

## MINUTES OF THE 2005 WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING

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## MINUTES OF THE 2005 WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING

26 June 2005

The annual Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) Council meeting was held in conjunction with the Association conference in Cairns, Australia. The Council meeting was called to order by President T. Mörner at 11:40 AM. Council members in attendance were S. Wright, M. Wild, D. Stallknecht, P. Nol, T. Portas, M. Artois, E. Ågren, T. Cornish, and executive manager E. Addison. Guest attendees included C. van Riper, L. Measures, P. Whitely, and M. Pappaioanou.

### Introductory Remarks

T. Mörner welcomed Council members and guests attending the meeting. Because a quorum of Council was not present and because the cost of a conference call was prohibitively expensive, the meeting was limited to discussion and presentation of draft motions. Draft minutes and motions were sent via email to the full Council for further discussion and vote following the meeting.

T. Mörner announced the incoming officers and council members: President, Scott Wright; Vice-President, Mike Miller; Secretary, Margaret Wild; Treasurer, Carol Meteyer; and Council members, Marguerite Pappaioanou and Marcela Uhart.

T. Portas of the Australasian Section welcomed Council to Cairns, Australia. He reported that a full social and scientific program was planned for the conference. Attendance was expected to be about 250 participants.

### Approval of Minutes

**Motion (Cornish/Wright):** Approve minutes of the 4 April 2005 conference call.

### Officers' Reports

#### *Treasurer's report and budget*

E. Addison presented the Treasurer's report that was submitted in writing by C. Quist. The accountant's financial statements for 31 December 2004 and 31 March 2005 are available from E. Addison. A budget history table that included the 2005 budget was also distributed to Council.

The WDA remains financially stable, with assets of \$772,435, compared to \$690,166 last year (Mize Houser's figures for 31 March 2005). Currently, our checking account at the

Douglas County Bank in Lawrence, Kansas holds approximately \$140,000. Our money market account (auction account) at the same bank contains approximately \$71,500, and we have a certificate of deposit for \$100,000. Our portfolio at Buttonwood Partners, Inc. is valued at \$398,176 (as of 31 May 2005), which includes the Carlton Herman Fund (\$33,761).

An interim report on the 2005 budget was presented. So far, in 2005, we have spent approximately \$142,000 of our estimated \$306,000 budget. We have spent money in some unexpected areas (2004 meeting deficit), but less has been spent than budgeted in other areas (e.g., the cost for the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* is lower because there will be no fifth issue this year, and costs for the editor's office and executive manager are lower than projected). Although we are only 5 mo into the year, it appears as though we are not likely to end up with a deficit budget for 2005 as was expected.

Journal costs (not including editor's office expenses) were as follows:

Vol. 41(1):	276	pages+4-page cover	\$30,081.63
Vol. 40(4):	216	pages+4-page cover	\$23,257.88
Vol. 40(3):	240	pages+4-page cover	\$26,231.38
Vol. 40(2):	216	pages+4-page cover	\$23,191.40
Vol. 40(1):	164	pages+4-page cover	\$16,376.60

Total cost of Vol. 40 was \$89,057.26 for 836 pages (excluding covers). The average cost per page (including covers) was \$106.53. This compares with \$105.30 per page last year. The first issue of Vol. 41 costs \$108.99 per page.

C. Quist will work with the incoming treasurer to prepare a 2006 budget for presentation at the November conference call.

**Motion (Cornish/Wild):** That the 2004 year-end financial report for the WDA as provided by Mize Hauser and Company and including total revenue of \$337,682, total expenses of \$203,699, net revenue of \$133,983, and total current assets of \$719,620.14 as of 31 December 2004 be accepted.

*President's report*

President T. Mörner provided a brief summary of his 2-yr term. He has stayed in close contact with Council and Executive Manager E. Addison during this period, in part through exchanging nearly 2,000 emails. Importantly, the WDA Constitution and Bylaws have been updated. Work continues on some further revisions to the Bylaws and development or revision of additional guideline documents (e.g., for committees and the Editorial Board).

**Motion: (Wright/Cornish):** Acknowledge and accept Torsten Mörner's excellent work over the last 2 years as WDA President.

