

## **MINUTES OF THE 2000 WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING**

Source: Journal of Wildlife Diseases, 37(4) : 848-854

Published By: Wildlife Disease Association

URL: <https://doi.org/10.7589/0090-3558-37.4.848>

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## MINUTES OF THE 2000 WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting convened at 1 PM. Roll of Officers and Council was called by President T. Rocke. B. Samuel, L. Creekmore, L. Uhazy, E. Greiner, M. Pybus, R. Zarnke, P. Barrows, B. McLean, J. Sikarskie, H. H. Dietz, T. Kreeger, T. Mörner, D. Pence, C. Quist, and E. Williams were present.

### Old Business

There was an error in the March Council teleconference minutes. A motion was made by E. Greiner (seconded by P. Barrows) to accept the corrected teleconference minutes. The motion passed.

### Officer's Reports

#### *Vice President's Report*

Committees are being organized so that a person in their third year of committee service moves into the chairperson role. Committee chairs were asked to review and update guidelines that appear in the Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) Constitution and Bylaws.

#### *Secretary's Report*

Secretary L. Creekmore reported that the ballot for the recent council election and constitutional amendment question was prepared in a timely fashion this year and that the Teller's Committee was convened to count the votes in late May.

#### *Treasurer's Report*

Treasurer L. Uhazy provided summary budget documents that reflect the overall financial status of the Association. The Association is financially sound. However, WDA continues to have problems with cash flow. Membership dues alone do not currently support publication of the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* (JWD) and supplement, our biggest expense. This means that we are delving into cash reserves, but not savings or investments, to meet expenses. This situation was generally felt by the Officers and Council to be an undesirable trend. The Journal page cap instituted several years ago has helped and should be continued.

#### *Editor's Report*

(Covering the period between July 1, 1999 to May 31, 2000 and the editing and publishing of Volume 36, Numbers 1–4 of the JWD)

Editor D. Pence reported two changes in editorial procedures and policies during this period, both of which are listed as new items on the Submission Form. Authors are now asked to sign a statement that they will not discuss editorial aspects of their submission with anyone other than the Editor while the submission is in review and that there are page charges associated with publishing in JWD. Two new Assistant Editors, S. Little and S. McMurry, were appointed. Three Assistant Editors, D. Spratt, L. Uhazy, and K. Patnode, asked to be relieved of their Assistant Editorships. In addition, Editor-Elect E. Williams soon will be relinquishing her Assistant Editorship, thus creating need for a replacement.

In the four issues of the JWD 2000, Volume 36, there were 63 full-length research papers, one review article, 47 short communications, two book reviews, two letters to the editor, two sets of minutes, and the author and subject indexes. In contrast, Volume 35 had 68 full-length papers, 58 short communications, 14 book reviews, two letters to the Editor, one set of minutes, and the author and subject indexes. There are 806 pages in Volume 36, exclusive of the author and subject indexes that are being prepared by Allen Press this year. Volume 35 had 831 pages. Council mandated a maximum of 800 published pages for Volume 36.

Twenty countries were represented in papers published in Volume 36, compared to 25 for Volume 35. Seventy-one papers were from the United States; 11 from Canada; four each from Australia and Spain; three from Mexico; two each from Germany, UK, and Switzerland; and one each from Argentina, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, French Guiana, Hong Kong, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Trinidad-Tobago, and Zimbabwe.

New manuscripts received by the Editor's office for the 11 mo period covered by Volume 36 was 209, compared to 215 for the equivalent 12 mo period last year ( $n = 228$  extrapolated for the equivalent 12 mo period for Volume 36). This is a 9% increase in the annual number of manuscripts submitted. Of the 209 received this year, 41 were accepted (46%), 49 were rejected (54%), and 119 remain in review or revision. The percentage acceptance last year was 46%. The median time from receipt of a manuscript until publication was about 12 mo (range 2 to 24 mo).

