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MINUTES OF THE 2003 WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING

10 August 2003

The annual Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) Council meeting was held in conjunction with the annual Association conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Canada. The Council meeting was called to order by P. Barrows at 1:15 PM. Council members in attendance were P. Barrows, T. Mörner, C. Quist, M. Wild, E. Williams, J. Mazet, W. Karesh, M. Drew, S. Gibbs, M. Ziccardi, T. Rocke, P. Nol, K. Converse, J. Fischer, and M. Artois. Guest attendees included T. Cornish, S. Wright, E. Addison, L. Measures, B. Samuel, V. Nettles, T. Leighton, I. Barker, J. Dein, C. van Riper, M. Uhart, C. Gillin, D. Forrester, D. Jessup, and H. Schwantje.

Report of the Organizing Committee

T. Leighton provided a brief update on Conference planning. At the time of the report, there were 188 registrants. University of Saskatchewan Hospitality Services provided planning for the Conference along with WDA decision-makers T. Leighton, M. Cattet, and J. Smits. The question of payment for side meetings arose. The total cost for side meetings (not including the Brainstorming Session or Council meetings) was $1,773 Canadian. There is ample funding in the 2003 Conference budget to cover these costs. Groups that held side meetings included the IUCN Veterinary Specialists; Western Wildlife Health Committee (WWHC); Canadian Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarian (CZWV); American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (AAWV); and WDA Prayer Breakfast. P. Barrows suggested that the issue be addressed under new business and the resulting information added to the protocol for meeting organization. W. Karesh formally thanked T. Leighton for organizing the side meetings at this year's Conference.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of 2002 meeting have been approved.

- **Motion [T. Mörner/J. Fischer]: Approve minutes of January 14 and May 14, 2003 Council conference calls.** Passed unanimously.

Officers' Reports

President's Report

P. Barrows reported on the highlights of his activities, including:

- Letters of thanks to the organizers of the 2002 WDA Conference as well as these individuals' supervisors.
- Along with T. Rocke and C. Quist, visited Allen Press and Allen Marketing and Management (AP & AMM) on 11–13 November 2002 to meet with numerous contacts. Each agreed that we are getting what we are paying for, although it is difficult to define all the detail. During the visit, task lists were developed for action by officers and by AP & AMM. Most of the items on the task list have been addressed. It was suggested that the new Executive Manager would benefit from making the trip to AP & AMM as well.
- Procured a podium banner.
- Held two conference calls with WDA officers and council. P. Barrows noted that these calls are very important and thanked those who participated.
  - Conference call on 14 January 2003. Minutes of the call are on file with the WDA Secretary. Noteworthy items addressed in the call include:
    - A motion passed to approve funds for copy editing.
    - Revisions may be required to Section 5 of the WDA Bylaws.
    - Approved $1,500 contribution to International meeting of The Wildlife Society, 1–5 December 2003. P. Duigan is our point of contact for the meeting.
  - Conference call on 14 May 2003. Minutes of the call are on file with the WDA Secretary.

Vice President's Report

T. Mörner reported that most Section chairs provided written Section reports. T. Mörner suggested that the Sections Committee and Time and Place Committee may need to be reconsidered and those duties potentially assigned to the new Executive Manager. T. Kuiken and J. Mazet are rotating off Council this year. Thanks were extended to them for their service on Council.

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Secretary's Report

M. Wild reported that 175 ballots were received in the election for officers. This is slightly down from the last couple of years (has been about 225). This may be due to some difficulties that led to late mailing, potential delivery problems, or from a decrease in membership. During the voting, the question of an e-voting alternative arose. This would be helpful, particularly for foreign members. This topic will be discussed under enhanced online services. The Secretary also oversaw voting for the Emeritus and Distinguished Service awards.

Treasurer's Report

C. Quist submitted written reports including the financial statement, accountants' compilation report, and an 8-yr financial history of the Association. These reports are available from the Treasurer or Secretary. Overall, this was a good year for WDA financially, primarily due to the increase in membership dues. As of 1 August, there were 1,327 members and institutional members. While this number was down about 13% from the membership in 2002, revenues have increased by $59,000 over last year's total and additional revenues may still come in this year. This additional revenue should allow the WDA additional flexibility regarding the proposed upcoming expenditures of hiring an Executive Manager. In light of additional monies in our checking account, which gathers no interest, two new accounts were opened. We placed $100,000 in a 6-mo certificate of deposit and opened a money market account with $70,000. Additionally, the Carlton Herman Fund was transferred into our Buttonwood account (though still maintained as a separate fund).

