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MINUTES OF THE 2002 WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING
28 July 2002

The meeting was called to order on 28 July 2002 at 1:00 P.M. by President P. Barrows. Council members present included L. Creekmore, M. Drew, J. Fischer, S. Gibbs, E. Greiner, T. Jones, T. Kreeger, T. Kuiken, J. Mazet, T. Mörner, C. Quist, T. Rocke, L. Uhazy, and E. Williams.

P. Barrows asked that the report on the Carlton Herman Founder's Fund be given first. T. Yuill provided the report. The Carlton Herman Fund investment is currently parked in the American Funds Group and the balance is about $23,500. When he set up this fund, Carlton Herman originally selected the American Funds Group as the place to invest the money and the money has continued to be invested in this particular group with good results. T. Yuill asked Council how much latitude the trustees should be given to more actively manage the funds within the family of American Funds or to invest in other types of funds to maximize return on this investment. As the chair of this committee, he has felt constrained in managing the funds in the absence of guidance from Council. He also pointed out that there is no direction in the constitution or charter regarding management of the fund. T. Yuill requested some guidance from Council regarding actions the trustees might take, perhaps some ideas on checks and balances. Also, T. Yuill is planning to retire in mid-January and suggested that it would be appropriate to begin the process of selecting a new trustee, as well as selecting a new chairperson. Other trustees on the committee are D. Forrester and A. Fairbrother. C. Quist suggested that the President and Treasurer be allowed to review decisions by the trustees to serve as an additional check or oversight. T. Yuill agreed that this would be acceptable. T. Rocke suggested that the Charter for the Carlton Herman Fund should be on file. T. Yuill will send the Charter to the secretary. A motion was made by C. Quist (second by L. Uhazy) that Carlton Herman Fund trustees be allowed the latitude to make adjustments in the funds as needed with secondary approval by the current President and Treasurer. In the discussion, I. Barker asked if there would be any advantage to having the fund managed professionally to allow for more rapid response and flexibility with regard to market changes versus the delay that would be inherent in relying on a decision involving five persons. T. Yuill replied that the fund is probably too small to interest professional managers; however we could possibly see if Buttonwood Partners would manage it as a separate subcomponent of our Buttonwood accounts that they already manage. C. Quist suggested that this is something that the trustees could evaluate and return with a recommendation to Council. T. Yuill will make the inquiry to Buttonwood. The motion passed.

With regard to T. Yuill's retirement and the selection of a new trustee, P. Barrows suggested checking with the other committee members for their input. P. Barrows will discuss with T. Yuill and the other committee members.

Officers and Council approved the minutes from the previous Council meeting via teleconference. P. Barrows asked if there were any further comments. There were none and the previous minutes will stand as written.

Officers' Reports

Vice President's Report

T. Mörner said he had little to report but he had received a number of written reports provided by committee chairs to be shared in the Council meeting.

Secretary's Report

L. Creekmore reported on results of this year's election. There was a good response with 224 ballots returned by the membership. As with many of our elections, it was a very close race for all of the positions. Our new Officers and Council Members are: Secretary M. Wild, Treasurer C. Quist, Council Members at large K. Converse and W. Karesh, and Student Council Member S. Gibbs. P. Barrows reminded Council that P. Nol also will be a new Council member as the new Supplement Editor, taking over for C. Quist. A welcome was extended to the new Officers and Council members. P. Barrows also relayed that there were two teleconferences held during the year. The address list was passed around for additions and corrections. Members rotating off of Council this year are E. Greiner and M. Pybus. Officers and Council thanked them with a round of applause for contributions and service on Council over these past years.

