



Meeting Agenda
San Joaquin Valley Chapter of The Wildlife Society
June 22, 2023
McCormick Biological Inc. Conference Room
3600 Pegasus Dr #13

Call to Order (1805) & Introductions

Executive Board and Committee Chair Reports:

President (Kiersten Abarca). Tracking workshop went great, but was somewhat last minute, so didn't get everyone in. Did get three students in. WS was almost filled but had last minute cancelations. Need a process to deal with those.

President-elect (Kacy Twist): No report

Past President (Rainey Davis): No report

Treasurer (Ryan Lopez): Not Present, no report. Kiersten said looking into MailChimp acct to avoid Chapter communications going into spam folders.

Secretary (Julie Vance): Mentioned trailer bills and potential Fully Protected status change, as well as EO language re streambed alteration exemption for flood water diversion (if the trailer bills pass as proposed). Also mentioned Tulare Lake and likely Botulism outbreak (like 1982-83); CDFW gearing up to respond and will be hiring seasonal help. If fully protected status changes, CDFW will likely assemble species experts to discuss blunt-nosed leopard lizard salvage etc.

Chapter Representative (Howard Clark): Section updating 5-year plan, missed the last meeting to discuss. Will provide update when doc final.

Membership Coordinator (Mitchell Coleman): Not present, no report

Newsletter Editor and Webmaster (Howard Clark): Just did a newsletter, posted on website. Lori also provided research grant doc that was posted to website today. Lori will also give travel grant doc to Howard to post on web. Howard has full web access now and no longer needs to go through TWS to modify the Chapter website.

Historian (Jeff Davis): Not present, no report

Outreach Coordinator (Vacant). Anyone possibly interested should contact Kiersten.

Program Development Committee Chair (Ashleigh Pryor): Still in process of planning rattlesnake WS with Emily Taylor, trying for summer 2023 in Fresno. Still working on availability. Franchesca checked into Fresno location (UC Merced ext), don't do things on weekend. **ACTION ITEM: Will do poll membership for if weekdays or weekends better. If workshop in Fresno, Francesca will talk to CSU Fresno, Fresno City College, or UC Merced Extension.** Rodney Olsen good FCC contact, try Rory Telemeco for CSU Fresno. Depending on how Fresno workshop goes, will possibly do one in Bakersfield. Need to get started on small mammal workshop, but haven't done anything yet. **ACTION ITEM: Randi will send past info on past small mammal Workshop. Julie will check too.** Do we want to include live trapping? If so, need people with permits and location, may

have used BLM lands in Kern previously. CDFW staff could likely help too. A lot of interest. Would need no more than 3 students per trapper (6 trappers). Randi: recommend splitting workshop field portion into two trapping sessions (more attendees or fewer trappers). Tentatively October (but need to work around large trapping efforts). Maybe a couple from CDFW. **ACTION ITEM: Julie will reach out to CDFW staff for helpers.** Classroom instructors in the past: Randi, Brian, Larry, Bill, Dave. CDFW can help too. **ACTION ITEM: Ashleigh will reach out to instructors, Kiersten will assist.** Kit fox workshop: Spring 2024, during natal season. Brian Cypher will be instructor, as long as travel covered (if no longer local). CSU Bakersfield for field location. Do we want to include spotlighting? We should do spotlighting away from town, to help with ID (coyote vs SJKF). Focus on ID rather than absence. Lokern good location. Windwolves might not have coyotes, but there are a number of kitfoxes. Lokern closer. Need to determine how many days for workshop. Central Coast Chapter has asked if we would like to send a rep to their kit fox workshop, which is Oct 3-5. San Joaquin Chapter kit fox workshop should probably be three days (half/full/half); would include den searches, camera/scent stations (and how to re proper set up). We could pre scout for different kinds/types of dens, though it might be difficult to get access to dens other than campuses. Maybe ask Dr Hall about access. **ACTION ITEM: Kiersten will reach out to Dr Hall (he is working on CSUB as well as local high school campuses).** Anyone who wants to go to the Central Coast San Joaquin kit fox workshop? Erica Kelly? Should be someone familiar with San Joaquin Valley kit fox and that would assist with ours. **ACTION ITEM: Kiersten will follow up on Central Coast kit fox workshop attendance by SJV Chapter member.**

