

Final                      Final                      Final

**Desert Tortoise Council  
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**

**17 August 2013  
DoubleTree Hilton, Ontario, California**

The meeting was called to order by Bruce Palmer at 10:01 a.m. **Action items are in blue, with responsible parties in red. Motions made, seconded, and approved (or not) are shown in bold red font.**

**Attendees:** Maggie Fusari, Bruce Palmer, Glenn Stewart, Kristin Berry, Mari Quillman, Tracy Bailey, Mike Bailey, Becky Jones, Joe Probst, Chris Noddings, Ken MacDonald, Dan Pearson. **Absent:** Ed LaRue, Heidi McMaster, Peter Woodman. **Guests:** None.

**A. Introductions:** Chris Noddings and Ken MacDonald were introduced to Dan Pearson as newly-elected Board members in June 2013 (when Dan was not present).

**B. Review Agenda:** Several new issues were added and are incorporated below.

**C. Meeting Minutes of 1 June 2013:** Ed LaRue prepared minutes for the last Board meeting at the DoubleTree Hilton, which were previously distributed and reviewed. The minutes were approved today without changes. At the last meeting, it was agreed that the Treasurer's Report would not be included in the official meeting minutes. Bruce Palmer, Maggie Fusari, and Ed LaRue had a subsequent discussion regarding the pros and cons of how much financial information to publicly disclose. Kristin Berry noted that the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee spends two hours at their annual business meeting discussing financial information, but that the information is not posted online. Natural Resources Defense Council and certain other multi-million dollar, non-profit organizations report annual summaries. All agreed to provide a summary report, as in the 1 June 2013 meeting minutes, but that a detailed Treasurer's Report (including line items) will not be provided due to lack of a full explanation that would be needed for accurate interpretation of the detailed report. **Motion made (Glenn Stewart), seconded (Joe Probst), and approved to accept the draft minutes as final.**

**D. Officer Reports:**

**1. Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was prepared and distributed by Mike Bailey. Our overall total as of today is \$286,911.52. Maggie Fusari noted that the Workshop this year will not bring in as much as last year when three Workshops were held; demand appears to have decreased. However, two Workshops are being planned for this year and both will likely be fully attended. It was noted that last year was the only time three Workshops were offered and that Arizona may soon need a workshop of its own. **Motion made (Dan Pearson), seconded (Kristin Berry), and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as final.**

**2. Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Tracy Bailey reported nothing requiring attention has been received.

**3. Membership Coordinator's Report:** Mari Quillman reported all membership data (about 1,200 names) have been entered in the database. There is no consistency on how membership expiration dates have been recorded. Once this is reviewed and updated, membership status can be sorted. How to track membership payments and related information was discussed. Maggie Fusari can provide Workshop information in an Excel file with names and addresses for new members. Tracy Bailey noted the Symposium data can also be provided in Excel. The Corresponding Secretary sends membership checks in the mail to the Treasurer; this information needs to be passed on to the Membership Coordinator as well. PayPal can send emails to more than one email account. Bruce Palmer recommended developing operational procedures to get the process down on paper, at which point it might be better streamlined. **Mari Quillman will initiate preparation of the Membership Committee Operations Policy.**

Mary Cohen continues to look into MailChimp. Mari Quillman's database can be exported to Excel and can be imported into MailChimp. Once expiration dates are made current, this will allow the Council to notify persons of expired memberships. Chris Noddings noted that Google offers a shared drive (up to 10 GB) and office products (including Excel). One account controls who can view the document and who can edit the document.

Mari Quillman has already developed a draft list of items to address managing our membership data, which Dan Pearson recommended revisiting and finalizing. There was general consensus that membership coordinating work was valuable enough to pay for professional services, as needed. A need to develop a Facebook page, Twitter account, etc., should be included in this list. Mari Quillman would like to have these accounts completed soon to allow announcements at the Symposium. **Chris Noddings will write a brief description of Twitter.** Benefits of membership need to be identified. One idea included access to job postings.