Treasurer's Report

L. Uhazy provided a written report to Officers and Council Members. Copies of this re-

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port are available from the Treasurer or Secretary. The Wildlife Disease Association began this year with a bank balance of $51,949. The current balance as of June 26, 2002 is $73,380.70. The certificate of deposit (CD) maintained at Southern Pacific bank in Los Angeles has continued to make money. At the start of the year we invested $67,234 for a 6 month period rather than a 12 month period because of concerns about cash flow and the need to insure that we have sufficient funds to complete this financial year. So after 6 months of investment at 3.06% interest, the CD matured $68,012.51. As of last week, $15,000 from that certificate of deposit has been deposited into our checking account in Douglas County Bank in Lawrence, KS and the remaining $53,254.88 was reinvested for another 6 months at a rate of 2.6%. On June 30, our mutual funds, held by Buttonwood Partners, totaled $253,802.52. Our greatest expense continues to be printing charges for the journal. A written summary of Association costs through June was provided, as well as a compilation of the total expenses for all of last year. Editorial costs have gone down a bit as compared to the same time last year. This may be related to increased electronic submissions. We have printed two issues of the journal with a total printing cost of $52,848; last year's comparable printing costs were $44,723.61. In 2001, there were 960 pages printed in Volume 37 of the Journal and Newsletter. So far in 1992 we have printed 492 pages in the Journal and 40 pages in the Newsletter. In comparing our costs year to year, printing costs for the Journal have increased about 16%. Cost of publishing the Newsletter is up 6%. It is hoped that electronic submissions will help save in these areas in the future. In terms of management costs, there has been a recent change in the format for billing. Allen Press costs are now quarterly; rather than reflecting each issue of the Journal. The Treasurer recently paid $26,454 for management services for the first quarter. This is high. However, if the large one time expense for the back issues and postage is deducted, actual management costs are $15,728. Using this figure for comparison to the same time period last year, our management costs are up 15%. Our primary revenues continue to be our membership fees. With all of these increases it is evident that our expenses will continue to exceed our income and we will continue to cut into our ending balance. In 2001, we deficit spent $31,000, whittling into our ending balance for last year as well as dipping into the interest earned on the original $50,000 invested in CDs over a 5 year period. We will either need to continue to utilize the interest from our CD to make up the difference or we need to consider ways to increase our income. One last issue is liability insurance for officers. We have had such insurance over the last few years. Last year there was a mix-up and the policy was cancelled; however, we can reapply. L. Uhazy has received the application form. It has not been submitted yet but he will do so.

P. Barrows asked for questions or comments on the Treasurer's report. P. Barrows suggested that the proposed new budget be discussed and voted on under new business. P. Barrows also pointed out that we keep returning to the topic of membership fees versus our increasing costs and that we need to address this issue. L. Uhazy responded that we have enough reserves in our investments to operate for 1.5 years. Ultimately we're in good shape financially but have a problem with liquidity. T. Rocke asked if the auction funds had been separated from the general funds as directed in the last Council meeting. This has not yet been done. However, records are available to allow us to go back and make this reconciliation. T. Mörner asked if a deficit was expected last year. L. Uhazy responded that we didn't necessarily expect a deficit last year. However, we construct our budgets based on a hypothetical ending balance. The reality is that our expenses or our ending balance may be different than what we anticipate and that these figures tend to be very difficult to predict. T. Mörner expressed concern over continuing deficits and uncertainties with our budget and again stressed the need to adjust membership fees to correct this trend. L. Uhazy agreed. Unless we have an infusion of income we will have to continue to use funds from our CD. J. Mazet inquired about investments into versus withdrawals from the CD. L. Uhazy responded that previously we have not removed any money from the CD. T. Rocke asked about our membership status. P. Barrows responded that in 2001 membership was down a little but not by a large amount. L. Uhazy pointed out that in 2002 our membership is about the same as 2001. T. Rocke asked why we have less inflow of funding when we had increased numbers of members and dues in 2001/2002 versus 2000. L. Uhazy thinks this could be because we did not have an auction in South Africa.

E. Greiner asked what benefits or services we are getting with the increased management costs. L. Uhazy responded that we pay an accounting fee for Allen Marketing and Management to calculate taxes and quarterly accounting. E. Greiner questioned the need to pay for Allen Marketing and Management's accounting when that should be part of their cost of doing business. L. Uhazy assured Council that every-

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thing is accounted for and all expenses tracked using Quicken software. However, it is difficult to cross reference our information with the Allen Press management budget making it difficult to answer these questions. E. Greiner pointed out that a detailed assessment of Allen Press' fees may be needed to see if there are unnecessary charges. However, these are the sorts of expenses we have always paid and the reality is that the money coming in is not adequate to operate the Journal or the Newsletter. T. Rocke made a motion (second by C. Quist) to officially thank L. Uhazy for his service to the Association in the office of Treasurer. P. Barrows (seconded by T. Mörner) moved to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion passed.

Editor's Report

The Editorial Board met this morning. The Editor's report was provided by E. Williams and summarized activities during the period since the last Editorial Board meeting (1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002), as well as the editing and publishing of the 2002 volume of the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* (JWD volume 38, issues 1–4). In the four issues of the 2002 JWD there were approximately 78 full length manuscripts, 52 short communications, one book review, two sets of meeting minutes, and an author and subject index. The estimated number of pages printed in this volume was 850–875 in accordance with the wishes of the Editorial Board and Council to increase the number of published manuscripts in this volume to catch up with the backlog of manuscripts. The trend over the last few years has been for increasing numbers of full length articles compared to short communications; approximately 65% are full length papers. The editor believes this is a healthy trend and may also reflect somewhat more intense scrutiny of case reports as directed by the Editorial Board at the last meeting. Color photographs were published for the first time in this volume. The cost of publishing a color item is still relatively expensive and is paid by the author.

To date in 2002, manuscripts have been received from 18 countries based on the address of the corresponding author and include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, French Guiana, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the USA. Manuscripts published in volume 38 were from 21 countries: Argentina, Australia, Canada, China (Hong Kong), France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, and the United Arab Emirates. This demonstrates continued interest in the Journal by the international community. This is a strength of the Journal and should be encouraged. Use of electronic submission and review may facilitate international participation.

