

**Final Minutes - TWS WTWG Executive Board Conference Call – February 11, 2009**  
(note: action items are underlined)

**Participants:**

Kristin Brugger (kristin.e.brugger@USA.dupont.com)  
Don Sparling (dsparl@siu.edu)  
Tom Augspurger (tom\_augspurger@fws.gov)  
Deb Rudis (deborah\_rudis@fws.gov)  
Kara Sorensen (sorenssek@spawar.navy.mil)

At 1:37pm EST, we started moving through the agenda Kristin distributed

1. Kristin reviewed agenda and asked for any additions; there were no changes to the agenda
2. Introductions
3. Old Business
  - a. Minutes of meeting from 2008 annual conference approved and accepted Dec 08
  - b. Don submitted annual report at the 2008 meeting; no recommendations to Council
  - c. 2008 election report was sent to TWS by Tom
  - d. Deb gave Treasurer's report
    - overview: beginning balance in 2008 = \$3,225.63  
income = \$440  
expenses = \$ 681 (for donation to TWS Leadership Inst., student research award and check fee)  
balance at end of 2008 = \$2,984.63
    - federal tax forms sent
    - cannot get an interest bearing account unless our balance grows to about \$10K
    - Deb worked with bank to eliminate a monthly service fee we'd been charged
  - e. Deb gave membership update – we now have 53 members; she'll e-mail list to us, Kristin to send out reminder to past members to renew, if they can
  - f. Don to collate comments received by end of week on Lead Position Statement. Kristin read through each recommendation in the position statement and gave an opportunity for those on the call to comment
4. New Business
  - a. Objectives for 2009

We discussed the need for more outreach to serve students. We reviewed what we do now (sponsor symposia, offer student award, involve ourselves with chapters) and identified opportunities to do more. Some ideas included hosting webinars on techniques in wildlife toxicology, offering training sessions at chapter or national meetings, developing guidelines to employment in wildlife toxicology, and further exploring a certification program. Don noted that he's exploring a survey with Shirlee Tan (EPA/Smithsonian) on this issue.

Another outreach idea was a feature article(s) in the *Wildlife Professional*, Kristin will review articles in that outlet and query folks to see who would be willing to write a piece. Deb noted that FWS contaminant specialists collaborated to have articles in FWS's *Endangered Species Bulletin* on a couple occasions:

<http://www.fws.gov/Endangered/bulletin/99/01-02/1-3.pdf>  
[http://www.fws.gov/contaminants/Documents/esb\\_March\\_07.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/contaminants/Documents/esb_March_07.pdf)

b. Student Research Award

Kristin explained current application process for students and their advisors. This started two years ago with 5 applicants, and fewer last year. We discussed potential funding mechanisms. Kara will lead this year's effort to review notification materials (to be provided by Kristin) and publicize availability of the award.

c. Annual meetings

For 2009 (September 20-24 in Monterey, CA), we've agreed to partner with Wildlife Diseases Working Group for a special session that has been accepted. Kristin will contact Dave Jessup regarding their interest in including effects of sound in the symposium. If they are interested, Kara will work with Wildlife Diseases symposium committee on that topic.

No wildlife tox poster session in 2009. Kristin will review the list of accepted sessions to identify those that may be a good fit for toxicology issues and advise WTWG members.

We discussed the need to plan early for the 2010 annual meeting (Snowbird, UT). Kristin noted that with the tight deadlines (likely the deadline for a proposal for a WTWG activity will be sometime in October 2009), we need to think about this now (a year and half out). Deb and Dan will co-author a newsletter article canvassing WTWG members for ideas / themes for 2010 meeting (starting with list that was generated in Miami meeting)

d. Kristin will handle half year report, due to Council 27 Feb 09; send any ideas to Kris regarding input to Council

e. Communications

We reviewed current methods (newsletter, website, brochure) and ideas for improvement including more technical input from WTWG members in the newsletter (e.g., mini-reviews on techniques). Also, the website could be augmented with some important pdfs, like our new brochure, a recommended reading list, and the contaminant-related wildlife mortality

chapter Steve Sheffield and Joe Sullivan wrote for *Techniques for Wildlife Investigations and Management* (Tom will check on its availability). We could also enhance the Links page and work to get our site linked to others (Tom and Deb to check into having FWS Environmental Contaminant Program websites add a link to WTWG page)

f. The next two WTWG Executive Board conference calls are planned for April, June and late August 2009.

g. Misc

Kris asked WTWG Board to review Charter to familiarize ourselves with duties

Dan will be coordinating election this year

Deb asked that we have our TWS State chapter websites add a link to the WTWG webpage

Call ended 3pm EST