

Action Plan 2007

Last edited 11/28/2007 by Pat Ormsbee to incorporate Board of Directors input

This action plan was developed based on feedback gathered from a questionnaire sent to our members in March 2005 with subsequent annual updates occurring from continued input through the Board of Directors. This Action Plan serves as a guidance document to identify priority work, monitor progress towards completing the work, and identifying responsibilities for conducting the work.

1. Update Bylaws

Issue 1A: The initial development of the Bylaws was conducted to provide formal guidance for the organization including elections of Officers. Implementing of the bylaws warrants an assessment of their effectiveness and any need to adjust or amend the bylaws after a period of time.

Action: Update the Bylaws to better support the organization

Lead: Brad Phillips

Assistance: Officers

Follow up: Board of Directors (1 month to review and comment) Target

completion date: December 31, 2007

2. Establish A Conservation Coordination Committee

Issue 2A: To insure effective conservation efforts for bats, WBWG needs to have strong working relationships with State, Provincial, and Federal governments as well as non-government organizations across western North America that influence conservation, including management and research representatives. These efforts are important to enhance the WBWG ability to effect positive change for bats and their habitat.

Action: Establish a Conservation Coordination Committee

Lead: Angie McIntire

Assistance: Pat Ormsbee, Tim Snow

Date: November, 2007

Action: Engage in and support the efforts of AFWA and the tri-lateral

Lead: Tim Snow, Angie McIntire, and Pat Ormsbee

Assistance: State and Provincial Reps

Date to be completed: Ongoing

Action: Establish a list of conservation and research priorities in collaboration with state/provincial reps, compiling a list of conservation and research priorities as already identified in state conservation strategies or bat management plans.

Lead: To be decided

Assistance: To be decided

Date: To be decided

Action: Guided by the above priorities, communicate these priorities with state/provincial, federal and international agencies via letters, conference calls, and our website.

This priorities list will also provide a foundation upon which the Scientific Advisory Committee can focus their input.

Lead: to be decided

Assistance: Angie McIntire, Pat Ormsbee, Tim Snow

Date: To be decided

3. Funding

Issue 3A: Financing is needed to fund activities of the WBWG.

Action: A subcommittee of the Board of Officers will explore funding options for establishing a budget for the WBWG.

Lead: Brad

Assistance: Board of Directors will review and comment on proposed actions to acquire funds on a case by case basis. Options could include grants, fundraisers, donations, etc. Collaboration to accomplish this action will include AFWA/Trilateral, BCI, and States.

Date: Ongoing

Issue 3B: Specific financial needs have not been identified.

Action: Establish a Financial Plan outlining expenses and financial needs.
Lead: Brad Phillips

Assistance: Pat Ormsbee
Date: January 2008

Action: Determine member benefits, and decide on whether membership dues would be appropriate.

Lead: Brad Phillips
Assistance: Toni Piaggio, Pat Brown, Michelle Caviness
Date: December 31, 2007

Action: If membership dues are justifiable then the Board should vote on the instigation of these dues and determine amount. Collaboration with the Funding Committee and Treasurer would allow for an appropriate plan for use of these funds.

Lead: Brad Phillips
Assistance: Toni Piaggio, Pat Brown, Michelle Caviness
Date: December, 2007

Issue 3D: Short-term and long-term granting opportunities are available to WBWG as a non-profit. Identification and application for these funding sources is required.

Action: explore securing operating funds for WBWG by providing nonprofit status to serve as umbrella for others applying for funding (i.e. others apply under WBWG name). WBWG would accept funds, take 10% for overhead, and distribute funds to group.

Lead: Brad Phillips
Assistance: Board of Officers
Date: ongoing

4. Scientific Advisory Committee

Issue 4A: The scientific advisory committee replaces the previous Research Committee to better reflect the intended function and focus of this group.

Action: Realign committee to focus on providing review and insight for conservation efforts and issues to insure scientific credibility.

Lead: Cori Lausen, Toni Piaggio
Assistance: Burr Betts, Mike Bogan
Date: Completed.

Action: Encourage involvement from research at conferences.

Lead: Cori Lausen, Toni Piaggio
Assistance: as needed
Date: pre-conference '08 and '09

Action: Provide scientific review or input on a case by case basis as requested by The Board or when deemed necessary by the scientific advisory committee.

Lead: Toni Piaggio and Cori Lausen
Assistance: Burr Betts, Mike Bogan, others as needed
Date: ongoing

5. Centralized Resources and Standards

Issue 5A: Availability of credible and consistence references and data bases concerning priority conservation and research goals is needed.

Action: Compile references in relation to the prioritized research goals identified under Section 2 above and post to the website under the “Resources” section. The resources section of the website will need to be developed.

Lead: Relevant Committee leads
Assistance: Erinn Shirley and Scott Pederson
Date: To be decided

Issue 5B: Consistency in data standards, elements, and storage is important for compiling data across western NA. Individuals lack data templates and standards that may already be in place that may be useful to them without reinventing their own data base.

