Wild Animal Initiative
Board Meeting Minutes

10 November 2021

In Attendance (sufficient for a quorum):
- Cameron Meyer Shorb (Deputy Director of WAI, currently Acting Executive Director)
- Christine Perry (Board President)
- Ignacio Moore
- Josh You (Secretary)
- Nikolai Vetr

Absent:
- Stien van der Ploeg (Treasurer)

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

- Organization updates:
  - Juvenile welfare call-for-proposals: Wild Animal Initiative (WAI) has invited 50 researchers to submit full proposals. They will be submitted to peer reviewers. The reviewers will include Nikolai and Ignacio as well as other experts in WAI's network.
  - Researcher services:
    - WAI is compiling a researcher database containing contact info for people interested in researching wild-animal welfare, in order to facilitate networking, and plans to launch the database by end of year. The contents of the database will be accessible to the people in the database.
    - WAI is setting up a Listserv for wild-animal welfare researchers.
  - Outreach
    - WAI has applied to host a session at Botstiber Institute for Wildlife Fertility Control's conference to discuss contraception with a welfare focus.
    - WAI held a quarterly meeting with several other animal-welfare organizations.
      - Cameron asked about whether there is a good way to find all organizations that work on wild-animal welfare and are potentially aligned with WAI, since WAI still occasionally discovers new ones. Board suggested looking at social media relationships between organizations, asking other organizations for references, and their references’ references and so on, and looking at searchable non-profit databases.
Internal research
- WAI is working on a wild-animal welfare priorities project, which will be a curated list of high-priority research projects that should be released by the end of the year.
- WAI is also working on reports on contraception and on advocacy for keeping cats indoors.
- Policy scoping project - WAI is launching a project to do preliminary research on legal advocacy and policy related to wild-animal welfare. This work will be done by Suzanne Van Arsdale of the Legal Priorities Project.

Hiring
- WAI will try to hire at close to the maximum practical hiring rate, and to hold a hiring round every quarter in 2022.
- WAI recently brought on Mark Onley full-time as an executive advisor.

Financials
- WAI is a financially healthy organization with approximately $4.7 million in net assets.
- WAI will run a fundraiser with a goal of $150,000 for the rest of the year.
- Funding diversity: Cameron wants to diversify WAI’s funding sources by trying to get funding from foundations outside of the EA community, and by increasing the donor base in general.

Conflict-of-interest policy
- Board members discussed the draft conflict-of-interest policy. However, they will wait until WAI has reviewed the draft with a lawyer before voting on whether to approve.

Board retreat
- The board will meet for a virtual half-day board retreat sometime in January or February 2022. The retreat will focus on self-assessment and high-level planning for board activities for the rest of 2022. Board members discussed availability and possible agenda items.

CLOSING
- The board adjourned at approximately 6:40 pm CDT.
- Board will tentatively reconvene for its January board meeting on 12 January 2022 at 5:30 pm CDT, subject to change upon final scheduling of retreat.

FUTURE ACTION STEPS
- Board will schedule a board retreat, add items to the retreat agenda, and attend the retreat.