*Vice-president's Time and Place Committee report*

S. Wright reported that Richard French is the contact for the 2006 annual conference, which will be held at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. In 2007, the conference will be held at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. The venue is adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park and provides excellent conference facilities in a family-oriented setting. M. Wild is the contact for that meeting. Suggestions are being sought for location of the 2008 meeting. There have been requests to meet with the International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine and an ornithologists' group.

*Secretary's Report/Teller Committee report*

M. Wild reported that the ballot for election of WDA officers and council members was developed and, for the first time this year, on-line balloting was available. An email notice of on-line balloting was sent by Allen Press to all members with an email address on file. About 116 paper ballots were sent to members without email addresses and to those with nonfunctional email accounts. Approximately 60 days was allowed for voting. The Teller Committee, sans the secretary (because her name appeared on the ballot), counted 194 votes. Of these ballots, 176 were electronic and 18 were paper. The secretary also oversaw voting for the Emeritus Award.

The secretary prepared minutes from the 2004 Annual Meeting, special meeting of Council, Editorial Board meeting, and business meeting for publication in the January issue of the *Journal*. Minutes from the November 2004 and April 2005 conference calls of Council were also prepared. Motions passed since the 2004 Annual Meeting have been summarized as follows:

November 2004 and April 2005 conference calls:

**Motion (Barrows/Converse):** Accept minutes of the 2004 WDA Council meeting, special Council meeting, and WDA business meeting. Passed unanimously.

**Motion (Williams/Converse):** Move that Council accept E. Howerth and D. Stallknecht as incoming coeditors of the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* and that they begin accepting manuscripts for review in July 2005. Passed unanimously.

**Motion (Gaydos/Barrows):** Accept the slate of candidates as it now stands unless one additional person now listed as a candidate for member-at-large wants to run for Treasurer. Passed unanimously.

**Motion (Nol/Williams):** That the 2003 year-end financial report for the WDA as provided by Mize Hauser and Company and including total revenue of \$272,690, total expenses of \$175,091, net revenue of \$97,599, and total current assets of \$586,495.85 as of 31 December 2003 be accepted as presented. Passed unanimously.

**Motion (Jessup/Williams):** That the Wildlife Conservation Society Field Veterinary Program be named a sustaining member of the WDA for at least the next 5 yr and as long thereafter as Council continues to recognize the unique contributions of the Wildlife Conservation Society Field Veterinary Program in support of the mission of the WDA. Passed unanimously.

**Motion (Jessup/Schwantje):** Retain only 10 copies of the issues of the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* older than 5 yr and 100 copies of more recent issues and distribute 13 partial sets that are 62–71% complete at a cost of \$8,000–10,000. Passed unanimously.

**Motion (Jessup/Barrows):** Move that Council consider incorporating in the state of Colorado and cease to be incorporated in the state of Illinois, allocating up to \$1,500 to pursue that goal. Passed unanimously.

**Motion (Jessup/Barrows):** Approve the revised 2005 budget with a deficit of \$40,405. Passed unanimously.

**Motion (Jessup/Williams):** Maintain current fees for 2006. Passed.

**Motion (Jessup/Barrows):** That the WDA award \$100 to each WDA student member (or student who becomes a member at the 2005 meeting) who presents a verbal or poster presentation at the 2005 meeting in Cairns, Australia, except for those students receiving the WDA Amundson, Student

Research, and Scholarship awards, and that the money be paid from the auction proceeds fund. Funds to be used for these purposes are not to exceed \$4,100. Passed.

**Motion (Jessup/Cornish):** Accept revised bylaws except for the definition of student in Article IV Section 2 and Article IX Section 7. Passed unanimously.

**Motion (Jessup/Barrows):** Accept minutes of the 30 November 2004 conference call of Council. Passed unanimously.

**Motion (Gaydos/Schwantje):** That the WDA agrees to join with the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians to form a joint award in memory of the contributions of Elizabeth (Beth) S. Williams and E. Thomas (Tom) Thorne to the field of wildlife health. Passed unanimously.

**Motion (Quist/Jessup):** That the name of the award be determined in conjunction with the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians and perhaps be called something like "Tom Thorne and Beth Williams Award for Achievement in Wildlife Health." Passed unanimously.

