

Minutes to the Western Bat Working Group
Conference call May 2, 2007

Attending: Pat Ormsbee-President
Michelle Caviness – Secretary
Brad Phillips – Treasurer
Cori Lausen – Member at large
Pat Brown – Member at large
Jennifer Newmark – Nevada
Jason Williams – Nevada
Rita Dixon – Idaho
Trish Griffin – New Mexico
Marylou Schnoes – Oregon
Steve Langenstein – Oregon
Dan Taylor – Bat Conservation International
Nancy Renison - New Mexico
Christi Dubois – Montana
Angie McIntire – Arizona
Brownwyn Hogan - California

Round Robin Discussion:

Nevada - Jennifer announced a possibility for a Nevada Bat Blitz this summer (July 16-20) to attempt to survey mines scheduled for closing. The surveys will be near Tonopah. **Michelle will give Jennifer contacts for the Bat Blitz** (Michelle will be on a detail this summer in Coos Bay District BLM.)

Arizona – Angie and crew are cleaning up the final portions of the contracts from the WBWG meeting in Tucson. Things look in good order and no problems predicted.

Arizona Game and Fish Department will be issuing Bat Grants this year and applications are due June 9.

New Mexico – Trish is beginning bat surveys in pinyon-juniper sites. The discussion led to capture records of LANO and the genetic analysis of this species. Trish would be working with Dan Taylor - BCI on water source demonstration opportunities.

Idaho -Rita has some mine closures beginning, so she is doing some mine surveys this year. Jenny Taylor is trying to fund some surveys in Northern Idaho.

Montana – Christi will be working with Jenny Taylor to fund surveys on U.S. Forest lands in MT. Cori Lausen may also be involved in conducting acoustic monitoring along Flathead Lake using AnaBat for year round monitoring. The

group cautioned about the values of the acoustic surveys and there were concerns voiced to ensure that objectives are appropriate for this type of survey.

Oregon – There are some mine closure concerns in the Southeast portion of the State. There may be a gate project proposed for that area for 2007.

Marylou gave an update on the status of the Oregon Bat Working Group gathering at the Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society. There were very few people, but there was a discussion on the licensing of people to conduct exclusions. ODFW is working on statewide exclusion guidelines. These should be on the BCI website, and they provide some training on the subject also. The WBWG may develop a statement and post it on the website in the future.

Brownwyn Hogan – California, gets calls for BCI trained excluders or for people who meet BCI criteria. Marylou commented that Nytasha Walton had a request for engineer specifications to retrofit a bridge for bat habitation. Greg Ericson from California Transportation Department was mentioned as a source.

California – There is a review of the California wild power guidelines underway. This will be completed by May 15, and Brownwyn will make it available when possible. **Pat Ormsbee will provide it to the WBWG wind power committee.** California will have a Bat Conservation plan meeting in June and will be working on the range changes identified for their bat species.

Alberta – Cori reported that the Alberta Bat Action Team hopes to have a report of progress out by early June. They are also developing recommended qualifications needed for handling bats.

British Columbia received some money to survey the Coastal areas for long eared bats.

The Bat Conservation Plan is expected to be finish soon and the Northwest Territories purchased an AnaBat and will be starting some extensive surveys for range determinations.

BCI- surveys are scheduled for Montana,, Idaho, Nevada, and New Mexico. Dan will also be looking at testing water tank sizes and designs for bat safe drinking information. Information should be on the BCI website soon. This is a cooperative project which includes several ranchers who have an interest in bat conservation. This relates to the livestock watering publication which should also be on the BCI website. Dan Recommended that surveyors contact the “Land Trust” to assist in gaining access for conducting surveys on private lands.

Report on the Tucson Meeting

Pat Brown reported \$2100 to \$2300 was raised from the auction, silent auction and raffle. It was strongly recommended that the funds for the raffle be kept

separate in future events to reduce the confusion and provide better accounting. She made a strong request to send out a “Thank you” to all donors who were so generous to the organization. **Michelle Caviness and Pat Ormsbee said they would get on that right away and the letters would be their receipt for a tax deductible donation.** Pat encouraged everyone to begin now to think about auction items for the next event. There was a discussion on the strategy for combining the raffle and the auction in order to create and maintain a momentum for the auction. Rita suggested either providing an “Endangered Species” chocolate bar at reservation time or putting some in the auction. This is very popular at other meetings.

Pat Brown is on the “banding” committee for WBWG. The committee consists of 6-7 people who are trying to gather guidelines of banding bats. Dixie encourages a pilot study to use radio transmitters on wild bats to recapture them and assess for banding issues. **For the next conf. call there should be a banding discussion on the agenda.**

Nancy and Brad reported that there were 121 people attending the Tucson meeting and that 85% used the early registration.

\$13800.00 was generated through registration; all bills generated have been paid except \$1164. 00. In the end Brad feels the conference paid for itself (broke even). With the contributions from the fund raisers and what was contributed by several States there should be a balance of about \$14000 in the account which will be put in a high interest account.

The feed back form the questionnaire pointed out that Arizona did an outstanding job organizing this meeting. All felt this was a very successful meeting. One notable comment was that students felt very comfortable in the group and presenting papers. The poster session was difficult because of conflicts and short time frames before going to the field trips. It was also suggested that a tech session be tried again next meeting (as in Portland). Many “Thanks” go to Angie, Nancy, Tim and everyone from Arizona who worked so hard to make this an excellent meeting.

Erin Shirley has been working on re-doing the WBWG website. It is taking shape and looking good but there are still some things to work out with the menu buttons at the top of the page. **Pat will try to assist Erin by having her contact Scott.**

Other Items

The WBWG Action Plan is being revamped by the officers. Review and adoption will be by whole Board.

The next NASBR meeting is planned to be in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, 20 -23 August, 2007. Abstracts are due May 30 and early registration is due May 15 (see the NASBR website).

Pat Ormsbee and Mary Kay Clark will be putting together a questionnaire on bat conservation priorities that will go out to WBWG reps and results will be presented in Merida at the International Bat Research Symposium.

All representatives are requested to start pulling together information for the next WBWG newsletter.

The next conference call has been scheduled for Monday June 14th, at 10:00a.m. PST.