

2013 Desert Bighorn Council Business Meeting Minutes

Las Cruces, New Mexico

April 19, 2013

4:00 pm – Meeting called to order by Eric Rominger (2013 Council Chair).

Minutes of 2011 Business Meeting: Esther Rubin (Secretary) distributed copies of the minutes from the 2011 Business Meeting held in Laughlin, Nevada. The draft minutes had previously been distributed to the membership for review. Council approved the 2011 meeting minutes (R. Lee/B. Gonzales, all approved).

Secretary's Report: Esther Rubin noted that 91 people had registered for the meeting. She thanked Eric Rominger and Elise Goldstein for their efforts towards coordinating a great meeting. Registered meeting participants represented a wide variety of agencies and organizations, including State agencies (44%), non-governmental organizations (16%), Federal agencies (13%), and universities (11%) with the remainder representing Native American tribes, commercial businesses, and non-affiliated attendees. This year's registration fees included membership dues; this represents a good renewal of memberships.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Longshore (Treasurer) provided overview of the DBC accounts (a brief financial summary is attached). She noted that our budget balance as of the beginning of fiscal year 2013 was \$194,438.55, which was similar to our balance at the beginning of the previous fiscal year (\$194,496.44). Kathy commented that this is pretty good given that we had expenses of about \$15,900 and that we granted about \$4,000 in Hansen-Welles Scholarships during the preceding year. The Council approved the Treasurer's report (R. Lee/B. Gonzales, all approved).

Committee Reports: *(see the DBC website or Transaction program for committee chairs)*

Meeting Committee: Eric Rominger provided an overview of the meeting and thanked all who helped coordinate and make the meeting a success. He also expressed an extra thank you to Patrick Morrow for helping to get clearance for us to access White Sands Missile Range for our field trip.

Executive Committee: No report.

Constitution and Resolutions Committee: No report.

Transactions Report: Brian Wakeling (Transactions Editor) provided a brief update on the Transactions. He noted that the 2011 Transactions were recently mailed out. He encouraged all presenters to consider submitting their 2013 papers to the Transactions, but also stressed that papers not presented at a DBC meeting are also very welcome. Brian requested that papers be submitted to him by June 1, 2013 and urged state representatives to submit their state reports for inclusion in the Transactions.

Technical Staff: Ray Lee (Tech Staff Chair) reported that the Tech Staff met on April 18, 2013, and they voted to award two Hansen-Welles Memorial Scholarships this year. After providing a brief history of the scholarship program, Ray announced that this year's recipients were Rebekah Karsch and Kyle Garrison. Rebekah Karsch was awarded \$4,200 for a study on survival and cause-specific mortality of neonatal bighorn sheep in the Peloncillo Mountains in New Mexico, and Kyle Garrison was awarded \$3,860 for a study on the influence of livestock grazing on forage biomass, activity budgets, and foraging efficiency of desert bighorn sheep in southern New Mexico.

Awards Committee: Awards were to be announced at the banquet later that evening.

Editor's Note: Award Recipients as presented at the DBC Banquet

Recipients of the Ram Award were:

- Dr. Eric Rominger for his long term involvement as New Mexico Department of Game and Fish contract and full-time bighorn biologist, including preparation and implementation of recovery and delisting plans for endangered desert bighorns in New Mexico, and gathering support from many stakeholders for pre-emptive mountain lion control on seven mountain ranges, and desert bighorn population reintroduction and enhancement efforts, resulted in the delisting of desert bighorns in 2011.
- Elise J. Goldstein for her long-term involvement as New Mexico Department of Game and Fish desert bighorn program coordinator and biologist, particularly including the preparation and implementation of recovery and delisting plans for endangered desert bighorns in New Mexico, and soliciting essential public support from a wide variety of stakeholders for pre-emptive mountain lion control and desert bighorn population reintroduction efforts, which resulted in the delisting of desert bighorns in 2011.

