

WRNC Board of Directors Meeting Sunday, September 7th, 2008

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

PRESENT: Elizabeth Hanrahan, Alicia Cawlfild, Jean Chamberlain, Dr. Laurie Degernes, Mary Weiss, Toni O'Neil, Carla Johnson, Dr. Lauren Powers, Jennifer Gordon, Elaine Corvidae, Linda Bergman, Beth Knapp-Tyner, Jennie Ledbetter, Jenessa Gjeltema (vet student liaison)

ABSENT: None

1. Treasurer's Report - by Jean: The Fiscal Year ended April 30th, and a copy of the Income/Expense Report for 5/1/07 through 4/30/08 has been added to these minutes. She also included a copy of the Symposium 2008 Profit/Loss Statement which indicated a net profit of \$512.04. Elizabeth questioned a \$4,000 loss, but Jean explained that some of the money was tied up in inventory at the moment and was listed in the Merchandise Activity 2008 Report. Jean feels that this money will be recovered as the items sell at the next symposium and is not concerned. To date, only about a third of the t-shirts have sold. She pointed out that our goal is not to make large profits every year, and she is not concerned about our financial state – and reminded everyone that the symposium showed a net profit. Toni mentioned that members appreciate that more money is being spent to upgrade the symposium. These records will be available on the Board Yahoo group site for review and also on the website. The funds transfer that had been approved at the last board meeting had to wait until the non-profit status was officially reactivated, and now that that has occurred, \$10,000 has been transferred. This leaves about \$7,000 available and not tied up in a CD account.

2. Raffle Committee Report – by Toni. There have been no volunteers for the co-chair position still. She will soon be calling members who were involved last year to ask if they will participate again this year, and be responsible for contacting the same businesses they did last year. Others will be called to try and stimulate interest in this. Ideas are being solicited for another email campaign.

3. Symposium Committee – by Jean: Work was begun by the committee in June, and will continue again after this meeting. She would like to have the board's thoughts on a few items concerning Friday's activities. There are problems with lack of parking on Friday, and Friday sessions tie up instructors who are needed for setting up for Saturday. We only are allowed to use the downstairs areas on Friday and cannot move upstairs until Saturday when the WRC staff leaves for the weekend. It was recommended not to hold Beginner's Track sessions again on Friday, and to run later (until 3 PM) on Sunday instead. Beth brought up that for the people on the western portion of the state, this may make the meeting too tiring if it was too long. It was then brought up trying to hold the board meeting on Friday evening before the ice breaker, but Jean pointed out that election of new board members is not done until the Saturday evening dinner. The majority of all other business could be held in a meeting before that though before the ice breaker. Laurie suggested holding it during a Sunday lunch session instead, and Carla thought not scheduling sessions during Sunday lunch would enable a brief meeting to be held in that time slot. It was decided that the post-symposium elections would be held and only a very brief consolidated meeting for essential business. All other business would wait until a more leisurely meeting could be scheduled later on. Jean made a motion, seconded by Laurie, the motion passed, none opposed, to extend the symposium until 3 PM on Sunday and to hold an election meeting during lunch on Sunday. Elizabeth checked the By-Laws to make sure that this satisfied the requirement for a meeting where everyone actually attends. The two new student liaisons would also be present for the Sunday lunchtime meeting. All unfinished business will be held until another board meeting in order to keep the meeting brief.

4. Cage Grant Committee – by Toni and Linda: two grants were awarded for 2008. The PWC had inquired, and had been told that they could submit an application for the 2009 grants. Beth and Toni were the 2008 recipients. Nothing has been sent in from Piedmont yet.

5. Chimney Swift Towers Project – by Linda: Feedback on two of the completed (WRNC assisted) towers (Ramp Swamp Farms and Central Piedmont College) indicated swifts had checked both out but they did not have occupants to date. No activity reported by Outer Banks Wildlife Shelter yet. Although not one of WRNC's three grant awardees, the Sneads Ferry tower owners have visualized a nest in theirs and reported inhabitants already for this year. This is excellent for a first year tower. Linda has been busy recruiting for the next grant and contacting potential sites but no new applications have been sent in yet. Jean brought up changing the timing of the grant to correspond with the swifts' natural history and spring arrival of the scouts was discussed. On the East Coast, this is March. Linda said we should be able to get the selection completed in January and this should not be a problem for completing a tower before the spring migration. Linda also pointed out that the experts state that it is extremely rare for swifts to move into a first year tower, but should the following year. Linda has contacted those who applied but were not selected to see if they want to apply for next year. January 5th is the deadline for the next grant.

