

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: October 1, 2013
Report To: TWS Council
From: Jeff Levensgood, Chairperson, Wildlife Toxicology Working Group
Subject: Report of the Wildlife Toxicology Working Group

Recommendations to Council: No specific recommendations are made at this time. This report provides an update of activities since the March 1, 2013 Interim report to Council, and we request the report be approved by Council.

Membership, Officers, Elections, and Meetings: WTWG membership is currently 77. That included 5 lapsed and 7 new members. Current WTWG Executive Board officers include:

Chairperson:	Jeff Levensgood
Chair-Elect:	Brian Hiller
Past-Chair:	Tom Augspurger
Vice Chair:	Beth MacCallum
Vice Chair:	Tim Bargar
Treasurer:	Deborah Rudis
Secretary:	Carrie Marr
Newsletter Editor / Communications (non-elected):	Louise Venne

An election was held between August 4 and September 3, 2013 to fill Executive Board positions for those rotating off the board next month. Thirty-one WTWG members voted in the election. At our annual business meeting in Milwaukee on October 7, 2013, some officers' terms will expire and the newly elected officers' terms will begin; the composition of the Executive Board will be:

Chairperson:	Brian Hiller
Chair-Elect:	Louise Venne
Past-Chair:	Jeff Levensgood
Vice Chair:	Katrina Leigh
Vice Chair:	Beth MacCallum
Treasurer:	Stephanie Baker
Secretary:	Carrie Marr
Newsletter Editor / Communications (non-elected):	Louise Venne

The WTWG had many email exchanges and one conference call (August 19) to conduct working group business this calendar year. Our annual business meeting will be October 7, 2013 (5:30-7:00 pm) at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee.

Workshops and Symposia: For the third consecutive year, the WTWG offered a workshop at the TWS annual conference. The course, “*Pollutants and Wildlife Management: Ecotoxicology for Biologists and Land Managers*” was scheduled to be offered October 6, 2013 and to be instructed by WTWG members Tim Barger, Joe Sullivan, Brian Hiller, Katrina Leigh and Louise Venne. Although planning was nearly complete, the workshop was cancelled in mid-September due the low number of registrants; only two people had signed up by that time. Based on previous years’ experience, few additional registrants or walk-ins were anticipated.

Currently, one of our members, Katrina Leigh, is working with a representative of the Wildlife Disease Working Group to propose a symposium on interactions between wildlife disease and contaminants for the 2014 TWS conference.

Graduate Student Research Award: We had no applicants for our 2013 Graduate Student Travel Award. The Board has discussed the best way to approach this in the future, e.g., advertise more broadly, best paper or poster award, etc.. Consideration of this issue is continuing.

Communication and Outreach: We maintain a website on the Working Groups section of the TWS website. January, April and July 2013 issues of the *Wildlife Toxicology Working Group Newsletter* were compiled, edited and disseminated. In addition to articles of general interest and updates on Executive Board meetings and actions, each issue had a column from the Chair, a profile of a WTWG member, and announcements of job openings and meetings of interest.

We continued WTWG presence on Facebook this year at the request of TWS headquarters staff.

Treasury: Our tax forms are current with the TWS office. As of July 31, 2013 our account balance was \$1,898. Expenses have exceeded income in recent years, consequently our balance has continued to decline. The Board has discussed whether to discontinue the student awards or seek ways to increase income.

Respectfully submitted,



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