

Meeting date: **Saturday, May 28, 2011**

Teleconference

10:00 a.m. Call to Order

Present: Linda Bergman (Pres), Linda Woodruff (Trea), Toni O'Neil (Sec), Jean Chamberlain, Savannah Trantham, Ann Rogers, Leslie Martin, Christina Hildreth, Mary Weiss, Halley Buckanoff, Laurie Degernes, David Scott

Excused: Carla Johnson (VP), Kathy Lillard

Absent: Nicki Dardinger

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

- **Symposium 2011 (Post):** Jean - Reported that work will start in June for the 2012 symposium. She also felt that there were enough members on the committee.
- **Cage Grants:** Toni – Nothing to report at this time. Information will go out near the end of the year in a newsletter concerning the 2012 application.
- **Chimney Swift Tower Grants:** Linda B. – Reported that grant recipient Roope finished (in March) and the pictures had been sent out to everyone earlier. The invoices have also been received. Diana Refsland's tower in Brevard, NC has also been completed, and that picture has been sent out recently. The invoice for that tower has been received as well.
There have been problems with the last recipient, Calvin Warden, has had a little trouble getting started. After the grant was awarded, his scout master put the project on the back burner. This meant that Calvin has already been granted an extension because his troop master had changed the starting date for his Eagle Scout CST project. Linda has been communicating with them and has been assured the new starting date is July 9th, and that they have promised to complete the project 5 days later. She has been concerned about the lack of troop support and realized the delay has not been Calvin's fault. He is very determined to complete this project, and the materials have already been purchased and stored at the building location. Toni also felt that the project would be completed as promised this time. She has been speaking with Calvin and his mother about the delay since the tower is to be constructed on the PAWS grounds.
- **Emergency Disaster Fund:** Linda B. – Nothing to report at this time. Fortunately the tornados that hit NC recently did not cause problems for rehabilitators. There has been no word from the western portion of the state to indicate damages there from the recent storms.
- **Ed. & Training Committee:** Jean – Nothing to report at this time.
- **Membership / Membership Renewal:** Linda B. – Part of the money due from the vet school is for membership. This may indicate that there will be new people on the roll that we possibly didn't have in the past.
- **RVS Rehab:** Jean – Nothing to report at this time.
- **Newsletter:** Halley – No articles have been submitted yet, and they are needed by next week, in order for the newsletter to go out on time as scheduled. The regular articles are still needed, as well as ideas for features. Linda B. mentioned that previously the budget reminder that was sent out prior to each newsletter was helpful for everyone, as well as providing organization for the editors. This helped elicit contributions for stories and articles from both board members and the general membership. Halley promised the outline would go out immediately by email to everyone now, and would be sent out for all the other newsletters as well. Linda B. reminded everyone that our newsletter is a membership benefit that must go out on time (June 15th). Halley assured everyone that the newsletter will go out on time as scheduled.

- **Nominating Committee:** Toni – Nothing to report at this time.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Linda W. – The signature authority card is being circulated around currently for the new signatures needed. Linda B. explained that the signature card is only for all the officers of the board to sign. The treasurer's information is being transferred to her from Carla still in a soft transition. She reported that \$5417.91 is due to WRNC from the vet school, but this money is not arriving in a timely fashion. From this amount, \$1020 is from the membership, and \$1006 from the raffle. The symposium basically broke even this year, if you don't count the money from the raffle. There is about \$4000 in the checking account, and she did not have the figure for the money market account at this time. Laurie said she would follow-up with Dane Johnson to find out what the holdup is with the money that is due us, but felt it was out of Dane's hands and was probably a problem with the vet school accounting department. Everyone agreed that 4 months was too long for a delay, and steps would be needed to prevent this delay in the future. It is probably red tape from budgetary cuts, but still is unacceptable. A letter has been sent to the vet school asking that the money be sent to WRNC, that this has been delayed two months too long, and to see what can be done to keep this from happening again.
- **Raffle Committee:** Toni – Nothing to report at this time but that it will begin being worked on later in the year. Linda B. reminded everyone that if anyone has access to free items at any time throughout the year, they should consider putting them aside for the raffle. Go ahead and collect items all year long to be set aside until symposium time. A reminder for everyone about this will be put in the newsletter as well.
- **Website Committee:** Jean – Reported that the website Home Page has been redone with the new logo and matching color scheme, and will be carried through to the rest of the pages. New committee members Linda, Carla, and Ann were shown the functionalities of the website. Linda B. reminded everyone to keep the committee posted of changes for mailing addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses, etc. so that the members' contact sheet and directory will be current and accurate.
- **Facebook:** Halley - Gave an update on the progress to date. There are currently 55 members, and the upcoming newsletter will have an article about how to join the WRNC Facebook and friend us, as well as what our purpose and plan is. FAQ's will be put up as weekly postings to generate interest and activity and tie in with our website and the information there. Right now members are not able to post pictures to the screen since they need to be reviewed first. A monitor is needed to have control and keep surveillance of any pictures to make sure they are appropriate. Pictures help people relate and keep them interested, and many people want to share their pictures. The newsletter will have an explanation about how and where to send the pictures to share, so that they can be reviewed and then posted. It is hoped that this will bring the rehabbing community together and keep them interactive with each other. Some ideas would be to have a list of rehabilitators with links to each other, information about what to do if you find an injured animal, etc. Linda asked if the small number of members signed up so far were actual WRNC members only, but this is currently unknown until Halley would have the chance to compare to the membership information. Everyone was reminded to join the WRNC Facebook and share the information on their own personal Facebook with their friends, which should help expand the membership. If anyone is interested in becoming the administrator for this, please notify Halley. All board members were encouraged to join the WRNC Facebook.
- **Other Old Business:** None was brought up at this time.