The number of new manuscripts received by the editor's office for 1 July 2001–30 June 2002 was 154 in comparison to the 156 received during the comparable time period last year. Of these 32 were rejected, 37 are with authors for revisions, 30 are in press, and the remaining 55 are still in the review process. Twenty-nine manuscripts received prior to 1 July 2001 are still with the authors and in revision. Forty eight percent of manuscripts received this year were accepted. This compares to 47% accepted in 1999, 46% accepted in 2000, and 49% accepted in 2001. For Volume 38, the mean time from receipt of a manuscript to its appearance in the Journal was about 16 mo (range 7–47 mo). Many factors contribute to this range including review time for manuscripts and revision time by the authors. During 2001, the editorial office made a special attempt to extract manuscripts being revised by authors. This contributed to some very long times from receipt until publication. Most of the very long backlog is now cleared (but there are still a few hold outs that may never be returned). The Editor hopes by clearing these out, we will see a drop in the time from receipt to publication in the next volume.

Assistant Editors (C. Atkinson, I. Barker, E. Howerth, T. Kreeger, S. Little, S. McMurry, L. Measures, C. Rupprecht, and D. Stallknecht) have done an excellent job for the journal this year and it would be impossible to produce the Journal without their valuable assistance and hard work. Past editor D. Pence handled the review process on several manuscripts. M. Pybus has joined the editorial ranks since the last Editorial Board Meeting and L. Uhazy stepped down as an Assistant Editor. We thank Les for his hard work on behalf to the Journal as Assistant Editor. There were approximately 184 external reviewers. The quality of the Journal clearly depends on a careful and thoughtful review process and these external reviewers seldom get recognition for the significant role they play in the peer review process and we greatly appreciate their contribution to the Journal.

With approval of the Editorial Board and Council, E. Williams attended a workshop hosted by Allen Press in September 2001. The workshop was excellent and provided numerous ideas for improving the flow of manuscripts through the editorial process and electronic publishing. It was very beneficial to personally

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meet with K. Ridgway and others at Allen Press and to see the publishing process first hand.

Beginning about October 2001 we started to work with electronic submission and review of manuscripts at the Editorial Office. Right now we are receiving about 80% of the submitted manuscripts via electronic submission. After suffering two computer crashes and various electronic glitches, the process came on line for most manuscripts and through most Assistant Editors by January 2002. Both, the "Instructions to Authors" published in the January 2002 issue and the website encourage electronic submission of manuscripts, though paper submissions are, and will continue to be, perfectly acceptable. For the most part the system seems to be working well from the perspective of the Editorial Office. Submission of figures in unusual formats or figures in very large files is a considerable challenge. The time for manuscript review from 1 July to 31 December 2001 was 4.7 mo compared to the time for review from 1 January through 30 June 2002 of 2.6 mo; this change reflects an improvement in turn around time produced by handling manuscripts electronically.

In addition, we are now submitting manuscripts directly to Allen Press electronically via their FTP site. This reduces turn-around time for producing galleys, decreases publication charges to the Journal, and also results in fewer errors in galleys than were present when manuscripts were submitted in hard copy and had to be retyped at Allen Press.

E. Williams expressed appreciation for the efforts of all of the Assistant Editors, C. Quist, the Supplement Editor, the external reviewers, the authors submitting the results of their hard work to the Journal, L. Uhazy, Treasurer, L. Creekmore, Secretary, members of the JWD Editorial Board, and the WDA Council. The counsel of past editor D. Pence has been invaluable. E. Williams expressed special thanks to Editorial Assistant Louise Smithson, University of Wyoming, for her hard work and dedication to the Journal as well as to K. Ridgway and T. Jones at Allen Press, and T. Thorne (freelance copy editor, proof reader, and overall supporter).

E. Williams provided highlights of the discussions that occurred at the Editorial Board meeting earlier in the day. As a result of the report provided to the Board by L. Uhazy, there was a motion to revisit the Editorial charges to achieve a positive cash flow for publication such that half is paid by page charges and half is paid by institutional subscriptions. The recommendation was that the institutional charges should go up to about $175 in the first year and then up to $250 in the second year. There was some discussion about this including good input from individuals that have served on their institutional library committees. However, it was the Editorial Board's opinion that this action would not cause a significant decrease in institutional membership. The motion was passed unanimously. Another discussion item related to citations from the internet. There was considerable discussion and concern regarding the ephemeral nature of these sites. The Editorial Board felt that we need to discourage the use of web citations and that hard copies or archived material are more appropriate for citation. However, they also felt that discretion should be used in the Editorial process and that in some cases web citations may be appropriate. In such cases, authors will be encouraged to use citations that include both a reference to where the citation can be found in hard copy as well as a URL in case a reader wants to find the information immediately.