## **E. Committee Reports:**

**1. Ecosystems Advisory Committee (EAC) Report:** Maggie Fusari took the lead in Ed LaRue's absence. Bruce Palmer reported that the EAC Operations Policy is nearly complete, **and should be reviewed by all to be discussed at the October Board meeting.** Maggie Fusari and others were concerned that Ed LaRue needs more assistance to avoid burn-out. Issues of recusal, and what you are allowed and not allowed to do when you recuse yourself, were discussed. Kristin Berry noted that it should be acceptable for a Board member to discuss a project even if he or she recuses themselves from a vote, which is already addressed in the draft recusal policy.

It was also noted that project proponents are notifying the public more passively via websites versus actively via direct contact. Maggie Fusari suggested using student volunteers to track websites weekly and identify issues that meet stated criteria (e.g., websites and types of projects in tortoise habitat). **Mari Quillman offered her interns do this once the list of criteria is developed.** Kristin Berry noted that Defenders of Wildlife, Western Watersheds, and other organizations may already have a similar list. Maggie Fusari recommended sending formal letters to agencies recommending active notification and placing the Council on their contact lists. **Dan Pearson will start the list of Federal and State agencies and organizations in California; Ken MacDonald will add Nevada agencies; and Maggie Fusari will add Arizona agencies.**

**a. TransWest:** Feedback is requested to meet the 9/30/2013 deadline. This is a good example for Board members to provide the type of feedback that they are capable of providing (expertise, editorial, etc.). **Kristin Berry indicated she would look at its relationship to critical habitat, high-density populations, and the long-term translocation site.** Ed LaRue had previously provided a link to all the information available on the website. **Ken MacDonald will review the link and provide the project area map to the Board.**

**b. Arizona Strip BLM Travel Management Plan:** Kristin Berry was concerned about fragmenting habitat with dirt roads. Data is old; the Council should recommend basing analysis on updated data and a cumulative land-use map should be posted on the website. Bruce Palmer noted the tortoise habitat in the Arizona Strip is very small and should be the focus of comments.

**c. Desert Tortoise Recovery Office (DTRO):** It was suggested that Bruce Palmer add a discussion item with respect to the DTRO's spending to the next meeting agenda. Some are concerned that DTRO appears to focus attention and funding in Nevada, and does not publish their budget or who they are funding.

**d. Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) and Conservation Lands Foundation:** Ken MacDonald noted he does not have personal knowledge of additional lands that should be added to the areas that should be protected. Kristin Berry noted there are areas in Pahrump Valley. Chris Noddings has tried contacting several scientists about habitat connectivity, finding there is no expectation of further information from these sources; otherwise, he has no additional information to provide. There was general consensus that we need input from Pete Woodman. • Maggie Fusari recommended that Ed LaRue speak with Pete Woodman. Bruce Palmer noted the text had a typo (year of 2016 versus 2013) in the EAC report. We need to keep close track of the DRECP process.

**2. Awards Committee Report:** Ed LaRue has provided a number of nominations. Several awards still need nominations, including the Research Award, Annual Reward, Pat von Helf Award, and Special Award. If you submit a nomination, please provide corresponding evidence for the nomination. Kristin Berry and Glenn Stewart agreed that Ed LaRue's nominations set a standard for this. Bruce Palmer noted the Awards Committee Operations Policy provided by Glenn Stewart is an excellent example of how to write such a policy. Glenn Stewart will invite Michael Tuma, last year's Morafka award winner, to participate in reviewing this year's nominations. The committee maintains a list of most of the previous awardees. Mike Bailey developed the list of Best Student Paper Awards provided since 1997. Most students have received \$200, and one received \$500. **Motion made (Kristin Berry), seconded (Dan Pearson), and approved to increase the student award to \$350.**

