

Final Minutes (29 Sept 09)
WILDLIFE TOXICOLOGY WORKING GROUP, TWS
Annual Membership Meeting
Monday September 21, 2009 at 12:00 - 1:00 PM
Portola Hotel, Driftwood I, Monterey, CA

In attendance: Kristin Brugger (Past Chair), Dan Anderson (Incoming Chair 2009), Harry Ohlendorf (Chair-elect 2010), Joe Sullivan, Kathy Fagerstone, Wilson Rumbelha, Andreas Lehner, Colin Gillin, Peregrine Wolff

1. Agenda

Kristin welcomed attendees, all gave brief introductions. Proposed agenda was reviewed. Brief history of WTWG, its functions and fit in TWS organization were summarized. Harry read the Goals section of the WTWG charter. It was noted that the newsletter and student research awards have been the main products of the WG in 2009. Additional info is on the website. Ideas for future activities of the WG were solicited.

2. WTWG Exec Bd meeting 1 Sept 09 minutes

Minutes, treasurer's report and membership were reviewed by Kristin and Dan.

3. Communications

Newsletter items are due 30 Sept to Louise Venne. Wilson Rumbelha is interested in contributing an article on his new method for contaminants analysis of blood spots. The website is up to date. A webinar was presented by Sarah Warner, recipient of 2008 WTWG student research award on her Masters Thesis research on mercury in sparrows along the Delaware Bay. Other webinars can be hosted if anyone wants to present a topic. An annual symposium on contaminant topics is desirable. An invitation from the Wildlife Diseases WG to cosponsor a symposium was supported in 2009. Don Sparling is leading the effort to develop an article for Wildlife Professional.

4. Graduate Student Research Award Competition

Current award went to Lori Neuman-Lee, Eastern Illinois University, for an ongoing study of effects of atrazine on pregnant water snakes. Dan Anderson is interested in expanding the applicant pool in 2010 and possibly the number of awards. If there is interest in supporting >1 award, then funding will be needed to support it and approval from the executive board will be needed. Joe Sullivan reminded the group of the history and limited funds available to support this award. The award originally was for travel to the annual meeting, but \$500 is not sufficient to cover costs anymore. Fund raising efforts were discussed. Colin Gillin suggested that the WTWG treasurer consider contacting relevant federal, state, local agencies to request annual donations (\$100, \$500) to support the WTWG and this type of activity.

5. Membership

Membership is ~75. Dan will include a note in the Autumn newsletter asking members to actively recruit new members. Student membership could be targeted by contacting the TWS student member list. Kathy Fagerstone suggested contacting student chapters.

6. Annual Report to TWS

See attached report. A recommendation was made to TWS to develop a calendar of WG events (tax form due dates, annual meeting proposal dates, etc.)

7. WTWG Symposium for 2010 – September 8-12, Snowmass, Utah

Dan expressed interest in proposing a full day symposium. Ideas include role of migration on exposure/effects, hormesis, disease syndromes as related to toxicants, chemical/environmental interactions, anticoagulant rodenticides affecting raptors, AFWA / state agency push to remove lead from all recreational ammo, international contaminants issues, Wilson noted that he is working with others on bird migration through Israel for African birds, and contaminant issues in developing countries (disease/wildlife/people). International issues could be viewed as old problems in new places. Peri Wolff noted that the International Wildlife Disease Association will hold a meeting in Argentina in May 2010. Mark Pokras organized a tox session on lead for that meeting. Dan will take these ideas, organize a 2010 WTWG annual symposium committee and prepare a proposal for review by the Exec Board and potential submission to TWS by 4 Dec 09.

8. New Officers

Dan Anderson and Harry Ohlendorf took over as Chair and Chair-Elect, respectively.

Attendees:

Kristin Brugger, DuPont, kristin.e.brugger@usa.dupont.com

Harry Ohlendorf, CH2MHill, hohlendor@ch2m.com

Dan Anderson, UC Davis, dwanderson@ucdavis.edu

Kathy Fagerstone, USDA/Wildlife Services/NWRC,
kathleen.a.fagerstone@usda.aphis.gov

Joseph Sullivan, Ardea Consulting, birdtox1@ardeacon.com

Wilson Rumbelha, Michigan State Univ, DCPAH, rumbelha@dcpah.msu.edu

Andreas Lehner, Michigan State Univ., DCPAH, lehnera@dcpah.msu.edu

Colin Gillin, Oregon Dept. Fish & Wildlife, colin.m.gillin@state.or.us

Peregrine, Wolff, Nevada Dept. Wildlife, pwolff@ndow.org

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: August 25, 2009

Report to: TWS Council

From: Kristin E. Brugger, Ph.D., Chairperson

Subject: Annual Report from the Wildlife Toxicology Working Group

The Wildlife Toxicology Working Group (WTWG) undertook and completed numerous activities since submission of its annual report in December of 2008. Recommendations to the TWS Council and a summary of working group activities are provided below.