An attorney was consulted regarding the issue of liability insurance. He stated that many nonprofit organizations limit the liability of officers in the original articles of incorporation. Unfortunately, our Incorporation Articles do not address officer liability. We need to have the liability insurance but it has been very difficult logistically to do. Although the Articles could be amended so that officers were exempt from liability, it was determined that it is probably more prudent to have insurance. A suggestion was made that event insurance also be considered in conference planning. This will be noted in the protocol that is provided to the organizing committees.

- **Motion [J. Fischer/J. Mazet]: Authorize Treasurer and President to expend funds for liability insurance.**

Passed unanimously.

There was some discussion regarding accounting and use of auction funds. T. Rocke and C. Quist will go over the records to ensure that adequate separation of auction and general funds is/has occurred and that adequate contributions to the Carlton Herman Fund are/have been posted.

In review of the Constitution and Bylaws, C. Quist has noted items relating to the Treasurer that should be revised. Constitutional changes require a vote of membership, while revisions to Bylaws are performed by a vote of Council. Article V, Section 3 of the Constitution states that the Treasurer shall be bonded. Bonding requires putting personal assets at risk and this may present personal hardships to the officer. The consulting attorney stated that bonding is not commonly done. C. Quist recommends that we consider removing the clause or change "shall be bonded" to "should be bonded."

- **Motion [M. Drew/J. Fischer]: Submit to membership a proposed constitutional change that will remove Article V, Sec. 3, which required that the Treasurer be bonded, from the WDA Constitution.** Passed unanimously.
- **Motion [M. Drew/J. Fischer]: Remove bonding requirement for the Treasurer as appears in the Bylaws.** Passed unanimously.

Discussion regarding the motions on bonding included a suggestion that, if a Treasurer is honest, he/she won't be at risk personally. However, in response, it was noted that the Treasurer may be responsible if others steal money. Also, some Treasurers may not be able to meet personal assets requirements required for bonding.

Extensive discussion regarding auditing practices followed. Article V, Sec 2, of the Constitution states that an audit will be conducted annually. This is cumbersome, time consuming, and costly and consultation with a CPA auditor revealed that it may not be warranted. A motion was made by T. Mörner, seconded by T. Rocke, to submit to membership a proposed constitutional change that will revise Article V, Sec. 2, to read "Financial records of the association shall be audited at least every third year either by a public accountant or an auditing committee in a method determined by Council." W. Karesh and T. Cornish voiced concerns regarding the perception of raising dues and eliminating bonding and audits. A motion was made by M. Drew, with W. Karesh seconding, to amend the current motion so that audits are conducted every 2 yr rather than at least every third year. The motion for revision passed with one opposed.

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- **Motion [M. Drew/W. Karesh]: Submit to membership a proposed constitutional change that will revise Article V, Sec. 2, to read "Financial records of the association shall be audited every 2 yr either by a public accountant or an auditing committee in a method determined by Council."** Passed unanimously.

An additional item on the Treasurer's report was the need to determine what method would be best for paying the Executive Manager. An accountant may have to be consulted regarding this decision.

Finally, the Financial Statement was reviewed. Current assets are about $555,000. Estimated costs of some items in the 2004 budget are uncertain, but regardless, the financial situation is a strong positive. The budget will be discussed further at meeting's end after more information on expenditures has been discussed.

