

**Biometrics Working Group  
Annual Meeting  
September 23, 2007**

President Doug Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM. Attendees introduced themselves.

**Approval of the Minutes from the 2006 Annual Meeting:** Secretary Bridgette Flanders-Wanner read the minutes from the 2006 annual business meeting in Anchorage. No corrections were made from the floor and the minutes were approved as read.

**Review and Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Clint Moore presented the annual treasurer's report. The treasury increased by a net of \$126 and now stands at \$14,271. The membership had a discussion regarding habitually carrying over \$10,000 over from year to year in a savings account. Moore said he would explore ways to increase the interest in the balance next year. The treasurer's books were audited and approved by Paul Conn and Ryan Nielson.

**Refiew of 2007 Workshop/Symposia:**

*Workshop: Estimation of Population Change from Count Data* – presented by John Sauer & assisted by Beth Gardner & Robin Russell. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> time Sauer had presented this workshop. He felt he received lots of interest in the class. The 24 participants spanned a large range of interests & understanding of the topic. Sauer noted that they were not able to complete as many tasks in the workshop as they had set out to do.

*Workshop: Introduction to Modern Methods for Analyzing Capture-Recapture Data* – Trent McDonald reported that he had a good experience getting a list of participants from TWS staff (unlike some workshop organizers had in 2006). Overall McDonald found that the exercises were more useful than the lecturing – he would give more time for exercises in the future.

*Symposium: Biometrics in Wildlife – Past, Present, and Future* – Organizer Steve Sheriff thanked his co-organizers Christine Ribic and Gail Olson. Originally the organizers had planned for a full-day symposium, but the program committee only gave them ½ day. Thus, the organizers concluded to do ½ the agenda during the 2007 meeting and ½ at the 2008 meeting.

*Breakfast Round Table: Sharing Free Data Online* – members at the business meeting had not heard how the round table had gone.

**Membership Report:** Ryan Nielson reported that after the possible dip in 2006 membership from 154 to 129 members (decline could not be confirmed because of inadequate membership data from TWS), he was able to confirm with certainty that 2007 membership had increased from 129 to 142 members.

**Results from the 2007 Elections:** Paul Conn reported that Steve Dinsmore and Bill Kendall assisted in finding candidates to run for election in 2007. Conn brought up the on-going question regarding 2-year terms for the Secretary and Treasurer positions. A lengthy discussion ensued. Topics discussed included: the need to change the bylaws for the change to be official, the change in procedures that allowed BWG to change their bylaws without consulting TWS Council, and the status of the proposed change to terms in the bylaws (Grey Pendleton was unavailable to comment on his progress in updating the bylaws). Further, Chris Bunck

commented that a motion to change the term length from 1 to 2 years may have already occurred during the BWG meeting in Madison in 2005 (it was later confirmed that the topic was discussed in Madison, but no official motion was made). Melinda Knutsen moved to endorse making the Secretary and Treasurer positions 2 year, staggered appointments, with the Secretary position being the first to hold elections for 2-year positions, followed by the Treasurer position. Bill Gould seconded the motion. Motion passed. In reviewing the 2006 meeting minutes, the membership agreed that the change in by-laws did not need to be taken to TWS council, but would require a 30-day period to allow the full membership to vote on the change to the by-laws. William Clark asked whether any other board positions should be extended to 2-year terms. Chris Bunck clarified that the board positions were intended for younger members and therefore intentionally left as 1 year positions to maximize involvement.

The following candidates were elected to the 2007-2008 term:

- Chair-Elect: Terry Shaffer
- Treasurer: Clint Moore
- Secretary: Larissa Bailey
- Board Members: Larkin Powell, Nathan Zimpfer, Brett McClintock, and Krishna Pacifica

**Student Travel Grants:** Ryan Nielson reported that he had 5 applications for travel grants, all of which are presenting a paper in Tucson. The scholarship review committee, consisting of Nielson, Glen Sargeant, and Jon Runge, felt that all 5 participants were qualified. Therefore, they split the scholarship funding equally among all 5 candidates. Recipients were: Jake Ivan, Chadwick Rittenhouse, Jamie Sanderlin, David Miller, and Krishna Pacifici.

