

MINUTES OF THE 2010 WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING

3 June 2010

President Lynn Creekmore welcomed Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) members and called the meeting to order at 5:15pm Puerto Iguazu, Argentina. There were approximately 83 people in attendance.

President's Report

President Creekmore provided background and explained the purpose of the Annual Meeting. President Creekmore described the last year as challenging and that the Committees worked very hard and accomplished a great deal on behalf of the Association. Two important items were then addressed. The President introduced the new WDA Executive Manager Dave Jessup and explained that the transition to new management will take place mid-summer. The President then reported that the WDA has a new website editor Renee' Carlton who is currently transitioning with former editor Bridget Schuler. The President encouraged the members to provide material to the website and newsletter editors. She also stressed that input from the membership to Council is welcome.

Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

The Secretary and Treasurer were not able to attend the meeting. Reports were given by the President and Vice President later during the meeting.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Gavier-Widen explained that one of the duties of this office is to serve as Time and Place Committee Chair. The Committee Chair makes use of planning manual which has been updated with help from Executive Committee and past organizing committees. New items on the planning manual include: a checklist to make meetings more environmentally responsible (introduced in 2009) and the introduction of 7 min presentations intended mainly for case reports. The 2011 conference will take place in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. The 2012 conference will be held jointly with European Section of the WDA in Lyon, France on July 22-27. The 2010 meeting is being planned by Marc Artois and the theme is "Convergence in Wildlife Health". The 2013 Annual meeting site is currently undetermined but will likely occur in the mid-Atlantic states of the US.

Vice President Gavier-Widen emphasized that WDA Committees are the backbone of organization. They were very busy this year and provided valuable input to Council. The Committees will be recognized at the banquet.

In 2011, all officers will be up for reelection. This is an unusual occurrence. Normally elections are staggered for smoother transitions. Please consider running for a position on Council or nominating someone.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report was given by President Creekmore. In 2009 a deficit was projected but the Association managed to break even. This was partially due to the fact that funding allocated to the Editor Office was not used. In 2010 a deficit is also projected and therefore Council is acting cautiously with budget and actions items. In the past few years there have been increased costs with increased projected deficits in the face of static income (129% operating expense increase since 2003, but no increase in revenue). While making money isn't the goal of the Association, financial stability is very important to support activities that further the WDA's mission. One source of funds for the WDA is the investment portfolio and our portfolio is recovering now which helps. However our other primary sources of revenue are membership dues and page charges for the Journal of Wildlife Diseases (JWD). With the advice and support of the Budget and Audit, Council took actions in this year's Council meeting to improve the status of these sources of revenue. Council voted to modestly increase membership dues for 2011 (except for sustaining memberships), also to increase journal page charges. A new Funding and Endowment Committee was created to find other sources of funding to support our journal and the other good things that we do. .

Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report was given by Vice President Gavier-Widen who took the opportunity to thank committee members for their hard work. Details of their efforts are available on the WDA website. The following items were accomplished by Council in the past year:

- Dave Jessup was hired on as the new WDA Executive Manager
- Rene Carlton was voted on by Council to be the new Website Editor. Many thanks to Bridget Schuler for her efforts as previous Website Editor
- Council voted to provide travel to the 2010 Annual Meeting for the WDA President if travel was not covered by employer
- Council passed the 2010 budget with a deficit of \$84,000
- WDA purchased a 5 yr subscription to FoundationSearches America software
- Council rescinded a motion to establish an ad hoc committee to explore ways to support wildlife health members in South America and the Caribbean. This task was reassigned to the International Committee
- Minutes of Annual Meetings, Teleconferences, and Business Meetings will be placed on WDA website and will no longer be published in JWD

Thijs Kuiken reminded the President that the membership needs to approve the treasurer's report. President Creekmore thanked Thijs for the reminder and asked for a motion to approve the treasurer's report.

