

MINUTES OF THE 2003 WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING 13 August 2003

P. Barrows welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 1640. 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:

- Move the WDA website to the NBII node and make numerous improvements to the site.
- Increased dues so that we have the financial capabilities to address Association needs.
- Hire 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.
- Conduct two conference calls with Officers and Council. Minutes of these conference calls are available from the WDA Secretary on request.
- Conduct 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 enhancing on line services to members (including online 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, CA 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 \$8600. 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 online publishing of the Journal, to provide enhanced online 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 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 months (range 6 – 27 months). There were 183 new submissions this year compared to 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 months. As approved by Council, the Editor and a committee will move forward with online publishing of the Journal with HighWire Press. Online 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 online publishing in the coming year and to provide an online 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 Jan 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 two years either by a public accountant or an auditing committee in a method determined by Council."
- Authorize editorial board to go ahead vigorously with pursuing 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.
- 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.
- 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 online directory and membership application service at a net cost of no more than \$5000/year.
- 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 years. During the last year Council provided approval to act on this idea. The ad hoc Committee was formed and 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 years, 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 1710.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret A. Wild
Secretary