

Minutes of the 2002 Wildlife Disease Association Business Meeting July 31, 2002

P. Barrows welcomed members and called the meeting to order. This has been a busy year for the Association and Council. Following the Joint WDA/STVM meeting in South Africa, the Pilanesberg Resolution to consider wildlife/domestic animal disease interactions and many ecologically complex issues when making economic decisions was circulated to 32 donor organizations and about a dozen responses were received. Two Council meetings were held via teleconference. A founding date was added to the previously approved new WDA Logo. A successful election was conducted. Our new Officers and Council Members are: Margaret Wild Secretary, C. Quist Treasurer, W. Karesh and K. Converse Council members at large, and S. Gibbs Student representative on Council. P. Barrows expressed thanks to all of those that stood for office this year. He also encouraged members to participate in the process, if not this year, than another and, if not as a Council Member or Officer, then as a committee Chair or member. Outgoing Officers and Council include E. Greiner, M. Pybus, L. Creekmore, L. Uhazy, C. Quist, and J. Lang. A number of Committee Chairs are also rotating off; T. Leighton of the Awards Committee, E. Addison of the Sections Committee, K. Gilardi of the Membership Committee, and T. Yuill of the Carlton Herman Fund. P. Barrows pointed out that all of the Officers, Council Members and Committee chairs have worked for you, the membership. P. Barrows requested a motion that the WDA formally recognize all of these people for the things that they have done and what they will continue to do for our Association. R. McLean made a motion (G. McLaughlin seconded) to thank outgoing Officers, Council members, and Committee members. The motion passed and members responded with a round of applause.

We also have a new Supplement Editor, P. Nol who is taking over for C. Quist. A new Website Editor position was created by Council and will be filled by Mike Ziccardi. Over the past year Council approved the formation of a new African Section. The first chair of this Section is B. Wamsa. Council also initiated actions in this past year to reform and revitalize the Latin American Section and hopes to have a new and functional Section in the near future. P. Barrows expressed thanks to W. Karesh and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) for their positive impact in providing overseas memberships over the past three years. So far this year the WCS has funded 46 regular memberships and 9 institutional memberships. This is an important initiative not only for the recipients but for the good impression and image it provides for our Association. P. Barrows expressed thanks to the WCS and W. Karesh and the membership gave them a round of applause. We view student members as a very important part of the WDA and as a result of previous Council actions a Student Member position was created on council. This position will be an important addition to Council. We are excited to have filled the newly formed Student representative position on Council with S. Gibbs. P. Barrows introduced T. Mörner, the Vice President, to review some highlights of this year's committee reports.

Vice President's Report

This year we will have a number of new committee chairs. Rick Brown is the new Chair of the Promotions Committee and this has been an active group. The committee is preparing, and has almost completed, a new WDA brochure. They also were responsible for the mugs and other gifts you received in your meeting package. P. Barrows and C. Quist arranged for the T-shirts

that were available for purchase. W. Karesh will be taking over the Membership Committee and T. Rocke will chair the Section Committee. The Section Committee was involved with the recent establishment of the new African Section and is very important as our international membership continues to grow. P. Nol will be the new Newsletter editor and M. Ziccardi will pioneer the new Website Editor position. The website is an increasingly important means of communicating with our membership, particularly our members overseas. Time and Place Committee is headed by the vice-president. There will be a presentation tomorrow on our meeting next year in Saskatoon. T. Leighton will continue to head the Awards Committee; tonight we will hear the results of this year's efforts. T. Work will continue to chair the Student Activities Committee. This committee did an excellent job again this year with many good student presentations and excellent papers. Thanks to both for their hard work. Scott Wright will continue to head the nominations committee. In recent years this committee has had to work very hard to encourage members to stand for office. T. Mörner encouraged the membership to help the nominations committee find those willing to stand for office. He also reiterated P. Barrow's request for members to participate in the Association. T. Yuill has agreed to stay on as chair of the Carlton Herman Trustees until his retirement in January.

