

**Minutes for the Western Bat Working Group  
Conference Call June 14, 2007**

Attending:

Pat Ormsbee – President  
Toni Piaggio – Vice President  
Michelle Caviness – Secretary  
Erinn Shirley – Website – NM  
Steve Langenstein – OR  
Trish Griffin – NM  
Laura Friis – BC  
Rita Dixon – ID  
Lisa Wilkinson – AB  
Dan Taylor – BCI  
Kristi DuBois - MT  
Angie McIntire – AZ  
Rob Schorr – CO

Agenda Items:

Website  
Newsletter  
Wind Energy Committee  
Education Committee  
Action Plan  
2009 WBWG conference  
Round Robin

**Website**

Mike Herder moved on and can't manage the website. It was passed on to Erinn (BLM). Erinn took over about 3 months ago. Scott Peterson agreed to take over management after he gets back from the Caribbean in July. Erinn is very interested in continuing her work on the website. Since we are not sure if Scott will want to take over, collaborate or be happy not to have the extra work, Pat O. will hand the website duties over to Erinn for the time being and then discuss its status with Scott ASAP.

Erinn would like the group to look at the website updates and give her feedback on the website. She said she could create a photo album from the meeting in Tucson. She also mentioned that she could create a form for visitors to ask questions. If we decided to do that then we would need to decide who would deal with the emails from that.

One of the things Erinn added to the website includes a contact page for state and provincial reps that connects to the state/province website. Toni mentioned that it would be good to have a link to State/Province Plans. Other links discussed were links to WAFWA, the Action Plan, Educator information, a page about Bat/Wind Energy Issues

that has a link to BCI wind energy work and a link to the information that the wind energy committee comes up with. The wind energy newsletter will go under the “papers” link.

Erinn mentioned that the newsletter link only has two copies of past newsletters. The Fall 2006 and Spring 2006 newsletters are currently the only ones available on the website. Kristi will send past copies to Erinn. For now, Erinn is going to put her contact information on the website as the webmaster.

Pat O. will send a message out to the board to go to the website and give feedback to Erinn. Need feedback of what went for the website, how well it is working now and how to improve further. We are on hold until we hear from Scott. No updates will be done until then.

### **Newsletter**

This spring’s newsletter will morph into a summer newsletter. The newsletter will primarily be a summary of the 2007 meeting in Tucson. The newsletter will include the meeting schedule with links that jump to the abstract of each talk. Some speakers sent web links also which will be available. The newsletter is almost finished. Kristi needs pictures from the meeting to add to the newsletter. Pat O. will send out an email asking members to send pictures from the conference to Kristi for the newsletter. Kristi will be out of town for a few days and won’t be able to finish newsletter which will give folks time to send pictures in.

Erinn offered to help Kristi with the newsletter in the future.

Angie joined that call and said she would send an email to the meeting attendees requesting pictures from the conference to follow up Pat’s email.

The group decided on a deadline of next Wednesday to get the newsletter out. If photos come after that then Kristi will send them to Erinn to put on the website.

### **Wind Energy**

The wind energy committee is evaluating the report from Barclay to the WBWG asking support for a large-scale arm banding of migratory bats in order to address several issues with bat mortalities and wind farms. The committee is gathering information to submit to the board to evaluate and decide if the WBWG wants to endorse banding of migratory bats. The information gathered includes success and failures of past banding studies. This information will be put into a database. The board will review the information and make a decision on whether to support banding or not.

Sandy Wolf is collecting information to develop the database. The database will be a living document and population as information comes in. Once the database is

populated, Rob will ask individual committee members to provide their opinions/concerns instead of doing this as a group. It is too hard for the group to come to a consensus.

The wind energy committee consists of: Robert Barclay, Dixie Pierson, Sandy Wolf, Pat Brown, Dave Johnson and Rob Schorr. Right now there are no rehabbers on the committee, but the committee will solicit input.

Rita said she would be interested in being on the committee, but would like to see the original proposal. Rob is not sure if he has the original or the revised version. Since Robert Barclay is in Africa Rob will just send the version he has to Pat and she will send it to the group.

### **Education and Action Plan**

The last board conference call focused on the bylaws and action plan. The action plan is in the process of being updated. When the board is finished with the updates Pat will send it out to the reps to look at and comment.

During the last conference call the board also discussed how better to support Deborah. Deborah submitted a lesson plan that the board is in the process of reviewing. Pat offered Amy Hart to help Deborah. Amy probably won't be able to help until the end of the summer. Pat also emailed Bats Northwest and BCI – Barbara French about helping out, but haven't heard back yet. Dan mentioned Kari Gaukler is the new education person at BCI. Kari is pretty overwhelmed with the BCI workshops and right now there is no director or head of education at BCI. Pat asked the group to let her or Deborah know if there is anyone that might be interested. Lisa mentioned a couple of folks in Alberta that might be interested and will follow up on that.

The group decided that it would be good to identify local resources in each state and province that teachers can find on the website when they are looking for a contact to help with lesson plans, etc.

The education committee (Deborah with help) will continue to put curriculum online. We are working on getting a committee.

The board discussed sending Deborah and a helper to the National Teacher Science Conference to demonstrate bat conservation. We are still trying to find a person interested in assisting Deborah.

### **2009 Conference**

We have two proposals: A formal proposal from Ed Arnett for Austin, TX and a verbal offer from Kristi for Montana.

We will put making a decision off until later because of the summer field season. We will get the invitations out to the members. We need to get things laid out by fall so that we can get a contract with a hotel. Rita brought up that if we go to Montana that we might want to go later in the year because of weather.

We will get the proposals for the meeting sites in the newsletter asking members to let their state reps know what their preference is for the meeting location. In the fall we will vote after we have a feel from the members on where they want to go.

### **Round Robin**

Lisa – Alberta: Cori defended!!

Laura – British Columbia: Funding to work on long ears for Cori and Dave? This work will be on the central coast in the valley east of Vancouver. Work includes full spectrum acoustics (Anabat and Petterson) and genetics. Species included are *Myotis keeni*, *Myotis evotis*, *Myotis thysodes*, and *Myotis lucifugus*. Fish biologists will be taking acoustic equipment with them when they survey lakes.

Received funding to work on the website. Susan is working on that.

Rita – Idaho: Nothing new on bats. Chuck Harris is in the hospital.

Steve – Oregon: Medford BLM and Rogue River NF are doing remote sensing on Table Rocks. They are hoping to do acoustic for *Euderma*. So far they have been getting good information, but they are searching for *Euderma* and have not detected them in the initial survey.

Oregon bat grid is starting. Lakeview BLM (south eastern OR) had a training refresher for the bat grid surveys. They are also conducting a cave inventory across the District. If anyone is interested in working there please contact Dave Draham at the Lakeview BLM office.

Pat Ormsbee and Ray Davis are working on a Cave Resource Database.

There is a BLM cave management class that has been postponed due to low enrollment. If anyone is interested email Jim Goodbar at [James\\_Goodbar@blm.gov](mailto:James_Goodbar@blm.gov) for available dates for a class rescheduling.

Angie – Arizona: Dept of Agriculture Wildlife Survey is doing a rabies virus bat study throughout the state. Blood and saliva samples are taken to see if the bats are actively shedding the virus. The study is going on all summer.

Bat Implementation Grant Cycle Proposals are due Monday. Game and Fish make money available for agencies/units to do actions on AZ Bat Plan. WAFWA conference

in July in Flagstaff. There will be an update on Townsend's Big-eared Bat Conservation Agreement.

Some people left the call before the Round Robin. No information for those states.

Next conference call on July 19<sup>th</sup>.