The editor has received requests from individuals that would like to publish their work on web sites to make them available to a wider audience. The discussion resulted in a motion that this be allowed if the posted item is the exact content as published in the JWD and if the Journal is appropriately cited. It was suggested that pdf versions of the Journal article be posted so that the appropriate citation for the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* be included and the content be exactly that published. That motion passed unanimously as well. W. Karesh asked who will provide the pdf files. E. Williams was not sure. She will check with Allen Press; it is likely they will charge for this service and she is not sure if they would deal with individual authors. Authors may have to scan their article from the Journal and make a pdf file. E. Greiner stated that as a reviewer he has concern about the use of any web citation in a professional journal. E. Williams responded that in the past we have allowed some gray literature citations with editorial oversight. The suggestion was that when a web citation is used authors also must provide a hard copy to go out for the review process. Again this was because of concern that web sites vanish and/or change over time. The journal editor will attempt to find a judicious way to handle web citations that will include a hard copy.

Supplement Editor's Report

The report was provided by C. Quist. Since the 2001 Council Meeting, four issues of the *Supplement to the JWD* have been published, and the July 2002 issue is in press. Page totals for these issues are as follows: July 2001—16 pp; October 2001—20 pp; January 2002—24

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pp; and April 2002—16 pp. The July 2002 issue will contain 16 pp. As usual, the October 2001 issue of the Supplement contained a summary of the summer meeting, which was held in Pilanesberg, South Africa in July, along with a list of the presentations that were made at the summer meeting. We began announcing the 2002 WDA Conference at Humboldt State University in the January issue complete with a *Call for Papers* and *Sample Abstract.* The Supplement continued to follow the standard format beginning with sections on Wildlife Disease Association activities and information. Additional information published included four messages from our President, one message from our Vice President, student activities and awards information, calls for nominations for WDA offices and awards, five National Wildlife Health Center quarterly reports, miscellaneous disease reports, meeting announcements, training, educational opportunities, position announcements, and other member announcements. We published one book review, thanks to Dr. J. Evered of the Olympia Fish Health Center for that report on a diagnostic manual on fish diseases. We also published an obituary for Dr. Roy Anderson, thanks to Drs. K. Prestwood and M. Lankester. Dr. P. Duff, editor of the European Section of the Supplement, is a consistent contributor, and his input is greatly appreciated. Material from the Australasian Section is generally obtained via their Newsletter. C. Quist provided a report. J. Chambers Lang, our current webmaster, is in private veterinary practice in Arizona. Chambers and her husband, C. Lang, maintain the WDA's website on their own server at no charge to the organization. Routinely, she reformats and transfers each issue of the Supplement to the web page (http://www.wildlifediseases.org) as promptly as possible. Since the WDA Council meeting of 2000, portions of the website have been password protected. At present, issues of the Supplement since July 2000 are only available to members. Due to confusion among WDA members, the password has remained the same for the last two years.

As a final note, C. Quist will be stepping down as Supplement Editor after the October 2002 issue. She has been the Editor since 1997, having taken over for T. Rocke. As mentioned earlier, P. Nol has volunteered to take over the position. She will also serve as Chair of the Information Committee and, as Supplement Editor, will now be a member of Council. P. Barrows moved (T. Rocke seconded) that official thanks be offered to C. Quist for her long and diligent service as the Supplement Editor. The motion passed with a round of applause. The Officers and Council welcomed P. Nol as the new Supplement Editor.

Section Reports

European Section

This year's meeting of the European Section of the WDA (EWDA) was held in association with the European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians in May in Heidelberg Germany. Minutes of the general meeting can be found in the July 2002 Supplement. T. Mörner has stepped down and the new European Section Chair is M. Artois. Other Officers include Vice Chair K. Frölich, Treasurer U. Höfle, Secretary C. Gortazar, Newsletter Editor P. Duff, and Website coordinator R. Delahay. This section has a number of ongoing projects. The EWDA is asking the European Union for funds to establish a European network of wildlife diagnostic laboratories. The section also is working hard to encourage attendance of Students at their meetings and has established a Student Presentation Award.

Nordic Section

A copy of the report by H. Dietz was not available. T. Mörner reported that the Nordic section decided not to hold a meeting this year so that members could attend the European meeting. Each section plans to hold their meetings in alternate years to allow their membership to attend both.

T. Kuiken reported that a Dutch Society for Wildlife Health has been formed. This group is not associated with WDA but has similar objectives and already has more than 50 members. They held their first conference in May and it was well attended. The group plans to hold a conference every year in the Netherlands to discuss Dutch wildlife disease issues. In addition, a Dutch Wildlife Health Center has been formed. There is a lot of interest in the area of wildlife health in the Netherlands. I. Barker remarked that it would be good to promote membership in this group. However, T.Kuiken felt that most would prefer to affiliate with WDA rather than become regular members.