Editor's Report

E. Williams provided the Editor's report. The report covers the period 1 July 2002–30 June 2003 and summarizes editing and publishing of the 2003 volume (number 39, issue 1–4) of the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* (*JWD*). In the four issues of the 2003 *Journal,* there are approximately 79 full-length manuscripts, 43 short communications, one book review, three sets of meeting minutes, one correction, one set of instructions for authors, and author and subject indices. The estimated number of pages printed in this volume will be 900–950, which is up from 872 in volume 38. The trend over the last few years has been for increasing numbers of full-length articles compared with short communications (approximately 65% full-length papers). Manuscripts have been received from 32 countries. This in an increase from last year and demonstrates continued interest in the *Journal* by the international community. This is a strength of the *Journal* and should be encouraged. Use of electronic submission, review, and publication may facilitate international participation. The number of new manuscripts received by the editor's office for 1 July 2002–30 June 2003 was 183 in comparison with 156 received for the comparable time period last year and 154 for 2001. Of these, 52 were rejected, 39 are with authors for revisions, 39 are in press, and the remaining 63 are still in the review process. Thirty-four manuscripts received prior to 1 July 2002 are still with the authors in revision. Forty-three percent of manuscripts received this year so far were accepted. This compares with 47% accepted in 1999, 46% accepted in 2000, 49% accepted in 2001, and 48% accepted in 2002. The mean time from receipt of a manuscript to its appearance in the *Journal* for papers in Volume 39 was (or will be) about 13.5 mo (range 6–27 mo). The mean time to publication in Volumes 38 and 37 was about 16 mo (range 4–48 mo). Many factors contribute to these data, including review time for manuscripts and revision time by the authors. One reason for the improved times from receipt to publication was the increase in pages printed in this volume. Most of the very long back-log of manuscripts in revision is now cleared. Printing and mailing of the last few *Journal* issues has been late but hopefully will be more timely in the future.

The assistant editors (C. Atkinson, I. Barker, E. Howerth, T. Kreeger, S. Little, S. McMurry, M. Miller, L. Measures, M. Pybus, C. Rupprecht, and D. Stallnecht) have done an excellent job for the *Journal* this year and it would be impossible to produce the *Journal* without their valuable assistance and hard work. Past-editor D. Pence handled the review process on several manuscripts. We have two new assistant editors for the *Journal*: V. Nettles and K. Frölich. K. Frölich is our first European Assistant Editor and work is continuing to expand the geographic representation among the Assistant Editor ranks to better represent the geographic distribution of submitted manuscripts. I. Barker has stepped down as an Assistant Editor after more than 20 yr service to WDA and the *JWD*. We are very grateful for his outstanding contributions and hard work. There were 210 external reviewers; the quality of the *Journal* depends on a careful and thoughtful review process. Excellent reviewers seldom get recognition for the significant role they play in the peer-review process and we greatly appreciate their contribution to the *Journal*.

Beginning about October 2001, we started to work with electronic submission and review of manuscripts at the Editorial Office. The system seems to be working smoothly at this time. However, submission of figures in various formats remains a considerable challenge. Handling manuscripts electronically appears to be helping to keep the manuscript review process on track. Review time from 1 July–31 December 2001 was 4.7 mo compared with the time for review from 1 January–30 June 2002 of 2.6 mo; however, review time from 1 July 2002–30 June 2003 was 3.6 mo.

E. Williams expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Assistant Editors; the external reviewers; the authors submitting the results of their hard work to the *Journal*; C. Quist, Treasurer; L. Creekmore and M. Wild, Secretaries; members of the JWD Editorial Board; and the WDA Council. The assistance of past editor D.

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Pence has been invaluable. E. Williams expressed special thanks to Editorial Assistant L. Smithson, University of Wyoming, for her hard work and dedication to the *Journal,* K. Ridgeway and T. Jones at Allen Press, and T. Thorne.

E. Williams provided highlights from the Editorial Board meeting earlier in the day. A summary of motions from the meeting include:

1. Including advertisements in the Supplement.
2. Pursuing online publishing. Cost of online publishing is estimated at $31,000–36,000 for development, annual 2004 charges, and archiving of 2000–2003 *Journal* issues. The proposal for HighWire was considered best because it offers more options related to searching, more linking to other organizations, is currently serving 300 high-impact journals (that we can link to full-length articles in citations), the proposal suggested innovative approaches, it is organized by librarians who are focused on delivery of information, and we received positive testimonials (including *Journal of Veterinary Pathology,* which is published by AP and online by HighWire). Timeliness is important in this decision, but more information is needed.
3. Establish an ad hoc committee for online publishing.
4. Financial support for editorial assistance.
5. Search for successor to *Journal* Editor.

