

Minutes for the Western Bat Working Group Officers Conference Call December 13, 2007

Attending:

Pat Ormsbee - President
Toni Piaggio - Vice President
Brad Phillips – Treasurer
Michelle Caviness - Secretary
Cori Lausen - Member at large
Erinn Shirley - webmaster
Pat Brown – Member at large
Jason Williams – Member at large

Agenda:

SD working Group request – Brad
Forum Process - Erinn
Action Plan – Pat O.
Bylaws, Financial Plan – Brad
Mining Letter – Pat O. and Michelle
Conference calling
Conference 2009

South Dakota Bat Working Group would like to start an educational book fund. They would like to advertise the donations as tax-deductible under WBWG 's tax exempt status. These books come as a set of 12 and cost \$200. The books are on different species of bats and are put out by the Abdo Publishing Co. and are part of the Checkerboard Animal Library Series. SDBWG would solicit for donations to buy the books and then would donate the books to local schools. SDBWG would like to share this idea with other state working groups. Brad has offered to keep track of the donations and keep that business separate from WBWG. Pat O. suggests we give this a try with South Dakota and if everything works out we will extend to other states. She also suggests WBWG take a small percentage (1 – 2%) of the donation. Brad asked that for now let's not take an 'WBWG overhead tap' and see what time and expense WBWG actually incurs. We will bring this idea up to the rest of the board during the next call. Pat suggests that this endeavor is coordinated with Deb Crough and the environmental education committee. **Brad** is going to get more info on the books and do a short write up on the methods that SDWG is using and post on the website.

Website Forums – Erinn is going to install the software and set the forums up. Board members are going to take turns being moderators. We will keep the forum closed for now until we work the kinks out. Erin needs suggestions for different discussion threads for the forums. Pat O. suggests we have specific forums unique to some of the issues the different committees are dealing with, ie. Wind energy, mines, education, etc. There will be a general category forum for issues that don't follow under a committee. The different committee members would manage the forums dealing with their topics. Once the kinks

are worked out we will send a notice through NASBR introducing the forum and different topics. We expect to announce this in the next couple of months.

Erin will email the officers when the forum is set up. The officers will get on and familiarize themselves with the forum and moderating. Toni and Pat O. will be the first moderators.

Action Plan – Edits are done, unless there is more feedback. Pat O. needs to know who is on what committee so that she can put names by the appropriate tasks.

Bylaws and Financial Plan – Brad sent out a draft. The biggest change is the fairly aggressive election process. The beginning of the process is moved up a bit requiring the election committee to do more work upfront. Brad is looking for input from the officers on the new system and schedule outlined in the election guidelines. He is proposing doing the election at the 1st of the year and then doing the transition at the spring meeting. **Pat O.** needs to put an action in the Action Plan for the election committee. The **officers** need to look at the bylaws and send comments to Brad by Jan 9th. Some things may change later in the bylaws, eg. Membership fees. **Brad** is going to send a reminder out requesting edits with the documents attached. When the bylaws are finished, they will be sent to each officer and board member to sign. **Erinn** is going to look into a way to have the documents signed electronically on the website.

Financial Plan – At this point the document is very rough. It was sent out with Pat's edits. **Brad** is going to get with a couple of other organizations to get examples of financial plans. He is also going to contact BCI and to ask for advice and inquire about legal council to help with the financial plan. With the new non-profit status and donations coming in we need to make sure we prepare the financial plan correctly. Brad is going to work on a list of donations that are coming in and from where. He is also going to list expenditures. Brad will give an update on the next conference call.

Mining Letter – Michelle is working on everyone's edits. Pat O. wants to review and then the letter will be sent to the mining committee to edit. The mining committee will assist in deciding who will get a copy of the letter. Jason would like to have a FS contact on the committee that has Washington ties. Pat O. will send Jason some contact info.

Conference Calling – Brad and Cori looked into possibilities and found that they are super expensive. There is an option of having a conference number that everyone can call, but then each person is billed separately for the call, similar to making a long distance call. Pat O. suggests that we approach a state agency to set up a conference line and then bill WBWG. Jason suggests we approach an agency with a request to cover (sponsor) the conference call costs for the next 2 years. He will ask Mike Herder about the possibility of BLM covering the costs and will also ask his agency (Nevada Dept. of Wildlife). We will bring this topic up during the next conference call.

2009 Conference – We need to organize a committee. We will bring up during the next call. Pat O. suggests we ask the committee from last year. She will talk to Ted. We

need to decide what we need before we bring up to the rest of the board. We will put this topic off until the next call. Michelle will go through the notes with Angie on what positions need to be filled.

The next Officers call is on January 17, 2008 1:00 – 3:00pm PST.