Recommendations to Council

1. **Title:** Website calendar and guide to Working Group documentation
Specific Action: The Wildlife Society members-only part of the website could consider providing a link to a WG calendar with due dates of WG reports, tax forms, proposals for annual meeting symposia and other predictable activities. The calendar could be accompanied by (1) templates for interim and annual reports, tax forms, and annual meeting applications/proposals, (2) any available guidance for the WGs, and (3) inter-WG communications. The benefit of a central site for members would be to ensure that reporting requirements are clear and can be planned for by the WGs, that Council receives information from the WGs in a timely fashion, and that WGs have a site where relevant information can be shared amongst groups.

Membership, Officers and Meetings

The membership of the WTWG is currently at 75. The officers of the working group included:

Chairperson:	Kristin Brugger
Chair-Elect:	Dan Anderson
Past-Chair:	Don Sparling
Vice Chair:	Karen Gaines
Vice Chair:	Larry Frey
Treasurer:	Deborah Rudis
Secretary:	Tom Augspurger
Communications (non-elected):	Louise Venne

An annual meeting of the working group was held in Miami, Florida on November 11, 2008 with 9 members in attendance. In addition to standard committee reports and officer election results, the graduate student research award, ways to augment the WG brochure, web site revisions, environmental contaminant-related policy

statements, symposium topics for the 2009 annual TWS meeting, and upcoming ecotoxicological conferences were discussed.

Three conference calls of the WTWG Executive Board were held during the course of the year (February, June, September). These teleconference meetings included standard reports (Treasurer's report, newsletter and communication, membership) and discussion of a range of other topics, including:

- Working Group Goals for 2008-2009
- Vice Chair Kara Sorenson had to step down for personal reasons and was replaced by Larry Frey, who ran for the position in the 2008 election
- Retaining reduced dues for students
- Status and revision of policy statements (Lead in the Environment; Toxic Chemical Policy Statement)
- 2009 Symposium at the Annual Meeting
- Article in The Wildlife Professional about what wildlife toxicologists do
- Updates from the Smithsonian Institute's wildlife toxicology workshop in 2007
- Student research award
- Membership
- Annual elections

The teleconferences (hosted by Kristin Brugger) were productive, and meeting minutes are available on the TWS web site.

Treasury

Based on projected expenditures (Graduate Student Research Award) by Treasurer Deborah Rudis, our current balance at the time of the annual meeting in September 09 will be approximately \$3,347.00. Federal tax exempt tax form (990-N) was submitted on time.

Communication and Outreach

Three issues of the Wildlife Toxicology Working Group newsletter were compiled, edited and disseminated by Louise Venne (Winter, Spring, and Summer; 7-14 pages each). Each issue had a range of topics including a column from the Chair (Objectives of the WG, Webinars, Increasing interactions with other professional societies), recent publications and presentations, announcements of upcoming symposia, workshops, and graduate student research awards, employment opportunities and articles of broad interest (e.g., Editing Ecotoxicology of Amphibians and Reptiles, 2nd edition).

A webinar was presented by Sarah Warner of the University of Delaware to summarize her research on mercury in sparrows along the Delaware Bay. This outreach tool will be available to others in the WG, if any one wants to share research projects. In addition, our presence on The Wildlife Society web site was updated and enhanced. Don Sparling has noted that his non-lethal sampling techniques SETAC workshop could be tailored for TWS as an option.

The WTWG investigated a possibility of establishing a formal relationship with SETAC through a memorandum of understanding. Barnett Rattner presented the proposal to the SETAC Board and reported that although there was interest in expanding interactions with other societies, the board was not yet in a position to pursue formal agreements.

Graduate Student Research Award

Karen Gaines and Christine Custer oversaw and coordinated our 2009 Graduate Student Research Award. Three applicants submitted a short research proposal (introduction, hypotheses tested, methods and statistical design), vitae, names of two references, and a cover letter describing the proposal and the benefits to the applicants. A committee of three wildlife toxicologists reviewed the submissions, and Lori Neuman-Lee of Eastern Illinois University was selected as the recipient of the \$500 award for her proposal (Atrazine Effects on Pregnant Water Snakes).

WTWG Sponsored Symposium

Drs. David Jessup, Julie Blanchong and Kristin Brugger organized a half-day symposium for the upcoming annual conference in Monterey, CA. The session, entitled “Diseases and Contaminants Affecting Marine Wildlife: Causes, Conflicts, and Solutions” is co-sponsored by the Wildlife Diseases Working Group and the WTWG. The symposium includes speakers from the west coast and should be of general interest to TWS members.

Lead in the Environment Position Statement

The working group members provided comments on the draft joint position statement on lead in the environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin E. Brugger, Ph.D.
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