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MINUTES OF THE 2001 WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING 22 JULY 2001

The meeting convened at 2 PM. Roll of Officers and Council was called by President Tonie Rocke. Lynn Creekmore, Margo Pybus, Randy Zarnke, Bob McLean, H. H. Dietz, Dave Jessup (as a proxy for Terry Kreeger), Torsten Mörner, Jonna Mazet, and Beth Williams were present. Paul Barrows, Mike Stoskopf, and Steve Osofski were present as guests.

Old Business

Randy Zarnke moved (B. Williams second) to accept the minutes of the last Council meeting via teleconference. The motion passed unanimously.

Officer's Reports

President's Report and Review of Submitted Reports

Written committee reports, the Vice-President's report, and the Treasurer's report were submitted and are available from the Secretary. Council reviewed the reports. There was discussion about whether or not we have reached our goal of having a 2-yr operating budget reserve set aside. Tonie Rocke confirmed that we do. She pointed out that there is a Budget and Audit Committee headed by the Treasurer that is charged with exploring the investment of some of our excess funds in the hopes of eventually supporting an Executive Manager. These investments have not yet been made because of some discomfort with the state of the market. Dave Jessup pointed out that if we continue to accrue funds without spending them we run the risk of being questioned about or even lose our "non profit" tax-exempt status. This isn't a reason to spend money but in the long run it may be to our benefit to invest the money we are generating wisely so that we may be able to support an Executive Director or Executive Secretary.

Vice President's Report

Tonie Rocke summarized the time and place information on our upcoming meetings from report from Bill Samuel. The 2002 meeting which will be held in Humboldt, California. The 2003 meeting will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The 2004 meeting will be held

jointly with the AAZV in October in San Diego, California.

Secretary's Report

Lynn Creekmore reported there was good membership response in the election this year; over 250 ballots were received. Paul Barrows is the new President. Torsten Mörner is the new Vice-President and Mark Drew and John Fischer are the new Council Members at Large. The constitutional amendment establishing an elected Student Member at Large position on the Council passed. Tonie Rocke expressed appreciation to the two outgoing Council Members. R. McLean moved (seconded by J. Mazet) to thank the outgoing Council Members (R. Zarnke and William Lance). The motion passed unanimously and the outgoing Council members were given a round of applause.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Les Uhazy was not present but provided summary budget documents reflecting the overall financial status of the Association and these documents are available from him. Lynn Creekmore read the following summary of L. Uhazy's budget report to the Editorial Board. The Association began the year with a checking account balance of \$82,959. At present, with two issues of the Journal published, there is a balance of \$79,479. Our certificate of deposit (CD) continues to do well. Four years ago we started with \$50,000 and it has grown to \$63,000. The CD has been reinvested for another year at 6.1% with Southern Pacific Bank in Los Angeles. The Association's mutual funds are also doing well with an approximate balance of \$251,800 as of the end of May 2001. During the first half of this year (1 January to 9 July) we had a cash inflow of \$93,000 and expenditures of \$96,603; the Association currently has a budget deficit of about \$3,479. At this time last year we also had a deficit of \$214.76. Reasons for the deficit may include the 10% increase in our costs of printing and supplement preparation and in the cost of our management services that are tendered by Allen Press. Also, the fact that we have been operating two Editor's offices with the expenditures for capital equipment may be contributing to the deficit. However, L. Uhazy is optimistic that we will rebound. In reviewing our financial situation in previous years at this time,