New Business:

- **Plans for Google Earth Transport Map:** Dave - Reported that there were many positive comments sent to him after the map was sent to everyone following the last meeting. There were a few concerns brought up, but he held the feedback and answers until this meeting so they could be addressed to everyone, and decisions made at this time. The two most important issues raised were: what will go on the map, and who will have access to it (will this be public or private use by WRNC members only). Several members felt that the map should be available to the public so the public could contact

rehabilitators or transporters directly themselves, rather than having to call a center or facility and have them do it for them, thus saving the center/facility time. The center would be able to refer callers to the map. Another issue is that data must still be collected from rehabilitators and transporters prior to having this information put on the map and ask for their permission to be listed. Halley made the motion, seconded by Ann, to make the map accessible to the public. The voting was unanimous in favor of this. Dave said the list options would also include animal control departments, government agencies, and falconers, as well as rehabilitators, rescuers, and transporters. This could be confusing since calls about all species could be made, rather than just raptor calls as it had been for the CRC. The map would be able to list only what species each transporter would be willing to pick up and could be made to indicate this. Halley pointed out that the WRC website has a list of all permitted rehabilitators, but the information is out of date and inaccurate, and there are a few people listed on it that are not desirable or trusted. Rescuers and transporters would be color coded, and rehabilitators as well, to indicate if they are state or federally permitted. The list could also indicate what center or facility each transporter worked with, or limit the specific shelters they would only transport to. It would be very simple to keep the list updated as the editing is not complicated, and it could be coordinated with the WRNC website editor whenever information changes are reported. It was decided to make each name on the list subject to approval, and a vote was taken. Dave made the motion, seconded by Toni, that the list would contain only WRNC approved appropriately permitted wildlife rehabilitators, and identifies only approved facilities and centers, plus facility chosen and center identified transporters. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Since this is a WRNC list, we shouldn't feel bad about declining to add someone's name to our list. The list will indicate that names submitted are subject to approval by any board member. If you have special volunteers that you don't want to get over used for transport, you may decide to not put their names on the list but to save them for specific cases only. Dave will create two spreadsheets shortly (one for rehabilitators and one for transporters) that will have data columns to collect information. These will be sent to all board members who will then be able to forward them on to all their volunteers. This is an excellent way to update information at the same time. He recognized it may take time to get the information back, and that it would only be forwarded to people we trust. A generalized blurb will be put in the newsletter so that rehabilitators working independently and transporters not associated with particular centers or facilities could contact Dave directly with their information.

- **2012 WRNC Symposium:** Laurie - Confirmed that all the same spaces and rooms have been reserved at the vet school, and the dates for the last weekend in January have been locked in. This would be Friday the 27th through Sunday the 29th, 2012.
- **Possibility of hosting IWRC Basic Skills class** (either as part of symposium or separately in the fall): Halley - Had previously emailed the course information packet and details to board members in April for review prior to the meeting. She felt the fee details could easily be worked out with the vet school registration process. This would mean that someone taking the IWRC class would not be attending any WRNC symposium classes and the symposium fee would have to be adjusted to just include the cost of two lunches, the banquet, and WRNC membership. Linda B. asked if it would be an either/or situation, but Halley said it would only be a separate tract held during our regular symposium. It should appeal to our members who indicated they were looking to attend something different and not just a beginner tract or vet tract. A minimum of 34 people would be required to sign up to prevent the class being cancelled; they would pay \$159 to IWRC for this class. Jean wondered if enough people would sign up, but Halley reminded everyone that IWRC would publicize this on their web site and this should draw in people from other areas. Halley felt this would be advantageous to WRNC and would draw members outside of the state to attend the symposium, as well as provide a basic skills class not previously offered by WRNC. Jean was asked her opinion as Symposium Chair, and she felt that since it would only take one lab room, space would not be a problem. She also felt all other logistics and the dual registration could be worked out. It may be worth trying, and if enough people were not interested, IWRC would cancel. This should not interfere with the regular symposium planning. Other states (OH and TX) that held this

IWRC class in conjunction with their own annual symposiums would be contacted to see how it went with them and hear their comments. Laurie asked the bottom line question – what’s in it for WRNC? - since it appears that the benefits all go to IWRC and not WRNC, with extra work being generated for WRNC. Halley responded that partnering with IWRC on this would train people uniformly and professionally and offer opportunities our members have not had, and they would also receive a certificate. She felt it would definitely be an educational benefit to the WRNC membership and would help create an industry standard, even though it will not be a financial benefit to WRNC. Instead of putting a notice in the newsletter, it was felt that a brief survey sent out to all the members instead could be used to determine the level of interest from the general membership prior to making any board decisions. The newsletter usually does not generate any direct responses that a survey would be able to. Jean will provide the list of membership email addresses for the survey, and then the survey responses would be sent out to the board members afterwards.

- **Committee Participation** – Most new members have already signed up to participate on committees, and no other members asked to join any committees today. Laurie did announce that she plans on enrolling David and Christina into joining her on the Symposium Advanced Tract.
- **Call for other New Business** – no new business, comments, or questions were raised at this time.
- **Next Meeting** – This will be either the September or October timeframe. An email will be sent out to everyone to request preference dates later on.
- The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Final Minutes submitted by Toni O’Neil, Secretary
June 3, 2011 – 2:55 PM.