Australasian Section

P. Holz provided a written report. The annual WDA Australasian Section meeting is scheduled to take place in Darwin in the first week of July. Areas discussed last year that will receive updates at this year's meeting include progress on development of a field necropsy manual, partly sponsored by WDA, and an expertise registry. Feedback also will be sought

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regarding the concept of associate member status for Australian members. The WDA donated $2,000 to the wildlife pathology registry at Taronga Zoo. A further $1,000 was made available to support a research project. Further details should be presented at the Australia Group Meeting. Both Victoria and New South Wales organized local meetings throughout the year with invited guest speakers who made presentations on various wildlife related topics.

The Australian Wildlife Health Network has been established to improve and coordinate health surveillance of Australia's wildlife. The Taronga Zoo in Sydney has been named as the host agency for the network. Applications are currently being sought for the position of coordinator. This position will develop the network and raise funds to support its functioning. The coordinator will be answerable to a management committee which contains representatives from various groups including agricultural and conservation bodies. Out of the 24 positions on the committee, one is reserved for a Wildlife Disease Association representative. This representative is currently Pam Whiteley.

An inquiry into the state of Victoria's pathology services is currently being conducted. As president of the WDA Australasian Section, P. Holz presented information detailing the organization's concerns regarding adequate provision of services for wildlife disease monitoring.

African Section

P. Barrows provided the report. An organizational meeting to establish an African Section was held at last year's meeting in South Africa. E. Wamba was designated as a contact for the section. A letter requesting establishment of an African section was sent to the Sections Committee and this request was approved by Council this spring. It is hoped that this group will continue to grow and become more involved. A possible meeting of the African Section is planned for this fall.

Also, attempts are still being made to re-energize the Latin American Section. Six Latin American WDA members were at last years meeting and there were discussions and actions taken to begin the process of rejuvenating this section.

American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians

T. Kreeger provided the report. The AAWV has been working with the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV) for the past couple of years to form and "umbrella" organization comprised of the groups. This organization, called the National Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians (NAZWV), was intended to serve many purposes, but primarily was designed so one organization could effectively speak to the common interests of both. One intended goal of the NAZWV was to apply to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) for House of Delegates (HOD) status. If granted, this would have allowed the NAZWV to have a voice and a vote in issues affecting wildlife medicine. In order for the NAZWV to qualify for consideration of HOD status, 90% of its members must be active AVMA members and that number must be equal to at least 1% of the total AVMA active membership. Unfortunately, we fell short of both criteria when the NAZWV membership list was submitted to the AVMA. Joining forces with the AAZV will be one of the prime points of discussion at this year's AAWV business meeting. There are several options to consider: 1) AAWV will continue as an independent organization of wildlife veterinarians, which periodically has meetings with the WDA or the AAZV; 2) AAWV will strive to increase the number of active AVMA members in both organizations in order to reapply as the NAZWV and perhaps gain AVMA HOD status; 3) AAWV will continue to develop the NAZWV umbrella organization, regardless of future AVMA status; 4) AAWV and AAZV will formally join to form one official organization. At this year's business meeting, a committee will be formed to hold official talks with a comparable committee form the AAZV. These committees will be charged with addressing all of the pros and cons of combining the two organizations. A summary report with recommendations will then be circulated to both memberships for consideration. At some point, a membership vote on a recommendation to combine the two groups will probably occur.

Committee Reports

Awards Committee

P. Barrows provided the report for T. Leighton. Results of the Awards Committee activities will be given at the Banquet; the Distinguished Service Award will be given this year. T. Leighton requested that there be some discussion in the Council meeting on providing a higher profile for the awards with more participation and nominations. C. Quist relayed that the Editorial Board decided to initiate a WDA history or archive section on the web page. So, soon there will be a list of the "historical" award winners in this section of the web page. E. Greiner noted that we should be mentoring and nurturing those who will replace us. In doing so, we also should be making sure to nominate deserving

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students as well as helping them find ways to contribute to or be more involved in the Association. I. Barker suggested that the Awards Committee needs to be more proactive in soliciting nominations. There was general agreement that the nominations committee should continue to go the extra mile in soliciting nominations for all awards. In addition, the committee should keep track of those nominated but that do not receive awards as potential nominees for subsequent years.

Budget and Audit Committee

L. Uhazy provided the report. The members of the Budget and Audit Committee have been a great help to the Treasurer by serving as advisors with regard to adjustments to our CD and transfer of money between accounts.

