

MINUTES OF THE 2009 WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING

6 August 2009

President Charles van Riper III welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 11:12am Pacific Standard Time.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Lynn Creekmore provided a summary of the Time and Place Committee Activities. She reminded the members that the 2010 annual international WDA conference will be held in Puerto Iguazu in Argentina. Marcela Uhart is the primary organizer of this meeting. Marcela feels that this may be the ideal time to think about establishing a Latin American section. This will be a fantastic venue and will provide an excellent opportunity to interact with Latin American colleagues working in wildlife health. This meeting will be earlier than usual and so we encourage people to start making their plans to attend the meeting now.

The WDA Council holds meetings throughout the year via teleconference in addition to the meeting at the annual conference. During one of these conference calls Council accepted an invitation from Marc Artois to hold the annual WDA conference in 2012 in Lyon, France. It has been many years since the WDA has held a meeting in Europe and the European Section of the WDA is growing and is very active and vibrant. The European Section holds their meetings every two years and the Lyon meeting therefore corresponds with this schedule. Marc Artois will also be retiring soon and this would be the last opportunity to have him host a meeting. Having two annual conferences outside of North America within five years breaks from tradition but Council has decided that it is important to take these opportunities to support European Section and become more international in our meetings. Finally, at the recent August 2, 2009 Council meeting, Council accepted an invitation from Quebec City to host the 2011 meeting. As Council was planning the 2011 meeting we were targeting eastern North America for this meeting. Originally mid Atlantic States were approached for this meeting; however the Quebec meeting organizers stepped in with a formal invitation and the mid Atlantic group graciously deferred to the Quebec invitation with the offer to reconsider a meeting in the mid-Atlantic area at another time. Again, we have a meeting organizer anxious to host the meeting that will soon be retiring, Robert Patenaude. This also is another area with a vibrant wildlife disease community where we have not sited a meeting and so we are pleased to accept their invitation.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Pauline Nol began with elections stating that four new Council members were elected. We received 208 electronic ballots and 7 paper ballots. The incoming officers were Lynn Creekmore as President and Dolores Gavier- Widén as Vice-President. Two new Council members at large were Kristin Mansfield and Colin Gillin. The new members were congratulated. The major motions passed by Council in the last year were summarized.

Great appreciation went to Dave Stallknecht and Buffy Howerth for all their fantastic work with the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* (JWD), and to Jim Mills for his great efforts towards the effective transition of the JWD editorship.

C. van Riper stated that he would soon be Past-President and therefore on the Nominations Committee. He encouraged anyone interested to consider participation on Council and also to join committees. Committees are very important to the WDA.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Laurie Baeten summarized the status of the WDA assets. Total 2008 revenue was \$325,334. The WDA had over \$1 million in assets in 2007 but lost almost \$300,000 in 2008. Much of that has been recovered, and total assets are currently at \$949,207. Regarding excess funds approximating \$75,000, \$25,000 was moved into a Certificate of Deposit with interest of 2.5%. \$55,000 went into the investment account. As of end of 2008, the Carlton Herman Fund totaled \$25,982, the Tom Thorne and Beth Williams Memorial Fund contained \$64,952, and the Student Activities Fund had \$50,881. For 2009, there was an increase of \$6,000 in the Executive Manager's salary to equal \$36,000. The 2008 meeting in Edmonton netted \$5,956. The WDA changed banks to a larger institution. There will be no increases in membership fees for 2010. Council based this decision on the WDA's income stability but increases will be explored for 2011 as the WDA needs to develop ideas to support the JWD and other activities and projected increasing costs. There have been no increases in six years on student or associate memberships. C. van Riper thanked L. Baeten and expressed his appreciation to Ed Addison for his excellent work as Executive Manager.

Executive Manager's Report

Executive Manager Ed Addison commended the last three treasurers for their hard work. Regarding trends in membership, there have been significant declines in subscriptions with a ~\$40,000 loss. This is an ongoing trend throughout the scientific and medical industry. However, unlike many organizations, the WDA has maintained an increasing membership over the past decade. The WDA has also enjoyed a large increase in investment revenue from 2003-2007 up until the 2008 market decline. Thus the WDA's net revenue is currently down. Council has formed a new endowment committee to address the situation of decreasing subscription income. The WDA needs new sources of income to support the JWD and the WDA. The WDA relies on subscribers for 50% of income each year and does not have a diversified source of revenue at this time.

2010 and 2011 WDA annual international conferences

Marcella Uhart invited everyone to the 2010 WDA annual conference in Puerto Iguazu, Argentina from May 30-June 4 2010.

Robert Patenaude invited everyone to Quebec City, Quebec for the 2011 WDA annual conference and talked about the unique nature of this old city.

Ellis Greiner emphasized the great importance of student involvement in the WDA as they are the future of the Association. “Long Live WDA!”

Adjournment at 11:50 am.

Respectfully Submitted

Pauline Nol

Secretary