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	<b>COUNCIL MEETING May 2018 MINUTES</b>	05.16.2018

# WDA Council Meeting - Remotely

## May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 18:00 UTC – Zoom (online) conference

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***Note: Audio/Video recording of this Council Meeting (WDA-May2018-MEETING.mp4) is available and supports these minutes.***

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## 1. Agenda

The agenda for this Council meeting was included in an information package (**WDA-Apr2018-BriefingNotes-ForCOUNCIL.pdf**) sent to all Council members by email on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

## 2. Opening procedures

Council was called to order by President **Deb Miller** at 18:00 UTC, and after completion of a roll call (presented ahead in 3) it was verified that **quorum was established**. President **Miller** moved immediately to the council business as established in the agenda.

## 3. Council members' attendance

The following Council members were present:

Function	Name
President	Debra Miller
Vice-President	Carlos das Neves
Secretary	María Forzán
Treasurer	Michael Ziccardi
Past-President	Marcela Uhart
Member at Large	Mark Drew
Member at Large	Lisa Yon
Member at Large	Richard Kock
Member at Large	Heather Fenton
Member at Large	Holly Ernest
JWD Editor	Daniel Mulcahy
Australasian Section	Andrew Peters
WVS	Anne Justice-Allen
Nordic Section	Knut Madslien
Latin America Section	Gerardo Suzan

WDA Executive Manager **Dave Jessup** was also present.

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The following Council members were absent:

Function	Name
Member at Large	Alonso Aguirre
European Section	Marie Pierre Ryser
Student Member	Catherine Vendl
Africa-Middle East Section	Tom Nyariki

## 4. Council Business – Action Items

### 4.1. ACT#2018-03 Approval of Council Meeting Minutes, December 2017

**Forzan** provided the minutes and asked members for any mistakes. A few typographical mistakes were identified and corrected after the meeting end. As those were the only issues with the minutes, there was no need to delay the motion. **Jessup** asked for the final version of the minutes, when ready, to be sent to Cindy Serraino so they can be uploaded onto the WDA website.

**Das Neves** moved this Action Item’s Motion to Council and the motion was seconded by **Yon**.

**MOTION was put to vote and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

### 4.2. ACT#2018-04 MOA between WDA and AAWV

**Jessup** introduced the item to Council. Because there were multiple versions of the MOA in circulation, one signed by the AAWV executives, other more recent not signed but in the process of being approved by AAWV, **Das Neves** suggested to table the motion until this can be sorted out. **Uhart** and other members concurred with the suggestion, so the motion was **tabled**. **Miller** and **Das Neves** will work on the newest version alongside the AAWV executive and, in the meantime, sign the older version already signed by AAWV. It is expected that a final version, approved by AAWV, will be presented at the upcoming August 2018 meeting in Florida for approval by WDA Council.

**Yon** wondered why the MOA’s have a 5 year cycle. Some discussion followed and it was explained by **Drew** that most MOU’s and MOA’s are for 2-3 year periods but that this particular one had always been 5 years, from the first time it was set up and there was no reason to upset tradition.

**MOTION was TABLED.**

### 4.3. ACT#2018-05 Application Student Chapter – Midwestern University

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**Miller** presented the item to Council as Student Member **Vendl** was absent.

**Yon** brought up the question of why members of a Student Chapter need not be active member of the WDA. **Peters** said the Australasian Section had been discussing this question recently, and that the feeling is that allowing students to belong to a Chapter without the financial commitment to WDA is valuable as it provides a first introduction and exposure to the organization. **Peters** thinks that it is not uncommon for students who become members of a Chapter to later on join WDA proper, as Student or Regular Members. **Miller** agreed with these statements, particularly with the value of a convenient way to get students a first exposure to the WDA. **Jessup** mentioned the issue of students who are not WDA members applying for awards that are available only to active members, something the Student Awards committee had to deal with during the 2017 Annual Meeting in Chiapas and again this year. He (**Jessup**) intends to encourage the Student Activities Committee to emphasize this restriction to Student Chapters to avoid such problems in the future. **Miller** noted that it is also the responsibility of the Faculty Advisor to a Student Chapter to remind its members of said restriction.

After this discussion, it was brought up by a few members that the Briefing Note prepared by **Vendl** mentioned the Midwestern University's location as Illinois, while all the advisors and student members that would start the Chapter are based in Arizona, where there is also a campus of Midwestern University. Given this lack of clarity, the motion was not voted on. **Miller** will request clarification from **Vendl**. Once clarified, the motion will be presented to Council for a vote through e-Business.