Bruce Palmer recommended the committee operations policy keep an up to date list of all award recipients. There was a general consensus that the website should have one-click access to all award information (previous recipients, how to apply, etc.). Becky Jones noted that the website should also announce the increased amount for the student award. Glenn Stewart will send Mari Quillman the list of Best Student Paper awardees prepared by Mike Bailey. **Motion made (Glenn Stewart), seconded (Kristin Berry), and approved to accept the Awards Policy as proposed.**

**3. Workshop Committee Report:** Maggie Fusari continues to develop the Workshop operations manual and will distribute it after the 2013 Workshop. There will be two Workshops this year. The website form was not set up exactly as needed, resulting in two minor glitches. About 60 people are registered for each session thus far. Maggie Fusari is personally paying Rob Villa to handle Workshop registration and payments while she is out of town on an extended trip. If he has any issues, he will contact Tracy Bailey if it absolutely cannot wait for Maggie's return. Sean Daly sent out a Workshop notice to those people for whom he had email addresses, and should send another notice in the first week of October. Mari Quillman will remind Sean Daly to do this in late September. It was agreed that notices should be sent to Southern California Edison, Caltrans, etc. Mari Quillman will update the flyer. She recommended that those on Linked-In post the training. Maggie Fusari noted that each person should enroll themselves (versus the company enrolling employees as a group). Mike Bailey offered to organize the lunch of Mexican food for both days. The weekend is also Ridgecrest's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, so there will be parades, lots of activities, and booked motels.

Maggie Fusari invited U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) representatives that serve on the Workshop planning committee to come to the Workshop, but budgets are limited. Bruce Palmer recommended offering to cover costs for Michael Burrows and Roy Averill-Murray to attend. **Motion made (Maggie Fusari), seconded (Joe Probst), and approved to cover the travel expenses for these two USFWS committee members (amount to be negotiated).**

**4. Grants Committee Report:** The Grants Policy is nearly final thanks to online reviews by Board members. The first item to consider is the budget to fund grants; the second is the priority of funding and specific projects. Kristin Berry noted the large-scale translocation site (LSTS) in Nevada would require more than \$20,000. This may require co-sponsorship. Three sterilization Workshops could cost \$20,000.

There was general consensus that research *and* non-research projects were valuable. Dan Pearson recommended that 10% of the cash on hand (Rainy Day Fund excluded) be used annually. The Rainy Day Fund covers the Council's operations for one year (currently approximately \$75,000). If a miscellaneous environmental organization requested funding for litigation, that would not fall under the Grants Policy. Maggie Fusari and Kristin Berry suggested that the first priority should be on-the-ground work to help the tortoise (versus education, although education is also recognized as valuable). There are likely to be both solicited and unsolicited grant applications. The website should provide notice that the Council is willing to entertain requests for funding for sterilization and long-term survivorship of translocated tortoises (captive or wild).

**Motion made (Glenn Stewart), seconded (Kristin Berry), and approved to allow the grants committee to allocate up to \$20,000, based on 10% of the cash in hand (Rainy Day Fund excepted) and limited to \$20,000, in Calendar Year 2013 to make recommendations for grants to be funded.**

There was previous discussion via email about creating a template or outline for grant requests. There was general consensus that this can be done at any time and does not need to be done before approving the Grants Policy.

**Motion made (Glenn Stewart), seconded (Dan Pearson), and approved to accept the Grants Policy as proposed.**

Glenn Stewart has given the policy a test run with the "Tortoise Through the Lens" grant request, reviewing the proposal to fund printing of the photo book in Spanish. In 2010, the Council funded \$2,500 for the English version of the project, which has sold 1,000 copies thus far, and another 1,500 copies are being printed.

**Motion made (Glenn Stewart), seconded (Dan Pearson), and approved to provide \$2,500 if the five conditions Glenn Stewart previously identified, and two new conditions, are met.**

Bruce Palmer will finalize the Grants Policy by removing the information at the top (with respect to the Board members providing comments) and will distribute a final PDF version.

