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MINUTES OF THE 2004 WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

1 September 2004

The special meeting of the Wildlife Disease Association Council was called to order by President T. Mörner at 6:30 PM on 1 September 2004. The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussions on new business initiated at the regular Council meeting on 29 August 2004. In attendance were E. Addison, M. Drew, S. Wright, S. Gibbs, T. Portas, E. Ågren, P. Nol, D. Jessup, M. Ziccardi, H. Schwantje, E. Williams, T. Cornish, B. Karesh, J. Fischer, and M. Wild. Guest attendees included T. Rocke, C. Jardine, R. Botzler, and R. Brown.

New Business

Student Chapter Guidelines

S. Gibbs presented guidelines for establishment of WDA student chapters. The primary purpose of the chapters is to establish a process for mentoring and a way for students to find WDA members. Chapters will not have individual representation on Council. The guidelines (general information and objectives, application form, and progress report form) were presented for review and comment by Council prior to posting on the WDA Web site. Council voiced support and suggested that the draft objectives be broadened from a target audience of "wildlife disease students" to "students interested in health of wildlife" and to include contact information for the student member of WDA Council. These guidelines will become part of the Student Activity Committee guidelines.

- **Motion [Gibbs/Schwantje]: Establish student chapters in accordance with the proposed guidelines.** Passed unanimously.

Resolution on Feral Cats

Discussion on the feral cat position statement presented by M. Drew and the Public Awareness Committee (PAC) continued after time for review by Council.

- **Motion [Jessup/Drew]: Accept the position statement on feral cats submitted by the Public Awareness Committee.** Passed unanimously.

D. Jessup suggested that the position statement be forwarded by the WDA President to the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians as they are considering a similar resolution and to the American Veterinary Medical Association Environmental Issues Committee. A general question regarding the standard distribution of WDA position statements followed. The PAC should make recommendations on distribution of resolutions to the President and Executive Manager and these statements should be placed on the WDA Web site.

Threat to Prairie Dogs

M. Drew reported that there has been a recent decision by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to not list black-tailed prairie dogs under the Endangered Species Act. There is information suggesting that some states, specifically South Dakota, will resume killing prairie dogs in areas that are critical to black-footed ferrets. M. Drew asked Council for direction on response to this issue suggesting that, if deemed necessary, the PAC could deal with this issue in an urgent manner. There were concerns by Council that more information was necessary prior to acting, that the issue was not specifically a disease issue, that there are too many of these types of issues to deal with on a one-by-one basis, and that urgent response would bypass the newly proposed process for Council vetting of issues regarding potential resolutions. Council suggested that M. Drew collect information and forward all files to Council so that a response decision can be determined. On a similar topic, D. Jessup reminded Council that we should consider reviving review of information on the World Parrot Trust. This will be done by the PAC.

Reorganizing Sections

T. Rocke, W. Karesh, D. Jessup, and others have been pulling together suggestions and ideas on the organization of sections and compiling these into revised guidelines for sections. D. Jessup stated that the goal is to bring symmetry to Council. The first issue discussed involved whether the motivation for organizing new sections should originate with Council or be based on the desire of individuals wishing a section. D. Jessup argued if we truly wish to be an international organization, the parent WDA organization should encourage development of sections so that all geographic areas are represented on Council. Others stated that rather than Council pushing sections to join and developing sections for the benefit of WDA, the

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sections and proposed sections need a common desire to participate and should approach Council in order to achieve and maintain active sections. Regardless, the parent body of WDA needs to be providing benefit to the sections.

A North America Section was discussed. A diversity of views was expressed including the perspective of sections providing underrepresented views on Council and that this objective would not be advanced with a North American Section. S. Gibbs recommended that for fairness in the student competition, students should be divided based on geographic section, including a North American Section. Others disagreed, stating that it is preferable just to have the funds for foreign student travel.

Finally, Council discussed how sections were incorporated and their interaction with the WDA parent body. The definition and requirements of a section will determine geographic representation on Council. More geographic areas could be represented if a section could consist of just a Council representative. The required formal structure and minimum number of members may be difficult to obtain and prohibit representation of certain geographic areas. T. Rocke stated that currently, the parent organization of WDA is not supporting meetings on the local section level or doing other things to support the sections and that this support to the sections would be required to become truly international. She suggested that a revised approach is necessary. A variety of views were expressed by Council members. One alternative raised was to replace section membership with parent body membership and have a portion of funds from the dues go back to sections. Non–North American section representatives were concerned that if WDA membership were required for section participation, sections may lose local membership and therefore their source of support for the section. There was general agreement by Council that a change is necessary if we are to continue to have sections. Council also agreed that it is important to understand what the sections want/need from the parent body of WDA. A recommendation was made for Council to contact the sections for their input on the issue.

T. Mörner noted that the sections are currently independent in decision-making, including formulation of position statements. Council should consider whether relationship of parent WDA and the sections needs to be formalized or regulated. Council believed that the relationship should be formalized to have more communication and interaction with sections. An option should also be available so that sections can handle resolutions at the section level.

Currently, there is no comprehensive list of section members available to WDA. Section chairs have membership lists for sections, but the lists may not be complete and easy to access or to use by WDA. WDA could provide membership list management for the sections. It would be ideal if Council knew the number of affiliated members of WDA around the world, for example, for position statements. However, those people would need to have an opportunity for input into decision-making. This is another reason why all geographic areas of the world should be represented on Council.

Through the Sections Committee, T. Mörner and E. Addison will contact sections, including individuals in Latin America, to find out their issues and needs and then report back to Council with suggestions.

Membership Definitions

Council revisited discussions on the definitions of institutional and sustaining membership and agreed to place the following definitions in the draft Bylaws for review:

> *Institutional Member*—Institutional members shall receive the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* and the Supplement for a fee as determined by Council. They shall not receive other rights and privileges accorded to regular members.
>
> *Sustaining Member*—Members having particular interest in the objectives of the Association and who wish to make a significant contribution, as determined by Council, in support of those objectives. Sustaining members receive all the rights and privileges accorded to regular members and will receive special recognition by the Association.

Interim Budget for 2005

E. Addison presented Treasurer C. Quist's 2005 interim budget. Income for 2005 is estimated to be about the same as 2004, although income from page charges for the *Journal* may increase if a fifth "catch-up" *Journal* is produced in 2005. Expenses with significant increases in 2005 include basic cost of *Journal* and Supplement due to the fifth issue, support to the *Journal* Editor's office, online publishing, Executive Manager's salary and expenses, credit card fees for registration, and officer expenses.

With the charge for relocation of journals included ($1,000), the 2005 budget is estimated to have a $20,000 deficit. However, this is conservative budget and no income from the 2004 conference has been incorporated. Therefore, the deficit will not truly be this great.

- **Motion [Drew/Fischer]: Accept the pro-**

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posed interim budget for 2005. Passed unanimously.

Purchase of Display

M. Wild reminded Council of an e-mail motion made by K. Converse that had not yet been addressed by Council.

- **Motion [Wild/Mörner]: That up to $400 be available for purchase of a lightweight (20 lb), easily portable, 3-panel (24 × 36-inch) display for use at WDA and other national meetings. The display offers the flexibility to include existing pictures from the WDA poster as well as any associated or regional wildlife disease interests for a particular meeting.** Passed unanimously.

A motion was made by J. Fischer and seconded by T. Cornish to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret A. Wild,
Secretary

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