



Minutes

WHIS Annual Business Meeting

October 9, 2008

Portland, Oregon

1. Minutes

Due to time constraints the minutes from 2007 were not read, however they have been posted on the website, www.whis.org, since November of 2007. No questions were raised about the content of the 2007 minutes as posted.

2. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bev Clark gave a summary of the budget. She stated that WHIS started with a balance of \$3999.85 in January. There have been two expenses, the WHIS domain name of \$25.00, and the application for 501.c.3 status which was \$300.00. Income includes 54 membership renewals with dues totaling \$1080.00, and registration for 21 people of \$1775.00. Meeting expenses had not been totaled, but were reported to be approximately \$1728.00. Income from the silent auction was a little over \$300.00, similar to last year. As of October 3, 2008, the account balance was \$6370.31. A final report will be sent to the secretary via e-mail after reconciliation of meeting expenses.

3. WHIS President/Western Plant Board

President Clint Burfitt reported on his presentation to the Western Plant Board members in Cody, WY, in May. At this meeting Clint presented a Japanese Beetle Resolution sponsored by WHIS asking that funds become available particularly for Category II states to trap and identify where infestations are present, and to fund Category I states to eradicate. This resolution was accepted and will be passed on to the National Plant Board. Clint stated the belief that lobbying the National Plant Board for funding for stable isotope research to determine the sources of JB introductions is a good example of how this organization could be, used and he believes the organization is very viable.

4. Old Business

Secretary Connie Jones provided an update on the status of the application for 501.c.3. tax exempt status for WHIS. The application packet was completed and received by the

IRS on May 1. A phone call was made to the IRS office on 10/3 to determine the status of the application review in which she was told that they were still working on applications received in April.

5. New Business

At the request of Beverly Bewley, secretary of the Southern Chapter of HIS, a resolution which was passed at the SHIS annual meeting which recommends USDA APHIS-PEQ training was made available for meeting attendees to read.

John Ekberg (OR) suggested that WHIS consider making the Webmaster position an officer by amending the constitution. The members voted in favor of this amendment unanimously. John volunteered to write the amendment for addition to the constitution.

Dan Hawkes (OR) proposed a resolution to allow funding from NPB for travel by WHIS to the NPB meeting, this prompted a discussion that included suggestions to stress to WPB members to include travel to this meeting in the budget process because some budgets are done two years in advance, demonstrate our value to the WPB, and sell this meeting by word of mouth with others within our organizations.

Christy Brown (OR) then read a letter to WHIS written by Jan Hedberg, the Lead Horticulturist for the ODA, which discussed the value of the newsletters produced by WHIS, as well as concerns about the decrease in membership. He proposed the following ways to address these issues: 1)the production of two well done newsletters a year, 2)holding the WHIS meeting every other year in order to have more time to publicize it and attract new members, 3)giving members the opportunity to learn from past meetings, 4)develop an inspection manual as SHIS has done. Members of ODA stated that Mr. Hedberg has expressed concern about the need to provide more value to members who are unable to attend the annual meeting.

It was noted by more than one attendee that they did not realize they were WHIS members until being told by their supervisors to attend the meeting. Discussion followed about how this could be rectified by having a communication person in each state, responsible for informing inspectors about membership. A welcome letter was proposed with inclusion of the by-laws and constitution to all new members. An email form of this letter was discussed, and an email concerning the 2009 meeting or announcement on the Web page was suggested.

Christy Brown proposed a summary chart for use by the western region with state reports compiled in chart form. Other suggestions included state updates on pest finds and providing access to web resources that could be used for diagnostics. Examples included the SOD training, and Slug and Snail diagnostic websites provided by meeting speakers.

Christy requested that each meeting attendee provide her with an email which reasserts the benefits of the meeting by providing information such as feedback on the speakers, the value of the meeting, and the most important things that are perceived by attendees to affect another state.

Those present were unanimous in the need to remind Plant Board members to support WHIS and plan for travel for attendees to the annual WHIS meeting in their budgets.

6. 2009 WHIS Meeting

At the 2007 meeting, Peggy McKie volunteered to host the WHIS meeting in 2009. Peggy will be contacted to verify that Nevada will be hosting next year.

A discussion was held about which state will host the 2010 WHIS meeting, and Clint Burfitt volunteered to contact AZ and CO in the hopes that one of those states will be able to hold the 2010 meeting. Idaho agreed to be the third alternate for this meeting if necessary.

7. Election of New Officers

President-Christy Brown (OR)

Vice-President-Peggy McKie (NV) (nominated in absentia), subject to her acceptance of the position. (Peggy accepted the position as of October 27, 2007 Ed.)

Treasurer-Emilee Douglas (ID)

Secretary-Connie Jones (NM)

Editor-John Wraspir (WA)

Webmaster-Lisa Rehms (OR)

8. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m., Pacific Standard Time.