

AB-WRSA BUSINESS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2004

MINUTES

President S.D. Lukefahr opened the meeting at 6:20 p.m. by welcoming the members and guests in attendance. He noted that the American Branch is pleased to host the 8th World Rabbit Congress and thanked Carlos Becerril and his committee for the hard work they had done to organize an excellent conference.

President's Report

The President noted that Cuba and Brazil both had country branches of the WRSA although the AB-WRSA is still the "mother" branch of the Americas and the Caribbean. He also suggested that Mexico might want to form a separate branch as well. The advantages of a country branch include local leadership (officers) and activities. One negative is that membership of the AB-WRSA will decline unless new members are recruited. Recruitment of new members is actively encouraged.

In order to encourage use of the Carroll listserv, the AB-WRSA listserv will only be used on a limited basis.

The AB-WRSA continues to support the Professional Rabbit Meat Association (a US based group of meat rabbit producers) by submitting articles and announcements for their journal.

The next AB-WRSA meeting will be held in Brazil in 2006.

Vice President's Report

The 3rd. AB-WRSA Congress will be held in Brazil in 2006. We chose the city of Maringá, in the southern state of Paraná, to host this event. It is a city with 288,000 people famous for its abundant vegetation and well known as one of the most developed agribusiness regions of Brazil. The Congress will be held at the State University of Maringá, where Dr. C. Scapinello, the president of the Brazilian Rabbit Science Association (ACBC), is a faculty member. We are planning on a three-day Congress, from September 11 to 13, 2006. Dr. Scapinello brought some printed materials to be handed out at the 8th World Rabbit Congress in Puebla, México.

The tentative program is as follows:

September 11, 2006

- a) Pre-Congress Courses on Rabbit Production for producers and students
(Reproduction, Nutrition, Production Systems.....)
- b) Registration of participants up to 18:00h
- c) Congress Opening at 19:00h followed by a cocktail

September 12, 2006

Morning – Symposium (or Symposia)
Afternoon – Paper presentations - posters

September 13, 2004

Morning – Symposium (or Symposia)
Afternoon – Symposium (or Symposia) until 15:30h
Round Table: 16:00 to 17:30h
Closing Ceremony: 18:00h followed by a Closing Banquet

The Vice President welcomed everyone to attend the congress and asked for ideas regarding symposia that might be included. Some of the suggestions that were offered included Teaching Rabbit production including training for high school technical students, college students and producers, herd health management, local feedstuffs for smallholder rabbit production, and marketing of meat and by-products including small producer organizations to promote commercialization of their products and methods to convert consumers to rabbit meat consumption.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary noted that the minutes of the previous meeting held June 20, 2002 in Havana, Cuba had been distributed by e-mail and that several copies had been brought to the current meeting for distribution. The Secretary moved approval of the minutes of the previous meeting as posted. The motion was approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented the following report showing income and expenditures since the previous meeting. It was noted that the branch is losing money because of increased postage costs and rates for using PayPal. Possible remedies for this situation will be discussed later in the meeting. The treasurer moved approval of the report. The motion was seconded by Clyde Marsh. The report was approved as presented.

Financial Report –June 1, 2002 to July 31, 2004

Opening Balance June 1, 2002	\$1,752.34
Income	
Memberships and World Rabbit Science Subscriptions	\$2,840.86
Interest	53.09
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	\$4,646.29
Expenses	
World Rabbit Science Association dues*	\$ 230.00
World Rabbit Science subscriptions	2,214.78
Postage	480.76
Plaques	172.77
Paper	5.72
Payment toward 2 nd AB-WRSA Congress	1,016.00
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	\$4,120.03
Closing Balance July 31, 2004	\$ 526.26

* Of the \$10 annual fee, \$5 is paid to WRSA and \$5 is kept by the American Branch.

Old Business

Postage rates – As previously reported by the Treasurer, postage for forwarding World Rabbit Science to our members, especially the international members, far exceeds the amount that we have been charging as shown in the table below which was distributed to the participants.

