

**TWS Wildlife Toxicology Working Group Business Meeting  
November 11, 2008, Hyatt Regency, Miami, FL**

**Attendees**

Karen Gaines	<a href="mailto:kfgaines@eiu.edu">kfgaines@eiu.edu</a>
Larry Bryan	<a href="mailto:larry.bryan@tetrattech.com">larry.bryan@tetrattech.com</a>
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Stephanie Plautz	<a href="mailto:plautz@siu.edu">plautz@siu.edu</a>
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Stephanie Baker	<a href="mailto:sbaker@geiconsultants.com">sbaker@geiconsultants.com</a>
Dick Halbrook	<a href="mailto:rhalbroo@siu.edu">rhalbroo@siu.edu</a>

**Minutes**

Karen Gaines (Vice-Chair) opened the meeting at 12:30, extending Kristin Brugger's (Chair) regrets at not being able to attend. Karen started introductions of those present.

Kristin and Don Sparling (Past-Chair) prepared a detailed agenda, including minutes of the previous meeting, which was circulated as the foundation for this meeting. A copy of the agenda accompanies these minutes (WTWG Meeting Agenda 11 Nov 2008\_revised.doc).

Karen went through the suggested agenda item by item:

- 1) Old minutes were read (no changes from text in attached agenda). Motion to accept the minutes as written was made, seconded and approved.
- 2) Budget balances were read (no changes from text in attached agenda)
- 3) Newsletter / communications report provided (see text in attached agenda) - Karen thanked Louise for her work on the newsletter and made an appeal for working group members to send more news items to Louise
- 4) Grad student research award report was read (see text in attached agenda) – Karen noted that very few students have applied for this award, and she encouraged working group members (particularly academic advisors / mentors) to talk with students and foster more applications
- 5) Membership report read (no changes from text in attached agenda)
- 6) The symposium *Effects of Hurricanes on Wildlife Toxicodynamics* occurred yesterday (November 10, 2008) with eight platform presentations.

7) The lead ammunition / fishing tackle technical reviews were discussed. Subsequent to the meeting, Barnett Rattner provided additional details:

Barnett Rattner was asked by John Organ (Past President of TWS) to work with representatives of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) 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. The full Technical Review (*Rattner, B.A., J.C. Franson, S.R. Sheffield, C.I. Goddard, N.J. Leonard, D. Stang and P.J. Wingate. 2008. Sources and implications of lead ammunition and fishing tackle on natural resources. The Wildlife Society. Technical Review 08-01, 62 pp.*) is available for purchase on TWS website. A synopsis focused on fisheries aspects of the review was also prepared (*C.I. Goddard, N.J. Leonard, D.L. Stang, P.J. Wingate, B.A. Rattner, J.C. Franson and S.R. Sheffield. Management concerns about known and potential impacts of lead use in shooting and fishing activities. Fisheries 33:228-236*). TWS drafted a position statement based on the technical review. Contained within the full technical review are two pages of research needs. To obtain a copy of the technical review, visit [www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org). For a copy of the AFS article on the known and potential impacts of lead in shooting and fishing, visit [www.fisheries.org/afs/docs/fisheries/fisheries\\_3305.pdf](http://www.fisheries.org/afs/docs/fisheries/fisheries_3305.pdf)

8) Karen noted that Don Sparling submitted the Annual Report

9) Karen reviewed 2007/ 2008 goals (interaction with SETAC, certification, membership, position statements on toxic chemicals in the environment and on acid precipitation)

10) Election results were relayed and list of 2008/2009 officers was provided:

Chair: Kristin Brugger  
Chair-Elect: Dan Anderson  
Past-Chair: Donald Sparling  
Vice Chair: Kara Sorenson  
Vice Chair: Karen Gaines  
Treasurer: Deborah Rudis  
Secretary: Tom Augspurger  
Communications (non-elected): Louise Venne

## **New Business**

### **1. Installation of New Officers**

This meeting marks the transition point for new officers.

### **2. Meeting in Monterey, CA, September 20-24, 2009**

Don Sparling, Dan Anderson and Kara Sorenson have expressed interest in coordinating a symposium focusing on regional wildlife toxicology issues. There is an upcoming deadline: December 5, 2008 for proposals.