Action: Provide data standards, database templates, and data dictionary currently available and in conjunction with the WBWG Protocol on the WBWG website

Lead: Pat Ormsbee and Ted Weller

Assistance: State representatives, others who may have databases to share
Date: November, 2008; ongoing

Action: Investigate centralized database for WBWG

Lead: Pat Ormsbee

Assistance: Adam Kowolski

Date: May, 2008

6. Education

Issue 6A: WBWG members have a need for materials and guidance when educating the public or working with educational professionals interested in bats.

Action: Maintain an education committee, by selecting committee members with the experience and credentials to sit on this committee

Lead: Deborah Crough

Assistance: Nancy Renison, Erinn Shirley, Aimee Hart, Michelle Caviness

Date: November 2007, ongoing

Action: Provide links for educational materials, study plans, and other materials on the WBWG website.

Lead: Deborah Crough

Assistance: Nancy Renison, Erinn Shirley, Aimee Hart, Michelle Caviness

Date: Ongoing

Action: Develop and provide educational tools, educator contacts, and materials specific to children to be posted on the website. materials will be reviewed and approved by the board of officers.

Lead: Deborah Crough

Assistance: Nancy Renison, Erinn Shirley, Aimee Hart, Michelle Cavine

Date: January, 2008

Action: Collaborate with others, such as BCI, Bats Northwest, States and Provinces, so that educational efforts are not duplicated, ongoing educational

efforts can benefit, and competition for limited funding and resources is avoided.

Lead: Deborah Crough

Assistance: Nancy Renison, Erinn Shirley, Aimee Hart

Date: Ongoing

Action: Compile educational materials for distribution and a table display for presentation at the conference of the National Education Association. Funding for at least one member of this committee to attend and present at this conference should be secured.

Lead: Deborah Crough

Assistance: Nancy Renison, Erinn Shirley, Aimee Hart, Michelle Caviness

Date: November, 2007 – September, 2008

7. Training

Issue 7A: Training is a valuable service to our members and providing information on training and insuring necessary training is available to them is important.

Action: Post info on website about existing training opportunities.

Lead: Erin Shirley, Scott Pederson

Assistance: Members

Date: ongoing

Action: Co-sponsor relevant training. Collaborate with the Funding Committee to develop workshops as funding opportunities. Collaborate with Committees to determine workshop topics that would be most relevant to managers, researchers, biologists and/or WBWG members.

Lead: Board of Officers

Assistance: Board of Directors, Members

Date: December, 2007

Action: Provide our own training for the WBWG protocol.

Lead: Ted Weller

Assistance: Pat Ormsbee, Mike Herder

Date: Spring 2008 or 2009

8. Inventory & Monitoring

Issue 8A: Inventory and monitoring of bats is routinely performed by many WBWG members as part of their professional duties, yet consistent protocols, sampling designs, and strategies are lacking.

Action: Complete and publish WBWG Survey Protocol

Lead: Bill Zielinski

Assistance: WBWG I&M committee

Date: Spring, 2008

Action: Disseminate protocol

Lead: Ted Weller

Assistance: Erinn Shirley

Date: Spring, 2008

Action: Provide sampling grid for western US and Canada and protocols for The Bat Grid on website

Lead: Pat Ormsbee

Assistance: Erinn Shirley

Date: Fall, 2007

9. Newsletter & Website

Issue 9A: The website and a newsletter are primary means of disseminating information to our members and require periodic attention and work

Action: maintain newsletter

Lead: Cori Lausen

Assistance: Kristi Dubois, Steve Langenstein, Erinn Shirley

Date: Ongoing

Action: State/provincial updates sent to Cori

Lead: State/provincial Reps

Dates: Fall and Spring

Action: Rebuild and maintain the website to be user-friendly and relevant to our membership.

Lead: Erinn Shirley, Scott Pederson

Date: Ongoing

Action: Develop and maintain forums for topic-specific information exchanges relevant to current issues

Lead: Erinn Shirley, Scott Pederson

Assistance: Board of Officers and Directors

Date: Initiate December, 2007, ongoing

10. Document track record

Issue 10A: It would be beneficial to WBWG Members to have access to and be able to assess meeting proceedings and Action Plan accomplishments and to have a link to Board and general members. Also, in preparation for Board Elections in 2009, a legacy describing Officer's responsibilities and Board procedures would be useful.

Action: Display meeting notes of officers and full board on website

Lead: Michelle Caviness, Erinn Shirley

Assistance: Board

Date: monthly

Action: Maintain listserv

Lead: Joe Szewczak

Assistance: Erinn Shirley, Scott Pederson

Date: ongoing

Action: put together manual on the WBWG for future Officers

Lead: Michelle Caviness, Derek Hall

Assistance: Officers, Board

Date: March, 2008

11. Monitor Progress and Accomplishments of the Board

Issue 11A: There needs to be a process for assessing the Board's Progress and accomplishments so that adjustments and updates can be incorporated on a regular basis

Action: Review Action Plan and completed actions annually.

