

WESTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION  
74<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
RENO, NV  
September 24-26, 1999

Date: Friday, September 24

Time: 1530 - 1800

Location: University of Reno (UNR) garden (photo)

Attendants: Bob Altman, Ken Burton, Trishia Campbell, Rhonda Millikin, Jim Steele, Ken Voget, Dennis Vroman

Absentees: Mario Mamone, ?anyone else

Visitors: Barbara Carlson, Geoff Geupel, Alan Gubanich, Jim Idel

Main topics:

1. Next year's meeting
2. New board members

Main action items:

1. WBBA 2000 to be held in Alaska early September. Likely to include NABC certification and writing workshop.
2. Board continuity ensured: Trishia will take over Ken Burton's role as treasurer and will take over her role as member at large
3. New blood ensured: Re-instate policy of bringing on regional representatives
4. Fund management: Geoff will invest WBBA monies wisely
5. Someone to ask Ray to auction original T-shirt from this conference
6. T-shirts to be used again for fund-raising
7. Comments on 3 drafts of ?Banders guide to Barbara Carlson
8. Recommendation to NABC that certification of trainers be based on multiple sites and seasons (rather than multiple trainers)
9. Everyone to send in suggestions for potential uses of extra \$.

Meeting Notes:

1. Alan Gubanich gave summary of meeting expenses (details in handout) – hosted by UNR Department of Biology. Unanimous opinion that Alan and Jim Idel did a GREAT job. Everyone also felt that T-shirts should be used again for fund raising.
2. Barbara Carlson debriefed us on the NABC meeting in Florida in March (details in handout) – decided to have two certification sessions (IBBA and Reno). She asked everyone to comment on the 3 drafts of ?Bander's guide. There will be a central database of questions for future NABC Certification.
  - IBBA Certification process included 16 applicants of which 5 failed. Reno process flowed better and withheld higher standards. Still, only 3/17 applicants failed.
  - Recommended continued certification in conjunction with WBBA meetings until there are enough trainers. This should be done outside of the actual meeting and therefore would require an additional 2 to 2 ½ days.
  - Large-scale certification associated with meetings likely to shift to existing banding stations
  - Problem today is people need experience @ more sites so that they are "universally able"
  - Also need multiple seasons i.e. migration as well as breeding season
  - Action: Ken to forward WBBA's concern over site bias in certification of banders @ next NABC meeting i.e. recommend training include multiple sites (and seasons) rather than multiple trainers. Ken to be mechanism for all feedback to NABC.
  - Barbara has completed her 2-year office. Unanimous TY to Barb for her personal commitment. Ken is WBBA's new representative for NABC. Next meeting is Arizona in January.
  - Action: Pick new alternate for NABC. Nominations conducted (Colwell, Millikin and Froelich). Done: Rita Colwell accepted.
  - Barb thanked all trainers today and Western trainers who traveled to Iowa
3. Judging from his successful role playing this morning, the group has decided that Geoff is a dummy for life.