The folks in attendance suggested some other topics to consider, either as stand-alone sessions or to merge with the regional issues theme. There was some discussion of moving beyond a solely regional wildlife toxicology focus to one that highlights our interactions with rest of TWS. This may more effectively demonstrate the WTWG's relevance to rest of TWS and broaden the potential audience for our sessions at the annual meeting. The potential topics included the following:

- wildlife disease and wildlife toxicology interactions
- climate change and wildlife toxicology implications
- wildlife toxicology impacts associated with growth / economic development
- wildlife toxicology impacts of various energy alternatives (e.g., biofuels, coal, nuclear)
- migratory bird management topics related to pollutants (pesticides, mercury, oil, etc)

Louise encouraged consideration of a workshop on wildlife toxicology in addition to a symposium. A focused topic workshop would also increase exposure, particularly if it offered training. Examples included 'wildlife toxicology 101' as an introduction to the field. It was suggested that we may need to survey the larger TWS membership for targeted feedback on the topics they'd like covered. That would help target the session and identify who best to coordinate it. With the pending deadline for putting topics forward for the 2009 meeting, it was suggested that workshop interest / development focus on future national meetings.

### **3. 2008/2009 Goals**

Karen noted that Dan will pick up the workgroup membership growth and outreach issues.

**4. Wildlife Toxicologist Certification.** We continued discussions on whether a professional certificate for Wildlife Toxicologists would be worthwhile. No action was taken, but the main discussion points included the following:

- a) concern that so few structured wildlife toxicology academic programs exist at present that it may be difficult to secure the recommended prerequisites;
- b) conversely, our recommendations may help program growth, leading to expanded offerings of the core courses for certification;

A suggestion was offered by Dick Halbrook that we consider an approach to be more enabling by developing a list of suggested courses to go along with the new color brochure. The list could be offered as recommendations rather than requirements. Dicks suggested that this approach could be a good first step in an eventual certification process.

### **5. Student Professionals Liaison**

Louise noted that she helped advertise the student award opportunity available through our working group. She is willing to continue as liaison and facilitate outreach to students (and she is also willing to yield to another member if they want to work in this capacity).

## **6. Expertise Outreach**

Karen brought up the issue of whether members wanted to be contacted to discuss their areas of expertise, a form of technical assistance and outreach. Following brief discussion, it was recommended that such opportunities continue to be posted by email to the working group membership for their consideration on a case-by-case basis.

## **7. Fundraiser**

Louise noted fundraising ideas to consider, such as stickers and t-shirts that have been created by some other TWS working groups.

**Meeting adjourned – 1:30**

# **WTWG Meeting Agenda**

## **Meeting at 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society**

### **Held in Miami, Florida**

November 11, 2008, 12:20 – 1:40 pm

Apologies are sent to WTWG from the Chair, Past-Chair and Chair-Elect for not being able to attend this meeting. These are strange times!

Introductions/attendance:

#### **Old Business**

##### **1) Minutes from last Executive Board conference call**

Joe Sullivan distributed a final draft of the minutes from the 8/26/2008 conference call on email. Don Sparling moved that they be approved (with a few minor edits). Minutes are attached at the end of this document.

##### **2) Treasurer's report**

Deb Rudis sent an email to state the following: At the end of September 2008, the balance in the Working Group's checking account was \$2,945.63. During the last year, there were two expenses. The Working Group made a donation of \$150 to TWS Fund for The Leadership Institute request. The Working Group awarded \$500 to Sara Warner, the winner of the Graduate Student Research Award. Income through September was \$220.00. The only source of income is from Member's dues.

##### **3) Newsletter and Communications Report**

The next newsletter is scheduled to come out in January 2009. Among other issues, it will report on the Annual Meeting. Louise Venne will request any and all news items. Louise distributed many color copies of the Working Group's brochure. The website is almost up-to-date. The Newsletter section is current. Past minutes of Executive Board meetings have been posted through the end of 2007.

##### **4) Graduate Student Research Award**

Christine Custer chaired the selection committee. Sara Warner, Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware, was the winner of the Graduate Student Research Award for her proposal An Evaluation of Mercury Persistence in Delaware Bay Coastal Marshes and Bioaccumulation in Coastal Plain Swamp Sparrows (*Melospiza georgiana nigrescens*). Because of the cost of travel and the timing of the Award, the Award will remain as a research award with the recipient encouraged to present the results at a future TWS sponsored meeting, not necessarily the annual national conference. We thank Chris Custer for her work on this committee over the past several years.

## 5) **Membership**

Chair Elect, Dan Anderson, will be taking over as Membership Chair. Membership is at 85 members as of August, 2008. 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) **2008 Symposium.** The 1/2 day symposium focusing on Toxicodynamics of Hurricanes was scheduled for the afternoon of Monday November 10th. Karen Gaines and Louise Venne coordinated the arrangements.