As of May 31, 2000 there was a backlog of 119 manuscripts. Of these, 85 were in the re-

view process and 34 awaited revision by the authors. This year the assistant editors have again done an excellent job for the journal. There were 217 external referees (names to appear in the October 2000 issue of JWD) who contributed to reviewing manuscripts for Volume 36.

Pence expressed appreciation to Assistant Editors, external referees, book reviewers, Editorial Assistant C. Pence, R. Kerley (WDA Business Office), S. Wood (Allen Press, Inc.), L. Uhazy (WDA treasurer), members of the JWD Editorial Board, and WDA Council.

A motion was made (by D. Pence, seconded by L. Uhazy), to increase the JWD page charges to \$65.00 for members and to \$120.00 for non-members. These increases are to be implemented with the January 2001 issue. The motion carried.

A new cover for the journal was discussed. A format with glossy surface and a black and white photograph was decided upon for the January 2001 issue. This cover will actually be less costly than the current cover.

Because various reproductive services and companies have requested permission to reproduce part or all of JWD articles, a new ad hoc committee was created to examine this issue.

The Editorial Board voted to ask WDA Council to pay expenses for Editor-elect E. Williams to visit the current Editor's Office and to travel to Allen Press and to The BioOne meeting on electronic submission for training/preparation for assuming the position of Editor. A motion that WDA pay these travel expenses was made (by D. Pence, seconded by T. Kreeger) and carried.

Editor-elect E. Williams expressed her excitement about the opportunity to serve as the JWD Editor and that she is looking forward to working with the current Editor and Editorial Assistant to make a smooth transition. E. Williams would like to work with the Association to consider electronic submission, review and publishing as possibilities for JWD in the future.

R. McLean (seconded by J. Sikarskie and E. Greiner) made a motion that the Council and Officers give a round of applause thanking Editor D. Pence and Editorial Assistant C. Pence for the excellent job they have done with JWD and for WDA. The motion carried and a round of applause was given.

## Sections

### *American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (AAWV)*

President T. Kreeger reported that AAWV membership voted to establish an umbrella or-

ganization with the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians called the National Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians (NAZWV). A formal application has been made to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) who will determine if NAZWV meets their criteria for delegate status. If granted wildlife and zoo veterinarians will have a direct influence on issues that impact their profession through representation in AVMA. The U.S. Animal Health Association has accepted AAWV as an allied organization. Like having a delegate in AVMA, this gives wildlife veterinarians additional representation and the ability to influence decisions of importance to the profession. Barrows was asked to represent AAWV interests on the AVMA's committee on Environmental Affairs; he will serve 2 yr on this committee. The office of Secretary Treasurer was split and K. Gilardi was elected as the new AAWV secretary. The newsletter, edited by M. Ziccardi and N. Ottum, has a new look and has received many compliments. J. Dein and others have developed a website for AAWV.

### *Australasian Section*

L. Skerratt provided a written report. The Australasian Section will hold its annual conference December 3–8, 2000 at the University of Auckland's Marine Biology Field Center at Leigh, New Zealand. This will be a joint meeting between the Wildlife Society of the New Zealand Veterinary Association and the WDA Australasian Section. The Section also has developed a website and there was discussion regarding the need to link our website with section websites.

### *European Section*

T. Mörner provided a report for the European Section. The WDA European Section will meet 20–23 September 2000 in Zarazoga, Spain. The meeting will include sessions on diseases and management of game species, and predators, prey and disease. The European Section is working on developing a website. S. Kennedy, the current secretary, is retiring so there will soon be a new secretary for this section.

### *Nordic Section*

H. Dietz reported that the Nordic Section is doing well and has had several successful meetings.

### *African and Latin American Sections*

T. Rocke reported that there is still interest among African members in re-establishing an

African Section. The new Sections Committee will be working on re-establishing this Section as well as encouraging the re-establishment of the Latin American Section.