**Motion (Quist/Jessup):** That the scope of the award be that it be presented in acknowledgement of an exemplary contribution either combining wildlife disease research with wildlife management policy implementation or elucidating particularly significant problems in wildlife health. Passed unanimously.

**Motion (Portas/Gaydos):** That the WDA agrees to cover financial losses associated with the 2005 International Meeting in Cairns, Australia and also agrees with the principle of sharing revenue with the Australasian Section of the WDA with discussion of amounts being conducted upon completion and final reporting to the WDA Council of the finances of the 2005 meeting. Passed unanimously.

**Motion (Jessup/Barrows):** That the motion to initiate incorporation of the WDA in Colorado be rescinded and that we remain incorporated in the state of Illinois, and identify a WDA member resident in Illinois who is willing to act as 'agent' of incorporation for the Association. Passed unanimously.

**Motion (Wright/Jessup):** That the 2005 revised guidelines for the Awards Committee be accepted as presented.

**Motion (Jessup/Gaydos):** That the 2005 revised guidelines of the Nominations Committee be accepted as presented. Passed unanimously.

**Motion (Jessup/Gaydos):** That the 2005

revisions to the guideline for the Teller Committee be accepted as presented. Passed unanimously.

**Motion (Barrows/Wright):** That the Awards Committee develop a certificate of appreciation to be presented at the discretion of the president as an expression of gratitude for exceptional performance from a committee chair, as thanks to organizers of a meeting, or for any number of other appropriate circumstances and that the WDA Awards Committee establish an acknowledgement to be presented to outgoing presidents and *Journal* editors. Passed unanimously.

**Motion (Quist/Wright):** That the WDA cover 25% of the total losses associated with the 2004 joint meeting in San Diego. Passed unanimously.

By email:

**Motion (Mörner/Wild):** Due to the tragic and unforeseen circumstances of 29 December 2004, that E. Howerth and D. Stallknecht assume responsibilities as co-editors of the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* by no later than 14 January 2005 and that Council expresses their deep appreciation to Buffy and Dave for being so willing. Passed unanimously (20 January 2005).

**Motion (Wild/Jessup):** That Council adopt the guidelines for the "Tom Thorne and Beth Williams Memorial Award" as proposed. Passed unanimously (10 June 2005).

#### *Editor's report*

D. Stallknecht provided the editor's report for himself and coeditor E. Howerth. The four issues published in 2004 (Vol. 40) included 54 full-length manuscripts, 62 short communications, six book reviews, minutes for the 2003 Council and business meetings, author index, and subject index. This volume included 831 pages and general composition was similar to 2003. During the last year (between 31 May 2004 and 1 June 2005), 203 manuscripts were received.

The January 2005 (Vol. 41) issue was mailed from Allen Press during April (20 full manuscripts and nine short communications). Copyediting for the April (41[2]) issue is complete and manuscripts are in the proof stage. This issue includes 17 full manuscripts and 10 short communications. Mailing is anticipated for July. Manuscripts for the July (41[3]) issue have been selected (11 full manuscripts and 12 short communications) and the anticipated submission date for edited manuscripts to

Allen Press is July. The *Journal* editors hope to get the publication of the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* back on or much closer to schedule by the January 2005 or April 2006 issues.

The editorial process is up and running and the *Journal* editors acknowledged all the support and help we have received from Louise Smithson and the assistant editors C. Atkinson, K. Frölich, T. Kreeger, S. McMurry, M. Miller, L. Measures, V. Nettles, M. Pybus, M. Samuel, and M. Yabsley. Four new assistant editors, including D. Ley, P. Elzer, T. Bollinger, and J. Root, have been added to fill vacated positions and to add additional subject diversity.

D. Stallknecht also reported that the Editorial Board had a productive meeting earlier in the day. The priority of the editors to get the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* back on schedule was supported. D. Stallknecht presented a summary of motions from the Editorial Board meeting:

**Motion (Wild/Measures):** That assistant editors be provided the option of publication of up to one article per year free of page charges.

**Motion (Wild/van Riper):** On a limited basis and on nomination by the editor(s) and approval by Council, give complimentary 1-yr WDA membership to select reviewers who are nonmembers.