In response to discussions at the Editorial Board meeting, WDA Council made the following motions:

- **Motion [M. Ziccardi/J. Mazet]: Authorize editorial board to go ahead vigorously with pursing online publishing with HighWire Press and to establish an ad hoc committee composed of the** *Journal* Editor, Treasurer, Executive Manager, and others to investigate and implement online publishing. Passed unanimously.
- **Motion [C. Quist/W. Karesh]: Provide $10,000 to improve all stages of editorial process with the option for the** *Journal* Editor to provide an additional proposal for assistance that will not exceed $15,000 total. Passed unanimously.
- **Motion [E. Williams/M. Drew]: President form an ad hoc search committee that will recruit the successor to our current** *Journal* Editor. Passed unanimously.

Supplement Editor's Report

P. Nol assumed responsibility as the Supplement Editor with the January 2003 issue of the *Journal.* P. Nol noted that some information previously included in the Supplement may be better communicated on the website due to timeliness issues (e.g., job announcements). In these cases, a notice will be placed in the Supplement to check the website for information. Additionally, a stated goal of the Supplement Editor is to increase student involvement in submission of material for the Supplement.

Web Editor's Report

M. Ziccardi reported that a new website has been developed and a link to this new site is currently available to Council. The site has been populated with information from the old website, brochure, and display. Comments on the website were discussed. Possible additions to the site include placing the membership directory, and E. Williams suggested having a link to *Journal* abstracts. The student section could be populated and maintained by the Student Activity Committee. Additional comments should be submitted to M. Ziccardi.

Currently, there is no way to let anyone know when new information is placed on the site. Jobs, meetings, current events, and news cross with other organizations. One alternative is to consider the further involvement in the NBII node. J. Dein presented information on the NBII node. The node is the current home of the WDA website. The service is provided at no cost. However, WDA could support the node by becoming engaged in efforts to populate the site with information, creating a guide for topic-specific information that is available, making a commitment to funnel information from websites to the node as it goes to individual sites, becoming a node partner. Advantages of this involvement are the availability of mailing lists, the node can be a general resource to have links, job postings, meeting announcements, etc., that are common to many organizations (so that we don't have to spend time updating our own site), and the ability to have access open for everyone to enter into the site to add postings (to reduce administration time).

- **Motion [W. Karesh/J. Dein]: WDA supports the concepts of the NBII Wildlife Disease node and will foster membership support and use of the site through partnering with the node.** Passed unanimously.

Section Reports

Revitalization of the Latin American Section

M. Uhart reported that she has contacted 60 or so people regarding formation of a WDA Latin American Section but has received few responses. Further, she received little support

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for involvement from those who did reply. Although the group has a sufficient number of members needed to gain Section status, there is little local support and M. Uhart suggests that it would not be worthwhile at this point to pursue Section status. Council and the Section Committee continue to support the concept of a Latin American Section.

European Section

M. Artois reported that the European Section holds a meeting every other year. The next meeting will be in 2004 in Uppsala, Sweden. The Section remains active through submissions to the Supplement, a growing Student Section, and their main accomplishment, contributing reports on wildlife diseases to OIE.

African and Middle East Section

E. Wambwa submitted a written report. The first annual meeting of the African and Middle East (A&ME) section was held in Arusha, in November 2002. Dr. M. Mulumba, in Malawi, has prepared the first draft of the Section's constitution that will be emailed out to the members for final comments before preparing a final version. It is hoped that the final version will be ratified during the 2003 annual general meeting in South Africa. The Section considers the governing constitution fundamental to ensuring that the Section is managed well for the best benefit of all members and to ensure that objectives are met. A copy of the draft constitution is available from the WDA Secretary. The section's 2nd Annual Meeting will take place on 6 and 7 November 2003 at the University of Pretoria, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort. The South African Veterinary Association (SAVA)-Wildlife Group has graciously agreed to host the meeting. The main topic of the meeting will be Wildlife Forensics. The SAVA—Wildlife Group, in conjunction with the Wildlife Translocation Association, has arranged to hold a 1-day symposium on 8 November 2003. The topic is "Use of long-acting tranquilizers in the restraint of wildlife." This meeting promises to be very informative, with experts presenting their experiences from the field. Last year, the SAVA—Wildlife Group attracted 180 participants, and high attendance is expected this year as well. Through our association with the SAVA—Wildlife Group, we hope to attract many members from the southern Africa region because our membership is mainly from east Africa at the moment. The year following this, we hope to target professionals in the Middle East to become active members of this network.