Information Committee

J. Lang, our current webmaster will be stepping down. As her last contribution, J. Lang created a new version of our webpage which can be viewed at our web address (www.wildlifedisease.org). The Association now needs to find a new webmaster and server for the web page. The National Wildlife Health Center is one possibility. W. Karesh also offered the WCS as a place for the location of the server and a technical support person. C. Quist advised that in addition to being computer literate, the webmaster must have time to devote to monthly updates. This is hard for most of us. Also, there are two different types of people needed, someone to direct content and someone who is responsible for the mechanics and technical issues of maintaining and running the site. W. Karesh asked how much time would be required each month. C. Quist responded that the time required would depend on the amount of improvement and upgrade that the webmaster chose to do versus simple maintenance. T. Mörner pointed out that the web is an important tool and it is time to institute changes. J. Fischer asked if we need a redesign of the site as part of this effort. C. Quist responded that we have a good core site; we just need to build on it. T. Mörner asked if the web posting will replace the paper copy of the supplement. If so, updating is very important. C. Quist expressed concern that if the supplement is only on the website, the membership may not access it as much. W. Karesh suggested that e-mailing the supplement might be more effective if we decide to go the electronic route. C. Quist suggested that P. Nol might possibly serve as the webmaster since it will be relatively easy for her to serve as a conduit for information received for the supplement. T. Rocke pointed out that this will be a significant amount of work. M. Drew asked if this is realistic for either the NWHC or WCS to do. W. Karesh and T. Rocke felt that they both could provide the technical people needed and 8–10 hours per month of their time. T. Rocke said they would need to pay someone at NWHC to type things in but that the rest could be provided on a volunteer basis. W. Karesh pointed out that the toughest part, the design, has already been accomplished by J. Lang. We just need funds for weekly maintenance and we need a webmaster to provide the content. T. Rocke suggested that perhaps we need a new web page editor who would serve as a new council member. T. Mörner suggested that there needs to be close contact between the web and supplement editors; they need to work together closely or be the same person. T. Rocke emphasized again that the supplement and the web page together are too much for one person to manage alone. C. Quist suggested that the Supplement Editor serve as a funnel for information but not serve as the Web Editor. P. Barrows requested the formation of an adhoc web page review committee to meet over the next 30–40 days. C. Quist volunteered to head the committee which will include J. Lang, P. Nol, M. Ziccardi, T. Rocke, W. Karesh, and R. Delahay. P. Barrows also suggested that a note should be written to J. Lang thanking her on our behalf for the work she has done on our website. T. Mörner also reminded the group that the Australasian and European web pages are very good.

The adhoc committee met during a break in the Council meeting and presented the following motion. C. Quist moved (seconded by E. Greiner) that the Information Committee be reorganized to consist of the Supplement Editor as well as a newly created position, Website Editor, that will serve as a third Editor for the Association and a member on Council. M. Ziccardi has volunteered to serve as our first web editor. The motion passed. The committee will continue to work on the rest of the logistic needs. I. Barker pointed out that there may be a basic issue of activity versus passivity of making information available. He suggested that we form an email list of subscribed members of WDA and use global email to notify the membership of changes to the website or disseminate other information. It would also allow us to avoid use of passwords. C. Quist pointed out that this approach bypasses those that do not have e-mail.

Membership Committee

The report was provided by K. Gilardi. The 2001–2002 membership committee was com-

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prised of K. Gilardi (Chair), T. Mörner, W. Karesh, and B. Hartup.

Membership status (as of 2 July 2002)

	7/02	6/01	5/00	12/99	8/98	8/97	8/96	8/95
Regular	765	775	715	793	818	772	786	795
Student	146	155	127	149	126	144	141	176
Emeritus	11	11	11	9	8	10	9	7
Associate	10	9						
Complimentary	2	2	0	0	3	2	2	2
Institutional	434	435	411	449	438	445	453	467

Of the 932 regular, student, emeritus, and associate members in 2002 to date, 196 (21% of the total membership) are from countries outside of North America. This represents an increase in foreign membership since last year at this time, at which point non-North American members represented 18.5% of our membership. Of the 434 institutional members so far in 2002, 112 are from countries outside of North America, which represents no change for the last four years. Dues were increased as of January 2002 to the following: Regular Membership $64, Student Membership $32, Associate Membership $22, and Subscribing Membership $108. This is the second year that the WDA has implemented the Associate Member Category; 10 individuals have joined WDA this year as Associate members.

The Adopt-A-Member program was initiated at the beginning of 2001 as a membership enhancing program. Allen Marketing and Management (AMM) doesn't have a direct way to track these members but as of July 2002, estimates that 10 individuals have gained membership through this program. P. Barrows pointed out that this is an underestimate because the Wildlife Conservation Society has paid for 9 institutional and 46 individual memberships over this past year.

A 2000–2001 membership directory was sent out with the July 2001 issue of JWD. It should be updated in 2002–2003, to be distributed with the July 2003 issue of JWD.

