

**Council Meeting of the Wildlife Disease Association
December, 12 2013, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM, PDT
Conference Call**

Welcome and Introductions

President Thierry Work welcomed members, reviewed the rules of order and called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM PDT.

Council Members Present:

Thierry Work (President), Marcela Uhart (Vice President) Laurie Baeten (Treasurer), Peregrine Wolff (Secretary), Dolores Gavier-Widén (Past President), Samantha Gibbs (Newsletter Editor), Jim Mills (Journal Editor), Aleksija Neimanis (Chair Nordic Section), Andrea Reiss (Chair Australasian Section), José Luiz Catão Dias (Chair Latin American Section), Lisa Shender (Student Representative), Patti Bright (Member at Large), Emi Saito (Member at Large), Ignasi Marco (Member at Large), Carol Meteyer (Member at Large), Dan Tompkins (Member at Large), Rick Gerhold (Member at Large)

Council Members Absent: Tammie O'Rourke (Website Editor), Jon Arnemo (Wildlife Veterinary Section), Christian Gortázar (European Section). Note: Jon was prevented from getting on the call by a non-working call in conference phone number for Norway.

Others present:

Dave Jessup (WDA Executive Manager), Pam Whitely

ACTION ITEMS:

1) 2013 – 29: Treasurer's report and approval of 2014 budget. *Laurie Baeten*

a. 2013-29 (A) Interim 2013 Financial Summary Report:

As of September 30, 2013, our assets are:

Checking account balance with US Bank	\$54,327
Money market account balance with EverBank	\$1,518
Investment portfolio value (including unrealized gains)	<u>\$1,852,114</u>

Motion: Uhart/Mills:

That the Wildlife Disease Association Budget Report for 2014 detailing projected revenue of \$590,500, projected expenses of \$577,745 and a total projected net profit of \$12,755 be accepted as presented. (*passed unanimously*)

- 2) 2013 – 30: Approval of report from the Nominations Committee and the slate of candidates for 2014. *Dolores Gavier-Widén*

Past President Gavier-Widén thanked everyone for their efforts in getting out the information concerning the call for nominations. Excellent candidates submitted their nominations and the slate also meets the goal for broad geographic representation. The Committee reviewed credentials, checked membership status and deemed that they were all suitable.

C. Meteyer - how do we handle those candidates that may not make the ballot this year, do we encourage them to apply again next year?

Past President Gavier-Widén - yes, if they are suitable candidates then they are encouraged to submit their nomination again. There were no candidates whose names were submitted within the deadline for nominations that did not make the slate for this year.

Discussion:

No further discussion on the motion to accept the slate of candidates

Motion Baeten/Neimanis:

WDA Council approves the report of the Nominations Committee and the slate of candidates for 2014. (*passed unanimously*)

- 3) 2013 -31: Cost savings strategies for hard copies of the Journal of Wildlife Diseases. *Dave Jessup*

Executive Manager Jessup gave an overview of the origins of this effort. The production of the JWD is WDA's largest annual expenditure, with the production and distribution of hard copies representing a major component of this expense. However a percentage of our members still desire a hard copy version of the Journal. Thus the B&A Committee focused on potential opportunities for cost saving in the number of copies produced, storage time and other services provided. The number of hard copies printed must be decided up to 2 months prior to the scheduled print run and especially for the first issue of the year there has to be enough copies for all the previous years members as any new members that might be requesting the hard copy of the Journal. Thus we always need more copies of the first issue produced, as we never know how many previous members who wanted hard copy we will lose and new members may choose to receive the hard copy. This overrun historically has then carried over for the 2nd through 4th issues. If we review the members who are requesting a hard copy of the Journal in January then this will allow us to avoid print overruns for the 2nd through 4th issues. This will reduce the number of current year issues we pay storage for and, if we also reduce the number of

older back issues that we keep in storage, from 10 to 5 we can also decrease costs a bit. With all of the above outlined efforts we may be able to save \$11-12,000 per year. It is important to insure that there are enough hard copies available for the members that request them and also for institutional memberships which tend to come in later in the year and who usually request a hard copy. We will also try and address this over the long run by encouraging those members that want a hard copy to renew their memberships as early as possible. Currently we have essentially no demand for back issues in hard copy. Note: There may also be members that are also eager to donate their back issues.

Discussion:

No further discussion on the motion to reduce JWD costs.

Motion Tompkins/Uhart:

WDA Council encourages the Editor and Executive Manager to continue to reduce costs associated with JWD production and distribution by tightly culling unused back issues, trimming print runs for the second through fourth issues of each year, and informing individual and institutional members that print runs will be limited and late renewal risks hard copy being unavailable. (*Passed unanimously*)

4) 2013– 32: Approval of reformation of the African and Middle East Section. *Dave Jessup*

Executive Manager Jessup gave an overview of the history of this committee. In 2012 there was interest in reforming this section and there appeared to be interest from many members in the geographic region. WDA requested that three members from the area (Thomas Nyariki, Michael Kock and Anne-Lise Chaber) help to lead a discussion with their colleagues about reforming the section. A proposal has come forward from these three individuals with a list of members who are interested in reforming the Section.

Some specific points concerning the AME section to consider are:

The old section fell apart due to a series of unfortunate events that left it without leadership. Thus, the AME section was not terminated but was only suspended.

There has been discussion among members in the region and a decision to keep the geographic boundaries the same (both African and the Mideast) so that the Section could just be reinstated.

