

Wildlife Toxicology Working Group Executive Board Meeting
May 8, 2014 1-2 pm (Eastern Standard Time)

Attendees:

Chair- Brian Hiller,
Chair-elect- Louise Venne
Past Chair- Jeff Levensgood
Secretary- Carrie Marr
Treasurer & Vice-Chair of Communications- Stephanie Baker
Vice-Chair- Katrina Leigh

Action items below are in bold.

Agenda Items

1. Report on Old Business- (Brian)

Minnesota TWS Non-Toxic Bullet Workshop Summer 2014 (Aug)

Steve Wendels (MN Chapter President) appreciated our financial assistance.

Other workshops will be held in October and possibly November during deer season. Workshops will be similar to the TWS workshop in Milwaukee, WI - MN is working with Sean Strom (WI) and an ad hoc committee. The workshop provides information, demonstrations, and an opportunity for public to test out non-lead shot at no cost to the hunter. Response in Minnesota has been very positive and the MN Chapter is using the press to inform and educate the general public and to advocate for a voluntary non-lead shot program in MN.

There will be a non-toxic shot booth at a game fair in the Twin Cities at the end of May.

2. New Business

A. Elections (Brian)-

Suggestions for officers for next year are needed. This is a role the Chair-Elect takes on for the next year. Sean Strom (WI DNR) and John Schulz (American Bird Conservancy) were suggested. Other suggestions are listed below. **Stephanie volunteered to help on the Nominations and Elections Committee. Brian also volunteered to help.** Previous nominees that were not elected may also be willing to run again for positions in 2015. Positions we need to fill are Chair-Elect, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.

Carrie Marr is a potential nominee for Vice-Chair and Joe Skorupa is a potential nominee for Secretary.

B. Webinar/Lecture (Louise) –

Wildlife programs in the US introduce toxicology in their curriculums, but most professors do not have much experience in it. Louise suggested that a good outreach tool would be to create a 1 hour lecture for universities to use in lieu of a professor lecture. Wildlife toxicology is discussed in the Wildlife Techniques Manual so there may be a lot of interest.

There was a group discussion on how best to develop and deliver a lecture. The group consensus was that a narrated powerpoint would be the best platform if TWS HQ could help us produce or host it. Other related items that were discussed were using this as a revenue generator, providing access to WTWG members for field work, making it available to TWS members only vs. making it available to everyone, and advertising it in Wildlife Professional.

Louise will contact professors to survey interest.

C. Sources and Implications of Lead Ammunition and Fishing Tackle on Natural Resources-

The WTWG's Technical Review on Lead Ammunition and Fishing Tackle expires in July. The Board discussed seeking volunteers to lead this effort. It is an important document that other subunits (state chapters) and/or have adopted their own. **Send an email out to entire WTWG and solicit help.**

Recently, Laura Bies (TWS HQ) wrote and posted a Lead and Wildlife Fact Sheet to the national website.

D. New/Old Member retention-

Last November, WTWG membership was 77. In April 2014, it was 76. In the past, a Vice-Chair has used the membership to contact old members that have dropped out of the working group and to welcome new members. Katrina will make an effort to contact them, but new vice chair will be asked to take on this task.

E. Update on Social media use- Facebook (Brian and Stephanie)-

Membership response on Facebook has been positive. Stephanie and Brian post the most and update it regularly with new information. The WTWG Facebook page has 28 likes. Brian is going to create a Twitter account for WTWG and has volunteered to administer it. Stephanie volunteered to help administer it too.

F. Toxicology Article in The Wildlife Professional (Brian and Jeff)-

Jeff Levingood was recently asked to represent the WTWG on the editorial board of The Wildlife Professional. TWS HQ would like every working group to provide a representative to the editorial board. It is unclear at this point if it is a rotating position or if it is a long-term position or how active the position will be. Jeff will attend a meeting that will decide the roles of the editorial board and the working group representatives.

G. SETAC Booth Follow-up (Brian)-

Brian will follow up with Barnett and Darryl to determine if the TWS will provide SETAC a booth at the TWS conference in Pittsburgh in October 2014.

H. Treasurer Update (Stephanie)-

The current account balance is \$1,745. Past balances varied from \$2,500-3,000. No student awards were advertised this year because of the low account balance. **Brian will discuss why the WTWG is not offering a scholarship or student award at the 2014 Conference in the Summer Newsletter.**

I. Next conference call (Brian)

A Doodle Poll will be sent out to Board Members to survey meeting times in late June-early July.

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