World Rabbit Science Postage Charges

Volume	11(1)	11(2)	11(3)	11(4)	Total
US	\$1.42	\$1.75	\$2.21	\$2.44	\$ 7.82
Mexico	4.00	2.85	4.00	4.00	14.85
Trinidad	7.65	5.30	7.65	7.65	28.25
Brazil	7.65	5.30	7.65	7.65	28.25

After discussion, it was agreed that members would be offered three options for receiving the journal. (1) hard copy with an extra charge to cover all postage costs, (2) online copy with no extra postage charge or (3) both hard copy and online copy with an extra charge to cover all postage costs. The Treasurer will decide the amounts to be charged for the postage.

Secretary's Note- At the meeting of the WRSA held September 9, 2004, it was announced that funds were available to mail all copies of World Rabbit Science directly to subscribers from Spain so the above discussion is moot at the present time.

PayPal Rates - The Treasurer provided the following table detailing the costs of PayPal, a payment method used by many of our international members to avoid expensive international exchange rates.

PayPal Charges

Date	Amount	From	Fee	%
2/04	\$ 12	US	\$0.65	5.4
2/04	85	US	2.77	3.3
2/04	109	Mexico	4.55	4.2
1/04	89	Brazil	3.77	4.2
12/03	12	Brazil	.77	6.4
12/03	89	Mexico	3.77	4.2
5/03	70	Mexico	3.03	4.2
5/03	78	Mexico	3.34	4.3
4/03	64	US	2.16	3.4
3/03	98	Mexico	4.12	4.2
2/03	76	Mexico	3.26	4.3
2/03	78	Brazil	3.34	4.3

It was noted that most of the charges from PayPal exceeded the amount that was charged to the members. It was agreed that PayPal would only be accepted for international transactions and that a 4.3% surcharge (or higher depending on the amount charged) would be added to the total to pay for the use for the service.

At the meeting held June 20, 2002, it had been announced that Agustin Blasco was working to get World Rabbit Science listed with ICI. The journal has now published the requisite six consecutive issues and met the other requirements of the ICI. The application is now being considered. The \$6,000 annual fee will be borne by the Universidad Politechnia de Valencia.

New Business

There was some discussion of publication of some the articles published in World Rabbit Science in Spanish. No decisions were possible on this issue.

Secretary's Note: The President later had a conversation with the Editor of World Rabbit Science about Spanish translations of the journal. He said we could do this on our own as a branch, for example, if any members volunteered to do

this for articles published in WRS, then we could make the translations available at our AB-WRSA website.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE

S.D. Lukefahr, President	US
Ana Silvia Moura, Vice President	Brazil
James McNitt, Secretary/Treasurer	US
Ryan Jackson	US
Chris Hayhow	US
Gabriela Gonzalez-Marsical	Mexico
Clyde Marsh	US
Fernando Aquilar Monteil	Mexico
Bonifacio Sanchez Perez	Mexico
Gabriel Cortazar Mora	Colombia
Pamel;a Alley	US
Linda Westbrook	US
Beatrice Mendoza Alvarez	Mexico
Lorenzo Carreon Luna	Argentina
Lucia Gargantini	Argentina
Alejandro Vilidria	Argentina
Jose J. Naviera	Argentina
A. Martin Romero Maya	Mexico
Walter Motta Ferreira	Brazil
Claudio Scapinella	Brazil
Reuben Mendoza Gonzales	Mexico
Jose del Carmen Rodrigues Castillo	Mexico
Jesús R. Suarez Lopez	Mexico
Juan Oscar Romero Brito	Mexico
Oscar Flores	Argentina
Glafigo Torres Hernandez	Mexico
Luis E. Dihigo	Cuba
Alma Delia Rodriguez Ramirez	Mexico
Juan Jose Vazquez Lopez	
Alberico Paul Galindo Gomez	Mexico
Mirna Garcia Gonzalez	Mexico
Misael Pichardo Reyes	Mexico
Juan Carlos Diata	Argentina
Jose L. Echegaray	Mexico
Pablo Malojetti	Argentina