**5. Symposium Committee:** Tracy Bailey will coordinate with Mary Cohen and Sean Daly to post the registration form on the website and the newsletter. The post should include a request that attendees stay at the hosting hotel to help the Council receive a reduced rate, and that the Symposium registration rate includes two breakfasts, two dinners, and snacks. Tracy Bailey

will also check with the hotel regarding potential noise considerations. Thus far, Tracy Bailey has kept the Symposium rates the same as last year. Kristin Berry noted that we will be spending more on speakers this year than last year because they need to travel longer distances. **Bruce Palmer** has started reviewing the Symposium operations manual provided by Tracy Bailey and will continue to do so. • **Joe Probst** will organize the photo contest. • **Pete Woodman** will organize the field trips, which will again be held the Thursday before versus the Monday after the Symposium. Maggie Fusari requested that we solicit posters with map-based data. **Kristin Berry** will investigate this and **Maggie Fusari** will seek additional poster presentations. Maggie Fusari requested a speaker on epidemiology that could help explain its complexities. **Becky Jones** is coordinating the agency session.

Mari Quillman reported the Big Sky donor will donate again next year. She suggested auctioning some items on Friday night and doing a silent auction. Bruce Palmer recommended raffling items between sessions. **Mari Quillman** will provide a raffle announcement and **everyone** is to make at least one call to see if they can get something donated. There was general consensus that arranging for vendors should be a different task than the auction. **Chris Noddings** will contact vendors via email, etc. • **Kristin Berry** will send emails to introduce vendors to Chris Noddings. • **Tracy Bailey** will send Chris Noddings the vendor portion of the draft operations manual as well as information on Holohil Systems. • **Joe Probst** will check with a friend for appropriate vendors. • **Mari Quillman** will send Chris Noddings the announcement.

## **F. Discussions:**

**1. Electronic Communications:** In general, if you have a new subject to discuss, discuss it in a new email thread. Minor editorial comments and other thoughts such as “thank you” or “message received” or “lunch orders” should be sent directly to the sender and not replied-to-all. When making external contacts to solicit information, it is reasonable to state that you are a member of the Board without checking with the Board first; the situation is different when establishing a position.

**2. Newsletter:** If **anyone** has any input for the newsletter, please send it to Sean Daly.

**3. Searchable Symposium Abstracts:** Mary Cohen provided a link to Tracy Bailey and Kristin Berry to test the website before making it live. **Kristin Berry** is to review the website.

**4. Translocation and Captive Release Position Statements:** Upon discussion, it was determined that four position statements are needed: (1) USFWS proposal to remove the fence at the LSTS; (2) proposed closure of the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center in October 2014; (3) the release of captive tortoises into the wild; and (4) the translocation of tortoises. **Motion made (Joe Probst), seconded (Mari Quillman), and approved to provide up to \$5,000 to an appropriate scientist for assistance with these position statements.** • Board members are asked to help work on these position statements.

**5. Proposed Amendments for the Council Bylaws:** How can the Council be inclusive of all people without being discriminatory? There was general consensus that the recommended text in Article III, Section 2 was acceptable. **Motion made (Chris Noddings), seconded (Maggie Fusari), and approved to submit the addition of Article III, Section 2 to the general membership.**

Maggie Fusari will edit the text for Article IV, Section 2, on the factors considered for membership on the Board. • Bruce Palmer will see that the Grants Committee and Workshop Committee are added to the authorized standing committees in the Bylaws as presented.

**Motion made (Dan Pearson), seconded (Joe Probst), and approved to submit both proposed additions to standing committees in Article VI to the general membership.**

**6. Board Membership with Mike and Tracy Bailey's Departure:** Joe Probst has volunteered to be Treasurer, which will require that he step down as Chairperson-Elect. Becky Jones has volunteered to be Corresponding Secretary. Bruce Palmer is willing to stay on as Chairperson for another year, and Dan Pearson has agreed to stay on as Post-Chairperson for another year. Bruce Palmer suggested Ken MacDonald as Chairperson-Elect. When Mike and Tracy Bailey leave, there will be two Board positions at large. Kristin Berry noted that the new members would likely need to be officers, and that we need to examine how many people are recusing themselves.