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

Barnett Rattner was asked by John Organ (Past President of TWS) to work with representatives of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) 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. The full Technical Review (*Rattner, B.A., J.C. Franson, S.R. Sheffield, C.I. Goddard, N.J. Leonard, D. Stang and P.J. Wingate. 2008. Sources and implications of lead ammunition and fishing tackle on natural resources. The Wildlife Society. Technical Review 08-01, 62 pp.*) is available for purchase on TWS website. A synopsis focused on fisheries aspects of the review was also prepared (*C.I. Goddard, N.J. Leonard, D.L. Stang, P.J. Wingate, B.A. Rattner, J.C. Franson and S.R. Sheffield. Management concerns about known and potential impacts of lead use in shooting and fishing activities. Fisheries 33:228-236*). TWS drafted a position statement based on the technical review. Contained within the full technical review are two pages of research needs. To obtain a copy of the technical review, visit [www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org). For a copy of the AFS article on the known and potential impacts of lead in shooting and fishing, please visit [www.fisheries.org/afs/docs/fisheries/fisheries\\_3305.pdf](http://www.fisheries.org/afs/docs/fisheries/fisheries_3305.pdf)

## 8) **Annual Report**

Don Sparling drafted an Annual Report to Council. Included in the report are a summary of our activities of the year.

## 9) **Review of 2007/2008 Goals**

At the beginning of his term, Don Sparling had drafted a list of goals for the year. He reviewed the progress on those goals. The goals, accomplishments, and recommendations follow:

- Enhance relationships among wildlife toxicologists within The Wildlife Society and SETAC. Results: 1) We asked for and received a meeting time at the 2007 SETAC conference in Milwaukee. The meeting was designed to be a meet-and-greet without any particular program. Only about 7 people attended. The recommendation is that if we have future meetings at SETAC that we develop some sort of program. 2) As it now turns out, due to the increase in membership, we have many members who have cross memberships in both societies. Since some members attend one conference or the other but not both, it would be good to continue with meetings at both conferences.

- Increase outreach activities, especially to college undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in pursuing careers in wildlife toxicology. 1) We again held the research award competition and provided assistance to a graduate student. 2) Sparling is looking into the feasibility, desirability, and requirements of a Wildlife Toxicologist Certification based on courses and experience. Recommendations for the future would be to consider posting a career corner on our website and looking into the possibility of developing an electronic or hard copy brochure about Wildlife Toxicology as a career alternative.
- Review and renew the Wildlife Society's position statements on toxic chemicals in the environment and on acid precipitation. These revised position statements were accepted by TWS.

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**

Twenty-eight Working Group members voted. Three positions were up for election this year: One Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Chair-Elect. Kara Sorenson will join the Board as a Vice-Chair, and Tom Augspurger is taking over as Secretary. Chair-Elect is Dan Anderson.

List of 2008/2009 Officers:

Chair: Kristin Brugger

Chair-Elect: Dan Anderson

Past-Chair: Donald Sparling

Vice Chair: Kara Sorenson

Vice Chair: Karen Gaines

Treasurer: Deborah Rudis

Secretary: Tom Augspurger

Communications (non-elected): Louise Venne

## **New Business**

### **1. Official and Virtual Installation of New Officers**

The gavel (or Barnett's crab hammer) will be passed from Past-Chair to Chair at some point in the future. If Tom A. is present, he will have the opportunity to take notes for the first time.

### **2. Meeting in Monterey, CA, September 20-24, 2009**

Don Sparling, Dan Anderson and Kara Sorenson have expressed interest in coordinating a symposium focusing on regional wildlife toxicology issues. Some discussion on the topic is contained in the attached Exec Board mtg minutes from Aug 2008. There is an upcoming deadline: December 5, 2008 for a [Call for proposals](#).

### **3. 2008/2009 Goals**

Kris Brugger will pick up where Don Sparling left off and continue to work on enhancing relationships among wildlife toxicologists in the Wildlife Society and SETAC as well as improving outreach activities to students pursuing a wildlife toxicology career. Any suggestions how to improve WTWG activities will be appreciated.

**4. Wildlife Toxicologist Certification.** As mentioned above, there discussions beginning on whether a professional certificate for Wildlife Toxicologists would be of benefit to individuals and the profession. The general concept would be similar to that of the Wildlife Biologist Certificate sponsored by TWS. The idea for this certificate arose from a Smithsonian-sponsored workshop on Wildlife Toxicology held in April of 2007. Any and all comments are welcomed.

**5. Report from the Student Professionals liaison – Louise Venne.**

**6. Open Topic**

Do members of WTWG want to be contacted to discuss their areas of expertise? The question came after a professor at Auburn Veterinary Department asked for assistance in developing a wildlife toxicology course for veterinary students. She also commented “Thank you for letting me know about your symposiums on regional issues about wildlife toxicology. This is exactly the type of activity that I am interested in knowing more about. Does the Wildlife Tox group publish any proceedings on the symposium? Or is there any record of who organized or presented at the symposium? I would really like to be able to call the people involved.”

**7. Other Topics?**