

**WILDLIFE TOXICOLOGY WORKING GROUP, TWS**  
**Annual Business Meeting**  
**Conference Call**  
**Wednesday, November 6, 2013, 11 am Central**

Participants:  
Jeff Levensgood  
Tim Bargar  
Carrie Marr  
Stephanie Baker  
Brian Hiller  
Louise Venne  
Deb Rudis

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions (Jeff)
2. TWS Conference and Workshop (Tim and Brian)
  - a. As of the end of September, only two people had registered and the federal government furlough was looming. Decision was made to cancel the class due to low registration.
  - b. Tim emailed the two registrants and sent them CDs of last year's workshop materials.
  - c. Brian Hiller attended the TWS conference in Milwaukee. Most of the workshops and field trips were cancelled due to lack of pre-registered participants, although overall conference attendance was similar to past years. It was suggested that workshop and field trip attendance was low because furloughed federal employees attended with their own money, and cut back on extra expenses.
  - d. Brian attended the student/professional mixer and the symposium on lead in ammunition and fishing tackle. The symposium was organized by WI DNR's toxicologist, Sean Strom, and it was very well attended.
  - e. We did not grant a student award in 2013, due to lack of applicants. It was suggested that we begin the student award process earlier in 2014, timing it with the due date for conference abstracts. Other working groups are also seeing reduced student interest with respect to student awards. We should also advertise it better. It was suggested that perhaps there is too much competition with SETAC due to the overlapping areas of interest, additional commitment of time necessary to participate in both, and conference timing so close together in the fall.
3. SETAC 2013 (Tim)
  - a. No WTWG sponsored session was organized for the SETAC conference in 2013. Last year, SETAC provided us free booth space and waived the

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- registration cost for one WTWG member to attend. SETAC did not extend this courtesy in 2013.
- b. Brian suggested it would be better to attend the SETAC conference every other year with the WTWG materials. In 2014, the SETAC conference will be in British Columbia.
4. Treasurer's account (Deb)
    - a. The WTWG's business account had \$1,945.50 as of October 31, 2013. Deb will be transferring the account to Stephanie as soon as possible.
  5. Annual report to TWS Council (Jeff)
    - a. Jeff submitted the WTWG annual report in September. The September report will be posted to the WTWG website because it summarizes the working group's activities/accomplishments for the entire year.
  6. Membership update  
**(\*\*note numbers have been updated since the conference call\*\*)**
    - a. The WTWG has 77 members right now. The membership totals have remained consistent over time. When you count the membership total, make sure you subtract out any duplicate member records. Duplicate records appear in the spreadsheet when members renew their memberships.
    - b. Beth contacted new and lapsed members last spring (12 new and 18 lapsed)
  7. Editing a Wildlife Toxicology Reference Book
    - a. Randy Breme, CRC Press, Taylor Francis Group, contacted WTWG again. She first approached the WTWG at the 2013 Conference. Interest in editing a book seems low among the Board Members. Joe Sullivan volunteered to be a co-editor but cannot take the lead for it.
    - b. Nina Schoch and Donna Mensching are working on a book – collection and handling of samples to diagnose toxicosis.
    - c. Don Sparling is working on a textbook with another publishing house.
  8. 2013 Election Results (Jeff and Brian)
    - a. In accord with the Charter of the WTWG, we held our annual election for Executive Board Officers. Elections were held from August 4 to September 3, 2013, and 37 members voted. The results are as follows: Louise Venne Chair-Elect, Katrina Leigh Vice-Chair, and Stephanie Baker Treasurer. We thank all candidates for agreeing to run for office and for taking the time to prepare candidate statements. Jeff Levensgood transferred the responsibilities of Chair to Brian Hiller and then became the Past-Chair. Tom Augspurger, Deb Rudis, and Tim Bargar completed their terms as Board Members. We thank all of them for serving the WTWG.
  9. New Business (Brian)

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- a. Thanks to everyone rotating off the board.
- b. Brian provided us with his plans for 2014:
  - i. increase interest in the WTWG in TWS and SETAC
    - 1. increase profile within student chapters or workgroups
    - 2. Use Twitter and Facebook to raise our profile
  - ii. provide support to TWS HQ for policy development
  - iii. create a database of member expertise
  - iv. update the 'Lead in Ammunition and Fishing Tackle' Position Statement, and

10. The deadline for submitting items for the Winter Newsletter is December 20th  
(Louise)

- | 11. Next conference call (Brian) I believe the topic will be student awards?
- a. Brian will send out a Doodle poll
  - b. Main topic will be student awards

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