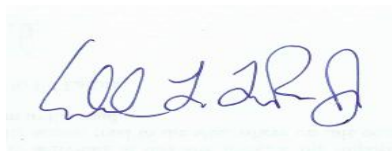
**7. Desert Tortoise Recovery Office:** Dan Pearson has drafted a letter, but discussion has been curtailed due to time constraints and earlier discussions.

**8. Operations Manual:** Mike Bailey will work on several policies, including budgeting and reimbursements, Treasurer responsibilities, etc. • Tracy Bailey will draft text for Corresponding Secretary responsibilities. • Bruce Palmer will assist with format. • Bruce Palmer will also draft a policy to explain how non-Board members may attend Board meetings and what the rules are. • Ed LaRue is still working on Council archives, having received materials from Glenn Stewart in June.

**G. Next Meeting:** The next business meeting of the Board will be at DoubleTree Hilton, Ontario, California between 10:00 a.m. and approximately 4:00 p.m., on 26 October 2013.

**H. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson, Bruce Palmer, at 3:40 pm.

Draft minutes were recorded by Chris Noddings, with subsequent input by Bruce Palmer, then edited and distributed to the remaining Board members for comments, then respectfully submitted as these final minutes by Ed LaRue, Recording Secretary.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed LaRue", is written on a light blue background.

Edward L. LaRue, Jr.  
Desert Tortoise Council, Recording Secretary

## **Ecosystems Advisory Committee Report DTC Board Meeting of 17 August 2013**

### Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP)

**6/1/2013** – At the request of Council Board members during today’s Board meeting, Ed LaRue resends (4<sup>th</sup> attempt) the letter drafted for the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, dated 4/16/2013 to the docket’s email address, asking for confirmation that this is the correct address. **6/2/2013** – Ed LaRue forwards DRECP link showing revised maps associated with biological goals and objectives to all Board members.

**7/14/2013** – Ed LaRue circulates two documents, including (1) DRECP revised biological goals and objectives for the desert tortoise that were dated 20 May 2013 and (2) comments from seven stake-holder environmental groups on those goals and objectives, which are dated 2 July 2013. Ed indicated no need for comment now, but is circulating important materials to Board members so they will be informed when the need to comment on the Draft EIS comes in the next few months.

### DRECP - Conservation Lands Foundation (CLF) and Designation of National Conservation Lands

**6/4/2013** – Ed LaRue receives an email from Tracy Bailey inviting Council Board members to a meeting in Palm Desert where compensation lands will be discussed among nonprofit land managers, such as Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee and Mojave Desert Land Trust. Since Ed cannot attend the meeting due to monitoring fieldwork, he sent an email back to Josh Berkowitz of CLF and all Board members on **6/5/2013** to see if others could attend. Ed also attached a copy of the DRECP 4/16/2013 letter to county supervisors listing important desert tortoise habitats.

**6/8/2013** – Ed sends a letter to Josh Berkowitz informing him no one has been identified who can attend the meeting on Tuesday.

**6/18/2013** – Ed LaRue receives a series of maps from Tracy Bailey that were sent to her by Nancy Karl of the Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT) depicting preferred linkage corridors between DWMA’s and wilderness areas, designed by South Coast Wildlands. These are the maps that were presented to Conservation Lands Foundation (CLF) for their meeting with DRECP planners referenced above on 6/4/2013 in identifying NCLs. On **6/21/2013**, Ed distributes these maps to all Board members for their records.