Treasurer's Report

L. Uhazy provided an overview of the Associations financial status. WDA is still financially sound; however we are continuing to experience cash flow problems as we have over the past few years. We started this year with a bank balance of \$51,949.58. Our current checkbook balance is \$73,380.70. We have a certificate of deposit that has been held with the Southern Pacific Bank in Los Angeles for about five years. This CD was initiated with \$50,000 and it matured at \$68,012.58 on July 14, 2002. As of June 2002 the Carlton Herman Mutual Fund contained about \$24,000. Our mutual funds held by Buttonwood Partners total \$253,802.52 as of the 30th of June. So, again, we are financially sound but are having some problems with our cash flow and each year we have a smaller and smaller net balance. This is a result of income from membership fees that increases only a small amount each year while expenses associated with Allen Press, publishing of the newsletter and journal are increasing at a greater rate. These increases range from about 7% for publication of the newsletter to 15 % for management costs while our increases in dues are only equal to the cost of living increase. Because of this, each year we whittle away a bit more from our ending balance. We decided at the start of this year to invest the CD for 6 months rather than for a year. So on July 14, we took \$15,000 in interest and deposited it into checking and reinvested the remainder for six months. It will mature early in the new year. With the additional reprint charges and page charges that will come in, the addition to the checking account should allow us to have sufficient funds to make it through the year.

Editorial Report

E. Williams presented the Editor's report. (see the Council Meeting minutes). She presented some highlights from the Editorial Board meeting held earlier in the week. The percentage of full length papers in the Journal has been increasing. The Journal now contains about 65% full length papers and 35% short communications. Color pictures and figures were printed for the first time in the last issue. The costs for color are greater than for black and white and those costs are borne by the authors. Manuscripts from 21 countries will be printed in the 2002 volume of the journal. The countries include Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy,

Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, and United Arab Emirates. This indicates a broad spectrum of international interest in publication of the journal. We received 154 manuscripts in the past year compared to 156 in the previous year; so we have remained steady in terms of manuscripts received. We have about 30 manuscripts that are still remaining with authors for more than a year. If you are one of those authors, please get your manuscript in if you want it to be published! The acceptance rate for manuscripts this year was about 48%.and that rate has been extremely stable over the last four years. Mean time from manuscript submittal to appearance in the Journal is about 16 months (range 7-47 months). Again, this is essentially the same as last year. The Editor is hopeful that this time can be reduced by using the electronic submission and review process. E. Williams expressed thanks to the 10 Assistant Editors for all the work that they do. They are extremely important in making the Journal go. Our Assistant Editors are C. Atkinson, I. Barker, E. Howerth, T. Kreeger, S. Little, S. McMurry, L. Measures, C. Rupprecht, D. Stalknecht, and M. Pybus. Past Editor, D. Pence also assists by serving as Assistant Editor for some manuscripts. L. Uhazy was serving as an Assistant Editor and has recently stepped down. E. Williams also expressed thanks to the nearly 200 external reviewers who also have participated in review of manuscripts submitted to the Journal over the past year. While paper submissions are acceptable, about 80% of our manuscript submissions are now electronic and we have been encouraging this. The review process also is primarily being handled electronically. In some cases there have been a few small glitches with electronic submissions such as files that are very large or files with figures that can't be opened. It is important to compress files or figures that are very large. Electronic submissions allow us to submit the papers directly to Allen Press electronically and this has greatly decreased the errors in the galley prints because the Press does not have to retype the papers. There was a fairly long discussion in the Editorial Board and Council meetings regarding the use of citations from websites. The outcome of these discussions was that this practice will be discouraged because of the ephemeral nature of many of these sites. However, in some cases, with considerable Editorial oversight, such citations might be acceptable depending on the particular circumstances. In such cases we would like to request hard copies of the website and cited information to make available to the reviewers. There was a discussion regarding requests by authors to submit and post published manuscripts on websites. This Editorial Board felt that this was acceptable as long as the posted version is identical to the printed version and that the Journal is appropriately cited by using pdf files. Table of contents and abstracts will be posted on the Allen Press website with a link to our website. This should be up and available soon and is a free service. Finally, E. Williams again expressed thanks to the Assistant Editors, C. Quist as the supplement editor, outgoing Assistant Editor and Treasurer L. Uhazy, Secretary L. Creekmore, members of the Editorial Board and WDA Council, reviewers, and authors who are submitting manuscripts for the Journal. E. Williams expressed special thanks to Editorial Assistant, L. Smithson, who works in the Editorial Office and to T. Thorne, freelance copy editor. The membership gave a round of applause for E. Williams.