he found that we are often in a mid-year deficit and have always recovered, often ending with a surplus. We have had an increase of 15% in our revenue input so far this year compared to last year. This could be a reflection of page charges or increase in membership. In 2000 we ended up with an \$8,250 surplus and he is hoping that we will generate a similar surplus this year. Paul Barrows pointed out that unlike previous annual meetings we did not make money with last year's meeting so what the budget shows may be a reflection of the fact that we did not generate a profit from the Jackson meeting. Tonie Rocke noted that the proposed budget for next year has not yet been submitted; usually this is provided at the mid-year teleconference call. Paul Barrows will follow up with the Treasurer re: the projected budget. There was discussion on the need to reevaluate our approach to investment; particularly that we look at our "green only" approach to insure that we are using a strategy that will result in the best return for our dollar. Paul Barrows will investigate where we are with this with the Treasurer and the Budget and Audit Committee as well as where we are with investments to support an Executive Manager. Tonie Rocke said that she would like to see a plan for investing funds to support an Executive Manager implemented and expressed concern about the slowness in which this is taking place. She pointed out that the Treasurer's job is difficult and time consuming and is an area where an Executive Manager could help. Council expressed support of the current Treasurer and the job that he has done. Dave Jessup (seconded by J. Mazet) made the following motion: Council urges the Treasurer and Budget and Audit Committee to invest a portion of the Association's excess funds appropriately to generate revenue to support an Executive Manager position within the next 3 yr as previously discussed. The motion passed unanimously. Tonie Rocke asked how we spend auction funds, and pointed out that we have collected over \$60,000 over the past 10 yr and it's never been clear how it has or should be spent. The money raised from the meeting auctions are to be used for educational purposes but the general consensus of Council was that we could not have not managed to use up all of the proceeds from the auctions for this purpose. It is possible that the auction money has ended up in the general fund. It was suggested that such funds could be used for outreach activities as well including providing funds for WDA officers to attend section meetings and for section leaders to attend the annual conference. Dave Jessup also pointed out that in the past we've urged separate accounting for auction proceeds but it has nev-

er been instituted. Tonie Rocke would like these funds to be kept separate from the general revenues. Robert McLean (R. Zarnke second) moved that we place auction funds into a separate accounting category to support student awards as well as education and outreach activities. The motion passed unanimously. Tonie Rocke requested that past accounting (money brought in and money spent) be evaluated as well so that we know how much money in this category is currently available.

Journal Editor's Report

(covering the period between September 1, 2000 and July 1, 2001)

Beth Williams reported to Council that she traveled to Texas in July 2000 and spent three days with Danny Pence to observe how he manages the Journal. The new Editorial Office is now in operation in Laramie, Wyoming. The new editorial assistant is Louise Smithson. She was hired part time to assist with the editorial work and has experience as a copy editor as well as an administrative assistant. Beth Williams began receiving manuscripts in September and officially took over as Editor on January 1, 2001. Outgoing Editor, D. Pence continuing to manage the manuscripts that he had received prior to the September change over; He still has 15 manuscripts that are in the process of being revised and 10 to 15 are still with the authors. His part of the Editor's report indicated that there would be 850 pages for the 2000 issue of JWD.

There have been several changes to the manuscript submission form since last year including: 1) an increase in page charges to U.S.\$65/page for members U.S.\$120/page for non-members, 2) a space on the submission form allowing the author to sign acknowledging page charges. Authors are now requested to submit the final revision of their manuscripts on a computer disk so that the Editor can in turn submit them electronically to Allen Press. This will save the Association substantially in terms of cost.

The format of the Journal cover was changed in the last year. It now includes a photograph derived from a manuscript in the issue. Authors are encouraged to submit photographs or figures that might be suitable for the cover. Between 1 September 2000 and 1 July 2001 130 manuscripts were received. Of these 20 have been rejected, 19 have been accepted, and 91 remain in the review process. Of the 91 in the review process, 55 are in review and 36 are being revised by the author. For the January issue of Volume 38, 14 manuscripts have been accepted by D. Pence and 10 by the new edi-

torial office. For the April issue, nine manuscripts have been accepted. Beth Williams expressed her thanks to the Assistant Editors; they have been very busy and have done an excellent job of handling the manuscripts for the Journal. Allen Shostak stepped down as an Assistant Editor as of 1 July. The Editorial Board is now seeking a new Assistant Editor to replace him. We have two new Assistant Editors, Lena Measures and Mike Miller. Twenty-five countries were represented in manuscripts that were received; 68 from the U.S., 7 from Canada, 8 from Spain, 7 from Australia, 4 from Japan, and 3 each from Germany, New Zealand, and Norway, 2 each from Austria, Argentina, Brazil, Italy, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, and Switzerland, and 1 each from China, Great Britain, Ireland, Peru, Poland, South Africa, and Taiwan. There were 141 external reviewers involved in the peer review process of the papers submitted; these reviewers will be acknowledged in the October issue of the Journal.