**6/18/2013** – Ed LaRue receives an email from Josh Berkowitz asking DTC to identify BLM lands important to tortoise recovery. On **6/19/2013**, Ed responds to Josh and forwards the email to all Council Board members so they can begin to provide feedback for lands to be designated as National Conservation Lands in the DRECP process. On **6/20/2013**, Ed sends email to Mary Logan of DTPC asking her for electronic copy of their identified priority acquisitions. Mary responds on 7/22/2013, and the following Board members on the indicated date(s): Chris Noddings (7/22/2013 to talk to Nussear and Esque), Glenn Stewart (7/21/2013 not familiar enough with demographics), Joe Probst (8/3/2013, same as Glenn).

After reviewing Josh's existing NCL maps, on **7/25/2013** Ed sends an email to Josh, distributed to all Board members, saying that this may not be the most effective way to protect all the habitats we see as essential. On **7/26/2013** Ed receives an email from Mary Logan of DTPC indicating there are maps showing new Development Focus Areas (DFA) and NCLs, so Ed responds, including the Board in the email, asking for those maps. **7/29/2013** Mary Logan sends the proposed NCL and DFA maps to the entire Board. Ed responds on the same day, with a carbon copy to Josh Berkowitz, to help us formulate a proposal. **7/30/2013** after receiving email response from Josh, Ed calls and leaves his cell phone number so we can better discuss the issue. On **8/1/2013**, Ed distributes additional NCL baseline information received from both Josh Berkowitz and Larry LaPre, which are distributed to the Board. On **8/2/2013**, Ed circulates second email from Larry LaPre and salient points discussed yesterday with Josh in a phone conversation.

#### DRECP – The Wilderness Society Fact Sheets

**7/12/2013** – Tracy Bailey forwards to Ed LaRue a series of three fact sheets from The Wilderness Society each regarding the DRECP (Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan). These fact sheets regard Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, Overview of the effects of the DRECP on the California Desert Conservation Area Plan, and National Conservation Lands (NCL) overview. These materials are forwarded to the entire Board on **7/14/2013**.

#### 29 Palms Marine Corps Expansion

**6/8/2013** – After receiving concurrence from at least three Board members [Maggie Fusari (5/15, 5/16), Glenn Stewart (5/16, 5/20), Joe Probst (5/17, 5/20), Kristin Berry (5/19)], Ed LaRue sends out Maggie Fusari's letter to Congressman Paul Cook. Ed uses the congressman's website on 6/8/2013 to announce the letter is forthcoming, and mails the letter and CD of "View from the Road" on **6/10/2013**. The final letter and "View from the Road" document are emailed to all Board members on 6/8/2013.

#### Southern California Edison Coolwater-Lugo Transmission Line

**6/13/2013** – Tracy Bailey sends a notice to Ed LaRue, which is distributed to the Board on 6/18/2013, announcing four public information meetings for this project, which will occur in the Victorville area, between Hesperia and Barstow. This is for information only, as there are no public meetings, so no need for action. Ed recuses himself from attending, as he recently prepared a proposal to monitor installation of this transmission line.

#### Raul Grijalva Endorsement

**6/19/2013** – Ed LaRue receives request from Ileene Anderson asking the Council to support Congressman Raul Grijalva as the "Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee (i.e., Top Democrat)" Her email request is forwarded to the Board on 6/20/2013. The following Board members respond that the Council should endorse Congressman Grijalva: Maggie Fusari (6/20), Glenn Stewart (6/20), Heidi McMaster (6/20), Pete Woodman (6/20), Ed LaRue (6/20), Ken MacDonald (6/21), Tracy Bailey (6/21), Mike Bailey (6/21), Joe Probst (6/21), and Mari Quillman (6/21). Kristin Berry recuses herself from the vote on 6/21/2013. On 6/20, Maggie indicates she will facilitate the signing of an endorsement letter by Bruce Palmer, and will take the lead on this as Ed is in the field. At 3:57 on 6/21, an hour ahead of deadline, Maggie sends out a note that the Council is endorsing this position. Thanks for the expedient responses!