6. Continuing Education for Veterinarians – by Jean and Laurie: they are planning a class to be held in conjunction with the symposium with the lectures at another location (possibly next door in the Toxicology Building in the auditorium) on Saturday. The theme will be Trauma in Injured Wildlife. Recruiting for this is being done by mailing out a flyer along with the letter and brochure that are already scheduled to be sent to the approximately all 1000 NC vets and vet clinics. The WRNC website for veterinarians will also be advertised. Members can get copies to take to their own veterinarians, too, to encourage them to attend. This will also be in the next newsletter (December).

7. Student Liaison – by Jenessa: there are 2 applications that need to be reviewed and one must be selected. Voting should be by the end of the week, and send your choice in to all three (Jenessa, Alycia, and Austin). The applications were emailed out previously. The new liaison is to be selected prior to the symposium in order to be able to participate in the planning and get experience. She reminded everyone that this is a 2 year position. Alicia thought the process of having the 1st yr. liaison help recruit the next year was a good tradition and should be continued, and that accepting both applicants would be too many liaisons. Laurie agreed that having too many involved could potentially set them up for not having enough to do.

8. Nominating Committee – by Toni: we will contact the 4 people whose terms expire and get a formal answer from them by the end of the week if they plan on running again for the board. Due to the difficulty trying to find others willing to serve on the board as new members last year, we don't think there will be much luck this year. If all 4 current members run again, then we may not try and recruit any new members to the board. A notice will still be put in the newsletter asking for new nominations (all the names submitted last year declined) though.

9. Elizabeth asked Jean if she would update the website to show the new dates for the next symposium, and Jean said this would be taken care of immediately.

10. Linda asked if there will be a Fawn Session at the symposium. Beth said she would talk with Kelly Douglass and see if one could be arranged. Personally, she felt that the class should be longer than the 4 hours in the previous classes. Beth is not opposed to teaching a class again.

11. Alicia and Jenessa: they have questions about how to get WRNC more established at the vet school, and wanted to discuss how to get the vet students more actively involved in WRNC. They suggested several ways for WRNC to increase the visibility through more PR to them as a group. This should interest the vet students and get them more involved in wildlife rehabilitation. Ways included a possible scholarship for someone interested in pursuing a career in wildlife rehabilitation and text book purchases for the library. They asked how WRNC could impact more on the vet school community. Linda thought offering education opportunities rather than financial assistance were important. There are options that may require time and effort and not a lot of money. The wet lab classes at the

symposium are a way to educate as well as match faces to a concept and those involved in the WRNC. Having opportunities for more hands-on contributions was also mentioned. Laurie suggested a lunch time seminar at the WAAZM (wildlife, aquatic, avian, and zoological medicine) Club, of which Jenessa is President, and will check into possible lunch dates that are still open for this. She will also discuss topics that would be of mutual interest and benefit. Feedback can be gotten from the students as to what they would like to see as well. It was suggested trying for a date in January before the symposium to help generate interest. Elizabeth also mentioned there are intern positions at the Piedmont Wildlife Center and at the Carolina Raptor Center for students.

12. An addendum to the Veterinarian Education one day conference was added by Laurie: The lectures will be in the morning and the labs taught twice in the afternoon. One will be on Avian Bandaging and the other on Turtle Shell Repair. It was suggested these could be open to the other conference attendees if space allowed, with the understanding that these classes are at the advanced veterinarian level and may be too advanced for some. Locations and spaces are still being coordinated with the symposium planning committee. Laurie will be working with the NC Vet. Ed. Board to get CE credit for these classes once the final details are worked out, and will be contacting them this weekend to get some guidelines. Laurie assured Elizabeth that it would not be a problem for veterinarians to share classes with the wildlife rehabilitators, providing they did not disrupt the classes and would hold their questions until the end. This would also be the responsibility of the presenters.

13. Mary made the motion, seconded by Carla, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed, none opposed, and the meeting ended at 11:00 AM.

14: Post-meeting followup:

- a. what vet student liaison (Toni or Caitlin) was voted on?
- b. all 4 board members (whose terms expire 2008) have agreed to run again:
 - they are: Linda, Mary, Jennifer, and Jean
- c. did Kelly respond yet? Will there be a Fawn Session at the symposium?
- d. Alicia reported that: No word yet on when a potential WAAZM meeting can take place, but it will probably take place in the Spring. The club meeting schedule for the Spring will be made and posted sometime in December.

First draft submitted: Toni O'Neil
September 28, 2008 3:30 PM