### Committee Reports

#### Information

C. Quist provided a report. Three issues of the *Supplement to JWD* (total of 52 pages) were published since the last meeting. There is now a WDA website at [www.wildlifedisease.org](http://www.wildlifedisease.org). J. Lang, a University of Georgia veterinary student, is our current webmaster. Thanks to her and her husband, C. Lang, the WDA's website is now independent and on its own server at no cost to WDA. A motion was made by E. Greiner (seconded by P. Barrows) to include the table of contents for the current issue of *JWD* on the WDA web page. The motion carried. There was discussion about putting issues of the Supplement on the web page as a password protected member privilege. A motion was made by C. Quist (seconded by L. Uhazy) to password protect certain portions of the WDA web page to reflect member privileges. The motion carried.

#### Awards

R. Zarnke reported that there were no nominations for the Emeritus Award this year. R. Zarnke made suggestions for minor changes in committee guidelines/bylaws. These revisions in guidelines will reflect our actual practices. A motion to change committee guidelines to reflect R. Zarnke's suggestions was made by W. Samuel (seconded by E. Greiner). The motion carried. Updated committee guidelines can be obtained from the secretary.

#### Carlton Herman Fund

A written report was supplied to Council. The Herman Fund is co-sponsoring this year's speaker with the AAWV. The speaker this year is R. Bengis and his presentations will be on South African wildlife populations. We expect the Herman Fund share to be \$2000.00. Assets of the Fund are invested in the Washington Mutual Investors Fund (American Funds Group); the balance as of July 1, 1999 was \$23,229.27.

#### Membership

T. Mörner presented the Membership Committee (MC) report. The membership figures for this year and the preceding 4 yr are presented in the following chart:

Membership Type	Month/Year				
	5/00	12/99	8/98	8/97	8/96
Regular	715	793	818	772	786
Student	127	149	126	144	141
Emeritus	11	9	8	10	9
Complimentary	0	3	2	2	2
Institutional	411	449	438	445	453

While it appears that our membership is down from last year, we should keep in mind that the lower numbers most likely reflect the fact that this report is being generated earlier in the year than usual, without the advantage of the few extra months for receiving late membership renewals. Of the 842 regular and student members in 2000 to date, 131 (15.6%) are non-North American. This number reflects the continuing declining trend in international membership over the last few years. A motion was made by M. Pybus (seconded by C. Quist) that Council establish a new membership category called associate member with annual cost  $\frac{1}{2}$  the existing dues fees. This membership category will allow the member to receive the password-protected electronic material available on the web page but will not allow the member to receive other member privileges such as the Journal, member page charges, etc. The motion carried. Council realized that this category may help increase the non-North American membership but will not address the problem of increasing membership from developing countries or other situations in which potential members may have difficulty affording membership. Council requests that the MC study these other situations and report back to Council on other options at the next mid-year teleconference.

At the last mid-year teleconference, Council voted to institute a late renewal fee of \$10.00 for members renewing after December 31 each year. An announcement/warning of this additional fee has been added to the 2001 membership renewal forms. In order to give members more opportunity to pay dues in a timely manner and avoid this late fee, the second renewal notice will be mailed out during the last half of November. In an effort to encourage members to renew their membership, and to invite old members back to WDA, the MC also worked with Allen Press to draft two new letters which will go out once a year in the March/April mailing. One letter will go 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

will include a short survey form requesting that the late/former member comment on any dissatisfaction with the organization. The approximate cost of instituting these additional mailings is \$200.00 the first year, and approximately \$100.00 in subsequent years. In addition, the MC 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.

The Membership Directory is scheduled to be updated in 2000/2001 by the MC. The MC reviewed their Bylaws and suggested a few minor changes. W. Samuel (seconded by J. Sikarskie) moved to accept the changes suggested by the MC. The motion carried. Updated committee guidelines can be obtained from the Secretary.