**Motion (Addison/Samuel):** WDA promotes the use of PDF versions of papers published in the *Journal* and PDFs that are to be made available on web sites should be the versions purchased from WDA.

**Motion (van Riper/Addison):** As long as operating within the approved budget for the editorial office, the editor and treasurer may each acquire and use a credit card for WDA editorial expenses.

**Motion: (vanRiper/Wright):** Provide a motion of support to Dave Stallknecht and Buffy Howerth for the outstanding job they have done in the transition to editors of the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*.

Council discussed each of these motions submitted by the Editorial Board. Revisions to some motions were made and Council presented the following proposed motions for vote:

**Motion (Stallknecht/Wright):** That each assistant editor be provided the option of publication of up to five *Journal* pages per year free of charge at a total cost not to exceed \$7,000/yr.

**Motion (Stallknecht/Cornish):** On a limit-

ed basis and on nomination by the editor(s) and approval by Council, give complimentary 1-yr WDA membership to select reviewers who are nonmembers at a total cost not to exceed \$500/yr.

**Motion (Stallknecht/Wild):** WDA promotes the use of PDF versions of papers published in the *Journal* and PDFs that are to be made available on web sites should be the versions purchased from WDA.

**Motion (Stallknecht/Nol):** As long as operating within the approved budget for the editorial office, the editor and treasurer may each acquire and use a credit card for WDA editorial expenses.

**Motion (Mörner/Wright):** Provide a motion of support to Dave Stallknecht and Buffy Howerth for the outstanding job that they have done in the transition to editors of the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*.

#### *Supplement editor's report*

P. Nol reported that since the last Council meeting, the July 2004, October 2004, and January 2005 issues of the *Supplement to the Journal of Wildlife Diseases* were mailed out with the *Journal*. April 2005 (Vol. 41, No. 2) will be distributed shortly. Publication costs were as follows:

Vol. 40 (3) \$1,123.38

Vol. 40 (4) \$1,593.51

Vol. 41 (1) \$1,744.05

P. Nol thanked all those who submitted pieces for publication in the *Supplement* in the last year. Particular recognition was provided for the tremendous effort devoted to creating tributes befitting our lost colleagues, Alan Kocan, Tom Thorne, and Beth Williams for issue 41(1). The *Supplement* has consistently received materials from the Australasian, European, and Nordic sections, as well as from the National Wildlife Health Center, to be included in the newsletter.

Numerous requests to run ads for jobs and conferences have been submitted in the last 9 mo, many more than it seemed in past years. Job announcements are forwarded to M. Ziccardi for immediate posting on the web site. Other types of material and meeting announcements are placed in the *Supplement* and forwarded for web-site posting as well.

T. Mörner suggested that perhaps the *Supplement* should be produced on a strict schedule and emailed to members rather than delaying distribution of the *Supplement* when the *Journal* is running behind. A hard copy



would still go out with the *Journal* when it was sent. P. Nol and the Information Committee will look into this idea and report back to Council.

As an off-shoot of the discussion on electronic access to the *Supplement*, several Council members reported that they had had difficulty accessing the WDA web site due to misplacing their ID and password for the site. The recommendation was made to send out another email with membership account and password.

#### *Web editor's report*

E. Addison reported that M. Ziccardi is doing an excellent job with the web site and that changes are posted promptly. Comments on the web site can be submitted to M. Ziccardi who is eager to receive suggestions on how to make the web site better.

#### *Executive manager's report*

E. Addison reported that in the last year he has focused primarily on preparing Council for meetings and on revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws. He now hopes to emphasize helping committees, particularly those that need some encouragement.

T. Mörner acknowledged E. Addison's significant contribution to WDA. He also noted that during the week the executive manager's contract would be reviewed to discuss duties.

### **Committee Reports**

#### *Awards Committee*

The Awards Committee provided one excellent nominee for the Emeritus Award. The award will be presented during the banquet.

#### *Nominations Committee*

T. Mörner reported that D. Jessup provided an excellent group of candidates for Council positions this year. Two candidates each were presented for the president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary positions. Five candidates for two Council member positions were also recruited.