The section has continued to improve its website and add links. The website can be found at: http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/whc/wdaafrica.

The section made three requests to the WDA council: to invite the WDA Council to send a representative to the 2nd Annual Meeting to be held in South Africa this year; to provide funding support to meet the costs for the A&ME section, 2nd Annual Meeting (all or part of the $8,000 budget); and to consider inviting a member of the A&ME section to one of the future WDA annual meetings.

American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians

T. Kreeger provided a written report on the activities of the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (AAWV). The AAWV held its annual business meeting in association with the WDA annual meeting in Arcata, California, in August 2002. Action items included:

- The need to devise a protocol to formalize granting of student chapter status.
- L. Baeten volunteered to be the new Student Liaison for the AAWV.
- S. Taylor volunteered to coordinate a mass mailing membership drive.
- A revised set of guidelines for the AAWV election process was proposed. These guidelines were published in a subsequent AAWV newsletter and will be voted on at the Saskatoon business meeting.
- A "Cutting Edge Speaker" committee was formed with the task of selecting such a speaker for the upcoming WDA meeting.
- A committee was formed to investigate the pros and cons of the following options (or other options that may develop): a) continuing as the AAWV currently exists as an independent association; b) striving to increase the number of active AVMA members in both organizations in order to reapply to the AVMA as the National Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians (NAZWV) and perhaps gain AVMA House of Delegate status; c) continuing to develop the NAZWV umbrella organization regardless of future AVMA status; or d) formally join the AAWV and AAZV into one official organization. This committee will look at all the various options and report back to the AAWV at the next business meeting (Saskatoon, 2003) with their overall recommendation. If their recommendation drastically changes the Association, it will be voted on by the entire membership. Members of this committee are K. Gilardi, B. Gonzales, D. Jessup, P. Klein, and S. Taylor. In conjunction with this charge, D. Jessup recently met with AVMA

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representatives and W. Amand (AAZV) to discuss some of these options.

New elections were held in the summer of 2003 with the new slate of officers taking over after the 2003 business meting in Saskatoon.

Committee Reports

For more effective use of the limited time available, written reports from the following Committees were accepted in lieu of verbal reports. There were no action items associated with these reports.

Sections Committee

T. Rocke provided a written report. The Sections Committee was pleased with the progress of the newest WDA section, the African and Middle East Section. The Committee continues to support the revitalization of the Latin American Section. A review of the Sections and Sections Committee bylaws in the WDA constitution has revealed several deficiencies. T. Rocke provided a list of written recommendations to Council for bylaws revisions. These recommendations are available from the WDA Secretary.

Student Activities

S. Gibbs provided a written report. In early 2003, S. Gibbs sent emails to each student at several veterinary schools within the United States inviting them both to apply for scholarships and to attend the WDA annual meeting in Saskatoon. S. Gibbs recruited students in several other venues as well, including at the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association meeting, at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (veterinary externs from around the country), and at the Society for Tropical Veterinary Medicine in Brazil. New brochures are needed for distribution. Until available, students will be directed to the WDA website. As the website is populated, the Student Activities Committee can begin moving on having an online version of the membership directory to help students locate professionals with given areas of expertise as well as to locate other students in their area.

Student Awards Committee

T. Work submitted a written report. Announcements for student scholarship, research, and Terry Amundsen awards were placed in the October and January issues of the Supplement. One page fliers were also prepared and mailed to 72 veterinary schools and wildlife studies departments in the United States and 10 similar institutions in Canada. In addition, fliers were distributed to 57 wildlife departments or veterinary schools overseas. The committee received eight and three applications for the research and scholarship awards, respectively (all from US or Canada). Applications were reviewed and a decision made within 90 days of receipt of the applications. Letters informing applicants of the outcome of the committee's decision were sent on 30 May 2003. This was the first year where the expanded committee of seven total members evaluated applications and this allowed for a more representative assessment of applicants. In the future, T. Work would like to explore the possibility of electronic submission of material by applicants. T. Work extended his thanks to those on the Student Awards Committee (P. Conrad, C. Driscoll, S. Gibbs, M. Pappaioanou, and D. Stallnecht) for their efforts and to B. Adrian for obtaining the awards plaques.

