

**Annual Business Meeting
Wildlife Disease Association
August 18, 2011**

Lynn Creekmore thanked everyone for coming and reminded everyone to fill out the survey provided in the registration packets.

The Business Meeting is the WDA Officers' opportunity to update the membership on activities of WDA Council and this allows the membership to express ideas and concerns. In addition, the minutes of the Council meeting will be made available on the website. Please read those minutes and direct any comments or questions to Council members or the WDA Executive Manager

Council has decided to change targeted business practices of the WDA. This is for a great part in response to high rates of truancy of authors. This change will reduce the problems with truancy and will allow resolution of billing and payment well ahead of publication in the WDA journal (JWD) and will hopefully eliminate the uncertainty of remuneration for all of the manuscripts published in JWD. To increase revenue, WDA will actively seek appropriate advertising for the Journal of Wildlife Diseases (JWD). Council had agreed on this several years ago but had not taken the opportunity to act on this until now, as the business practices have changed and the opportunity presented itself as the contract with Allen Marketing and Management changed. L. Creekmore requested that the membership let the Executive Manager or the President know if you have any ideas regarding appropriate advertising

Council Meeting also accepted a new agreement with EcoHealth Alliance. EcoHealth Alliance, as a sustaining member, has agreed to pay \$3000 per year to the JWD. \$1000 is aimed at supporting the Journal in general and the other \$2000 will support worthy manuscripts, that the Editor selects, that have a significant One Health or Ecosystem Health component, and where the authors would otherwise not be able to afford the page charges.

There was additional exciting news to report. WDA has accepted the request for the establishment of a new Latin Section. There are currently 33 members that represent 10 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Belize, Columbia, St. Kits, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Chile, Peru, and Mexico. The President encouraged the membership to foster this new section and talk to the Chair, Marcella Uhart, with any ideas or support.

Council decided to join and participate as a *partner* with the United Nations Environment Program's Taskforce on Wildlife Diseases, a consortium that was seeking different levels of partnerships from groups such as WDA. Council decided to participate on the *partner* level and will receive information to disseminate as well as be given the opportunity to provide input to ideas and decisions. L. Creekmore asked the membership to be ready to provide expertise when called upon.

There is a new website interface put together by Renee Carleton. The membership is being asked to look at the website and offer any suggestions, comments, or ideas to Renee Carleton.

Jenny Powers is ready to step down as Newsletter Editor after having done a fantastic job for the past several years. L. Creekmore asked that anyone interested in filling this position, please let the President or Executive Manager know.

In absence of the Secretary, L. Creekmore delivered the Teller Committee's report. Laurie Baeten will continue as Treasurer, Dolores Gavier-Widén is the new President, Thierry Work is Vice President, Peregrine Wolff is Secretary, and Carol Meteyer and Ignasi Marco are Council Members at Large.

L. Creekmore asked the membership to recognize the outgoing Council Members: Christine Kreuder-Johnson, Wayne Boardman, and Pauline Nol with a round of applause.

L. Creekmore also recognized the WDA sections and chairpersons: Erik Ågren from the Nordic Section, Thijs Kuiken from the European Section, Colin Gillin from the Wildlife Section, Marcella Uhart from the Latin Section, and Jen McClelland from the Australasian Section. The President reminded the membership of the 2012 International Conference in Lyon, France being organized by the European and Nordic Sections.

D. Gavier-Widén gave the Vice President's report. The Vice President assists the President in organizing the WDA committees. Targets were written for all the standing and ad hoc committees. WDA has 18 committees with more than 100 members. The Vice President encouraged the membership to visit the website to see what the committees are and what they do. The committees lead the WDA toward improvement and progress. D. Gavier-Widén acknowledged the very important work done by the WDA committees.

The Vice President is also chair of the Time and Place Committee. This committee takes into consideration locations of past meetings and the target was the eastern United States. Council has decided that the 2013 International Conference will be held in Knoxville Tennessee. Debra Miller is on the organizing committee and made a brief presentation on Knoxville and this meeting. Knoxville has plentiful wildlife and opportunities outdoor activities. The Wildlife Center works with the Knoxville zoo. There is a newly-established WDA student section at the University of Tennessee. There are also excellent opportunities for site seeing and tours. D. Miller also presented a video from the Knoxville Department of Tourism and invited everyone to attend the 2013 WDA conference in Knoxville.

Stéphane Lair presented some statistics of the WDA Quebec conference. Two hundred abstracts were submitted. There were 273 participants representing 23 countries. The United States and Canada represented the majority of participants followed by France. Two participants to note were from Madagascar and Senegal. The participant from Senegal was supported by the OIE.

Margo Pybus asked about the auction revenues. This will be reported in the Treasurer's report.

Laurie Baeten first reported on 2010 assets. Despite declines in membership, there were \$210,000 in revenues (page charges were nearly \$100,000). The investment income this year was \$56,000 which is more than in past years. The 2010 conference made \$96,000 and auction made \$3,000. Final revenues for 2010 were \$428,000. The Budget Committee met with JSA and the investments made 15% in 2010. L. Baeten emphasized that the overall portfolio has maintained 7.2% which is better than the Standard and Poor's performance.