#### *Student Activity Committee*

The committee reported that some confusion has occurred because of WDA communications being directed toward individuals who are no longer in active committee positions (i.e., communication addressed to individuals rather than positions). A central mailing address for communications may help alleviate this problem. The committee also raised the

question of who sends communications out on behalf of the organization. Coordination of letters and responses is necessary to avoid duplication and confusion.

#### *Promotions Committee*

The committee submitted a written report. Copies of the brochure will be available at the WDA meeting along with an order form for Council and members to request copies. No requests have been submitted this year for brochures or use of the laminated posters at meetings. The committee has identified a need for development of a video and Powerpoint presentation on WDA, creation of a .ppt image of the WDA poster, and purchase of a permanent WDA display. A call was placed in the *Supplement* for WDA activity photographs and videos to be used in these displays but no submissions were received. The goal is to have the products ready for use in 2006. A proposed budget of \$1,000 was submitted for 2005–2006.

#### *Student Awards Committee*

T. Cornish reported that because of several procedural difficulties encountered during the awards review process in 2005, the committee would be modifying the current guidelines. Issues to be addressed include membership status of award applicants, applicant status at time of award application, and evaluation of grade-point average. Students must be student members to receive this year's travel stipend award. The guidelines will include the requirement that student awardees be members of WDA. A decision needs to be made as to whether the responsibility for application of award funds to educational expenses falls on WDA or the award winner.

There were 42 applicants, 34 of whom will provide oral presentations at this year's conference. Ten applications were received for the scholarship award and three strong applications for the research recognition were received. For the first time a poster competition for students will be held. L. Skerratt has identified funds for the poster award.

#### *On-line Publishing Committee*

E. Addison reported that WDA is receiving excellent service from HighWire Press. On-line publishing is progressing well and currently at a lower cost than budgeted.

An issue has arisen with two large U.S. government agencies purchasing single *Journal* subscriptions for electronic access by multiple agency units and at multiple locations. The intent is for membership to be site-specific and

for one administrative unit. Agencies that allow broad access from one membership might reduce membership overall. This issue will need to be resolved and WDA will need to adapt to gain revenue from open access.

#### *Membership Committee*

T. Portas reported that the committee has attempted to increase student membership by drafting a letter to send out to students who are not WDA members. The Student Activity Committee has drafted a letter to send to student members.

#### *Public Awareness Committee*

The Public Awareness Committee reported no activity this year.

#### *Long-term Vision Committee*

In a written submission, P. Barrows reported that subsequent to the September 2004 establishment of this committee, an initial group of committee members was selected, details regarding the criteria for designation of future chairpersons were clarified, preliminary exploration of how the committee might organize itself to serve the future needs of the WDA was undertaken, and committee member perspectives were solicited.

In light of the previously conducted WDA Organizational Review and Planning Session" (Corvallis, 1989) and the "Brainstorming the WDA into the 21st Century" initiative (Saskatoon, 2003), a "visioning" process holds great promise for assisting the WDA in its efforts to address long-term issues and challenges. Viewed from the perspective of our primary mission statement, a preliminary analysis of our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats may serve as an effective starting point from which to move forward. A partial list of areas to explore might include the following: 1) improve quality, value, and relevance for our members; 2) maximize positive aspects of our affiliations with other organizations; 3) improve the health and welfare of wildlife "on the ground"; 4) enhance membership/involvement among underdeveloped countries; 5) foster more student involvement; and 6) improve economic and operational efficiencies.

### **Section Reports**

#### *European Section*

M. Artois reported that the section has been busy with this year's meeting with the Nordic Section and planning for a September 2006 meeting in Aosta Valley, Italy. Abstracts from the 2005 meeting, as well as contributions from

a March electronic conference on Wildlife-Related Emerging Diseases (WIRED), are available on the section's web site. The section's new student council representative, L. Reperant, organized a 3-day student workshop on emerging diseases in Annecy this spring. Over 30 students and 10 distinguished scientists from nine European countries participated. The workshop was an excellent experience that should be continued in the future. To encourage such activities, an alternative to the university-based student chapters may be section-based student chapters. The section has also worked to improve their web site, has prepared reports for World Organisation of Animal Health (OIE) and WDA, and is preparing a review paper for a special human-animal interface issue of the *British Medical Journal*, as well as a program proposal for a European call for a Specific Support Action related with emerging diseases in wildlife. The section will be dealing with WDA membership of section members in the coming months.