Membership renewal reminders will go out in a mailing in October 2002. The second renewal notice will go out the latter half of November, and the third and fourth reminders are to be sent in January/February 2003 and March/April 2003. As instituted last year, this year two letters went out in the March/April 2002 mailing. One letter goes to members who still haven't renewed, encouraging them to do so. The other letter goes out to former members who allowed their membership to lapse during the previous year, encouraging them to reconsider and reminding them of the benefits of membership. Each of these letters includes a short survey form, requesting that the late paying or former member comment on any dissatisfaction with the organization. The approximate cost of these additional mailings is $100/year. Results of survey forms returned in 2002 are pending. In 2001, the committee instituted a new program in which authors of papers published in the JWD who are not WDA members are sent a letter inviting them to join. Letters were sent to 78 authors who published in JWD 36:1 who were not WDA members as of 5/1/00 and to 86 non-WDA members publishing in JWD 36:2. As a result of the 164 letters sent, as of June 2001 we gained only 6 new members. This represented only a 3.6% return on this incredibly time-consuming effort. Additional letters to non-WDA authors for subsequent JWD issues have not been sent. E. Williams pointed out that Allen Press can provide this service through the Allen Track program. However, this would cost $5000 plus an additional $25/manuscript.

Last year Council discussed establishing a protocol for providing the password for the members-only portion of the WDA website. To date, members have been instructed in the Supplement (October 2001) that they can obtain the password by contacting the AMM office (WDA@allenpress.com). AMM say that they have received approximately 20 requests for the password so far this year. Last year it was suggested that we direct AMM to automatically send an acknowledgement postcard to members when dues are received providing the password for the year. It was unclear whether or not Council approved this procedure and new expenditure, so this procedure has not yet been implemented. Also at last year's Council meeting, a motion was made to give the WDA website password to members of approved sections who pay dues to their section but not to the parent WDA for a one year trial period. The motion passed. However, it is unclear to what extent this policy has been implemented and there has been minimal discussion as to how best to give the password to these sections.

The Membership Committee requests the following actions from Council:

1) Request Council to consider directing AMM to send a postcard to new and renewing members which would apprise members of the password for the members-only section of the WDA website; and
2) Request Council to approve a procedure for conveying the website password to section chairs. One option is that in January of each year the WDA Secretary gives the names of the Section chairpersons to AMM, who will then provide the password to each section chair. Each section chair will then be responsible for conveying the password information to paying section members.

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C. Quist pointed out that the instructions regarding contacting AMM are continuously advertised in the supplement.

Officers and Council gave a round of applause for K. Gilardi and her efforts on the Membership Committee.

Nominations Committee

The report was provided by S. Wright. During 2002, the Nominations Committee was tasked with obtaining nominations for several offices within the Association including Secretary, Treasurer, two members of Council, and the new Student member of Council. The committee made several calls for nominees through the Newsletter and by canvassing members. A slate of candidates was obtained for all of the openings and the election was conducted. S. Wright commented that is was difficult to obtain a slate of candidates this year; many turned down nominations because they didn't feel they have adequate time to devote to the position. S. Wright also suggested that those individuals that weren't elected should be thanked for their willingness to run for office and encouraged to stand for office again. P. Barrows expressed thanks to S. Wright and the other members of the committee for their effort.

Sections Committee

E. Addison submitted a written report. He has accumulated a considerable amount of correspondence that could be useful in addressing the need for status and coordination of sections as well as development of Section Guidelines. We need to incorporate those opinions that have already been provided to the Section Chair before soliciting additional input.

Promotions Committee

R. Brown is the new Chair of this committee and provided the report. M. Ziccardi and S. Black agreed to remain on the committee, even though their terms on the Committee have been completed, in order to provide some continuity for the new Chair. A. Frinich, who has had previous promotions experience with the Wildlife Society, also has joined the committee. The committee has almost completed the new WDA brochure. The committee also produced mugs and other items that were received by meeting participants this year and P. Barrows and C. Quist developed T-Shirts that are for sale. Also, those registering for this year's meeting were allowed to join the organization if they wished. As a result, out of the 190 registrants for the meeting, we gained 15 new student members and 26 new regular members. The committee suggested that biographies and photographs should be obtained from those receiving awards and these provided to the local press. They could also be provided for the website and the supplement. The Officers and Council gave a go ahead for this. P. Barrows thanked R. Brown for his efforts and the results he and his committee have produced in such a short period of time.

Educational Aids Committee

The report was provided by P. Nol. While slide sets and educational aids are important and would be useful to make available, we have had a only few requests for the materials we currently have available. If members have standard slide sets they are willing to share, it is possible that we could make them available through our website. C. Quist pointed out that since most of our slide sets are outdated and we just have a few requests per year it might be reasonable to fold the Educational Aids Committee under the new website. P. Nol also asked Council's opinion on this. Council generally agreed with C. Quist's suggestion. D. Jessup suggested taking the old slide sets and making them into PowerPoint presentations available via the website. There was a discussion regarding how to best make the images (slides available). It was pointed out that scanning into the website would produce fairly poor quality images. The suggestion was made to make them available via CD. P. Barrows will further discuss these options with P. Nol and address this again at the fall Council meeting.

