, Toni Piaggio, Cori Lausen, Mike Herder, Tim Snow, Ted Weller. Meeting notes recorded by Alice.*

*Conference Call Objectives: (Pat Ormsbee) Develop items to be included in WBWG's work plan for the next 2 years and beyond. The work plan will include information on*

- 1) What tasks to focus on,
- 2) What infrastructure is needed?,
- 3) Who will do what?
- 4) Timeframe?

All board members have reviewed Toni's summary of the 3/05 questionnaire. Pat summarized

the content from responses to the questionnaire in the following bullets:

*1. WBWG needs a work plan with goals & mission*

*Mike* - There is a rough draft for a mission statement on the website, but it has never received comments, edits, and final revisions.

All agree they should be revisited, edited, and polished as necessary. Also take a look at the bylaws. Make changes only as necessary, respecting efforts of those who drafted the bylaws.

*2. Involvement with states and their Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies (which are due in Nov.)?*

*Pat* suggests that a small committee write a letter to governor of each state that 1) identifies WBWG is, 2) identifies their state working group representative, 3) inquires on status of strategic plan and encourages them to be sure bats are considered, 4) offers assistance to ensure bats are inserted in the state plan. At next conference call (this Wed.), *Pat* will present this idea (the letter) to state representatives and receive feedback on whether the letter will be useful and what types of information should be included. Subsequently, *Pat* & *Toni* will draft a letter. May also want to note our intention to send letter on website?

Discussion of CWCSs: They must mention bat species or critical bat habitats to facilitate future federal funding for research and management of these species & issues. Some of these CWCS refer to the State Bat Plan.

*3. Connections with other groups*

“What are the key groups to connect with and how to make them stronger?”

Groups such as NABCP, IUFWA, state agencies, federal agencies, Coalition of NA Bat Working Groups, Mexican government/organizations....

*Tim* - NABCP was our representation with IUFWA. When NABCP lost its coordinator, this connection was lost.

Pat will put this question out to members at the conference call on Wed.. Regarding IUFWA contact, Pat designates *Tim* to be our coordinator/contact with IUFWA.

Be sure to ask group if they feel WBWG should initiate stronger relationship with Mexican governments/universities/organizations.

#### *4. Funding*

*Pat* - Responses to questionnaire addressed funds for WBWG, WBWG activities, and other work, training, research, etc.. WBWG's first priority should be to determine what sort of membership issues must be complied with in order to meet requirements of nonprofit status (e.g. membership dues, etc.)? Second- Work plan should state that we will assess needs and sources of funding for WBWG activities (conferences, business, & special projects) based on feedback from questionnaire.

*Cori* - One way to secure operating funds for WBWG is to use nonprofit status to serve as umbrella for others applying for funding (i.e. others apply under WBWG name). WBWG would accept funds, take 10% (or other) for overhead, and distribute funds to group.

#### *5. Research*

*Pat* - Questionnaire indicates a desire to re-establish the participation of researchers in WBWG. That WBWG should also provide support to researchers. This may be best addressed via a research subcommittee in WBWG. Ask researchers to sit on this committee. Research community should provide input into priorities- rather than priorities be dictated solely by management. Research committee members could provide reviews of papers that could be made available on website.

Another questionnaire topic that may fit into this category - Hazardous Fuels.

Very specific topic, but very pertinent issue today on public lands. Research committee identifies priorities (such as hazardous fuels management) and send out to members/state land managers for comments about priorities. Research committee might develop position statement?

#### *6. Databases*

*Pat* - Questionnaire had several requests for a centralized database. This might be too large a task for this organization? Pat suggests making available a database template on website (from database used by USFS).

*Ted* - thinks an interactive database would be very useful. Something to think about – long time in the future. At minimum, website could provide WBWG member contacts for advice on different topics? Concern was expressed that these 'contacts' don't have time to regularly provide individual advice.

*Pat* - Work plan topics will include: 1) Short-term objective: display info on what databases are out there. 2) Long-term questions: Should we work on an interactive database some day?, Should we develop core data standards based on WBWG protocol (data elements & standards for collecting elements)?

#### *7. Education*

Create an education subcommittee to address topics in questionnaire. Perhaps *Juliette Craig* will head this group?

## 8. Training

*Pat* - Work plan topics will include:

- 1) At minimum, post info on website about existing training opportunities,
- 2) Look to co-sponsor some training,
- 3) Determine if we want to provide our own training on topics like WBWG protocol.

## 9. Inventory & Monitoring

*Pat* - Work plan should address the dissemination and implementation of WBWG protocol and training of individuals on protocol. Include database topic (#6 above) as subset of this section?

## 10. Newsletter & website

*Toni* - There was a large positive response for an electronic newsletter. However, it could be quite a bit of work.

*Cori* - Need not be a lot of work if snippets are submitted to newsletter editor and combined into one document. One advantage of newsletter is that it would keep WBWG in forefront of member's minds.

*Pat* - Need to decide on content, delivery method (website vs. email), frequency, who would create it?

*Cori* - will take lead initially, collect comments on content, and recruit help from membership.

*Mike* - We must make sure newsletter gets on website. Suggests one subcommittee to cover newsletter and website- to better coordinate information in these 2 venues. *Mike* is willing to continue with maintaining website.

*Pat* - will draft workplan from Alice's notes and send out to board for review.

## 11. Action Items -

1. Provide *Pat* with a short biosketch and a photo of yourself for posting on website. Include your position in WBWG, occupation, bat interests- , etc.
2. Think about Board meeting at next NASBR. *Pat* would like entire Board there. Perhaps subcommittee meetings if appropriate.
3. If you have not already, provide *Pat* with personal contact information (phone and mailing address) so she can reach you.

## 12. Next Board meeting/conference call - Friday, May 27 from 9:00-11:00 am PST (10:00am MST)

Topics - 1) comments on draft work plan and 2) nonprofit status update. Alice will be absent.