#### *Nordic Section*

E. Ågren reported that this year the Nordic Section met in Sweden on the island of Öland in the Baltic Sea. The section has been working to meet the requirement that section members be WDA members, so this year WDA membership for participants was included with meeting registration. WDA membership does not seem to be a contentious issue for Nordic Section members. The section launched a web site and, although they have had some difficulty, will work to keep it updated. Planning for the section's June 2007 meeting is in progress and it is hoped the meeting will be held in Svalbard, Norway.

#### *Australasian Section*

T. Portas reported that membership in WDA in addition to the section is an issue of much discussion in the Australasia Section. Membership in the section increased markedly this year from 112 to 163, but a corresponding rise has not occurred in WDA membership. Only about 66 section members are WDA members. The section will meet during this week's conference to discuss the issue further so that a decision on how to proceed can be identified.

#### *Wildlife Veterinary Section*

D. Jessup provided a written report. The American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (AAWV), which exists as a separate IRS code 501 nonprofit scientific research organization, recognized by American Veterinary Medical

Association, United States Animal Health Association and other organizations, is also a duly constituted Wildlife Veterinary Section of the WDA. A 2004 vote to merge with the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV) failed to pass by the required two-thirds vote of membership. A memorandum of agreement (MOA) that could foster cooperation and collaboration between AAWV and AAZV, while retaining organizational independence and autonomy, is now under consideration. Nothing in this MOA alters AAWV's relationship with and commitment to WDA.

The AAWV newsletter and web site have focused on national and international news, editorials, policy, job placement, and informing and encouraging the membership. This information may be useful to WDA membership as well. Joint plans with WDA for a memorial fund and award to honor Drs. Beth Williams and Tom Thorne are proceeding. AAWV has allocated \$1,000 to kick off its campaign to fund the award. Because WDA will be meeting outside the USA in 2005, AAWV will have its annual meeting in October in Omaha, Nebraska, in conjunction with the AAZV. AAWV is continuing its tradition of supporting a cutting-edge speaker at annual meetings. The 2004 speaker in San Diego, California was Dr. Rick Ostfeld, who spoke about "Deer, Ticks and Missing Weapons of Mouse Destruction." The speaker for 2005 will be Dr. Michael T. Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, who will speak about highly pathogenic avian influenza and threats to human and animal health and global stability.

#### *Carlton Herman Fund*

A. Fairbrother submitted a written report for the Carlton Herman Founders Fund trustees. Dr. Peter Hudson, Willaman Professor of Biology at Pennsylvania State University, was selected as the Carlton Herman Fund speaker for the 2005 WDA conference. The focus of Dr. Hudson's work and presentation is in line with guidelines of the Carlton Herman Fund, which is to attract speakers who can discuss population-level impacts of diseases in free-ranging wildlife and fits well with the conference program. Because the Carlton Herman Fund has not sponsored a speaker in several years, the fund remains strong at \$25,000 prior to funding for the 2005 speaker.

#### **Old Business**

##### *Nominations Committee Guidelines*

Revisions to the guidelines for the Nominations Committee have been completed. One

noteworthy addition is that the chair of the Nominations Committee will check with the executive manager or business office to ensure that each person who is considering to have their name stand for election be a member (i.e., has paid their membership) for the forthcoming year. If the potential candidate is not a member, they will be asked to become one before they are considered further for inclusion on the ballot.

**Motion (Mörner/Wright):** Accept the revised guidelines for the Nominations Committee as proposed.

#### *Article IX (Sections), Section 6 of Bylaws*

A motion to better define section responsibilities regarding meetings was proposed.

**Motion (Mörner/Portas):** The sections shall hold a meeting at least every second year. Sections must inform Council and the web site editor of the time and place of the meeting at least 6 mo prior to the meeting. It is preferred that at least one WDA Council member or the executive manager attends the annual meeting of each section.