Membership Committee

W. Karesh provided a written report. Membership in three of four paying categories has declined this year, but revenues generated by membership fees have dramatically increased due to the change in the fee structure (Table 1). While it would be easy to attribute the decline in membership to the increase in fees, other factors could be contributory. The general worldwide economic slump must play at least a psychological role in decision making of members. The significant rise in fees for Institutional ($106 versus $250) is probably a factor in the decline in this category due to less flexible institutional budgets.

Sponsored 1-yr memberships in 2002 were at least 45 for individuals and nine for institutions in developing countries. Many of these individuals or institutions are probably not renewing for 2003 and, to date, sponsorships for 2003 are at 29 and zero, respectively. Sponsorships are best considered as professional outreach and, to a small degree, a marketing tool rather than a stable revenue stream.

With that in mind, the current numbers most likely reflect core membership support and the current membership-driven revenue at midyear is roughly 50% higher than the final total for 2002.

Carlton Herman Fund

D. Forrester reported that a new trustee for the Carlton Herman Fund is needed due to retirement of T. Yuill. B. McLean is nominated to serve as this new trustee and A. Fairbrother will serve as chair.

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TABLE 1. Comparison of WDA membership and income in 2002 and 2003.

Member category	Final 2002 numbers	Final 2002 income	June 2002 numbers	June 2002 income	July 2003 numbers	July 2003 income
Associate	14	$308	10	$220	18	$396
Emeritus	10		11		15	
Regular	877	$56,128	765	$48,960	762	$64,770
Student	190	$6,080	146	$4,672	140	$5,600
Institutional	446	$48,168	434	$46,872	389	$97,250
Company	2		2		2	
Total	1539	$110,684	1368	$100,724	1326	$168,016

- **Motion [T. Rocke/M. Wild]: Accept the nomination of Bob McLean as the new Carlton Herman Fund trustee.** Passed unanimously.

Time and Place Committee

T. Mörner reported that the 2004 WDA Conference will be 27 August–2 September in San Diego, California, in association with American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV) and AAWV. No active WDA member is taking the lead at the local level at this time. The joint AAZV and WDA meeting in Lansing, Michigan, in 1995 was cited as a good model for the joint meeting. WDA needs to have a strong impact on the program and therefore needs to appoint a program chair very soon and agree with AAZV that the program will be as in Lansing (or decide on another format). Action on the meeting format and submission of papers needs to be implemented by December because AAZV has the agenda set 6 mo prior to the meeting. S. Wright and T. Mörner will work on this along with the Time and Place Committee.

Two invitations for 2005 conferences have been received. The WDA Australasian Section has submitted a proposal to meet in Cairns, Australia, in July or August. The International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine (IAAAM) has also proposed a joint meeting at Prince Ski Resort, Alaska. Alternatively, this joint meeting could be in 2006 at a location to be determined.

- **Motion [T. Rocke/M. Drew]: Accept invitation of the WDA Australasian Section to hold the next International WDA Conference in Cairns, Australia, in 2005.** Passed unanimously.

I. Barker suggested that, after a joint meeting with AAZV in 2004 and an international meeting in 2005, we should plan to meet just as WDA in the US in 2006. While it would be good to have a joint meeting with IAAAM, it will be a few years until we can do it. T. Mörner will notify IAAAM of our decision. A suggestion was made that the 2006 meeting be held in the eastern US. S. Wright noted that this was a good suggestion and he will pursue it.

Old Business

Directory

A new directory was planned to go out with the July issue of the *Journal*. However, C. Quist reported that it will cost $4,000–5,000 for a hard copy that will quickly become out-of-date. She suggested waiting and producing an electronic version and readdressing the need for a hard copy in the future. This approach was informally approved by Council.

