

Final Minutes

WTWG Conference Call
11:00 – 11:50 EDT August 15, 2007

Participants: Jack Barclay, Kristin 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 6/12/2007 conference call prior to the current conference call. Kristin and Jim had suggested some spelling and grammatical corrections. Prior to releasing the final draft, these corrections were incorporated. The minutes were accepted.
2. **Treasurer's report.** Jim reported a balance of \$3633.03. Jim had inadvertently used the check card for a personal \$40 purchase. Once the account has been reimbursed, the balance will reflect the balance reported in the June minutes.
3. **Newsletter and Communications Report.** The Summer Newsletter was sent July 6th by Dawn Fallacara while Louise was in Africa. The next Newsletter is schedule to come out shortly after the Annual Meeting in Tucson.

Louise will give the brochure a last check to ensure pictures, etc are in good order. Kristin has volunteered to print out some color brochures that will be available at the Tucson Meeting.

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

4. **Graduate Student Research Award.** Christine wrapped up the judging of the Research Award. The committee judges consisted of Christine M. Custer (Chair), Thomas W. Custer, and Kevin P. Kenow. The five applicants and their research topics were:

Thomas Bommarito – PAH toxicity to salamanders and newts

Southern Illinois, Univ., Carbondale, IL

Rebecca Dailey – toxic metabolites in lichens

Univ. of Wyoming, Laramie, WY

Timothy B. Fredricks – molecular techniques/species sensitivities/risk assessments

Michigan State Univ., East Lansing, MI

Margaret Pepper – sparrow species and Hg exposure

Univ. Delaware, Newark, DE

Sara Storrs – atrazine effects on tree frog physiology and behavior

Univ. of Missouri, Columbia, MO

The winner was Sara I. Storrs, Division of Biological Sciences, University of Missouri-Columbia, 212 Tucker Hall, Columbia, MO 65211 573 882-1421. A \$500 check has been sent to support her research.

Christine commented that the proposals were generally quite good. She was impressed with the breadth of topics and geographic representation. She agreed to provide some “lessons learned” to the next Chair of the Award Committee.

A brief discussion took place regarding whether to convert the Award to a Travel Grant rather than a Research Award. The consensus was that for logistical reasons and considering the cost of travel and attendance at the Conference, the award would remain as a Research Award. An announcement of the winner should be placed in the Wildlifer.

5. **Membership.** Don had nothing new to report. Membership remains at 63 members. 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. **Elections.** We had a full slate of candidates. Don reported that at the time of the conference call, 30 members had returned their ballots. The voting deadline is August 20, 2007.
7. **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 is working to recruit a replacement speaker from China. The WTWG and the International Wildlife WG have both approved \$500 travel grants to help defray the costs of getting a speaker to the conference, possibly from China or Argentina.
8. **Status on Technical Review “Lead In the Environment.”** Barnett has coordinated the revision of the first complete draft of the document. Statements in the initial draft supporting policy were removed so this review focuses on the technical issues. This second draft has been submitted to the authors from TWS and AFS. After receiving responses to this draft, Barnett will make edits before sending it off by September 4th to TWS and AFS for their review

This technical review of environmental lead will be taken by TWS Council and in conjunction with AFS used to draft a joint position statement.

As a result of coordinating the effort to draft the technical review on lead, Barnett has been invited to present a summary at a Midwest Symposium on Impacts of Lead Poisoning on Fish and Wildlife taking place on December 11th.

New Business

1. **Annual Report:** An annual report of the WTWG activities is due in September to Council. Barnett will draft a report and circulate to the Board for comments.

Barnett requested suggestions to submit to Council. Suggestions included

- A) Additional student research awards created, possibly funded by matching contributions.
- B) Follow-up on the Lead Technical Review by establishing a panel to draft the Position Statement.
- C) Update the Position Statement on the hazards of environmental contaminants to wildlife.

2. **Meeting in Miami in 2008:** Since the deadline for submitting a proposal for the 2008 meeting comes very soon after the annual meeting, Don suggested we start thinking about topics for a special session or symposium. Suggestions included contaminants released following a hurricane, impacts of hypoxic zones resulting from contaminants, and mercury.
3. **2009 Meeting:** Jim suggested we consider recruiting a chair for the 2009 special session or symposium in the near future so we could be prepared to hit the ground running when it comes time to submit the proposal for the 2009 meeting.