**MOTION was TABLED.**

#### **4.4. ACT#2018-06 Recommendation for submitting to the membership a change to the WDA Constitution**

**Das Neves** introduced the item.

**Ziccardi** moved this Action Item's motion to Council; it was seconded by **Uhart**.

**MOTION was put to vote and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

#### **4.5. ACT#2018-07 Small Grants, 2018**

**Das Neves** introduced the item. **Jessup** mentioned that it is customary for the Small Grants committee to require a statement of acknowledgement of the WDA's support in the products that result from an awarded grant, which was not included in the committee's report or in the summary of any of the proposals approved. Various members agreed with the need for clarity in this aspect of the awards. **Das Neves** will ask the Small Grants committee to include this requirement in the letter informing applicants of the success of their application, and to request proof of meeting the requirement after the

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project is completed. He (**das Neves**) will work with **Yon** and B. Raphael (co-Chairs of the Small Awards committee) on this. **Jessup** further requested the award recipients are asked for permission to post the product of their projects (summaries, public information posters, etc.) on the WDA website. **Yon** ensured Council that the letters informing applicants of their success will include the requirement for acknowledgment of WDA funding in their products, even if they should already be aware of it as it is specified in the application guidelines (as read out loud by **Ziccardi**).

**Ernest** moved this Action Item’s Motion to Council; it was seconded by **Drew**.

**MOTION was put to vote and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

After the motion to award funding to the recommended applicants was approved, **Jessup** brought up a general concern over the type of proposals being funded. He (**Jessup**) thinks the scope of the proposals has become too narrow, not in line with providing a benefit to large numbers of WDA members but just a few individuals in specialized and narrow areas or geographic locations, and finds a lack of applicability or relevance in the projects funded. **Jessup** reminded Council that it is not necessary to award the entire \$10,000 allocated each year, and that if projects are unsuitable and not all the money is used, in the past it has gone back to the JWD endowment fund. **Peters** supported **Jessup’s** comments and suggested considering an open application protocol, instead of having a predetermined yearly deadline for all proposals. **Miller** asked **Yon**, Co-Chair of the Small Grants committee, to take all these concerns and suggestions back to the committee members and report back to Council at the upcoming August 2018 meeting in Florida. **Yon** ensure Council that she will do so, and will work with **das Neves** and **Miller** on the best way to proceed with modifications to the current Small Grants operations if necessary.

#### 4.6. ACT#2018-08 Futures Committee Crowd Funding For Research

**Jessup** introduced the item.

**Uhart** asked why being an active member of WDA is not a requirement for funding through this scheme. **Jessup** noted that, while the funding will not be exclusively available to WDA members, the present test run (or pilot) of this funding mechanism will only cost WDA about \$2,000, not a substantial amount, while most of the funding will be provided by other organizations and institutions, and thus is not so necessary for it to be available only to WDA members; he also highlighted the potential for recruiting potential members who may apply and later on be interested in joining WDA. **Kock** reminded Council of the changing state of funding for wildlife research, and how this may prove to be a very valuable way to reach funding that is not currently used by WDA; he also reminded Council that this is a pilot activity, just to test the waters.

**Peters** raised a concern regarding WDA’s tacit endorsement of projects funded which, as determined by public interest and not based on scientific merit, could include proposals with unrealistic outcomes and indirectly damage the public’s perception of WDA. **Uhart** had a similar concern and expanded it to include the potential funding of proposals with low or no scientific merit. **Jessup** agreed that there are some risks but assured Council that WDA would have the ability to review proposals during an initial

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screening, so that unsuitable ones could be rejected at the initial stages and the scope or area of the proposals to be considered can be pre-established by WDA.

**Ziccardi** asked where the funding (\$2,000) would come from and suggested using the remainder of the funds allocated to the Small Grants that were not awarded and come up to \$1,910. As there was support for this idea, the Briefing Note was modified, as was the Motion, which then read: **“WDA Council approves expenditure of \$1900 from the 2018 small grant’s budget for an experimental crowd-funding effort to support multiple wildlife health research projects in partnership with ‘Experiment’”**.