Beth Williams acknowledged the tremendous job that D. Pence did and is still doing for the Journal; his contributions have been many and may not fully be appreciated by those that are not involved in the day to day workings of the Journal. She also expressed thanks to the personnel at Allen Press, specifically Karen Ridgway, Tracy Jones, Guy Dresser, and Ted Freeman, who have also been very helpful as well as to the Editorial Board and Council.

The turn around time from submission of a manuscript to publication is 8–12 mo. Part of the reason for this is the 800 page cap. This was discussed at the Editorial Board Meeting. Beth Williams representing the Editorial Board moved (Jesup second) that Council provide one time funding to add 50–60 pages to the next two to three issues of the journal to catch up on the current backlog of accepted papers. Beth Williams pointed out that about \$6,000 dollars/issue would be required to do this. The motion passed unanimously.

The issue of electronic publishing also was discussed at the Editorial Board meeting. Council approved funding for E. Williams to attend a workshop on electronic publishing sponsored by Allen Press last year. However, the workshop was cancelled. The same workshop is now being planned for September of this year and the Editorial Board has requested that Council approve funding for the Editor to attend. Beth Williams representing the Editorial Board moved (D. Jesup second) that the Council support Beth Williams's trip to the BioOne Electronic Publishing Workshop in September 2001. Motion passed unanimously.

Beth Williams solicited a proposal from Allen Press regarding funds needed to allow online access for our Journal. Allen Press did provide a proposal in which their estimated cost was \$20,000/year to go to an electronic publishing set up with password access. There are other options for providers such as High Wire Press and others that we also can investigate and that may be less costly. The general feeling by Editorial Board was that we should investigate these options further; Beth Williams will work with the Electronic Communication Committee to do so and will report these options back. Beth Williams explained that we have not yet officially encouraged the electronic submission of manuscripts by authors but we may wish to begin doing so. The workshop in September will deal with how to manage electronic submission of manuscripts. At this point in time many of our membership are comfortable with the electronic submission of documents and the Editor's office has started to receive a few manuscripts in this manner. Beth Williams pointed out that electronic submission might help improve turn around times.

There was discussion in the Editorial Board meeting on the current turn around time from submission and publication of manuscripts and potential ways to reduce it. Ian Barker presented a proposal that was accepted by the Editorial Board to decrease the length of the manuscript turnaround time/review process. In his proposal, abstracts and references would be sent to the assistant editors and they would select referees/reviewers within 3 days. The editorial office could then send the manuscripts directly to the reviewers for consideration. Once the editorial office receives the reviews back, they would be faxed to the assistant editors for comment and a decision. The Editor's office/Editorial assistant would also play a more direct role in encouraging the Assistant Editor and the referees to meet the designated deadlines.

Tonie Rocke announced that a plaque will be sent to D. Pence expressing appreciation and commemorating his last term as editor. Randy Zarnke moved (seconded by T. Mörner) to accept the Editor's report. The motion passed unanimously.

Newsletter Editor's Report

Tonie Rocke summarized the written report from Charlotte Quist. Even though our current webmaster and server situation is working, the new President and Vice President may think about other options for the future. Council members pointed out that there continues to be confusion regarding the password and that

a good mechanism for delivering the password to the WDA membership is needed as well as better mechanism for placing additional materials on the webpage.

Sections

American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (AAWV)

President T. Kreeger provided a written report (available from the Secretary).

Australasian Section

A written report was submitted. Tonie Roche just returned from the Australasian section's joint conference with the World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians followed by a retreat. During her visit it was apparent that the WDA parent body needs to do a better job of creating a more formal link with the Sections. A few members of the Australasian Section are members of the parent body but most are not, and many have little knowledge of the parent Association. Members of the Australasian Section pay dues to their section. Tonie Roche suggests that we offer password access to the web page to those members of sections who pay dues to their section but are not otherwise Associate or Regular Members of the parent body. In other words, dues paying members of Sections will be granted a kind of Associate Member status. Tonie Roche believes this will help form a better connection between the Sections and the parent body and will potentially encourage membership in the long run. This led to a discussion about similar membership needs for the other sections and the need to formalize the link between the parent body and these sections. Torsten Mörner pointed out that the European Section members do not pay dues so the mechanism suggested for the Australasian Section won't apply. There was additional discussion about whether there are ways to apply the "Associate Membership" in the individual contexts of the different sections in order to meet their needs. Torsten Mörner and D. Jessup were concerned that this access might actually discourage membership in the parent body and that it is not fair to have different rules for different Sections. The general consensus was that there needs to be consistency and that access shouldn't be free. Jonna Mazet suggested that we provide access to section members but then urge the sections to charge in some way for the privilege of access. Some Council members felt that if WDA is going to formalize the relationship with sections then we need to also formalize the definition of the sections. Others felt that we should not define sections too strictly because flexibility is needed.