The MC also agreed to provide Section Chairs with a list of members in his/her section annually to facilitate networking among members in the Section. To further strengthen Section Chair responsibilities, T. Mörner (seconded by D. Pence) moved that the chairperson of each section is to be responsible for promoting membership of that section. The motion carried.

#### *Promotions*

M. Ziccardi provided the Promotions Committee (PC) report. The PC is a newly established committee and was very active this year. A draft promotional WDA display poster has been brought to the meeting for viewing and comment by the membership. Thanks were expressed to the members that submitted photos for the poster and to P. Nankervis and T. Rocke who put the poster together. The graphic layout was provided free of charge so the only cost will be for printing and laminating. T. Rocke requested that several posters be produced. By next year the committee will try to produce updated brochures with our new logo and other updated material to send out with the posters. WDA members need to comment on the draft over the next few months. W. Samuel (seconded by R. McLean) moved that Council approve the WDA poster provided by the PC as a draft for review and that the PC produce the final version as soon as possible. The motion carried.

Three new logo options were posted to the WDA web page for vote by the membership. A total of 223 votes were received by 4 June; 46 voted for the original logo, 97 voted for the logo that received the highest vote at the last WDA meeting, and 35 and 45 voted for two other logo alternatives. W. Samuel (seconded by T. Kreeger) moved to accept the logo that received the greatest number of votes in the

web forum. There was extensive discussion with regard to the clip art choices. P. Barrows offered a friendly amendment that we use stylized, new versions of the clip art (white-tailed deer, fish, bird, mosquito, and microscope) from the old logo for the new logo. Samuel accepted the friendly amendment. The question was called and the motion carried.

The PC developed some proposed guidelines for their committee to be included in the WDA Bylaws. These were slightly edited by W. Samuel and were presented to Council; W. Samuel moved (seconded by P. Barrows) their adoption. The motion carried. Updated committee guidelines can be obtained from the Secretary.

#### *Nominations*

T. Cornish provided a written report and W. Samuel summarized the report. The Nominations Committee (NC) called for nominations and presented the names of the nominees to the Secretary for production of a ballot in a timely manner. The NC requested some minor changes or clarifications of the WDA NC guidelines in the current Bylaws. W. Samuel (seconded by D. Pence) moved to accept the proposed guidelines and that they replace the existing Bylaws. The motion carried. Updated committee guidelines can be obtained from the Secretary.

#### *Student Activities*

E. Greiner presented the committee report. This year there were four applications for the Student Research Recognition award. The winner was C. Soos of the University of Saskatchewan. She will receive a plaque and up to \$1,000.00 (U.S.) to cover travel, housing, registration, and other costs related to the 2000 WDA conference. WDA Council voted this year via e-mail to increase the amount of money that could be applied to this award for the 2001 meeting in South Africa to \$2000.00 (U.S.). It is hoped that this will increase the number of student participants at the international meeting. Seven students applied for the WDA Scholarship in the fourth year of competition for this award. M. Cunningham of the University of Florida is the recipient; he will receive \$2,000.00 (U.S.) and a plaque. Only eight submissions for the Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award were received; this number is about half the number of last year's participants. In addition to the winner, up to three honorable mentions can be awarded. Announcements for student activities are being published in all issues of the WDA newsletter. T. Work will be the Chairperson of the com-



mittee next year and has plans to revise the application and instructions for the awards.

### Sections

The Sections Committee (SC) provided a written report. This committee was formed late in the year and there was little time for action before the Council meeting. The committee has acquired a list of all current members from the business office. This list is being used to determine the numbers of international members in various geographic regions of the world. There are a number of issues surrounding the definition and existence of sections as clearly delineated in WDA Bylaws and guidelines. The SC wishes to discuss these issues with the Section Chairs before bringing the issues to Council for discussion.

