



**Steering Committee Conference Call Minutes  
2 January 2008**

Participating Members:

Laura Hines   Brain Aucone                      Erika Nowak  
Craig Ivanyi   Gad Perry

Unavailable Members:

Kary Schlick   Randy Gray              Rob Lovich  
Polly Conrad

Action Items are in red text.

- ★ 2008 Austin Meeting
  - Dates 5-8 June
    - 5 = ½ day (afternoon)
    - 6/7 = ½ day (each) of talks and breakout sessions
    - 8 = Field trips
  - Location/venue as discussed prior (though after the call some discussion was generated regarding costs of this venue, Steering Committee and local hosts feel it is too late to consider other venues)
  - Wendy Hodges is looking into local hotels, meeting room for one event where we could have an auction, etc.
  - It was agreed that we will ask Janet Wallace to handle registration aspects
    - Gad will contact her
    - Craig to send email to Kent Jacobs (THS) authorizing him to work with Janet (done 1/5/09)
  
- ★ 2009 Meeting
  - Discussion about where we might meet in future years and the need to plan these meetings much in advance
    - Discussion about pros & cons of rotating through all states in the region
      - All seem in favor of this, at least for the next several years
      - Could consider eventually going to two locations, one in the east and the other in the west & just alternate between the two
    - Seek proposals from states/organizations interested in hosting future meetings **well before meeting in Austin**
      - Hope to have 2 or more to consider
      - Commit to one at Austin meeting
      - Laura Hines mentioned St. George, UT might be good for 2009
        - She's been given authorization to work on this
        - We asked that she look further into venue options/travel/logistics



- ★ SW PARC Task Tracker Update
  - Discussed various tasks listed
  - Agreed to drop “Outreach” task, due to no activity, leader currently on leave, no members participating
  - Question came up about whether National PARC has money left to pay for authors redrafting text on HMG
    - Discussed SREL debacle & CI unsure how this impacts us with SW HMG. **Randy – can you answer this?**
- ★ Other
  - Erika asked if SC thought putting USGS handouts on website would be a good idea (within the context of “Quick and Dirty Handouts” task group)
    - **She is sending them to us to review/decide**
  - Discussion about whether it makes sense for Hawaii to be part of SW PARC since:
    - No native herps
    - Habitat is more similar to semi-tropical/tropical areas
    - Issues relate to control of introduced species (arrival/departure)
    - Perhaps more akin to Florida in climate and issues, so move to SE?
      - **Craig will bring this up with National PARC**
  - Question about the letter not going out
    - After discussion with Priya and Ernie, it was decided that it might be counterproductive to make our plea for help in this fashion/at this time
  - Teleconference calls
    - Moving planning & steering committee calls to Wednesday mornings due to Gad’s availability (and importance over the next several months as our liaison to planning committee)
    - Next several calls: 6 February, 5 March, 2 April – Steering Committee calls begin at 10 a.m. (Tucson time), with Planning Committee call 1 hour before this