

## **Minutes for the Western Bat Working Group Board of Officers Call March 19, 2008**

### **Attending:**

Pat Ormsbee  
Pat Brown  
Toni Piaggio  
Brad Phillips  
Cori Lausen  
Michelle Caviness

### **Agenda:**

Membership Survey  
Bob Berry Memorial Fund  
Forums  
Website  
Mines/committee letter  
Conference 2009  
WNS  
Wind workshop  
Newsletter

**Membership Survey:** Toni reported that out of 391 surveys sent 127 were returned, approximately 32% response. Approx. 80% of those who answered the survey were in favor of paying membership dues over making tax deductible donations. The majority of those that responded favored paying \$20 membership fees.

50-55% would like to be able to pay via credit card online. About 80% of those that responded were in favor of paying \$150 conference fees.

**Pat B.** is going to check with the western section of the wildlife society to see what happened when they went to accepting credit cards online—was there an increase or decrease in membership and how hard was it to keep track of who paid and who didn't.

We need to be able to justify why we are accepting dues and come up with a plan to do the transition to paying dues.

Part of the perks to paying membership could be a discount on conference registration by the amount of the membership dues so that members get a discount on the conference registration.

The membership survey outlined objectives to spend the membership dues money collected. Some of these items include: a conference call line, wind energy conference, send member of education committee to NSTA meeting in Portland, newsletter, PO Box,

and other associated business expenses. (a complete list can be found in the membership committee notes on the website)

**Pat O.** is going to review the voting process. **Toni** will get the survey results in a format that can be easily understood. **Pat** will send this information to the Board to determine if they would like to take the information to the membership or feel comfortable that they have enough information to go ahead and vote. We will try to vote on our next call or the one after.

**Bob Berry Memorial Student Scholarship:** Pat will set up a scholarship fund and ask for donations, offering the initial \$1000 if it will be matched by the membership. She will write up a proposal for the newsletter describing the fund. A box will be added to the membership form. The donations will be tax-deductible. This fund could evolve into the equipment lending library, but for now will start with cash donations and plan to award a scholarship at the next meeting, possibly for the best student paper utilizing electronic technology (telemetry, acoustics etc)..

**Website/Forums:** Some things are missing on the website. Erinn is working on that. **Michelle** will send Pat latest version of the rabies position statement. Erinn is working on the instructions for moderators. When she finishes, she will work on getting the board on to the forums. **Pat O.** will send an email to the N. American and WBWG list serves to invite members to join the forum discussions.

**Mines/committee letter:** Kirk Navo will take the lead until Jason returns. The letter has gone through final edits and now the group will be working on who to send the letter to. Michelle has the information from each of the states on who they would like the letter sent to in their states.

**Conference 2009:** Pat O. is working with Ed on the letter of agreement with the hotel. We got an extension to work on the agreement to make it more like what we are doing. Brad is working on the issue of liability insurance. We got it waived for Portland and Tucson. **Pat O.** will talk to Ed to see if BCI has insurance we can work under. **Brad** will call Allstate and ask about liability insurance and **Pat O.** will ask Jan Zinc.

**WNS:** Pat O. drafted language and sent it to Steve Langenstein and Rita Dixon for feedback.

**Wind workshop:** The first workshop will be held next year. It will be at the same time as the conference. It will be a 3 day workshop with an option to pay for part of all of the conference. There will be 1 ½ day in the classroom to discuss permitting issues and 1 ½ day in the field to go over protocol and field demonstrations. The field portion will be in Golden, CO. The classroom portion could be held the day before the 2009 conference in Austin using the same venue.

**Newsletter:** **Pat O. and Rita** will work on a tribute to Chuck. **Pat B.** will write one for Bob. **Cori** will get info on Chytrid fungus from Betsy and Kristi. **Pat O.** will put

together an update on WNS using information from Marylou and from the notes on Al Hicks talk during the last conference call. **Cori** will send out a request for thanks and acknowledgments. **Pat and Erinn** will work on a write-up for the Forums. **Michelle** will provide a write up on the 2009 conference. **Pat O.** will call Nyta and find out if she can be the contact point for folks that want to volunteer to help with the conference. **Cori** will talk to Dan Taylor about information on wildlife and water events this summer. Results of the membership survey will be reviewed by the board before the newsletter goes out and will be included.

**Next Call: April 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am (PST)**