

September 1996

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Charter News

In May, members of the Biometrics Working Group (BWG) received the proposed charter and a ballot. The members were asked to approve the proposed charter or turn it down with suggested changes. Thanks to all who voted on the charter issue. The good news is that the membership overwhelmingly approved the charter.

Our approval does not mean that we are home free. The Wildlife Society Council has to ratify it, too. This process has begun and should be completed at the Council's meeting in October. The Steering Committee of the BWG will keep you posted concerning the charter's ratification.

Again, thank you for your help in getting this important step completed in consolidating our working group.

Annual BWG Get-Together

Are you going to be in Cincinnati, Ohio, on October 3, at 3:15 PM? If so, please join us at The Wildlife Society Meeting. The Biometrics Working Group will hold its annual getting-to-know-you session in the Mayflower III room of the Omni Netherland Plaza. Besides meeting others interested in wildlife biometrics, you will have an opportunity to become involved in the latest developments in the BWG. The preliminary agenda for our 2-hour get-together follows:

1. Status of the BWG Charter
2. Status of the BWG Listserver
3. Selection of workshops and symposia ideas that the

- BWG can sponsor at the 1997 TWS Conference
4. Selection of the first Nominating Committee for the BWG

Most importantly, we want to discuss general topics that you think are important for the Biometrics Working Group to engage. See you in Cincinnati!

Symposia and Workshops for TWS 1997

Are you on the cutting edge of biometrics? Or, are you looking for a review of the state-of-the-art in wildlife biometrics? No matter where you stand, you probably would like to learn more or can teach others about biometrics and their applications in wildlife management and research. If you have an idea concerning a symposium or workshop that you would like to see or organize, we encourage you to share it. The Biometrics Working Group has been very active in the first 3 TWS Conferences by sponsoring symposia. We would like to continue this tradition. Steve Sheriff has volunteered to collect your ideas. We need to act fast in getting next year's symposia or workshops proposed to the 1997 TWS Conference Program Committee. Their deadline is October 15, 1996. Please send Steve your idea by September 30, or come to the BWG annual get-together in Cincinnati on October 3. Steve can be reached in many different ways, but telepathy is not one of them. Steve Sheriff, Missouri Department of Conservation, 1110 S. College Ave., Columbia, MO 65201, USA. Telephone: (573)882-9880 x3221 or FAX: (573)882-4517. E-mail: sheris@mail.conservacion.state.mo.us

Membership and Finance Report

As of 30 August 1996, 74 members had paid BWG dues for 1996. The treasury balance as of 30 August 1996 was \$642.14. Year-to-date membership dues and interest credits were \$301.29, and expenses were \$228.23.

If you did not receive a copy of the charter and ballot in May or early June, this means that you were not a member of the Biometrics Working Group by mid-April. If you have joined the group since then, we welcome you. The BWG needs the diversity and vigor that only a large, energized membership can offer, so please spread the word and encourage your associates to join.

Membership in the BWG does have privileges. A goal of our working group is to bring wildlife biometricians together so that we can support each other when faced with challenging quantitative issues. We can learn from each other and offer our expertise on the quantitative side of wildlife biology and management. For the many of us who work in isolated environments away from fellow wildlife biometricians, the BWG is the resource needed that can provide us aid and act as a sounding board.

Members can also better serve the wildlife profession in its use and understanding of biometrics. We hope to increase the dialogue among wildlife professionals concerning biometrics and their application. This recognition of biometrics to the wildlife profession cannot be accomplished without having increased communication and unity of wildlife biometrics practitioners. Emphasize to your colleagues that there is no better time to join BWG than now--our proposed charter provides that any member who joins by the end of this year will be recognized as a charter member of BWG.

In a couple of months, you will be receiving your renewal notice from The Wildlife Society. Please consider joining or renewing your membership in the Biometrics Working Group, and become an active participant in this important organization of quantitative wildlife professionals.

STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE BIOMETRICS WORKING GROUP**Christine Bunck, Interim Co-Chair**

Department of the Interior
1849 C St, NW, MS-3660
Washington, DC 20240
tel: (202) 482-3972
fax: (202) 273-0825
e-mail: chris_bunck@nbs.gov

Steve Sheriff, Interim Co-Chair

Missouri Department of Conservation
1110 S College Ave
Columbia, MO 65201
tel: (573) 882-9880 x3221
fax: (573) 882-4517
e-mail: sheris@mail.conservation.state.mo.us

Clint Moore, Interim Treasurer

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
11500 American Holly Dr
Laurel, MD 20708-4016
tel: (301) 497-5872
fax: (301) 497-5871
e-mail: clint_moore@fws.gov

Grey Pendleton

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
tel: (907) 465-4634 fax: (907) 465-4272
e-mail: GreyWP%FishGame@state.ak.us

Vernon Wright

Louisiana State University
tel: (504) 388-4217 fax: (504) 388-4227
e-mail: vwright@lsuvm.sncc.lsu.edu

Bruce Pugeseck

National Biological Service
tel: (318) 266-8560 fax: (318) 266-8513
e-mail: pugeseck@nwrc.gov

Gary White

Colorado State University
tel: (970) 491-6678 fax: (970) 491-5091
e-mail: gwhite@cnr.colostate.edu

Kim Titus

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
tel: (907) 465-4265
e-mail: KimT%FishGame@state.ak.us

J. Edward Kautz

New York Dept. Environmental Conservation
tel: (518) 783-3925 fax: (518) 783-3916
e-mail: kautzje@crisny.org