

WRNC Board Meeting – January 28th, 2007

Present: Linda Bergman, Carla Johnson, Jean Chamberlain, Elizabeth Hanrahan, Mathias Engelmann, Mary Weiss, Jennifer Gordon, Beth Knapp-Tyner, Alicia Cawlfeld, Jennie Ledbetter, Toni O'Neil
Absent: Bobby Schopler

Linda called the meeting to order.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Designs for the brochure to recruit new members can be sent to Jennifer so that they may be put into the newsletter. Mathias will contact Wanda Burton by e-mail to see if she is interested in creating a design, and Karen and Sandra expressed interest during the general meeting in creating a design for the tee-shirt.
- 2) RVS Proposal Update:
 - Letters went out to all NC Animal Control offices (about 100) and Health Departments (about 160). About 20 responses were mailed back in from each, and there were good replies and very positive. There were no negative responses sent in, but there were a number of wrong addresses and these were returned. Although there was not a strong show of support from this mailing, at least it got the idea out there in these two areas.
 - Per Jean, Daron Barnes is very supportive of the proposal. He confirmed that the decision is made at the commissioner level. As the time for presenting the proposal via a Public Agenda has already passed, it was decided to mail a letter to the commissioners first, asking for a response from them.
 - Based on the results of the response returned from the commissioners and used as a lead-in, the next step would be to ask for a face-to-face meeting with them to discuss the proposal.
 - Elizabeth volunteered to help with this committee, and joins Carla, Beth, Jean, and Bobby.
 - It was agreed to cover the hotel costs if Laura Simonton comes in to help us and attends the meeting with the commissioners. She has been instrumental in helping other states adopt this proposal.
- 3) Linda proposed calling Bobby to see if he wishes to remain on the Board, or if he needs to resign due to personal reasons and/or prior commitments. She will also ask him if he wishes to remain on any of the committees.
 - Following the actual meeting, Bobby responded via e-mail: "I think I would better serve the board by stepping down and continuing to serve on the RVS committee and as an advisory member of the board. I hope that in future I will be able to offer my service on a more full-throttle basis".
- 4) Changes to Committee Membership:
 - Emergency Disaster Fund: Jennie is no longer listed as NBM, since she's now a member.
 - Continuing Ed. for Vets/Vet Students: currently inactive status. Jean agreed to Chair, and Alicia joined.
 - Federal Permit for Birds: Vicki resigned. It was proposed to make this course a full two-day session, and offer it in different areas in the state, like the Basic Beginner Training course.
 - Symposium: Jennie joined. Alicia is no longer listed as NBM, since she's a member now, too.
 - Cage Grant: no applications received to date. Board agreed to extend deadline and Toni will put notice in next newsletter again, and also stress that new members are eligible to apply.
 - Refresher & Basic Course: Toni joined.
 - RVS Rehab: waiting for Bobby's response.
 - Newsletter Article Rework/Edit: Carla has been getting them to look over, and Linda indicated she will also do this if Carla needs help.
 - Newsletter: no changes.

- **Membership:** Carla, Linda, Beth, and Elizabeth are formally on the committee, although all board members are expected to help recruit new members. Elizabeth proposed, and seconded by Alicia, to form a Strategic Plan with the goal of increasing WRNC general membership by 10% in the first year.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Symposium T-shirts for sale** – discussed during General Assembly Meeting last night. Members indicated interest in short sleeved over long sleeved style.
- 2) **List Group on Yahoo:** Jean discussed how to join in her Technology class in the symposium. Linda mentioned she had heard negative comments, as had other members. Beth said she tries to limit the jokes and frivolous e-mails, edits any inappropriate comments, and will even kick a person off the list if offensive. Jennifer offered again to help moderate, but declined being the sole moderator in charge. It was decided to add a disclaimer at the beginning of the list as well as a description of the purpose for this list group, to help disassociate it from being officially WRNC opinions or comments.
- **We had a very brief discussion about Eastern Wildlife Center,** basically agreeing that we should ignore Mark Ansley and any negative comments he has made recently because he does not seem to speak for the organization (EWC). The Board agreed that we should maintain relationships with other members of EWC, as we would with any rehabilitator or rehab organization.
- 3) **Professional image:** may be helped by providing board members with a fluorescent colored name badge for next year's symposium, to help attendees identify their board members, and increase visibility during the symposium. This may help others recognize the authority/person-in-charge aspect of the board when moderating sessions.
- 4) **Newsletter:** it was decided not to have an editorial/opinion page in the newsletter, since this was sparking all the debate about problems on the yahoo list. Elizabeth agreed to supply Brenda with Case Studies based on the Code of Ethics that could be used instead.
- 5) **PWC "Walk for Wildlife":** A motion was made by Toni and seconded by Jean, resulted in a unanimous vote not to participate at this time. Linda will respond to their invitation and indicate we may possibly consider it in the future, when WRNC has items to exhibit or sell, which are lacking at this time.
- 6) **Increase visibility:** Beth made the motion, seconded by Linda, resulted in unanimous vote in favor of remaining with quarterly newsletters (4 per year). It was decided that e-mails could go out to all members between newsletters, indicating new material or announcements were put on the web site. Beth and Jean said they would help with this. Jennie proposed, seconded by Jennifer, and a vote was taken to agree to mail post cards out to members only prior to the symposium to remind them to register and apply for the cage grant.
- 7) **Officer elections:** Outgoing officers described the duties of their position. All terms are for 1 year only, and so elections were held for all positions. New officers are: President – Elizabeth Hanrahan; VP – Beth Knapp-Tyner; Secretary – Toni O'Neil; and Treasurer – Jean Chamberlain. (Since the Fiscal Year runs differently from the membership year, Beth will stay on as Treasurer until May 1st.)
- 8) **Teleconference fee:** the "Save on Conferences" account needs to be closed out of Linda's name and re-opened in Elizabeth's name now as current president, and she agreed to do this. The fee is usually between \$56-\$61 for a 1 hour meeting. It was agreed to continue the board meetings using this method.

- 9) Doctors Foster & Smith catalog offered to mail each participant of the symposium a \$5 coupon if WRNC sent them the name/address of each participant. This was thought to be a violation of privacy matter, and will not be done. A motion was made by Jennie, which Carla seconded, resulted in a unanimous vote in favor that this information would instead be put on-line on the web site, and allow the participants to apply directly by e-mail themselves if they wished to receive the coupon. Toni will supply this information to Brenda.
- 10) Based on post-meeting one-line discussions, it was decided that no discussion of personnel issues discussed at the Board Meetings would be submitted for printing in the newsletter.
- 11) Elizabeth assumed her duties as President and scheduled the next teleconference board meeting for Sunday, February 25th, at 10:00 AM. Instructions and agenda will be e-mailed to everyone prior to this meeting. This meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Toni O'Neil, Secretary – Second draft of minutes, 2/13/07