Motion (D. Jessup/P. Klein): to approve the 2010 Treasurer's Report. *Passed unanimously*

Vice President Gavier-Widen then reported the results of the 2010 vote for new members of Council. Mark Pokras and Julie Langenberg are the new Council Members at Large. Jane Harms in the incoming Student Representative on Council. Many thanks to Council members rotating off this year: Samatha Gibbs, Theirry Work; Terra Kelly, and Bridget Schuler.

New Motions (voting items):

- Council established limits on pages published in JWD. The number of journal pages has been increasing since 2008. This has led to significant increases in costs to print, and has been a lot of work for editors. D. Jessup commented that the size of the JWD has almost doubled in 10 yrs without increases in page charges to cover the costs. Only 43% of publication costs are covered by subscriptions and page charges. The remainder is supported by the Association. A concern was made by the membership regarding publication costs to Argentinians. The Vice President stated that a workshop was taking place during the conference that would address that issue.
- Council voted to increase in JWD page charges.
- Council voted to not increase 2011 subscription fees (libraries and universities)
- Council voted to slightly increase 2011 membership fees to \$110 for print journal and \$100 for electronic journal only.
- The President will be appointing members to an Audit Committee to conduct an internal audit of WDA's 2009 financial records and practices
- A motion was passed regarding transfer of membership fees to geographic sections. This motion allows for periodic adjustments in membership fees.

President Creekmore commented that audits are required every three years. The 2006 audit was an internal audit led by Tom Yuill and was very good. The WDA will be conducting an internal audit for 2009 as approved by Council. Past external audits were expensive and not nearly as informative as the 2006 internal audit so we think that another internal audit will best meet our needs.

D. Jessup commented regarding membership fees in terms of their allowing the WDA to provide the JWD for free online to 137 countries. An argument was then raised suggesting that with increased page charges, the result would be publication bias from wealthier countries. Cost savings can be accomplished with advertising and lower paper quality. Another suggestion was made to set up an online forum to discuss this subject further among the membership.

President Creekmore conceded that it is more difficult to have a large increase in page charges after many years of no increases. The association will consider ways to have smaller, more frequent increases in the future. Thijs suggested possibility of publishing in another country at lower cost than in the US but at same quality.

Editor's Report

Journal of Wildlife Diseases Editor Jim Mills expressed gratitude to Dave Stallknecht and Buffy Howerth for their mentorship and aid during the transition. He also thanked the Assistant Editors, Christy Stallknecht (editorial assistant), and Tonie Rocke (book review editor). J. Mills then described the increase in pages published per issue each year since 2008 when a record 1,076 pages were published in 2008. Before then the journal averaged 800-900 pages per volume. In 2009 almost 1,300 pages were published, and in 2010 approximately 1,400 pages are anticipated. The number of pages currently being published is not sustainable due to cost and work load. In response to this, page limits and tiered page charges will be introduced, as well as a "letter" category which will contain a maximum of 1,000 words. In addition, portions of manuscripts, such as appendices and lengthy methods, may be moved to weblinks.

More news regarding the Journal of Wildlife Diseases:

- Expect to see increases in revenue, increases in impact factor, and limitations in expenses.
- The cover of the JWD will be in color from now on.
- Damien Joly is newly-appointed to the Editorial Board.
- The JWD is moving toward posting articles ahead of print, which will cut time to publication by approximately 25% (3 months).
- Council has approved a monograph series but a committee needs to be established to explore and champion this.
- Author indices will appear online instead of in the Journal to free up more pages for papers
- The Editorial Board needs more Assistant Editors (herps, birds, parasitology, Europe, and Latin America)

President Creekmore offered the opportunity for input from members:

Heather Fenton brought up the issue that membership renewals are out of step with the college school years (i.e. student's school years begin in Aug/Sep while our general membership renewals are due in January). So if a student joins the association at the beginning of the school year, they will due for a renewal in January. This is discouraging and makes the students feel like they are paying "double". The President encouraged further discussion and that she will consider possible solutions

Motion to adjourn (Tom Yuill/Peregrine Wolfe): Adjourned at 6:06 pm