New Business

Side Meetings

P. Barrows acknowledged that WDA is doing well financially and that we benefit from our association with the groups holding side meetings during the Conference. Therefore, he does not see the added cost as a big issue for WDA at this point. A motion was made by C. Quist, with a second by T. Mörner, that WDA will cover the cost of side meetings held at the 2003 WDA conference due to the availability of excess Conference funds, but in the coming year, Council should revisit how to address costs incurred by side meetings. B. Samuel asked that the latter portion regarding revisiting the issue be more specific.

- **Motion [M. Ziccardi/T. Rocke]: WDA will cover the cost of side meetings held at the 2003 WDA conference due to the availability of excess Conference funds, and Council agrees to establish a policy for financial support of future side meetings prior to the 2004 conference.** Passed unanimously.

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Online Services

P. Barrows called for discussion on determining what we need from online services and how to provide funding for it. The two most important services noted were a membership directory (with a specialties category that is searchable) and ability to join WDA online using a credit card. These two services would cost about $3,000 net. Additional discussion is required to determine what other services would be beneficial; however, we should not put off gaining these two noted services any longer. Therefore, we can start with these services and decide what else we want in the coming year.

- **Motion [J. Mazet/M. Ziccardi]: Approve expenditure for online directory and membership application service at a net cost of no more than $5000/year.** Passed unanimously.

Brainstorming Session

P. Barrows reported on the Brainstorming Session that was held on 9 August. The minutes of this meeting follow. Nearly all of the action items and suggestions fall within the purview of one of the WDA committees. Contact T. Mörner if you are interested in helping to address a specific issue.

Recognition Coin

P. Barrows introduced the concept of a recognition coin to acknowledge all those who serve or have served on Council and as Assistant Editors. P. Barrows distributed coins to those present and asked that recognition coins also be distributed later in the Conference to those not present. Additionally, P. Barrows suggested that we establish an unofficial tradition that coins be carried during the annual conference and that a donation be made to the auction fund by anyone who cannot produce their coin if asked at the Conference.

During a brief ad hoc meeting of Council following the WDA Business Meeting, a motion was made to formalize the concept of the WDA recognition coin.

- **Motion [J. Fischer/M. Wild]: Council approve the establishment of a "WDA Recognition Coin" to be presented to current and past WDA members who serve(d) as members of Council and/or Assistant Editors of JWD.** Passed unanimously

Feral Cat Resolution

M. Drew, as chair of an ad hoc committee to address the feral cat issue, presented a draft resolution on feral cats. Most other organizations have position statements on feral cats. The goal of this ad hoc committee was to stay true to the mission of WDA in formulating a resolution for the Association. Generally, the resolution states that colonies are not desirable and that we should work with other organizations and agencies on intervention strategies. Currently, there are no good data to support or refute usefulness of intervention strategies. T. Mörner noted that this issue is specific to North America and this needs to be made clear. It is too difficult to address worldwide and there are social issues unique to North America (or even the US). More time is needed for review. It was decided to table this resolution for discussion at next year's conference.

Financial Support for Sections and Students

T. Mörner noted that the African Section meeting is coming up and we should send someone from Council. As discussed earlier, we can use auction proceeds for this type of travel. However, we need a cost estimate before we can make a motion for this expenditure. That information is not currently available. When a cost estimate is made, a motion could be made via email for council approval. Council may still need to readdress this issue in general at a later date.

Approval of Treasurer's Budget for 2004

Modifications to the draft budget that was submitted will include ≥$30,000 for online publishing, $15,000 for support to the editor's office, and $5,000 for online membership support. C. Quist will make revisions to the budget and provide it for approval by Council via an email vote.

Annual Dues

P. Barrows stated that there was no need for an increase in membership dues for 2004. After last year's marked increase, it would be good to note on the renewal notice that dues have not increased for 2004. K. Converse noted that she thought Council had approved a motion sometime in the last few years that mandated an annual cost of living increase (CPI) in dues. C. Quist will follow-up and look for this citation.

P. Barrows thanked all for their support. J. Fischer moved to adjourn and T. Mörner seconded. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret A. Wild,
Secretary

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