Time and Place Committee

P. Barrows presented the report. T. Bollinger will make a presentation to the membership providing a preview of the 2003 meeting to be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The 2003 meeting dates are Saturday August 9 through Thursday, August 14. In 2004 we will have a joint meeting with AAZV in San Diego at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. P. Barrows requested that T. Mörner and C. Quist work with W. Amand and his colleagues on the operational and financial arrangements for this meeting. A meeting is being planned with the Australasian section to take place in Australia in July 2005 or 2006. The Australasian section will provide a formal invitation in December 2002. T. Mörner pointed out that if we do not hold the meeting in Australia in 2005, the American Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine has proposed a possible joint meeting in Orlando, Florida. E. Greiner suggested that someone on the Time and Place Committee follow up on this possible joint meeting. P. Barrows remind-

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ed Council that last year a suggestion was made to use auction funds to send section chairs to meetings and that is something we need to start to address.

Old Business

T. Jones and T. Reesner of Allen Marketing and Management made a presentation regarding enhanced online services that they can provide to the WDA. Some services are free but some require additional payments to Allen Press.

P. Barrows brought up the Executive Manager issue for discussion. P. Barrows floated a proposal to obtain "seed money" to support an Executive Manager for our Association via letters to nine different nongovernment, wildlife associated organizations. He received no responses. In 1988, a similar series of letters was sent out. Of the 358 contacted, 109 responded; at that time, only one response was positive with regard to financial assistance. Corporate and foundation giving is on the decline right now and this initial attempt was a very discouraging exercise. P. Barrows asked how the Association should proceed to try to find "seed money." W. Karesh suggested that for every letter sent there should be phone follow-up. J. Mazet pointed out that we can't expect an altruistic response from these groups. We need to sell them on how they are going to benefit from their support of WDA. T. Kuiken suggested that we need a well known and respected member to lead the solicitation effort. W. Karesh and P. Barrows emphasized again that right now the climate for corporate giving is poor. T. Rocke said, instead of seeking outside support, now is the time to make the decision to find a way for the WDA to support an Executive Manager and to pay for the position ourselves. D. Jessup agreed that we have the resources to do this ourselves and that we can't depend on outside resources. P. Barrows pointed out that the problem always has been funding. The first reference to the need for an Executive Manager was 1983 and, almost 20 years later, we still have no manager. The dilemma has been, and continues to be, to keep the organization going with increasing costs and lack of matching revenues. T. Rocke and J. Fischer both said if we had established an Executive Manager position 15–20 years ago it is likely that we would not now be in our current financial position. C. Quist added that an Executive Manager will likely save us money in the long run by helping us deal more wisely with Allen Press. T. Rocke also pointed out as an example that we have just found out that we could make $10,000/year just by selling the membership list; Executive Manager could do this!

K. Gilardi reminded the group that compared to other Associations, WDA membership is a bargain! Our members are probably willing to pay more. M. Drew pointed out that it would not be all that difficult to raise $70,000 to $80,000 with a dues increase. T. Kreeger said that we should not be reluctant to raise our dues. We have been undervaluing ourselves for years. T. Rocke moved (T. Mörner seconded) that WDA hire an Executive Manager and that the adhoc Executive Manager Committee refine the official position description, the salary proposal, and selection criteria and provide these for Council Review by the end of October. The motion passed. C. Quist moved (E. Greiner seconded) that WDA increase the dues of members by a significant amount to be voted on in a special Council Meeting between now and the business meeting. T. Mörner and A. Aguirre expressed concern regarding the impact to non-North American members. T. Kreeger and others pointed out that we have no choice. We must increase dues in order to hire an Executive Manger and insure the long term financial health of the WDA. K. Gilardi added that we have created an Associate Member category to help make membership more affordable. T. Kreeger moved (seconded by E. Williams) to increase the dues of institutional members by a significant amount to be decided on by a special Council meeting between now and the business meeting. The motion passed. The President and Treasurer will prepare the proposed budget for next year and an analysis of the dues increase that will be required to meet our needs. These items will be presented at a special Council meeting to take place at 11:45 A.M. on Wednesday, July 31, 2002.

Council briefly discussed the idea of a workshop tentatively called "Brainstorming the WDA into the Future" to be held a day before the 2003 meeting begins. A similar exercise took place in 1989 called WDA—Past, Present, and Future. P. Barrows and T. Mörner will review how that meeting was conceived and what came out of it. T. Mörner commented that the timing seems good right now to consider where we are going as an organization. This idea for the workshop will be discussed further at later Council meetings.

J. Mazet moved (T. Rocke seconded) for adjournment. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted
Lynn H. Creekmore
Secretary

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