Recipients of the Honor Plaque were:

- The New Mexico Game and Fish Commission for its strong support of an aggressive restoration and management program for endangered desert bighorns in New Mexico, resulting in the delisting of this iconic species.
- Mara Weisenberger for her long term sustained efforts to re-establish a viable bighorn population in the San Andres National Wildlife Refuge through control of mountain lions, controlled burning, hunting of exotic oryx, and interagency cooperation.
- Bill Montoya for his long involvement with desert bighorns: working with the Mexican government to obtain bighorns for the Red Rock Facility, establishing them on Tiburon Island, and his role as biologist and director of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and his service on the New Mexico Game and Fish Commission.
- The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for its long term successful efforts to significantly increase desert bighorn populations statewide, resulting in their delisting from endangered to threatened to harvestable.

Historian Committee: No report.

Nominating Committee and Election of Officers: The 2015 meeting will be held in California. Ben Gonzales will be the Council Chair; the Vice-chair will be determined at a later date.

Ray Lee stepped down from his position as Tech Staff Chair but will remain on Tech Staff. Esther Rubin stepped down from her position of Secretary. The next DBC meeting rotates to California; Ben Gonzales volunteered to become Council Chair which requires that he step down from his Tech Staff.

The Council voted in the following officers (K. Longshore/J. Wehausen, all approved):

Council Chair:	Ben Gonzales
Vice-chair:	Steve Torres
Secretary:	Amber Munig
Treasurer:	Kathy Longshore
Tech Staff Chair:	Clay Brewer
Tech Staff:	Patrick Cummings (will finish 2 remaining years of Ben's term)

Old Business:

- Eric Rominger requested that we encourage all to consider the DBC in trusts and wills. This could potentially also be mentioned in a future newsletter.
- Eric Rominger suggested that we may have ignored a change to the 1991 Bylaws, which stated that Tech Staff membership would be limited to five years of service, and that we should abide by that change. Ray Lee noted that Bylaws were changed again in 2005, when the length of a term was changed to six years. The 2005 Bylaws were silent on term limits, so his interpretation was that there are no term limits. The Council discussed this topic and, for clarification, voted on a motion that the Bylaws shall not include term limits (B. Wakeling/R. Brigham, all approved).

Gavel passed from Eric Rominger to Ben Gonzales.

New Business:

- Elise Goldstein noted that CDs are earning low interest and that the Council should consider investing in mutual funds. She noted that other non-profit organizations have started to do this, and that mutual funds are stable and conservative. The Council discussed related considerations, and voted on a motion that Ben Gonzales work with an ad hoc committee to explore these options and to report back to the Council as soon as possible via the newsletter (D. Armentrout/R. Brigham, all approve).
- Kevin Hurley (Wyoming) announced that the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council will meet in Fort Collins, Colorado, June 2-6, 2014.
- Ben Gonzales invited everyone to attend the next DBC meeting, which tentatively will be held in Borrego Springs, California in April, 2015.

4:45 pm - Meeting adjourned (R. Lee/K. Hurley, all approved)

Minutes prepared by E. Rubin.

**DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL
TREASURER'S REPORT - KATHY LONGSHORE**

APRIL 2013

Account Balances

(\$195,297.29 as of April 2011 meeting)

Checking Account (Citibank)	\$ 34,187.97
Robert Campbell Memorial Fund	
CD#3618 (0.25% interest, 6 mo/matures 8/23/11)	\$ 55011.66
CD #6719 (0.60% interest, 2 yr/matures 3/31/13)	\$ 25,301.80
Subtotal R. Campbell Fund CDs	\$ 79,937.12
Hansen-Wells Memorial Fund	
CD#1920 (3.92% interest, 5 yr/matures 4/20/12)	\$ 47,292.72
CD#2885 (0.30% interest, 18 mo/matures 9/28/2011)	\$ 24,358.09
CD#8022 (0.25% interest, 18 mo/matures 01/05/2012)	\$ 8,286.31
Subtotal Hansen-Welles CDs	\$ 80,313.46
Total CDs	\$160,250.58
Total Assets	\$194,438.55