

Minute of TWS Biometrics Working Group Executive Committee Meeting
Members Present: Diefenbach, Pendleton, Otis, Yee, Ribic, Clark
September 7, 2003
Burlington, VT

- 1) Symposium/Workshop Policy Discussion: G. Pendleton pointed out that fees can be charged for workshops, but not for symposia. There was a long discussion about endorsement of workshops given by BWG members at non-TWS meetings, e.g., statistical section of ESA. The consensus decision was to allow the Board discretion to consider BWG endorsement of workshops at non-TWS meetings. However, at least one of the sponsors/organizers must be a BWG member.
- 2) General Meeting Agenda
 - a. Old Business
 - i. Committee reports
 - ii. Election results
 - iii. Workshop/Symposium policy
 - b. New Business
 - i. Discuss moving the BWG website to TWS
 - ii. Discuss and choose 2004 workshop and symposium proposals
- 3) BWG and GIS Working Group Interaction: C. Ribic offered to represent BWG (T. Sklebar will represent GIS Working Group) on an ad hoc committee to develop ideas for formal working group interactions at the 2005 meeting in Madison. These ideas would be presented for discussion at the 2004 meeting in Calgary.

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- 1) C. Ribic moved and M. Conroy seconded a motion to accept the Secretary's minutes of the 2002 meeting. Motion passed.
- 2) Treasurer's report (J. Yee): Current balance of \$9091.98. B. Clark moved and G. Pendleton seconded motion to approve the report. Motion passed.
- 3) Election report:
 - a. Chair-elect: Terry Shaffer
 - b. Secretary: Josh Millspaugh
 - c. Treasurer: Glen Sargeant
 - d. Board members at large: Mary Conner, Mike Conroy, Bill Gould, Bill Thompson
- 4) Internet voting: D. Diefenbach reported that the new Internet voting system worked well and that our promised contribution to the TWS Internet system should be paid.
- 5) Workshop/Symposium Policy: B. Clark reviewed the draft policy statement that appeared in the July, 2003 newsletter, and summarized the discussion from the prior Executive Committee meeting. Discussion ensued about the idea of imposing a \$1000 contribution limit per event, and to limit the total contribution in any given year to 25% of the current treasury balance. M. Conroy questioned if this policy was too conservative, and G. Pendleton pointed out that our balance was currently above average due to recent profit from workshops and low commitments for student travel grants, but this situation might not last into the future. D. Otis and B. Clark agreed to draft final policy for Executive Board approval.
- 6) 2004 Workshop/Symposium proposals: The membership discussed the workshop proposals on capture-recapture (McDonald and Manly), modeling of correlated data (Christman), and MCMC/Winbugs/random effects (Conroy, Fonnesbeck, and Peterson), and the symposium proposal on collaboration in large-scale studies (Diefenbach and McDonald). There was considerable discussion about optimum strategies, e.g., how many of each to propose to TWS, offering different kinds of workshops to attract biometricians versus biologists, appropriate length (1/2 day versus full day). K. Pollock moved to support the Conroy/Fonnesbeck/Peterson proposal as a full day workshop. B. Thompson seconded. Motion passed. The group consensus on the Christman proposal was that it needed to be a full day rather than 1/2 day workshop. Regarding the McDonald/Manly proposal, the concern was that it did not mention inclusion of hands on computing with contemporary software, e.g., MARK. D. Otis moved to endorse the McDonald/Manly and Christman workshops, subject to some revision by the organizers. Motion failed. K. Pollock moved to defer the McDonald/Manly workshop until 2005 and to support the Christman proposal as a full day workshop. B. Clark seconded. S. Sheriff offered an amendment to post-pone the Conroy/Fonnesbeck/Peterson workshop until 2005. K. Williams seconded. Amendment failed. The original Pollock motion passed. M. Conroy moved to

encourage McDonald/Manly to recast their workshop as a symposium. W. Thogmartin seconded. Motion passed. K. Pollock moved to support the Diefenbach/McDonald symposium proposal. K. Williams seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Otis, Secretary