#### *Uses of WDA auctions funds*

Auction proceeds were originally intended for use to fund student awards. Over the years, Council expanded the use of funds to outreach and education, as well as a variety of other uses. Because of this vast expansion of proposed applications, last year Council revoked motions concerning uses of auction funds passed over the previous years. Council discussed two alternatives for how funds should be applied in the future. One alternative was strictly for student awards and activities and the other also included education and outreach activities. Council concluded that the original and enduring intent is for funds to be used for students.

**Motion (Ågren/Cornish):** That the proceeds of the auctions at the annual meeting be used in support of student awards and other student activities.

#### *Definitions of student members*

There has been ongoing discussion by Council regarding inclusion of interns, residents, and postdoctoral fellows as those qualifying for student membership. The following motion will be presented to the full Council for consideration:



**Motion (Nol/Cornish):** Student members must be: 1) enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate student program at least half time, or 2) be participating full time in an internship or residency program that is approved for credit toward board certification. Student members must obtain their academic (or equivalent) supervisor's signature designating their student status and submit that annually when paying dues. Student members shall have all the rights and privileges of regular members except they will receive the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* in electronic format only. Student members will have a reduced membership fee as determined by Council.

Council members in attendance agreed that the primary intent of the lower cost for student membership was because they were not paid and were therefore more financially restricted. Because postdoctoral positions are generally paid, they were excluded from this proposed definition.

#### New Business

##### *Rent or sale of membership lists*

Occasionally the organization receives requests to access the WDA membership list. In 1997 (JWD 33: 942), Council passed a motion to deal with requests for WDA membership lists: 1) the requests must be reciprocal; 2) the WDA President will monitor and decide on requests for membership lists; and 3) there will be a charge of \$250.00 to mail lists, plus \$100. Subsequent discussions by Council even identified sale of the list as a means to create revenue. However, a concern exists regarding increasing spam sent to members.

**Motion (Wright/Wild):** That, in general, the WDA will not rent or sell its membership mailing list to commercial companies or other organizations. Exceptions will require consensus approval of the Officers of the Association.

##### *Proposed Budget and Audit Committee guidelines*

**Motion (Mörner/Wright):** To approve the draft Budget and Audit Committee guidelines as presented.

##### *Revised Information Committee guidelines*

**Motion (Nol/Mörner):** To approve the draft Information Committee guidelines as presented.

##### *Accessibility to Annual Meetings*

Accessibility to the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* and the annual conference are important contributions made by WDA and are important sources of income for the organization. Concern has been raised by some members that the high cost of meetings, coupled with costs from international exchange rates for non-US registrants, has limited the ability of the general membership to participate in meetings. As a result, E. Addison has received input from some members that WDA should encourage inexpensive annual meetings. S. Wright added that the financial objective of meetings had not been articulated previously. That is, should meetings be a significant source of income for the organization, or should they provide the best possible experience? Council members in attendance agreed that the Time and Place Committee should consider this issue and provide guidance through the "Zarnke document" for meeting organizers. Council members did not support the idea that all meetings should be inexpensive but rather voiced support for cost-effective meetings that provide the best experience possible without losing money.

##### *Confirming membership status for meeting registrants*

Value added for members should include lower registration fees for the annual conference. In addition, higher registration fees for nonmembers reminds forgetful members that it is worth renewing their memberships. Differential fees only work if we check current membership status at the time of registration.

**Motion (Wild/Nol):** That those in charge of registration for the annual meeting regularly submit the names of registrants and whether they registered as members or nonmembers to the executive manager (or, if absent, the business manager) for verification as to membership status.

##### *Use of nonmember meeting registration fee*

If nonmembers automatically became associate members by attending our annual conference, then they would receive privileges of membership and later that year they would receive reminders to rejoin the Association for the coming year.

**Motion (Mörner/Stallknecht):** That the amount for an annual Associate Membership be allocated from the differential in higher annual conference registration fees paid by 'nonmembers' to be forwarded to the WDA

business office, together with all pertinent contact information, in order to register such 'nonmembers' as Associate Members of the WDA for the current calendar year.

#### *Trends in memberships and finances*

E. Addison reported that membership is up from 2000, but the increase can be attributed to memberships funded by the Wildlife Conservation Society. Subscriptions are good compared to last year and may be moving back up toward the number of subscriptions prior to the fee increase. Net annual revenue over expenses has been extremely good since the fee increase. Core management expenses have been increasing and Council should consider a balance between investing further in core management as compared to other activities.