Review of Council Motions and Decisions

P. Barrows provided this report and briefly reviewed motions made in the Council meeting (See minutes of the Council Meeting). Probably the most important decision that came out of the Council meeting this year was the decision to hire an Executive Manager for the Wildlife Disease Association. As many members are aware, we have recognized the need for such a

position for many years. It was listed as a need identified in a strategic planning meeting held after the annual meeting in Corvallis, OR in 1989. We've talked about the idea with various levels of enthusiasm and commitment over the years. There are a number of things that led to Council's decision to go ahead and act on this now. They include 1) the increasing amount of pressure on the volunteer members of the Association serving as Officers, Council members and Committee members that devote a huge amount of time to keep the Association of our size and complexity operating. 2) the need for someone to provide continuity in the dealings of our association with Allen Press and Allen Management and Marketing, our investments, and other jobs that now having to be done in a fragmented fashion , 3) The fact that for years we have attempted to keep our dues as low as possible to encourage stable or increasing memberships. Increases in dues were based on the Consumer Price Index. Our conservative approach has resulted in a situation where our expenses consistently exceed our income and we are now whittling away at our cash reserves. It is time to change this trend by adjusting dues.

For these reasons the Council has decided that we need to go forward. An adhoc Executive Manager Committee has been created. A model position description has been formulated as well as salary and set-up costs. This committee will refine the announcement and selection criteria procedures to find the appropriate person by the end of October and provide this back to Council. From there we will have a Council meeting to determine how to proceed.

The only way we can move forward with hiring an executive manager is by creating additional revenue. Council has decided to significantly increase the dues of regular, student and institutional members. Student dues will increase from \$32 to \$40 and regular dues will increase from \$64 to \$85. Dues for institutional members will increase from \$108 to \$250. The dues increases will provide an additional \$75,000 in revenue if there is no loss in membership. If we lose 10% of our membership as a result of this change (which, of course is not desirable), we would still realize an increase of \$57,000. If we lose 20% of our membership across the board, we would still receive \$40,000 more than what we would have realized if we had only made our normal dues increase. We would have to lose 42% of our membership to make us even with what our revenue would be if we'd made our usual Consumer Price Index based 4% increase this year. The increased funds will be focused on the new executive manager position, additional services and cost saving initiatives from Allen press, and, hopefully, will allow us to stop deficit spending. The Associate member dues will remain the same. Council is positive and hopeful that this will help our Association move forward as well as increase services to members. We hope that the membership will view this as a positive decision as well. Council realizes that this initiative has the potential to have some impact to certain segments of our membership, particularly international members, and we have some ideas on how to mitigate this impact. The decision is not irrevocable and if there are unforeseen negative impacts we can adjust.

P. Barrows presented information on upcoming meeting venues. Next year the meeting will be held August 9-14 in Saskatoon. T. Leighton is the contact. The 2004 meeting is planned as a joint meeting with AAZV in October; J. Zuba and J. Osterhuis are our contacts for this meeting. In 2005 or 2006 we have a tentative standing invitation for a meeting in Australia hosted by our Australasian section. In the year where we are not meeting in Australia, the American Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine also has expressed interest in holding a joint meeting with the WDA.

New Business

P. Barrows asked if there was any additional old or new business. T. Yuill pointed out that he has learned through his participation in an NIH review panel that there is currently a lot of interest and money available for work on “emerging diseases”. Much of this additional funding is associated with concerns regarding bioterrorism and defense. A lot of money this year is going into expansion of multi-institutional “centers” with increased hiring of people with interest and expertise in the area of emerging diseases. As areas like this develop, it is wise for us to think about ways to capture people with interests in these areas as members. We should not abandon the core of things that we do already but rather expand on them.

I. Barker asked that the Council and Editorial Board take a look at the financial and other implications of increasing the number of journals to 6/year. This has the potential to improve the speed of publication, address the difficulties with number of publications relative to our current page caps, and encourage more and better papers.

There was no additional new business.

P. Barrows asked for a motion to thank the local organizing committee, Rick Botzler, Rick Brown, Mike Ziccardi, and all those who worked so hard to make this such a great conference on behalf of the entire Association. I. Barker made the motion seconded by T. Mörner. The membership gave the organizing committee a round of applause.

T. Yuill (seconded by J. Fischer) moved to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Lynn H. Creekmore
Secretary