

**DRAFT**  
**AB-WRSA BUSINESS MEETING**  
**June 12, 2008**

**MINUTES**

President Gabriela Gonzalez-Marsical opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. by welcoming the members and guests in attendance.

President's Report

In the past year I tried to promote communication among scientists that work in rabbits, both in the laboratory and on the farm. I also encouraged members of our AB-WRSA to contribute their research to the wider audience and, conversely, I brought to the attention of the international community rabbit research being performed in the Americas. In my home country (Mexico) I have tried to bring together rabbit researchers, rabbit producers and those interested in promoting Cuniculture under two associations that pursue the same objectives (see below). To these ends I was involved in the following activities:

1. Through a letter posted in our web page (in Spanish, English, and Portuguese) I extended an invitation to the AB-WRSA to read and submit articles to the journal "Conejos", which is a serial publication produced in Mexico, devoted exclusively to rabbit-related topics. I provided the address of the editor (Magdalena Zamora) so interested persons could address her in this regard
2. I co-edited, together with CE Roselli, a Special Issue of "*Hormones and Behavior*" (a well-known periodical with worldwide distribution) devoted to Reproductive Behavior in Farm and Laboratory Animals. This publication included three articles on rabbits, two of which were written by members of AB-WRSA. The notice of this Special Issue, briefly describing its contents and highlighting its free online access for a limited time, was posted in our web page
3. As Editor of the section on Rabbits in "*Animal, International Journal of the Biosciences*" I have promoted the activities of rabbit scientists in the Americas by: a) inviting them to review manuscripts submitted to the journal; b) encouraging them to submit their work to this publication, which has earned a good reputation in the international community
4. I signed as Founding Member and, in my role of President of AB-WRSA also as Guest of Honor, the document creating a new rabbit science society in Mexico (ECUMEX) that seeks to bring together the varied community of persons involved in rabbit breeding, research, and teaching
5. As member of ANCUM (National Association of Mexican Cuniculture) I attended the annual meeting to bring forth news from the AB-WRSA, to find out about programs that promote Cuniculture in the Americas, and to learn about the state of this discipline in Mexico
6. At the request of Carlos Becerril, I joined the team (comprised mostly of Mexican researchers) who wrote a chapter on "Recent Advances in the Field of Rabbits" for the Book of the Year 2007, following the invitation made by the World Association of Animal Production

### Secretary's Report

The Secretary noted that the minutes of the previous meeting held August 22, 2006 in Maringa, Brazil had been distributed by e-mail. Several copies in both English and Portuguese had been brought to the current meeting for distribution. The Secretary moved approval of the minutes of the previous meeting as posted. Steven Lukefahr seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by acclamation.

The Secretary noted that the membership in the AB WRSA was down and that a number of regular members had not renewed their memberships. He agreed to accept payment from those who were interested in joining.

### 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. The treasurer moved approval of the report. The report was approved as presented.

### **Financial Report – August 1, 2006 to May 31, 2008**

Opening Balance August 1, 2006	\$ 660.11
Income	
Memberships and World Rabbit Science Subscriptions	\$2,519.62
Interest	14.98
Loan from McNitt	100.00
	<u>\$2,634.60</u>
Expenses	
2007 Dues and WRS Subscriptions	\$1101.90
Bank charges	42.00
Bank service charges (balance <\$200 @ \$4/month)	16.00
Postage	6.00
Rabbit Congress of the Americas	500.00
Returned check	102.00
Translation	42.00
	<u>\$1,809.90</u>
Closing Balance July 31, 2008	\$1,484.81

Note: 2008 dues and memberships were paid June 13, 2008

- (17 memberships x 5 euros per) + (12 subscriptions at 57 euros per) = 85 + 684 euros = 769 euros. 769 x \$1.56/euro = \$1,199.64
- The balance after payment on June 13, 2008 was \$285.09.

### Old Business

Maria Elena Cossu provided an invitation to everyone to attend the 4th Congreso de Cunicultura de las Americas to be held 24-26 September, 2010 in Córdoba,

Argentina. She gave a very interesting PowerPoint presentation and also provided an attractive and informative brochure about the Congress.

### New Business

Carlos Becerril reported that the Mexican branch now has 17 members. The branch aims to increase the scientific and technical information available to Mexican producers. They aim to maintain relations with the American Branch and to increase cooperative research efforts in the Americas.

Gabriela Gonzalez-Marsical reported an effort to translate "Recent Advances in Rabbit Science", edited by L Maertens and P Coudert, into Spanish. The organizers are looking for support from the AB WRSA and the Mexican Rabbit Growers Association. Methods of publication, etc., are still under investigation. James McNitt moved that the AB WRSA support this effort and that Gabriela Gonzalez-Marsical and Carlos Becerril take responsibility for moving the project forward. The suggestion was approved by acclamation.

The next business meeting of the American Branch of the World Rabbit Science Association will be held at the 4th Congreso de Cunicultura de las Americas in Córdoba, Argentina in 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

### **PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE**

Gabriela Gonzalez-Marsical	President	Mexico
Ana Silvia Moura,	Vice President	Brazil
James McNitt	Secretary/Treasurer	US
Maria Laura Cumimi		Argentina
Jorge Eduardo Ghigna		Argentina
Maria Elena Cossu		Argentina
Claudio Scapinello		Brazil
Carlos Beyer		Mexico
Carlos Becerril		Mexico
S.D. Lukefahr		US
Cesar Gamboa Ramirez		Mexico
Cristian Pareoles Oróstica		Chile
Jesús R. Suárez Lopez		Mexico
Myriam Kaplan-Pasternak		US
Raymundo Rodríguez de Lara		Mexico
Clyde Marsh		US
Maria Magdalena Zamora		Mexico
R. K. Rastogi		Trinidad