

Final Minutes

WTWG Conference Call
11:15 – 12:18 EST January 11, 2007

Participants: Christine Custer, Jim Goodyear, Barnett Rattner, Don Sparling, Joe Sullivan, Louise Venne

Old Business

1. **Minutes from last conference call.** Joe distributed a final draft of the minutes from the 10/19/2006 conference call prior to the current conference call. Jim moved to accept the minutes and Don seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **Treasurer's report.** Jim reported the current balance (as of 12/31/06) of the WTWG's account is \$3886.63. Income has been from member dues. Expenses have been:

The expense of \$100 for reserving a room for an informal meeting at SETAC was brought up for approval. Don moved to approve the expense and Chris seconded. The expense was approved unanimously.

Following the conference call Jim initiated an e-mail exchange regarding a request from TWS national office for donations from working groups, chapters, etc to help defray the cost of upgrading office equipment (new server, upgrade phone system, digital files of all TWS journals to 1937) etc. The e-mail exchange recorded 7 approvals, and no opposition to the WTWG donating \$500.

The balance at the end of January (per subsequent e-mail from Jim) was \$3,283.63 following payment of the room fee at SETAC, the donation to TWS national office, and payment of a \$3 service fee.

3. **Newsletter and Communications Report.** The current newsletter had been issued a day or so prior to the conference call. The newsletter had been distributed to Lisa Moll, Sandra Staples-Bortner, and Earl Wyatt at Headquarters. Barnett indicated it should also be sent to John Organ the current TWS President.

The deadline for contributions to the next newsletter is 3/31/2007.

Joe has contacted Earl Wyatt at TWS Headquarters and learned Earl could update information on WTWG's website, but did not have time to do a revised website. Joe will provide information to Earl to make the information on the website current.

Louise reported that updated brochure was about 1/3 done. She was looking for pictures, and would send a request to the general WTWG membership for appropriate photos.

4. **By-Laws.** The date of September 26, 2005 when the By-Laws were approved has been added to the official copy.
5. **Membership.** Don reported no new activities regarding membership. He will work to send a notice to interested parties to invite them to join our working group.
6. **2007 Symposium.** The proposal for a ½ day symposium focusing on Transboundary Pollution in conjunction with the International Wildlife WG has been approved for the TWS Meeting in Tucson, AZ. Dick Halbrook has been working to coordinate the effort. We tentatively have speakers lined up from Mexico, China, Argentina, US, and Canada. Abstracts from the speakers are due by 4/15/07. In case any of the current speakers need to cancel, we do have a few possible back-up speakers lined up.

The date and time of the symposium is not known at this time, but we went ahead and discussed when we would like to have our annual business meeting. It is tentatively set up for some time on Monday, 9/24/07.

7. **Outreach.** There was agreement that we need to do more to include the WTWG membership in working group activities. Possible ways to include the entire WTWG membership is to request photos for the brochure and distribute the Lead Position Statement for input.

We will continue with the Graduate Student Award Competition. Christine has agreed to take the lead on soliciting applications and heading up the review committee.

New Business

1. **Dues change.** Barnett confirmed that the dues reduction for students from \$7 to \$3 was finalized by TWS Headquarters. Since WTWG is the only working group with dues greater than \$5, there was a brief discussion regarding whether the dues for full members should be reduced. The issue was tabled for discussion again when dues changes would come up later in the year.
2. **Toxic Chemical Compound Policy Statement.** After the last conference call, Kristen reported back that:
The toxic chemical compounds position statement expires in 2008. Headquarters staff did not think there was a technical review for the toxic chemical compounds statement, but thought the statement was created to address a general issue. There was no information on who/what group initiated this one. (that would be in 2003 or earlier). The WTWG could ask itself some questions during the review:
 - a. Is there a need for a technical review to support the position statement? (that means volunteering to do work)
 - b. Is there a need for a policy statement on this subject?
 - c. Are there items that are missing or not current in the statement?

Kristen did not think too much in the position statement was very controversial, but we might focus on #4....short-lived and biological methods as a point of discussion. Then, if desired, it could go out to the general membership to see if this is an exercise they would like to undertake.

- 3. Control of Environmental Contamination Due to Lead Shot.** Barnett and Steve Sheffield are working with AFS, specifically Chris Goddard, on developing a Position Statement on Lead in the Environment focusing on lead shot and lead fishing tackle.

Barnett has drafted an introduction section and Steve is working on some other sections. AFS has drafted some additional sections, but so far WTWG has not seen the AFS drafts. Don offered to provide some information regarding lead and herps, in particular, Don will provide a recently completed article. The directive from TWS Headquarters is to focus on exposure to particular lead rather than dissolved lead. However, since particular lead can be a source for dissolved lead in soils and sediments, the criteria may need to be changed to reflect the source as particulate lead or lead dust from shooting ranges and include environmental lead regardless whether the current form is still particulate or has degraded sufficiently to be considered "dissolved".

- 4. Goals for 2006-2007.** Goals to accomplish during this year include:
 - a.** Determining how to meet the request from students to provide a list of educational opportunities in Wildlife Toxicology.
 - b.** Consider identifying addition funds by soliciting donations from sponsors.
 - c.** Complete the Position Statement on Lead in the Environment.
 - d.** Prepare to provide input for Toxic Chemical Compound Policy Statement by 2008
- 5. 2007 Elections.** This year we will need to hold elections for Chair-elect and Vice Chair. We need to have the candidate list ready for inclusion in the July newsletter.
- 6. Next Conference Call tentatively scheduled for March 29, 2007.**