Lead: Pat Ormsbee

Assistance: Full board

Date: Each Spring

Action: Develop and maintain a record of accomplishments on the website

Lead: Michelle Caviness

Assistance: Erinn Shirley, Board of Officers

Date: update once a year

Action: Provide guidelines committee progress reporting to be included in the newsletters.

Lead: Michelle Caviness

Assistance: Pat Ormsbee, Cori Lausen

Date: Winter 2007, 2008

Action: Use the newsletter and website for committee updates

Develop reporting format for committee progress reporting.

Lead: Committee leads

Assistance: Cori Lausen and Kristi Dubois

Date: bi-annually

12. Membership Involvement

Issue 12A: It is confusing to have listserv and WBWG membership separate.

Action: Determine whether both membership sign-up and Listserv should remain separate, and either establish a plan for how each "list" will be used by the WBWG, or devise a plan to meld them.

Lead: Erinn Shirley

Assistance: Scott Pederson, Joe Szewczak

Date: Spring, 2008

Action: If both membership sign-up and Listserv are to remain separate entities, then collaborate with the Webmaster to delineate membership sign-up from ListServer and *clearly* explain each on the website.

Lead: Erinn Shirley

Assistance: none

Date: Spring, 2008

Issue 12B: The WBWG would benefit from an increase in membership involvement.

Action: Collaborate with the Webmaster to provide a venue for which “members” can contact and therefore become involved with the WBWG. Alternatively, devise a plan to initiate contact with new and existing members, thus providing a venue for them to become involved. (for example, a “welcome letter” sent out to new members advising them of the committees that they can become involved with should they wish to be, advising them of who their state/provincial rep is, etc.)

Lead: Michelle Caviness

Assistance: Toni Piaggio, Erinn Shirley

Date: Winter 2008/2009

Action: Increase communication between our “member services (ie. Secretary)” and the state/provincial reps. To do this, the Secretary will provide quarterly updates to the state/provincial reps of their membership, or alternatively notify the appropriate reps when new members from their region join.

Lead: Michelle Caviness

Assistance: Erinn Shirley

Date: December 2007, ongoing

13. Wind Energy Committee

Issue 13A: Wind energy is an emerging issue that requires attention and coordination

Lead: Cori Lausen, Bronwyn Hogan

Assistance: Angie McIntyre, Paul Cryan, Ted Weller, Jason Williams, Mike Herder

Action: The Wind Energy Committee will collaborate with the Conservation Coordination Committee and partners such as BCI to compile resources appropriate to the wind energy and bats issue.

Lead: Cori Lausen

Assistance: Committee

Date: Draft list to be completed by Jan. 9, 2008. Final posting to website by 15 Feb. 2008

Action: Investigate the benefit of having a WBWG Rep sit on the National Wind Coordinating Committee.

Lead: Bronwyn Hogan

Assistance: Committee members attending BWEC

Date: Jan. 2008

Action: Provide members with material and resources for conducting surveys, storing carcasses, etc. associated with wind energy projects.

Lead: Cori Lausen

Assistance: Committee

Date: Jan. 2008 – as part of resources posted to website and training workshop organized by committee

Issue 13B: Wind turbine mortalities provide a unique, albeit unfortunate, way of sampling migratory bats and much can be learned from carcasses.

Action: Develop a committee to look at standardizing marking of migratory bat species associated with wind energy issues.

Lead: Rob Schorr

Assistance: Sandy Wolf, Pat Brown, Robert Barclay, Dave Johnston, Dixie Pierson

Date: 2007/2008

14. Mines Committee

Addressing abandoned mines as bat habitat is an ongoing issue across western North America.

Action: Develop a committee to address abandoned mines issues relevant to bats.

Lead: Jason Williams

Assistance: Angela McIntire, Jason Corbett, Jennifer Newmark, Kirk Navo, Michael Herder, Greg Visconty, Kristen Philbrook, Linda Angerer, Michelle Caviness, Pat Brown

Date: February, 2008

Action: Collaborate with partners and the Conservation Coordination Committee to identify key issues and implement strategies to resolve issues associated with mining and bats

Lead: Jason Corbett

Assistance: Mike Herder, Greg Visconty, Angela McIntire, Jason Williams

Date: Ongoing

Action: Provide relevant resources for addressing bats and mines on the website and via email

Lead: Unknown

Assistance: Committee

Date: April, 2008

Action: Provide input and review on relevant policies to agencies engaged in addressing mines and bat habitat management

Lead: Jason Williams

Assistance: Committee

Date: Ongoing

15. Elections Committee

Action: Recruit and secure nominees for Officer's positions for 2008 election

Lead: Derek Hall

Assistance: Officers, others

Date: October, 2008

Action: Conduct elections and tally results

Lead: Derek Hall

Assistance: Officers, others

Date: by January 1, 2009