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MINUTES OF THE 2002 WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
31 July 2002

The meeting was called to order on 31 July 2002 at 11:45 A.M. by P. Barrows. Council members present included L. Creekmore, M. Drew, J. Fischer, S. Gibbs, E. Greiner, T. Kreeger, T. Kuiken, J. Mazet, T. Mörner, P. Nol, C. Quist, T. Rocke, L. Uhazy, M. Wild, and E. Williams.

In the Council meeting earlier this week motions were made and passed to significantly increase regular and institutional membership dues. The President and Treasurer were to prepare a proposal with figures to be voted on in this special Council meeting. P. Barrows pointed out that the current practice of using the consumer price index as a guide for increasing dues no longer reflects our operational needs. The proposal is to institute the following increases: regular membership up 33% to $85, student membership up 25% to $40, and institutional membership up 131% to $250. If we adopt and implement this proposal we will increase our annual income by $75,000 if we have no loss in membership. We would have to lose 42% of our membership in all categories for us to have the same revenue that we would have if we instituted our normal 4% cost of living increase. As discussed earlier, this is unlikely. J. Fischer moved (L. Uhazy seconded) that we adopt the proposed dues increases. J. Mazet asked if we were leaving the associate member dues at the same level. The response was yes. T. Kuiken expressed concern that the increase for institutional membership is too drastic. P. Barrows responded that while this seems a big change, compared to other professional association memberships/journals, it is very reasonable. T. Kuiken expressed concern about the drastic nature of the large increase for institutional members and suggested as an alternative that we increase the institutional membership dues in two steps. E. Greiner said that he did consult with Allen Press regarding the increase; T. Reisner thought that this increase was a bit drastic but that $250 is reasonable compared to fees charged by other associations. E. Williams agreed that $250 is not unreasonable. P. Barrow said that any increase we realize will provide the means to begin to consider an Executive Manager, but also will help with our deficit spending problems. It will also give us the flexibility to pursue additional administrative services if we desire as well as allow us to increase our ability to provide more services to our membership. M. Drew pointed out that even if we lose some of our membership we still have an influx of cash that will allow us to do some of the things that are being proposed. P. Barrows agrees. We are not taking an irreversible risk and we still have the reserves to survive a bad year. T. Rocke suggested that we insure that we can track the response of the Institutional Members to this increase. Follow-up with Institutions that drop their membership would be useful. We should be able to get this information through Allen Press. The general feeling was that the increase for regular members is reasonable and can continue to be increased if needed in subsequent years. S. Gibbs said that from her perspective, the student increase is not excessive. The motion was called and passed.

L. Uhazy presented a proposed budget. A copy of this budget can be obtained from the Treasurer. He pointed out that we need a more realistic budgeting process; this will be a challenge for the Officers and Council to continue to address. P. Barrows agreed that we need a more user friendly way to express our financial status. C. Quist and P. Barrows plan to visit Allen Marketing and Management (AMM) this September to try to better understand the process and ways to improve it. We are currently negotiating a new contract with AMM. We need to more actively negotiate changes to our contract. This is another reason to consider hiring an Executive Manager. P. Barrows requested that we approve a budget before he and C. Quist visit AMM. E. Greiner moved (M. Drew seconded) to approve the proposed budget as a concept or estimate of what we expect to spend in the next year. The motion passed. E. Greiner moved (J. Fischer seconded) that the special Council meeting be adjourned. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted
Lynn H. Creekmore
Secretary

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