

AB-WRSA Meeting in Qingdao, China

June 16th, 2016

**Minute of the 2016
AB-WRSA Meeting
Held in the Grand Wydham Hotel, Qingdao, China**

The meeting was held during the 11th World Rabbit Congress, on Thursday, June 16th of 2016 at the 21:00 hours. To the meeting assisted four members of the AB-WRSA and one invited person:

Dr. Steven Lukefahr (USA)

Dra. Gabriela González Mariscal (México)

Dr. Luiz Carlos Machado (Brazil)

Dra. Yazmín Elizabeth Felipe Pérez (México)

Jéssica Walsh (Canada)

The meeting was preceded by the Secretary and Treasurer Dr. Luiz Machado, who presented the following topics:

1.- AB-WRSA Financial report from 2014 to 2016. The main points were the revenues obtained from the annuities, while the expenditures regarding the paypal service payments, the WRSA delayed annuity payments from 2012 to 2016 and a contribution for the president of the AB-WRSA to participate at the 11th WRC, presenting a remaining positive balance of 3,408,62 RS or its equivalent to 993.77 USD.

2.- First Proposal for the VI American Rabbit Congress (Brazil, 2018). To be held in the city of Belo Horizonte, capital of Minas Gerais, at the Veterinay School of Minas Gerais Federal University. The advantages of holding the congress at the University facilities were presented,

as well as the preliminar program, which includes one day of short courses, one day to

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celebrate the II Rabbit Breeders day, Two days for the congress lectures and oral presentations, as well as round tables and the possibility of tourists visits.

The possibility of invited-speakers will depend on the amount of money raised, however, Dr. Lukefahr pointed out the possibility to have invited-speakers at their own expenses.

The following points were presented by the AB-WRSA president, Dra. Yazmín Felipe.

3. Alternative proposal for the VI American Rabbit Congress (Colombia, 2018). Which could be held at the Facultad de Zootecnia from the University of Cundinamarca, located about one hour away from Bogota, Colombia. One of the advantages is the central location for the rest of the american countries to be able to go, since the traveling cost could be lower than the Brazilian traveling fares. Since the colombian Rabbitry is a relatively new activity, there is a developing potential in the Rabbit Industry. Furthermore, this event could give benefits for the new rabbit farmers from Colombia, since they could see different rabbit production models from the congress participants.

While Dr. Steven Lukefahr proposed to obtain help from the Agricultural department for Sustainable Agriculture Alternatives. And Dra. Gabriela González Mariscal suggested that transportation from the airport to Cundinamarca must be granted, since the proposed location is away from the airport. To this matter, Dr. Luiz Machado gave a due date for the colombians to present their formal proposal to the AB-WRSA members before october 31st, of the current year.

4. The proposal to register the Mexican Scientific Branch to be included in the WRSA. Regarding this issue, Dra. Gabriela González Mariscal proposed the existing mexican association named ANCUM, to be recognized by the WRSA as the mexican branch, however,

this issue must be discussed by the ANCUM members, and let them know the annuities that must be covered to the WRSA, plus the yearly maintenance of the web-site for the association. The advantage of this proposal is that this National Association has recognition by the Mexican Agriculture Department, and has already gone through the bureaucratic process to obtain recognition and the possibility of becoming eligible subject of financial support. In this regard, Dr. Steven Lukefahr will point this out during the WRSA general meeting.

5.- After getting the recognition of the Mexican Scientific Branch by the WRSA, it was proposed to discuss about some strategies to obtain support for developing research projects.

6.- The problem of getting the translation of the whole book of rabbitry practices was raised, and the members concluded that this task couldn't be done by the AB-WRSA members, since the complete book may be on line, and may have no use for the rabbit farmers, furthermore, there is the possibility to have new editions of this book. Therefore, Dr. Steven would find out the possibility to have access to the book, free on line.

7.- The members of the AB-WRSA want to point out the fact that the invited-speakers at the 11th WRC, were only men, therefore this meeting didn't show gender equity, which could not be acceptable in our modern world. Therefore, Dra. Gabriela González Mariscal, supported by Yazmín Felipe and Jéssica, want Dr. Lukefahr to point this out at the WRSA general meeting.

This meeting came to an end at the 22:00 hours of the same date.