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MINUTES OF THE 2003 WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING

13 August 2003

P. Barrows welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 2:40. P. Barrows reported that Council has been busy all year and extended his personal thanks to those on Council. A summary of some of the actions taken by Council this year include:

- Moved the WDA website to the NBII node and made numerous improvements to the site.
- Increased dues so that we have the financial capabilities to address Association needs.
- Hired an Executive Manager with funds made available through the increased dues.
- P. Barrows, T. Rocke, and C. Quist visited Allen Press and Allen Marketing and Management in November 2002. The visit resulted in formation of a task list; most items on the task list have been addressed.
- Conducted two conference calls with Officers and Council. Minutes of these conference calls are available from the WDA Secretary on request.
- Conducted a Brainstorming Session on Saturday, 9 August. The last such session was held in 1989 and many of the actions identified there have been accomplished. This year's session was well attended by a diverse group, including student representatives.

Vice President's Report

T. Mörner reported that his priorities for the coming year as President include efforts to continue to improve our website and enhance on-line services to members (including on-line membership application). He also acknowledged the work of the committees over the last year, including Awards (T. Kuiken, chair), Budget and Audit (C. Quist, chair), Information (P. Nol, chair), Membership (B. Karesh, chair), Nominations (S. Wright, chair), Sections (T. Rocke, chair), Student Activities (S. Gibbs, chair), Student Awards (T. Work, chair), Teller (M. Wild, chair), Time and Place (T. Mörner, chair), Public Awareness (M. Drew, chair), Promotions (R. Brown, chair), and the Carlton Herman Fund (T. Yuill, chair). Some changes that will occur in the Committees this year include initiation of new chairs J. Fischer (Awards), D. Davis (Nominations), S. Wright (Time and Place), and K. Converse (Promotions); initiation of A. Fairbrother as chair and B. McLean as trustee to the Carlton Herman Fund; and addition of representatives from each Section to the Student Awards Committee.

The 2004 WDA Conference will be held 27 August–2 September in San Diego, California, in association with the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians and the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians. Council has approved an invitation by the Australasian Section to hold the 2005 conference in Cairns, Australia.

Secretary's Report

Election results provided by M. Wild were announced by P. Barrows. Our new officers and council members are President, Torsten Mörner; Vice President, Scott Wright; Council Members at Large, Todd Cornish and Helen Schwantje. P. Barrows thanked everyone for their participation and standing for office. He also acknowledged difficulties in distributing ballots in a timely manner this year and thanked membership for their patience.

Treasurer's Report

C. Quist reported that this was a good financial year for WDA. Revenues from the 2002 Conference were about $8.600. Despite a 13% drop in membership, dues income has increased over $60,000 as a result of dues increases. These funds allow more latitude for incurring expenditures in the upcoming budget. Although the proposed budget is similar to previous years, there are increases included to fund an Executive Manager and the associated expenses, to allow the Editor's office to begin implementing on-line publishing of the *Journal*, to provide enhanced on-line services for members (including a directory and application services), and to increase financial support for the *Journal* Editor's office. C. Quist also reported that Council discussed the need for revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws and that membership should be expecting to see proposed constitutional changes for consideration (and voting) in the coming year. A comment was made that the Constitution and Bylaws should be posted on the website and C. Quist responded that this would be done. P. Barrows commented that the "industry standard" for membership renewal in similar associations is 85–90%. Therefore, our 87% renewal rate as of

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1 August is not unexpected and may even improve as the year continues.

Editor's Report

E. Williams provided the Editor's report (see Council Meeting minutes). The report covered highlights from the editorial board meeting and statistics for the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases,* Vol. 39, issues 1–4. There will be an estimated 900–950 pages published in this volume. This is an increase from previous years. The majority of articles were full-length papers. Submissions were received from 39 countries. Forty-three percent of submitted manuscripts were accepted for publication. The mean time from receipt to publication was 13.5 mo (range 6–27 mo). There were 183 new submissions this year compared with 156 last year. The Assistant Editors and D. Pence were recognized for performing an excellent job. Two new Assistant Editors, V. Nettles and K. Frölich, have been added this year. Frölich is our first European Assistant Editor. I. Barker retires from his Assistant Editor position but will remain on the Editorial Board. The effort of reviewers on 210 manuscripts was acknowledged as important and appreciated. Mean review time was 3.6 mo. As approved by Council, the Editor and a committee will move forward with on-line publishing of the *Journal* with HighWire Press. On-line publishing will be in addition to continuing to publish a hard copy of the *Journal*. The committee will report back to Council as progress is made. The goal is to begin on-line publishing in the coming year and to provide an on-line archive of previous volumes shortly thereafter. Thank you was extended to all assisting with the *Journal*.

Sections Reports

Due to lack of time, individual Section reports were not provided. Section reports are available from the Secretary on request. P. Barrows provided special recognition to M. Artois, our new representative from the European section, and M. Uhart, who is attempting to revitalize the Latin American Section. M. Uhart reported that she is still working on increasing interest and participation in the Section and has received some good suggestions for increasing the contact list to expand the Latin American network. With patience, she thinks that they will be able to revitalize the Section. P. Barrows extended Council's support of her efforts.

Review of Motions Approved at Council Meeting

P. Barrows reviewed a list of motions that were approved at the Council meeting on 10 August. These are

- Approve minutes of January 14 and May 14 2003. Council conference calls.
- Authorize Treasurer and President to expend funds for liability insurance.
- Submit to membership a proposed change to the WDA Constitution, which will remove Article V, Sec. 3, requiring that the treasurer be bonded.
- Remove bonding requirement for the treasurer as it appears in the Bylaws.
- 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."
- Authorize editorial board to go ahead vigorously with pursing on-line 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 on-line publishing.
- Provide $10,000 to improve all stages of the editorial process with the option for the *Journal* Editor to provide an additional proposal for assistance that will not exceed $15,000 total.
- President form an ad hoc search committee that will recruit the successor to our current *Journal* Editor.
- 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.
- Accept the nomination of Bob McLean as the new Carlton Herman Fund trustee.
- Accept invitation of the WDA Australasian Section to hold the next International WDA Conference in Cairns, Australia, in 2005.
- 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 meeting prior to the 2004 conference.
- Approve expenditure for on-line directory and membership application service at a net cost of no more than $5,000/yr.
- Adoption of a WDA recognition coin.

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Executive Manager

Ad hoc committee chair T. Rocke reported that the idea of an Executive Manager to assist elected officers and members of WDA has been discussed for about 10 yr. During the last year, Council provided approval to act on this idea. The ad hoc Committee was formed and

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wrote a position description that was distributed to membership. Eight applications were received. Four interviews were conducted during this week's Conference. Ed Addison has been selected as our first Executive Manager. He has been a member of WDA for over 30 yr and has had numerous assignments and offices held within the Association. He will be an excellent advocate and spokesperson for WDA.

P. Barrows thanked T. Rocke for work of the ad hoc committee and welcomed E. Addison to his new position as Executive Manager of WDA.

Old Business

P. Barrows provided recognition to C. Quist for her work as Supplement Editor by presenting a Letter of Appreciation and plaque. C. Quist served as Supplement Editor from 1997 to 2002.

New Business

A motion was made by T. Thorne and seconded by T. Mörner to thank the organizing committee, including T. Leighton and G. Wobeser, who have made this an excellent and enjoyable meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by T. Yuill and seconded by S. Wright to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 5:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret A. Wild,
Secretary

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