Conservation Affairs Committee Chair (Skip Moss): Neil Havlik: Been talking to Carrizo Plains Conservancy re Carrizo Plains Monument (Monument) expansion of 16,000 acres, some in SLO Co, some in Kern Co. Primarily BLM land, save for two private parcels, landowners with land in existing monument boundaries. Proposed expansion on the Eastern slope of Temblor range, down to 2500' on public lands, mostly avoid private lands in Crocker Grade. Proposal originated with CNPS; discovered that easterly facing slopes quite rich in shrub habitat (upper Sonoran shrub scrub); shrub habitat of semi woody shrubs that occur primarily in San Emigdio and Temblor Range. Some of this habitat type is within the existing Monument, but most outside of the existing boundary. Boundary of the existing Monument follows the crest of the Temblors, want to extend down slope to include more of the unique shrub habitat, which also includes groves of Tucker oak and California juniper. Unfamiliar with any detailed study of the area. Has GKR precincts, likely SJKF. Inclusion of these lands within the Monument likely wouldn't change land use. Have reached out to local organizations in Kern and SLO Counties, hoping to have San Joaquin Chapter support. Want letters to Congressman Carbajal and Speaker of the House McCarthy to support Monument expansion to President Biden. Will be essentially the same letter but with minor differences. Trying to avoid controversy. Want support letters ready by the fall (October), did send a proposed draft to Skip. Staff of Senator Carbajal willing to move forward. Would like support letter from Chapter, similar or unique. Proposed support letter, map, and PPT presentation included with draft letter to Skip. **ACTION ITEM: Skip will send these materials to Board for consideration.** Any member comments will be collected by the Chapter Exec Board and sent to Neil. Kiersten asked if OK to share with Chapter membership (yes). Haven't talked to BLM yet, electeds would do so. Have been talking NGOs primarily. Randi asked what would change with expanded Monument designation. Julie shared that FLPMA does not apply the same to Monument lands as it is with regular BLM lands, though the Monument proclamation often specifies. Existing uses would be protected but limits future project type impacts (new mines, etc.).

Granting Committee Chair (Lori Bono): Awarded one research grant to Mario for \$1500 for his grad research project. Hopefully can drum up more interest in grant program. Got docs to Howard for posting on website.

Bylaws Committee Chair(s) (Kiersten Abarca/Randi McCormick): Haven't met recently. Have gone through entire Bylaws doc to discuss changes. **ACTION ITEM: Kiersten will create Google doc within next month/month and a half to get reviewed, will call another meeting to review as well as to review unapproved Chapter meeting minutes.**

Nominating and Elections Committee Chair (Vacant): Need one, consisting of at least 3 people per our bylaws, cannot consist of current Exec Board members. Randi can be chair. Committee is in charge of finding candidates for Pres elect. Ashleigh Pryor and Alex Welsh volunteered, should have a non-MBI person.

Audit Committee Chair (Vacant): Need at least two people, also not Exec Board members. Review annual financial statement before presented at annual meeting.

Student Affairs Committee: Alex Welsh volunteered to be chair. Focus on high school and Community College levels, bringing more attention to career paths in wildlife biology. Haven't reached out but in works.

Café Scientific Committee Chair (Rory Telemeco): Not Present, no report.

1. Workshops in 2023/2024 (see above)

- Venomous Snake Safe Handling Workshop
- Small Mammal trapping Workshop

2. Field Trips and Activities

- Bio Blitz
 - Time: November? As get closer, will firm up dates.
 - Conducting using iNaturalist app. **ACTION ITEM: Kiersten working with Audubon re using iNaturalist for group, and will reach out to Board re potential prizes and budget. 2-5 people per group. Will need to develop rules and present at next meeting. Rainey, possibly Ashleigh and Alex will help with rule development; will email.**
 - Cost: Prize options
 - Some suggestions were: tickets to western section conference, binoculars, zoo tickets (Fresno or LA?), America the Beautiful pass.
 - Need to decide on budget, next meeting? Budget in Feb 2023 was \$46K.
 - Motion: Randi made motion to cover gas for bioblitz, up to \$100 reimbursement, has to approved via a travel grant application for winter bio blitz, Rainey seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
 - Alex: Could be good opportunity for outreach. Need to decide how to advertise it.
- Weekend Camping
 - Time: October
 - Talking points: how many people, types of activities
 - Potential focus on birding

- Possible end of Sept? **ACTION ITEM: Kiersten will reach out to Mitchell re Tejon.**
- Membership Appreciation Event
 - Time: TBD. Possible winter, maybe during holiday lights.
 - Location: Fresno Chaffee Zoo?
 - Talking points: Locations, behind the scenes activity, night or day

3. Other Business

- Carrizo Plain National Monument Expansion (see Skip's report)
- We are in search for Committee chairs for: Audit Committee, Nominating and Elections Committee, Outreach Coordinator (see above)
- Outreach:
 - Create stickers/magnets and work with local businesses to build on our program, Bonfire merchandise, Snake services sells their own stickers.
 - Workshop specific merch: T-shirts for sale or covered in reg? Work on getting t-shirt included that is covered in workshop cost. Proceeds from workshop would be donated to rattlesnake relocation services (who teaches the workshop for free). Would be good to have several SJV native snakes on t-shirt. **ACTION ITEM: Kiersten will see about t-shirt design.**
 - Funding campaigns:
 - Next meeting, focus on what to support in terms of donations. Need budget line item and budget for 2023.

Meeting Adjourned 1944

Attendees

Kiersten Arbarca, MBI
 Rainey Davis, ESRP
 Kacy Twist, Chevron
 Eric Calvillo, MBI
 Alex Welsh, MBI
 Howard Clark, Colibri Ecological
 Neil Havlik, Carrizo Plain Conservancy
 Celia Tarcha, Swaim Bio
 Lori Bono, CDFW
 Ashleigh Pryor, MBI
 Skip Moss, NRG
 Franchesca Cannizzo, Westerveldt
 Keyanna Pinto, Westerveldt
 Reina Gomez, Stantec