There are 24 active WDA members in the geographical region and 14 agreed to be listed as members of the Section

There are assets (approx. \$5,000 USD) that belong to the WDA AMW Section sitting in a bank in Nairobi, Kenya.

Thomas Nyariki, Michael Kock and Anne-Lise Chaber have also agreed to serve on an ad hoc committee to select an ad hoc committee that will nominate officers and to hold an election for the new section. This would occur within 2-3 months of Council approving the reformation of the Section.

Past President Gavier-Widén - We have a list of 14 people that want to be part of the committee, but what about other active members in the region? Were they also contacted and is there any conflict with the other members that did not agree to be part of the Section?

Executive Manager Jessup – we are not certain why there were not more regional members that had agreed to be listed, possibly just poor communications, but they needed to be pulled together quickly and these may have been the only people that responded and made a commitment within the specified time frame to meet the Council call deadline. The important issue is whether we have enough members within the region who will maintain membership in the section longterm. P. Whitely and D. Jessup are each sponsoring some members to insure that this will occur. But this is not a viable longterm solution to keep the section afloat.

What about a discounted membership for a few years?

This would require a vote from Council to change membership fees.

President Work - What lessons have we learned from forming the Latin American Section?

Vice-President Uhart - the section leadership needs to work constantly to recruit new members. The LA Section has fluctuated in membership, but always remained well above the minimum required to maintain the section.

A.Reiss - In another organizations the parent body has supported the new section to help them get started would WDA consider this?

Executive Manager Jessup - The AME already has a minimum of \$5,000 in the bank. They received initial start up funds when they first formed and then the section built this up to \$5-6,000 USD.

Past President Gavier-Widén - Section by-laws require a meeting every 2 years. In this region the majority of the members may not be able to afford to come to a meeting? What about offering an alternative – video conferences/webinars, etc., would this require a by-laws change ?

Executive Manager Jessup - This section was able to hold meetings in the past. The by-laws would need to be reviewed to determine if there is any wording specific to whether meetings must be face to face or could also be virtual, but it seems a good alternative. Is it certain that there is no language concerning this in the by-laws for the sections?

P. Bright - Are there down sides to moving forward with approving the reformation of the AME Section?

Executive Manager Jessup – there is the possibility that the funds that the section currently holds could be used up and not replenished or not returned to the parent organization as specified in the Constitution or that for other reasons the section could fall apart. This is a risk, but in reality we don't have very little to lose and the greatest chance for success is to support the reformation of the section. If we don't support it at this time there will be serious dissatisfaction and a major setback in the region.

Discussion:

No further discussion on the formation of the African and Middle East Section

Motion Gavier-Widén/Uhart:

The WDA Council approves the reformation of an Africa and Middle East Section of WDA as proposed by the ad hoc committee and approved by the WDA International Committee in December 2013. (*passed unanimously*)

Discussion:

President Work presented the following motion which is an addendum to the previous motion. This addresses the formation of sections guidelines that indicates that leadership is required to form the leadership of a new section.

A.Reiss – can this be accomplished in the next 2-3 months considering that in many African countries there is an extended Christmas holiday. It was decided to change the date for election of officers for the AME section from March 1 to May 1, 2014.

Motion Reiss/Meteyer:

The WDA Council requests that the 3 person ad-hoc committee that developed the proposal for reformation of the Africa and Middle East Section serve in a leadership capacity for the Section until an election for officers is held, and that they select an ad hoc nominating committee to develop a slate of candidates for leadership of that Section, and hold an election by electronic ballot by May 1, 2014. (*Passed unanimously*)

Vice-President Uhart – this issue has come up before in the establishment of sections. Should the by-laws for the formation of sections be modified to insure that this issue doesn't keep coming up.

Executive Manager Jessup – the President can appoint an ad-hoc committee to address various short term activities so there is no need to make a by-law change.

- 5) 2013 – 33: Update on 2014 annual conference and site selection for 2015, 2016 and 2017 Annual Conferences. *Marcy Uhart*

Vice President Uhart gave an update on the progress of the 2014 annual meeting planning. For the 2015 meeting we continue to work with our partners in Australia. Council had previously approved the meeting being held at either Darwin or Townsville. However due to a number of issues (cost and accessibility) involving both of these locations the local host committee has proposed an alternative meeting location and thus Council approval is required.

A.Reiss – there should have been a two page summary included in the Council package.

Action Item: Vice President Uhart will send out the information concerning the Twin Waters resort in Maroochydore, Australia to the Council members.

Discussion:

The proposed dates of the conference are July 24th-29th.

Motion Uhart/Mills:

WDA Council approves the proposal put forth by the Australasian Section of WDA to host the 2015 WDA 64th Annual Conference at the Twin Waters resort in Maroochydore. (*Passed unanimously*)

A.Reiss - There will be six members that will make up the local host committee. The core group is comprised of the Chair, Tim Porter, Dave Spratt and Jenny McClelland. They are currently recruiting three other members.

Vice President Uhart also provided an update on proposals for the 2016 and 2017 annual conferences.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

6) 2013– 34: Trip Report – President to Inaugural Latin American Section Meeting. *Thierry Work*

President Work gave a brief overview of his trip to attend the first meeting of the Latin American Section.

J. L. Catão Dias – the section has selected Colombia as the site for the sections next meeting in 2015.

Executive Manager Jessup – The L.A. Section has recently surpassed the Nordic Section in number of members.

The attendees of the meeting and members of the Section were very pleased that President Work attended the meeting. Having officers attend section meetings is a very positive experience.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 PM, PDT