### Time and Place

2001 meeting in South Africa—D. Jessup provided an update on the planning for the 2001 International Joint Conference of the Society for Tropical Veterinary Medicine (STVM) and the WDA July 22–27. A company called Event Dynamics is helping to coordinate and manage the meeting. The theme of the meeting is “Wildlife and Livestock Disease and Sustainability: What makes sense?”. Plenary sessions will be held the first day and half of the last day; however, WDA will follow the usual meeting format on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning. The first announcements will be sent to WDA and STVM members next week. The meeting is to be held at Pilanesberg National Park at the Kwa Maritane game lodge. The lodge can handle up to 200 guests; there is a good chance that this meeting will exceed their capacity so it would be good to get registrations in as early as possible. Brief descriptions of the meeting have been sent to JAVMA, the Wildlife Society, Journal of Wildlife Management, Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine, JWD, and Conservation Biology. Event Dynamics is also sending the meeting description to a number of international journals. There will not be an auction at this meeting because of the difficulty that we might encounter in moving auction items internationally. STVM traditionally fund raises to help reduce the cost of the meeting and to support attendance of people from developing countries and students. We have agreed to help raise funds for this purpose and W. Lance volunteered to help with fund raising for WDA. Funds obtained by both organizations will be pooled; the organizations have not yet jointly decided exactly how the funds will be used.

2002 Meeting at Humboldt State University,

Arcata, California—R. Botzler provided a written report. Their conference center is available July 28 through August 2, 2002. R. McLean (seconded by T. Mörner) moved to accept these dates for the 2002 meeting. The motion carried.

2003 Meeting—F. Leighton announced that he, G. Wobeser, and T. Bollinger, representing the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Center and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, would be willing to host the 2003 meeting in Saskatoon, likely in early August. C. Quist (seconded by J. Sikarskie) moved that we accept the invitation. The motion carried.

T. Rocke reported that WDA has been invited to hold a joint meeting with the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians in 2004 in San Diego hosted by the San Diego Zoo, San Diego Wild Animal Park, and Sea World. It has been 10 yr since our last joint meeting. No dates have been set. There was some discussion that AAWV and American Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine (AAAAM) might also be interested in participating. If not, the AAAAM has expressed interest in holding a joint meeting with WDA; perhaps this could be planned for a future meeting. Council agreed by informal vote that this would be agreeable if local WDA representatives in San Diego also agree.

### Ad Hoc Committees

#### Educational Aids

A written report was provided. This committee is continuing efforts to collect case material for study modules. They are also looking in to the possibility of putting some of these materials onto the WDA website or on CDROM. Six requests were received for the new abomasal parasite identification guide.

#### Journal Submission Fees and Other Issues

A written report was provided. In 1999, Council asked that a subcommittee evaluate the option of requiring a submission fee (approximately \$50.00) for manuscripts reviewed by the Journal. The committee examined submission policies of a wide variety of journals (approximately 25 biomedical, ecology, wildlife, etc. journals). Only one had a submission fee (\$50.00, American Journal of Pathology). There are concerns that a submission fee would decrease submission of manuscripts from foreign countries, discourage submissions from students, add one more hurdle for authors (dealing with the paperwork involved within institutions and agencies) and be an added job for the editor. At this time the committee does not

recommend charging a manuscript submission fee.

#### *Electronic Communications*

A written report was provided. The Electronic Communications Committee plans to work with the new Editor and Editorial Board on the potential of future electronic submissions of manuscripts to JWD. Electronic submission should speed up the time for reviews and minimize multiple copies, mailings, faxes, expressage, etc. Issues that need to be considered in the development of this tool are hardware and software needs, expectations, and availability of current equipment by the Editor and Assistant Editors.

#### *Executive Director Issue Committee*

W. Samuel gave a report. This committee was charged with discussing the possibility of establishing an executive management position for WDA. W. Samuel pointed out that WDA needs such a position to lead us into the new millennium. This committee has not yet met but will have its first meeting sometime during the next week.