### Barren Ridge Project Record of Decision

**7/10/2013** – Ed LaRue receives pdf notice of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Barren Ridge Project, which is dated 6/25/2013. There is no need to respond to this document because (1) it occurs in the Angeles National Forest, which is south of occupied tortoise habitat and (2) ROD's are an indication that environmental review is complete and a decision has already been made, so there is no opportunity for additional input. This information and determination were distributed to the Board on **7/14/2013**.

### TransWest Express Transmission Line Project

**7/18/2013** – Ed LaRue receives an email and links to this proposed transmission project, which is a 725-mile transmission line that begins in Wyoming and ends 25 miles south of Las Vegas, Nevada, so it will pass through tortoise habitat. In a somewhat different approach, Ed distributes the notice and links to all Board members on **7/21/2013** so as to give them plenty of opportunity to review materials and provide feedback. The difference here is that Ed usually provides a comment letter, first; in this case, Board members are given the opportunity to independently review and provide comments so the letter can be drafted later, driven by their input. The deadline for comments to the BLM is 30 September 2013. Receive comments from Chris Noddings (7/22/2013), Heidi McMaster (7/21/2013, recused herself from discussion since her office worked on some of the compliance and permitting).

### Calico Solar LLC project abandoned

**7/29/2013** – Ed LaRue receives notice from Defenders of Wildlife announcing that the 8,000+-acre solar plant between I-40 and I-15 north of Pisgah Crater has been withdrawn from further consideration. Notice distributed to Board on same date, along with the comment letter I made back in April 2010.

### BrightSource Ivanpah Valley Solar Project

**7/29/2013** – Fritz Faerber, National Geographic journalist sends link to Ed LaRue documenting the May 2013 interview where Ed represented the Desert Tortoise Council. Ed distributes the newspaper article and associated video to the Board and several other environmental groups.

### California Tortoise and Turtle Club Presentations

Ed LaRue, introducing himself as a Council Board member, presents his 23 years of tortoise survey results in the Morongo Basin (similar presentation as at the Symposium in Las Vegas) to the CTTC Foothill chapter at the L.A. Arboretum in Arcadia on **7/26/2013** and again to the CTTC Inland Empire chapter at the San Bernardino County Museum on **8/2/2013**.

### BLM public meetings to address travel management on the Arizona Strip

On **8/2/2013**, Ed LaRue and Pete Woodman receive an email from Richard Spotts indicating there will be public meetings in Arizona and Utah on August 13, 14, and 15 seeking public input on a specific route management plan on the Arizona Strip. There will apparently be maps at the meetings and opportunities to provide public input. There is no EA or other environmental documentation to review. There is no obvious action that can be taken short of attending these meetings. On **8/8/2013**, after coming back from the field, Ed LaRue distributes the announcement to the Board.

### Defenders of Wildlife Request for Council Opinion on Tortoise Translocation

On **8/7/2013**, Jeff Aardahl (Defenders of Wildlife) sends an email to Ed LaRue asking about the Council's position on tortoise translocation. On **8/7/2013**, Maggie Fusari sends an email to the Board and Aardahl, including an attached comment letter dated February 2011, in which the Council provides comments to USFWS (Averill-Murray), generally opposing tortoise translocation as described in an August 2010 paper endorsing translocation. On 8/8/2013, Ed LaRue sends Council's comment letter, dated September 2012, opposing the release of tortoises into southern Nevada as described in an EA for the proposed release. On **8/15/2013**, Kristin Berry sends an email to the Board asking them to consider a policy statement on translocation.

### Hidden Valley (Clark County) Translocation Study

Although dated 7/9/2013, on **8/8/2013**, Ed LaRue receives an email link from Jeff Aardahl providing a translocation study design, authored by USGS (Esque, Nussear, et al.) and USFWS (Averill-Murray, Field), wherein 30 to 60 adult tortoises are supposed to be taken from the Clark County Desert Tortoise Conservation Area and released into Hidden Valley. This does not seem to be an EA or other document where we have an opportunity to comment, so none is drafted. The translocation plan was distributed to the Board on 8/8/2013.