

Draft Minutes

WTWG Conference Call
11:05 – 12:15 EDT March 29, 2007

Participants: Jack Barclay, Kristen Brugger, 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 1/11/2007 conference call prior to the current conference call. Jack noted a couple of typos, and pending those corrections, the minutes were approved.
2. **Treasurer's report.** Jim reported there were no new expenditures since the last conference call.
3. **Newsletter and Communications Report.** The next newsletter is scheduled to be sent on or around April 10, 2007.

Louise had circulated the brochure for comments. Some of the pictures were too coarse when printed. Christine was going to check why some of the pictures, she thought were high quality were coming out "too pixellated". Louise would check with the contributors of the other coarse pictures to see if better resolution versions were available.

Joe has contacted Earl Wyatt at TWS Headquarters and provided information to update information on WTWG's website. At the time of the conference call, the website had not yet been updated. Louise suggested we see how we can update the information ourselves. Joe will follow-up with Earl or others as necessary.

Barnett shared some information on university programs in Wildlife Toxicology. Assuming we can get information from the authors of the document, we may choose to include that information on the website.

4. **Graduate Student Research Award.** Christine reported that she planned to get others in the USGS office in LaCrosse, WI to participate in the selection committee to review the application packages. She would check to see if she could still get an announcement in the Wildlifer to solicit applications.
5. **Membership.** Don reported we have a total membership of about 63 members, well above the requirement for active working group status. After sending out approximately 20 reminders from lapsed members or others who have expressed interest, he received some positive responses.
6. **Elections.** Don will get an announcement to Louise for inclusion in the upcoming Newsletter. Nominations are needed for Treasurer, Chair-Elect and one Vice-Chair.

7. **2007 Symposium.** Plans for the proposal for the ½ day symposium focusing on Transboundary Pollution in conjunction with the International Wildlife WG are moving forward. 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. A tentative list of speakers is listed below:
 - a. Cynthia Pekarik (Environment Canada) - Temporal and spatial trends in herring gull egg contaminants from the Great Lakes, 1974-2005, and recent biological effects.
 - b. Robert Anthony (Oregon State University) - Evidence of Eurasian source of environmental contaminants in food chains of the Aleutian Archipelago, Alaska.
 - c. Bill Bowerman (Clemson University) - Successful use of *Haliaeetus* eagles in monitoring water quality in six countries.
 - d. Jaqueline Garcia (Centro Investigacion en Alimentacion y Desarrollo) - Effects of agriculture and naturally occurring elements in border wetlands.
 - e. Joel Schmutz (USGS) - PCB congeners and concentrations in red-throated and yellow-billed loons breeding in Alaska: A dependence on migratory pathways to east Asia.
 - f. Erica Craig (University of Alaska Fairbanks) - Analysis of factors influencing the distribution of wintering golden eagles: a GIS-based model comparison of birds with elevated lead levels vs. those without elevated lead.
 - g. Kevin Reynolds (USFWS) - Nogales international waste water treatment plant: Trans-boundary water quality and endangered species issues.
 - h. Miguel Mora (USGS) - Contaminant hotspots along the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo: Evidence of endocrine disruption effects on birds.
 - i. Deborah Cowman (Texas A&M University) - Climate change and the re-emergence of DDT: Implications for wildlife.
 - j. Jianying Hu (Peking University) - Potential biological impacts of trans-boundary environmental contaminants in the Chinese sturgeon.
 - k. Daniel Martineau (University of Montreal) - Beluga whales of the St Lawrence Estuary, Quebec, Canada: Canadian canary for international pollutants.
8. **Status on position Statement “Lead In the Environment”.** Steve Sheffield and Barnett met with Chris Goddard, representing the American Fisheries Society. Chris

Goddard and others will take on the responsibility of compiling the final document. Steve and Barnett had or were about to have provided all the information needed to complete their portions by the end of March. These inputs are all that we have committed to for the first draft of the document. A one-page progress update has been provided to TWS Council. There is no current deadline for completion of the first draft. An interesting note that came to light was that up to 30 states have implemented regulations regarding the use of lead shot for upland game birds.

New Business

1. **SETAC Get-together.** We discussed whether to reserve a room again this year during the annual Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry conference in Milwaukee, WI. After discussion, Jack moved that we reserve a room, and Christine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Archiving WTWG Records. Steve Sheffield currently possesses the Working Group records. A standard routine needs to be established for storing and archiving our past records. Jack agreed to check with TWS headquarters about the possibility that the records could be archived there. If that is not a possibility, another home will need to be found.

2. **Wildlife Toxicology Workshop at Smithsonian.** Barnett and Don attended. The workshop took place on March 13, 14, and 15. More details will appear in Barnett's remarks in the upcoming newsletter. Briefly, there were 46 attendees, mostly from U.S. with the rest from Canada. The major outcome from the workshop was the identification and prioritization of 18 issues. Don was encouraged that participants were volunteering to address and take-on the action items that came out of the workshop. One principal that was clear is that the field of Wildlife Toxicology is not well understood on the minds of the general public. The organizers are currently pursuing potential publication outlets.
3. **Next Conference Call tentatively scheduled for the weeks of June 4 or 18, 2007.**