Margo Pybus pointed out that the Wildlife Society has a similar structure to that what T. Roche is suggesting and that it works well. Jonna Mazet moved (M. Pybus seconded) that in addition to full members and associate members, dues paying members of approved sections will be given access to the password for one year, pending review of section guidelines, and the list of these members will be given to the secretary of the parent body annually. The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 3.

European Section

T. Mörner provided a written report (available from the Secretary).

Committee Reports

Promotions Committee

Tonie Roche provided the report. There are now six posters. One went to Australia, two are going to the European and Nordic Sections and three are available for use in the U.S.

Executive Manager Ad Hoc Committee

Tonie Roche provided the report. The committee has written a proposal to seek financial support for an Executive Manager and have researched organizations appropriate for the submission of the proposal. Tonie Roche will pass the material to the new President.

Old Business

The effort to distribute back issues has been successful; copies of back issues have been sent to institutions all over the world that have requested them. Reports on progress are available from Carol Meteyer.

New Business

Copies of the proposed WDA/STVM resolution were distributed via e-mail and were reviewed at the Council meeting. A joint resolution by the Wildlife Disease Association and Society for Tropical Veterinary Medicine calling for international donor community recognition of animal health sciences as critical for the design and management of sustainable wildlife and/or livestock-based programs and to present the resolution to the membership at the What Makes Sense? session on Thursday afternoon. Steve Osofsky presented background information on the resolution. Discussion identified the fact that such a resolution is in line with our Association's goals and the purpose would be to heighten awareness among donor organizations. Dave Jessup (second by R. McLean)

moved to accept the proposal as written. The motion was unanimously passed.

At the last teleconference a decision was made to split the Student Activity Committee into a Student Awards Committee and a Student Activities Committee. There have been numerous requests to form Student Chapters. The Student Activities Committee needs to be filled and organized. They can then be charged with proposing a method for setting up Student Chapters for Council's consideration. The new President and Vice-President plan to discuss this subject at a later date.

Tonie Rocke provided a brief review of the publish or perish issue that she presented in a recent Supplement. A group of scientists have called for a boycott of any scientific Journals that fail to release papers to a free online archive within a few months of publication. As of May, about 22,000 scientists had signed this petition. The boycott will begin in September of this year. There is concern over what this will do to small associations like the WDA. If we lose our Institutional Members, we will lose a large proportion of our dues. Many Journals are waiting to see what happens. Beth Williams pointed out that the greatest pressure is on Journals that publish time sensitive articles in conjunction with large publishing houses. This issue also was discussed in the recent Editorial Board meeting. The Editorial Board felt that we should wait and see what happens and in the meantime consider options for electronic access while still balancing the needs of our so-

ciety. Mike Stoskopf explained that the costs to institutions from these Journals and publishing companies are huge. The philosophical basis behind this movement is the concern that many of the big Societies have become corporations and publishers in their own right. Rather than using their Journals to disseminate information they are using them to make money. Tonie Rocke pointed out that in addition we may need to begin considering options for changing the way we do business in the future by not relying so much on the Journal for membership dues.

Paul Barrows reported that Federal Society of Parasitologists requested someone from WDA attend their meeting this fall to make a presentation about WDA. Paul Barrows will e-mail Council with additional information about this meeting for a decision on whether or not to send a representative.

The Australasian section is interested in hosting the next international meeting in 2005 or 2006. Margo Pybus (seconded by R. Zarnke) moved to urge the Australasian Section to continue with their plans to submit a proposal to host the WDA meeting in 2005 or 2006. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no additional new business. Margo Pybus (seconded by J. Mazet) moved to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn H. Creekmore
Secretary