Expenses of WDA are primarily for the Journal (JWD) which totaled \$220,000. Administration fees for WDA annual operations were \$100,000. And the annual WDA conference costs approximately \$100,000 in expenses. There could be a deficit in last year's conference but not all the revenues have been collected and recorded. Once recorded the 2010 conference actually had a net income of \$1,500.

Total expenses in 2010 were \$413,000 with a net revenue of \$15,000. The amount of money in each of the WDA funds at the end of 2010 were as follows: Tom Thorne and Beth Williams Memorial Fund held \$87,000; the Carleton Herman Fund held \$36,000; the new Student Activities Fund held \$70,000; and the newly established Student Chapter Fund was supplied with seed money of \$4,000.

At the end of the second quarter of 2011 the current WDA investment portfolio is at \$1,300,000. There is currently \$175,000 in the checking account. This is higher than recommended but will be adjusted after the conference is over and all payments made.

The Budget and Audit Committee recommended the purchase of a 1 year CD in Australian funds of \$25,000

The 2011 Auction made approximately \$6,000. Carol Meteyer reminded the membership that the auction funds go directly into the student-specific fund.

L. Creekmore asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Moved by Colin Gillin and seconded by Tom Yuill. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Jim Mills gave the Editor's report. The numbers of published pages were increasing rapidly and deficits were foreseen. The Editorial Board decided to increase scrutiny and rejection rates to higher than 50%; enforcement of page limits, and introduce new manuscript categories whose page numbers are strictly enforced. There are now five enforced categories. There is a 500-word Letter category, a 1000-word Letter, a 2000-word short communication and a 4000-word full length article. There will be occasionally invited Reviews that will be more than 4000 words. Page charges were also increased for members and non-members. For members charges increased from \$70 to \$80 per page (\$125 for each additional page over 6 pages) and to \$120/page for non-members (140 for each additional page over 6 pages). The pages published in the last ten years were 800-900/year. In 2008 large increases were occurring and in 2010 Council set a goal of limiting the 2011 volume

to 1100 pages and has achieved that. The Letter category was introduced in 2010 and many of the previous manuscripts that would have been Short Communications are now Letters. Letters do not get factored into the denominator of the impact factor calculation, only the numerator, and thus Letters increase the Journal's impact factor. Between 2007 and 2009 there was a steady number of manuscripts submitted; approximately 275-300 papers. In 2010 there was a 27% increase and 2011 there will be a projected 14% increase over 2010. One reason for that is the increasing number of countries submitting to the Journal. Therefore the Journal is becoming more global. The United States submits the highest number followed by Brazil, China, Canada, and Australia. In Europe, Spain and Italy submit the most articles. From Latin America there was an increase of articles being submitted starting in 2007, and we expect those numbers to reach as many as 40 articles in the near future. We need to carefully examine all submissions and only select the very best for publication. This will surely increase the quality and impact of the Journal of Wildlife Diseases.

Impact factor is the number citations divided by the number of manuscripts published. Our current impact factor is increasing significantly since the last publication of impact factor.

Time from submission of publication has improved over the past two years. It has been approximately 1 year up until recently but this is improving.

Jonathan Sleeman expressed concerns over the increase in page charges and wondered whether the JWD was considering on line supplemental materials and other methods to alleviate page limit pressures.

Dave Jessup presented the Executive Manager's report. The Ex Man's primary job is to assist the President and Vice President and Council with various tasks and issues. D. Jessup acknowledged the magnitude of the implementation of the new business model and feels this was a very important and beneficial initiative. It will save a lot of money and decrease difficulties with billing.

Additional activities of the Executive Manager this past year included an MOU that was signed with The Wildlife Society. This relationship has already proven to be fruitful. One aspect of the MOU is that The Wildlife Society will be featuring article summaries from the JWD in its Wildlifer magazine.

There was also an agreement made with EcoHealth Alliance to initiate a sustaining membership of the WDA as described earlier. The Executive Manager is also working on sustaining membership with US Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services to support electronic access to the JWD.

Importantly, the Executive Manager and Council are working on creating value added items in a WDA membership. One item is reduced conference fees. There will soon be on line access to Tom Thorne and Beth Williams wildlife disease slide series. There will also be on line access to Iowa State Press books, such as Parasitic Diseases of Wild Mammals edited by Margo Pybus and William Samuel, and Non-

Infectious Diseases of Wildlife by Lou Locke and Anne Fairbrother. These books are currently out of print, but an agreement is being reached with Wiley Blackwell. These books will be made available on line and other in-print books by WDA members will be advertised by the publisher. Additionally, the new email system and website system will allow access to the recordings of the conferences and other benefits through links.

Dolores Gavier-Widén presented a plaque to President Lynn Creekmore and acknowledged her excellent work over the past three years. Lynn emphasized what an honor it was to serve the Association.

Tom Yuill made a motion to close the business meeting and Dave Jessup seconded that motion.

The 2011 Business Meeting of the WDA was closed.