4. **Treasurers report (Ken Burton)**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> mailing has increased membership so it's worthwhile
  - Grants were not awarded last year so there is extra \$ (\$1K)
  - Discussion whether this grant money and profit (\$3200) should be put into extra awards next year and/or additional funding for representation to NABC
  - Discussion of raising dues was not voted on
  - Action: Raise funding for NABC representation from \$250 to \$500
  - Action: Give 3 instead of 2 awards for 1999 (Done). Increase awards for 2000 from \$500 to \$1500
  - Action: Everyone to send in suggestions for other potential uses of extra \$. Current suggestions included – increasing grants, publication, travel for trainers between site, free for students (I didn't make this one)
5. **Awards committee report (Geoff Geupel)**
  - Three awards for July 1, 1999: one was from 1998, one other is worth it (one is not) ?I have conflicting numbers later: 2 for '98 and 1 for '99
  - Need to advertise better. Recommend change # of grants not amount or have problems with multi-year publications.
  - Recommendation to hold back a portion of the grant until a publication for NABC is completed (Ken). This was not seconded or voted on.
  - Action: Do we want to make Ken's suggestion a stipulation of the grants? How would we go about this now (can we vote by proxy?)
  - Action: Awards must be send to Geoff by July 1 and a decision made by the annual meeting
  - Action: Have a minimum of 3 grants (2 research, 1 monitoring) for 3 best proposals; additional grants to depend on extra funding available, but tentatively additional 3 grants in 200 for \$500
6. **Publication workshop for WBBA Annual meeting 2000**
  - ?be held concurrent to banding or to be attended by all
  - Action: Jim to organize a publication workshop at next WBBA meeting to inspire publication and explain type of articles wanted.
  - Action: Jim to draft letters to editors and contact Mike Morrison (Geoff's recommendation) to conduct workshop (was 45 min at the meeting Geoff referred to). If not Morrison, it must be someone as inspirational (e.g. Tom Martin).
  - Action: Jim Talk to 3 editors from each NABC region for a Continent-wide effort
  - Action: ?Bob to ask speakers for next WBBA meeting to reformat notes for an article.
  - Action: Ken to coordinate WBBA's offshoot effort to improve NABC publication
  - Action: Everyone to email Bob with their vision for NABC publication. ?which letter was this Letter out by end of October. Aim for 4 publications / year.
  - Action: Jim to talk to some professors to have their students write articles for NABC publication.
  - Action: Bob to ensure Chris still willing to submit summaries for Annual Report
7. **WBBA By-laws**
  - Mario has them on disc
  - Action: Ken to email revisions to Mario
  - Action: Mario to forward those revisions to Bob
  - Life membership dues supposed to go to endowment fund. Should go into principle and should be some amount that fund can't go below based on the # of life memberships as this money should not be touched i.e. just work off the interest (Geoff's recommendation).
  - Life memberships were not always \$375 so it will be hard to determine portion of existing monies that should be labeled as life membership funds.
  - Action: Ken to contact Harold Wassermann (or Kay) to seek out funds from endowment \$ that noone knows exist.
  - Action: Geoff to look into professionally managed endowment \$ by November. Will bring financial statement to WBBA Annual meeting
  - Renewal date of current investment (<6% return) is July. Funds to be managed are about \$17K
  - Action: ?who Decision re. what to do with this funding until Geoff can advise
8. **Board positions / nominations**
  - Ken requests a freeing of his dual duties as treasurer and membership given he is constantly on the road but admits they are "the only responsibility he's got".
  - There is some general unsettlement with the realization that our treasurer is currently unemployed.

- Motion to free Ken of his treasurer responsibilities (he keeps membership) and nominate him as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- Motion for Trishia to take over treasurer position, but she will work with Ken so that treasurer and membership roles will be dovetailed
- Motion for Ken to take over Trishia's position as Member-at-large
- To ensure there is new blood (creativity, wider involvement) regional directors will be appointed to the board, from areas currently under represented, to serve as Members-at-large (i.e. given voting privileges)
- Action: Bob to contact potential regional directors (note: Ann-Marie Benson agreed to represent Alaska and B.C.). Geoff suggested Arizona as they are implementing banding standards. Bob pointed out the semblance to Amway.
- Action: Ken to contact Tony from Colorado Bird Observatory as potential regional director
- General discussion of how to develop vision within WBBA. Jim suggested extending time limit of President's position would improve vision – "with responsibility comes action". Geoff suggested vision comes from the group and that President should administer that vision.

#### 9. Archives i.e. old WBBA stuff (Bob)

- Geoff has them at PRBO
- Action: Bob to contact Martin McNichol re. Archives
- Action: Everyone to let Bob know the whereabouts of any other materials

#### 10. Webpage (Bob)

- Action: Jim will prepare a better WBBA webpage and link membership form from his website
- Action: Ken to get Kay to send membership form to him and then send on to Jim
- Action: Everyone to email photos (JPEG, 30-60KB), birds/station, availability of trainers, if take guest banders, location of site etc.
- Action: Bob to write President's message for webpage

#### 11. WBBA Annual meeting 2000

- Ken suggested T-shirts and raffles be used to raise funds, though there was some concern that the need for extra funding be justified first. This was not voted on.
- Action: ?ABO to organize the meeting