E. Addison provided a summary of his written report to Council that was prepared following attendance at an Allen Press Emerging Trends Seminar in April 2005. Representatives of more than 100 other science, technology, and medicine societies, who like the WDA, are all publishers of scientific journals, attended the seminar. E. Addison reported that the single most important fact presented was that Guy Dresser, the Vice President for Operations of Allen Press, noted that both memberships and subscriptions in scientific societies have been dropping for some time and that there is no evidence that the trend will change. This trend appears to apply to WDA. Regular membership in WDA has been stable at about 700 over the last 20 yr. Student members have decreased significantly since the 1980s and subscriptions are down about 20% since late the 1980s. Therefore, the recommendations are to: 1) diversify sources of revenue, 2) diversify the value of memberships (i.e., what more can WDA do for its members?), and 3) create added value to maintain memberships.

Open access (OA) was another important topic discussed at the seminar. No generalization of OA applies to all scientific societies; although the greater the proportion of revenue derived from a society's publication, the greater the anxiety about OA. Additionally, small natural history organizations appear most vulnerable. The National Institutes of Health OA plan requires and assumes the continued existence of the journals. Subscription numbers will only be maintained if the rate of increase in journal prices is less than that of library budgets. A proposed new template is to maintain subscription costs. When increasing fees, Allen Press recommends small increases

often rather than waiting and requiring a large increase.

OA may reduce costs for libraries but OA just moves the costs elsewhere, usually to the publisher. If OA results in reduced revenue, small publishers will suffer more than commercial publishers. Commercial publishers can stop publishing in an unsuccessful area, societies cannot. Even though WDA has a good financial cushion now, publication costs could continue to increase and income could drop. An endowment fund (or funds) is one way to diversify income. It would be advantageous to consider/create an endowment fund in a manner of interest to our members and to do this soon. Further, the organization needs to have financial priorities and integrate short-term financial aspirations with the long-term financial picture. This issue could go to committees for consideration and recommendations and also be part of our daily decision-making as we make motions. One advantage would be to improve marketing. This would entail investigating what "assets" the organization has to offer. For example, the sale of educational aids could create revenue and perhaps could be organized by a recent retiree at a reasonable cost. A development plan for fundraising may also be considered. The lead on further evaluation of this information and recommendations to Council will be assigned to the Long-term Vision Committee with assistance provided by the Budget and Audit Committee and the Fundraising/New WDA Fund Committee.

#### *Reimbursement to geographic sections*

T. Mörner reiterated his message that there is only one WDA and sections are a valuable component of the Association. The issues of how WDA can add value to section members and how fees are handled between sections and WDA remain to be resolved. T. Mörner has discussed with sections the idea of membership fees being paid to WDA with redistribution to sections. The sections would then spend funds as they see fit. The amount of funding back to sections could be based on number of members. Further, it was suggested that reimbursement be on "intervals" (0–25, 26–50, 51–75, etc.) rather than on a per-member basis.

T. Portas added that reimbursement to sections is the key to resolving this issue with the sections. This modification will lead to loss of income by sections because both WDA and section dues will not be collected. However, membership should be more than funding and this is a complex issue that sections need to discuss (i.e., what should WDA provide section

members?). To address these questions, the section chairs will communicate and make a proposal to Council by the end of September. This recommendation will be considered by Council at the November conference call. The relationship of WDA with the sections should be resolved for the coming fiscal year.

#### *WDA Endowment Fund*

Although time does not allow at this meeting, planning for funding needs to be discussed by Council soon. As previously noted, committees will be assigned to provide input to Council. Attention to the Williams–Thorne Memorial Award fund and consideration of a WDA contribution needs to be discussed promptly.

#### *Role of the Editorial Board*

The fact that the role and makeup of the Editorial Board is not well defined was recognized at the Editorial Board meeting. This is in part because there are no guidelines for the board. E. Addison will draft information to distribute to the editors and Council to begin addressing this need.

T. Mörner thanked Council for participation in the meeting. T. Cornish moved to adjourn and M. Wild seconded. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret A. Wild,  
Secretary