**Web Page Update:** BWG is now on the TWS website. Doug Johnson's impression is that with the addition of Ruxi (the new TWS webmaster) to the TWS staff, things are moving more quickly. BWG was unable to do online voting this year, but the board was able to find an alternative avenue to allow provide that option to its members.

### **2008 Workshop/Symposium Proposals:**

Workshop *Regression Modeling for Habitat Selection using GPS and Correcting for Missing Data* - Ryan Nielson provided an overview. Lyman McDonald plugged Nielson's presentation on Wednesday that provides an excellent summary of what is known so far on this workshop topic. Glen Sargeant moved to sponsor the workshop, second by Bill Gould. Motion passed.

Workshop *Metadata for Wildlifers: Applications and Digital Formats* – Falk Huettmann explained that his proposed workshop would provide participants with the tools to fulfill the requirements for metadata, which are an issue that is often either ignored or willfully pushed aside. Steve Sheriff moved to sponsor the workshop, second by Wayne Thogmartin. Doug Johnson suggested incorporating a joint sponsorship by the GIS Working Group to bolster support from the Program committee. Mike Conroy offered an amended to the motion stating that a co-sponsorship from the GIS Working Group would be welcomed. Sheriff & Thogmartin accepted the amendment. Motion passed.

Symposium *Biometrics in Wildlife: Past, Present, and Future (Part 2)* – Sheriff provided an overview of the main topics he would like to cover during the symposium. He is undecided on whether to include the topic of rare and elusive populations and may look for a different topic, such as Adaptive Resource Management as a replacement. Sheriff requested help from the membership on brainstorming a replacement topic for the symposium. The general outline will

be 40 minutes for the primary speaker to introduce and summarize the concept, with 20 minutes for a second speaker to provide an example of each application. Bill Gould moved to sponsor, second by Scott Winterstein. Steve Sheriff stated he would consider looking at clustered populations in place of rare & elusive species. Discussion ensued regarding the inclusion of model selection as a symposium topic (some felt model selection isn't a new enough topic, while others felt that Bayes would qualify as a new model selection application). Symposium organizers will decide whether or not to include based on member input. Motion passed.

Symposium *New Approaches to Analyzing Animal Movement and Use of Space* – Mary Christman was not available to discuss the proposal and no one else in the room was conversant in the topic. No motion from the floor was offered for this symposium.

Following discussion of the following proposals, Chair Doug Johnson called for motions from the floor. Ken Williams offered a new idea for a workshop or symposium from the floor. Williams proposed a topic on decision analysis and adaptive management as a method to bridge the gap and build a stronger tie between science and management (and thereby help reinforce TWS recruitment). Discussion ensued. Mike Wallendorf recommended that in the context of training, organizers need to consider what are the questions of people in the field. Mike Conroy noted that a similar symposium was held in Reno – organizers should look at the results, outcome, and content of that symposium in the spirit of learning. John Sauer added that the dimension of the state agencies should be incorporated. Doug Johnson recommended considering a workshop over a symposium, as a workshop offers official training that makes it easier for field personnel to justify attending the TWS annual meeting. Scott Winterstein moved to accept the workshop concept, second by Mike Conroy. Chris Bunck & Glen Sargeant both offered comments regarding a need to know more about the overall direction of the workshop before a vote could be made. Glen Sargeant offered an amendment to allow the board to decide whether to sponsor the workshop after the organizers had time to fully flesh out the agenda. Motion passed with amendment. Several additional comments were offered from the floor regarding the merit of a workshop versus a symposium. Mike Conroy felt a workshop format would be more compatible because it would engage the participants better. Steve Sheriff offered that a symposium would be a better format for the North American conference where the leadership would be present.

**Other New Business:** Gary White moved that we sponsor \$1,000 for technical support to TWS. Scott Winterstein seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Ryan Nielson suggested that we lower workshop fees because we have ample funding in our savings account and should be spending it, not saving it. Steve Sheriff suggested re-visiting the 1998/1999 meeting minutes to review the discussion on workshop fees that took place then.

As an alternative method to increase spending, Mike Conroy moved to increase student travel grants to \$2,500 total, seconded by Scott Winterstein. Motion passed. Scott Winterstein moved that the total amount allocated to each student be left up to the review committee, seconded by Mike Conroy. Motion passed.

Doug Johnson passed the gavel on to Bill Gould. Meeting adjourned.