**MOTION was put to vote and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

#### 4.7. ACT#2018-09 Proposal to form an Asia-Pacific Section

**Miller** introduced the item.

**Das Neves** moved this Action Item’s Motion to Council; it was seconded by **Peters**.

**Das Neves** added information from his conversations with the International Committee: there is support from the Committee to proceed with the formation of the Asia-Pacific Section. **Peters** furthered this comment by noting that the Australasian Section of WDA is also very supportive of the formation of an Asia-Pacific Section, but reminded Council of the importance of consultation and a clear delineation of geographical borders so no conflict arises between the existing Australasian and the proposed Asia-Pacific Sections. **Jessup** noted that, as specified in the steps included in the Briefing Note, if Council approves the draft (as per #2018-09 Motion) WDA will poll members in the relevant geographical area regarding their support or disapproval of the proposed Asia-Pacific Section; this will ensure that all members are consulted and that Council hears not only from those who are promoting the new Section’s formation. **Uhart** noted that, given that a final proposal will not be ready for the August 2018 meeting in Florida, the final proposal will have to be presented to Council in time to be discussed and voted on during the December 2018 (remote) meeting. Although the final proposal will likely be voted on in December, **Peters** requested that the proposed geographical borders be presented to Council at the August 2018 meeting, since some regions could prove contentious and discussion would benefit from WDA Council input. **Mulcahy** suggested that, if the Asia-Pacific Section is approved, 2 WDA members be requested to join the editorial board of JWD. The idea met with general agreement from various Council members.

**MOTION was put to vote and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

#### 4.8. ACT#2018-10 Transfer of WDA General Funds to Journal Endowment Fund

**Ziccardi** introduced the item. **Uhart** commended the efforts of the Endowment Committee and expressed her support for reaching the 2.5 million dollar goal.

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**Uhart** moved this Action Item’s Motion to Council; it was seconded by **Ernest**.

**MOTION was put to vote and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

## 5. Council Business – Information Items

### 5.1. INF#2018-03 eBusiness

**Forzan** reminded Council that the two motions voted on as eBusiness (Survey Monkey) in January 2018, were approved unanimously.

### 5.2. INF#2018-04 WDA Conference 2018 update

**Das Neves** reassured Council that preparations are proceeding well. **Jessup** informed Council that the \$1000 cancellation fee originally committed to the Student Workshop (see July 2017 Council Meeting Minutes) was re-routed to cover the costs for the Futures Committee meeting, and other pre-conference hotel expenses, and thus not lost after said Workshop had to be cancelled.

### 5.3. INF#2018-05 Potential WDA Name Change

**Miller** introduced the item. The plan is to have a full discussion and form an ad hoc committee to examine this issue. The ad hoc committee will be form at or before the upcoming August 2018 Council meeting in Florida, based on discussions amongst WDA Offices and Executive Manager in the next few weeks.

### 5.4. INF#2018-06 Rabies Vaccination of Bats - Rupprecht

Council recognizes the importance of the topic and requested that **Jessup** contact Rupprecht for a specific request for endorsing or support, so that WDA Council can discuss and vote on.

### 5.5. INF#2018-07 Renewal of WDA-IAAAM MOA

**Jessup** noted how routine the renewal was, the only difference in the new MOA being the proposal of a yearly award for the best marine mammal paper published in JWD. The MOA will be an Action Item to discuss and vote on during the August 2018 meeting in Florida.

### 5.6. INF#2018-08 Discussion of Harassment or Whistleblower Policy

**Peters** requested Council acts on this proactively. **Miller** requested **Jessup** contacts Botlzer, who brought the issue up to Council, to draft a potential proposal.

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## 5.7.INF#2018-09 DRAFT Profit/Loss and Balance Reports for 2017

**Ziccardi**, who provided the item, requested Council to refer any questions or comments directly to him, via email. Additionally, **Ziccardi** informed Council that, due to the change from Allen Press providing advanced accounting support versus the Treasurer doing it himself, Mize Houser will be changing our accounting from “Accrual method” to “Cash method” for tax purposes.

## 6. Other Council Business

### 6.1. Recording the oral history of WDA

**Miller** introduced the letter from Randy Zarnke with his proposal. Council recognizes the value of the idea and wants to expand it further, to include not only North American members, and possibly to consider it for a Small Grant. **Miller** will follow up with Zarnke.

### 6.2. Geographical Sections and Committees - Annual Reports

**Das Neves** reminded Council members who also sit in WDA committees or head Sections that the annual reports are due in June, and that if the committees or Sections want to, they can provide a short summary or highlight to be posted on the WDA website. The deadline has been extended from June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>. **Das Neves** will follow up by reminding all committees and Sections by email.

### 6.3. Next issue of JWD

**Mulcahy** happily announced that the next issue of the JWD is ready - 7 weeks ahead of schedule.

## 7. Conclusion remarks

No further topics being brought before Council. President **Miller** thanked all members for their participation and called for a motion to close the meeting

**Forzán** moved to close the meeting and was seconded by **Uhart**.

**MOTION was put to vote and UNANIMOUSLY (and somewhat tiredly) APPROVED.**

**Council was officially declared closed at approximately 20:31 UTC.**

**Respectfully submitted to the attention and approval of the WDA Council,**

**Ithaca, New York, USA, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

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*MJ Forzán*

**María J. Forzán**, MVZ PhD DiplACVP  
WDA Secretary

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