

WTWG Meeting Minutes
Meeting at 14th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society
Held in Tucson, Arizona
September 23, 2007, 12:20 – 1:40 pm

In attendance: Kris Brugger, Stephen Dancio, Richie Erickson, Karen Gaines, Richard Halbrook, Gary Heinz, Noble Johnson, Miguel Mora, Barnett Rattner, Deborah Rudis, Don Sparling, Joe Sullivan, Louise Venne, Shuangying Yu

Old Business

1) Minutes from last conference call

Joe distributed a final draft of the minutes from the 8/15/2007 conference call. Those in attendance took a few minutes to review them. Gary Heinz moved to accept as written; Dick Halbrook seconded. The minutes passed with no dissent or abstentions.

2) Treasurer's report

In Jim's absence, Barnett presented the Treasurer's report. At the end of August, the balance in the Working Group's checking account was \$3,163.63. During the last year, there were three expenses. The Working Group made a donation of \$500 to TWS for upgrading the Society's computer's etc. We paid \$100 for a conference room at the annual Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) conference for an informal Working Group get-together. Finally, we awarded \$500 to Sara I. Storrs, the winner of the Graduate Student Research Award. The only source of income is from Member's dues.

3) Newsletter and Communications Report

The next newsletter is scheduled to come out in early October. Among other issues, it will report on the Annual Meeting. Louise made her routine pitch for any and all news items. Since there have been many recent retirements among WTWG members, a list of retirees will be included.

Kristin brought many color and black-and-white copies of the Working Group's new brochure. They were passed out at the meeting and would be available at the Symposium.

The website is up-to-date. Past minutes have been posted.

4) Graduate Student Research Award

Barnett provided a brief summary of the Award selection process. Christine Custer chaired the selection committee which also included Thomas W. Custer and Kevin P. Kenow. Five students submitted applications and Sara I. Storrs, Division of Biological Sciences, University of Missouri-Columbia was selected as the Award recipient. Louise will request an abstract discussing Sara's research for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter.

Because of the cost of travel and the timing of the Award, the award recipient should use the funds to support their research and will be encouraged to present their findings at a future TWS sponsored meeting, not necessarily the annual national conference.

5) **Membership**

Don had nothing new to report. Kris will be taking over as Membership Chair. Membership remains at 63 members. We exceed the minimum number of 50 required to maintain our standing as a Working Group. Our membership exceeds the number of TWS members that express an interest in Wildlife Toxicology. Many people will be renewing their membership in the next few months, so membership renewal reminders, etc. should be considered in the near future.

- 6) **2007 Symposium.** The ½ day symposium focusing on Transboundary Pollution in conjunction with the International Wildlife WG is scheduled for the afternoon of Monday September 24th. Dick Halbrook and Barnett Rattner coordinated the arrangements with the International Wildlife Working Group.

Despite efforts by Dick to arrange for a speaker from China and commitments from the WTWG and IWWG to assist with travel costs, the inability of the invited author from China to get a visa prevented his attendance. A presenter from Canada also had travel funding problems and could not attend. This restricted the presenters to Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.

7) **Status on Technical Review “Lead In the Environment.”**

About this time last year, Barnett was asked by John Organ to work with representatives of the American Fisheries Society to draft a technical review of the impacts of lead in the environment arising from hunting and shoot sports and fishing tackle. Steve Sheffield and Christian Franson also represented TWS in the effort, while Chris Goddard, Nancy Leonard, Douglas Stang, and Jack Wingate represented AFS.

Currently the review is 112 pages in length. It has been reviewed by TWS Council, and is undergoing review by USGS as required for those authors working for the USGS. A publication is being prepared by the fisheries authors that will include management recommendations. AFS and TWS will separately draft policy statements based on the technical review.

Barnett read excerpts from the Summary to the group to provide a feel for content of the review. Barnett has been invited to a one-day symposium on lead effects to be held in Madison, WI in early December. There is also a meeting in Idaho focusing on the impacts of lead on birds. Contained within the review are two pages of research needs.

8) **Annual Report**

Barnett provided a copy of the Annual Report to Council. Included in the report are

a summary of our activities of the year. As requested by Council, Barnett included a few recommendations which included:

a) **Position Statements on Environmental Pollution and Wildlife**

Specific Action: Using the joint AFS-TWS technical review on lead in the environment, establish a small cadre of wildlife biologists to assist in preparation of the AFS-TWS position statement on the hazards to natural resources of lead emanating from shooting and fishing activities.

Specific Action: Instruct the Executive Board of the WTWG to update the existing position statement position addressing the hazards of environmental contaminants to wildlife.

b) **Graduate Student Research**

AwardsSpecific Action: To foster growth and development of TWS, institute additional annual graduate student research awards or fellowships at the level of working groups or the society. At present, the only student research award is the Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship. Sponsorship of additional award(s) could be derived from corporate members or in donated funds in memory of a renowned TWS member. Benefits would be both to the stature of TWS and the career of the recipient.

9) **Review of 2006/2007 Goals**

At the beginning of his term, Barnett had drafted a list of goals for the year. He reviewed the progress on those goals. Of the six goals laid out a year ago, he felt we had achieved or made appropriate progress on four: review WTWG mission, disseminate our mission, gain visibility, and update position statements. Two items still required further action (i.e., providing educational and grant information in the area of ecotoxicology to students, gain visibility by an article in the Wildlife Professional). Although considerable effort was expended, we still need to increase our membership. We also need to reach out more to students and assist them with their educational efforts.

10) **Elections and New Officers**

Don presented the results of the elections. Thirty one Working Group members voted. Three positions were up for election this year. One Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Chair-Elect. The race for Chair-Elect was decided by a single vote, with Kris Brugger the newly elected Chair-Elect. Karen Gaines will join the Board as a Vice-Chair, and Deborah Rudis is taking over as Treasurer.

List of 2007/2008 Officers:

Chairperson:	Donald Sparling
Chair-Elect:	Kristin Brugger
Past-Chair:	Barnett Rattner
Vice Chair:	Christine Custer
Vice Chair:	Karen Gaines
Treasurer:	Deborah Rudis

Secretary: Joseph Sullivan
Communications (non-elected): Louise Venne

New Business

1. Meeting in Miami in 2008

We have been contacted by Edward Gates to collaborate on a session with the Steady State Economy Working Group. Don, Louise and Karen agreed to spearhead the effort to put together a session at the Miami meeting. Possible themes included mercury impacts in the Everglades and Petro Chemical Industry impacts along the Gulf Coast. Ideas for speakers and specific topics should be sent to Don.

2. 2007/2008 Goals

Don stated he would pick up where Barnett left off and continue to work on the goals that went unfinished over that past year.

3. TWS Publications

Karen brought up the topic of why there are not more wildlife toxicology papers published in TWS journals. Some thoughts included that historically the editorial boards have not been receptive to wildlife toxicology papers. For example some of the details such as analytical methods were deemed unnecessary by editors and removed. Traditionally, there has been a slow turn-around time to get a paper published once it was submitted. Also, page costs are greater than for many other outlets available for researchers in wildlife toxicology.

4. Special Recognition

Jim Goodyear has faithfully served as Treasurer since 2000. The Working Group extends its gratitude for this long period of service.

The effort put forth by Barnett Rattner on behalf of the Working Group to pull together and act as primary editor of the Lead in the Environment Technical Review was above and beyond the normal responsibilities of the Working Group Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Sullivan,
WTWG Secretary