

**Biometrics Working Group Meeting  
8 September 1999  
TWS Meeting  
Austin, TX**

26 in attendance

Called to order by Lyman McDonald at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes from Buffalo meeting read by Doug Johnson. No changes or comments.

Treasurer's report by Duane Diefenbach. We are solvent.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Update from Snowmass:

JABES special issue is out. Copies distributed by Lyman McDonald.  
Island Press has accepted the modeling book. To be published fall 2000.

Update from Buffalo:

Abstracts from hypothesis testing symposium are out on the BWG list server.  
Doug Johnson's paper is out in JAM on the hypothesis testing issue.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Audit report by Doug Johnson. Treasurer's report accepted.

Election:

Chair elect is John Sauer  
Secretary and Treasurer will be announced as soon as ballots are all in and counted.  
New ballot for board will be mailed shortly.

From Duane Diefenbach. Motion to look into change to bylaws to allow internet voting on BWG elections. Second by Bruce Ackerman. Discussion of need and feasibility.  
Motion carried with no opposition.

Symposia and Workshops and special poster sessions:

By Steve Sheriff -- presented Bill Kendall's letter to the council. Bill made a request to work with council to let working groups get symposia and workshops on the program. Bill suggested that we track attendance at symposia and workshops over time to show where interest is.

Bill Clark -- apparently there are fairly rigid rules for % symposia and contributed papers. Voiced a need for flexibility.

Steve Sheriff -- better chances for 1/2-day programs.

Discussion from the floor on council support for BWG and other working group symposia. No real idea why we got shutout this time.

Steve Sheriff -- Presented and Anderson's workshop for submission as a BWG sponsored workshop. Motion to accept by Steve Sheriff and second by Doug Johnson. Discussion of the issue -- including cost, purpose etc.

From Lyman McDonald --What symposia are being proposed? None suggested.

Can we recycle last year's proposal? Only if the individuals that sent in the proposal wish to do so.

Should workshops be for profit for the BWG? Presented to BWG by Sheriff. He presented Bill's proposal to the Council to have for-profit workshops. Council did not oppose it. It will take 20 -30 people to break even if BWG pays travel and per diem for the instructors. Of the proposed fee the book is included. Should the book be included in the fee or an option? May be a problem with getting too many choices on the registration form. How should the fees be structured? How to get the fee down to about \$100 per person? Ken Williams has mentioned possible financial support from the Coop Unit to cover the travel costs for Burnham and Anderson.

Motion by Doug Johnson. Amendment to the motion to set the fee at \$50 not to include the book, which will still be required for participation -- assuming that the coop units will cover the travel costs. Seconded by Diefenbach. Amendment to the motion carries by majority vote.

Steve's motion carries without opposition.

Second request by Lyman McDonald for symposia. Motion to encourage Bill Gould to resubmit his proposal. Seconded from Gary White -- can we get teaching working group to co-submit? Motion carried by unanimous vote. Steve Sheriff will contact Bill Gould.

BWG 1-page contribution to WSB:

Lyman McDonald presented idea of hypothesis testing vs. model selection. Call for other ideas. None suggested. Motion presented and seconded for Doug Johnson to write the paper. Motion carried. (Note no call from the chair for those opposed.)

Chris Bunck -- use discussion on the BWG list server to get topics.

Future symposia:

Steve Sheriff -- 2001 conference is in California. Can we identify possible workshops

(for profit)? Steve presented his list of possible topics and presenters. No decision or discussion on topics for 2001.

Doug Johnson – comments on web page/list server. Supported by USGS Northern Prairie Lab. Need a link to TWS web site.

Closing remarks by Lyman. Call for 2 – 3 proposals next year for 2001 workshops and symposia.

Adjourn meeting at 5:15.