W. Samuel expressed his thanks to R. Zarnke and E. Greiner for serving an extra year on their respective committees.

#### **Unfinished Business**

##### *Back Issues of the JWD*

T. Rocke reported on this issue. Purging JWD back issues will begin this summer. We have paid approximately \$8,000.00 in storage and handling fees over the last 18 mo to maintain our back issues. There are a few options to consider before the journals are discarded: 1) We can reduce the cost of the issues and make them available to members; 2) We can give them away for postage and handling to institutions in developing countries. C. Meteyer has been exploring the latter option and has found some interested groups. The Council and Officers were supportive of this effort. T. Kreeger (seconded by D. Pence) moved that we allocate up to \$1500.00 to ship back issues of the journal internationally. The motion carried. C. Quist (seconded by E. Greiner) moved to make back issues of JWD available to members at a cost of \$5.00/issue. The motion carried.

#### **New Business**

L. Creekmore reported election results. The constitutional amendment to make the constitution gender neutral was accepted. In the Council election J. Mazet and T. Kuiken were

elected as the two new Council members-at-large. T. Rocke expressed thanks to Council members P. Barrows and J. Sikarskie who rotate off Council this year. Officers and Council gave them a round of applause.

T. Rocke reported that an issue was raised by a member regarding the WDA meeting and continuing education (CE) credits for veterinarians. The California Veterinary Medical Board will only allow CE credits from organizations/conferences approved by the America Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB). For WDA to receive approval from the AAVSB we would have to provide a brief biography including, name, degrees, current employment, board certifications or eligibility, and any other credentials from every presenter. We also would have to provide a record of attendance for each session (morning and afternoon) and pay a \$300.00 application fee that is good for 2 yr. D. Jessup reported that this rule is so unpopular with the veterinary profession there is now a bill in the legislature to abolish it. Discussion regarding this issue was tabled in the hope that the rule soon will be eliminated.

Options for the 2001 Council meeting were discussed. T. Rocke will poll Officers and Council prior to the July meeting regarding whether or not they will be able to attend. If a quorum will be attending the meeting in South Africa then we will hold the Council meeting there. However, if a quorum does not attend we will have to come up with alternatives. Teleconference is impractical because of the usual length of our meetings. T. Rocke suggested that we have a virtual Council meeting via the web. The meeting will occur over a defined period of time, 2–3 wk, with issues posted for discussion. Council members can visit the site when convenient with opportunity to comment, offer motions, and vote. This idea was acceptable to the group. If a virtual conference is required it will probably take place in June.

W. Samuel introduced the idea of instituting a student member Council position. There was discussion regarding how to accomplish this within the parameters of our current Constitution and Bylaws. Two options were presented; either establishment of a student section or amendment of the Constitution. W. Samuel (seconded by J. Sikarskie) moved the following: Whereas student members of the Wildlife Disease Association bring enthusiasm, dedication, brilliance, innovation, good numbers, and maturity to WDA and the annual conference, and are the future of our society, be it moved that WDA recognize the importance of input from student members by amending the Constitution to establish a student member Council position that is chosen via the regular voting pro-

cedure for selection of Council members. The Motion carried. Details on the length of the term etc. will be discussed in the next Council teleconference. W. Samuel will work on an amendment to be voted on by the membership on the next ballot.

T. Rocke reported that she had received a letter informing WDA that the Federation for Societies of Parasitology has been disbanded.

J. Mazet announced that the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV) requests that WDA consider supporting AAZV's resolution urging the development of a core curriculum and minimum standardized elective curricular content in zoological, environmental, conservation, and nondomestic pet animal medicine for students studying for their veter-

inary medical degrees and to advocate and stimulate the adoption of this core by all of the veterinary colleges in North America. J. Mazet asked that Council consider this request at the next teleconference.

T. Kreeger (seconded by R. McLean) moved that Council provide the old logo template as an item in the auction later this week. The motion carried.

There was no additional new business. R. Zarnke (seconded by T. Kreeger) moved to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn H. Creekmore  
Secretary