One view of WCT seminar

Robert H. Schmidt, *Utah State University*
**NWCO Trade Assn. Proposed**

*Editor's Note:* A proposal to establish a national NWCO trade association was distributed and discussed at the recent W.C.T. Seminar held in Bridgeport, New Jersey. The following information concerning this proposal, authored by Tim Julien, has been excerpted from WCT Magazine's web site.

**Purpose:**
The purpose of this national association is to represent the commercial nuisance wildlife control operator and others engaged in the business of nuisance wildlife management. The organization will be the voice of the operator on issues of national importance and of concern to the commercial operator.

**Background:**
The industry of nuisance wildlife control is relatively new and is receiving much attention by state and national policy-makers. The public is demanding accountability for the actions of the individuals engaged in the business of nuisance wildlife control. All state fish and wildlife

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**NWCO Concerns Heard**

*Jerry L. Pickel, NADCA Director, Northeastern Region (7)*

I chaired a meeting of those attending the recent WCT Seminar in New Jersey, for the purpose of allowing participants to talk about NADCA's role in the nuisance industry and express any concerns they might have.

The few people who attended were receptive to the direction in which NADCA is proceeding with Mike Dwyer as a chairperson of the NWCO Committee, but the majority of the people who where present felt that NADCA was a day late and a dollar short in addressing their needs. Therefore the national association was formed. These same people would still like to work with NADCA, but in the form of certification and other professional aspects. The national organization was formed to address trade issues more than anything else. A recommendation was made from the people who read the articles in The Probe that articles such as the abstracts from the TWS Annual Meeting look like a lot of fill material with no substance. They (NWCO's) ask if articles from Wildlife Society Bulletin could be re-worked in laymen's terms and published in The Probe.

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**NADCA Board Acts on NWCO Concerns**

*During the January 23 Conference Call of NADCA's Officers and Board, two actions were taken regarding NADCA's role in supporting nuisance wildlife control operators (NWCOs) within our membership. The NADCA leadership has established a NWCO Committee, with Mike Dwyer designated to be the committee’s chairperson and liaison to the Officers and Board. Other members of the Committee include Rich Daniotti, Jerry Pickel, Tim Julien, and Robert Schmidt. Other NADCA members interested in serving on this Committee are encouraged to contact Mike Dwyer. As its first task, the Committee is currently reviewing NADCA's draft NWCO certification guidelines. These guidelines (included as an insert in this edition of The Probe) were developed over the past year by a NADCA committee chaired by Clarence ("Ki") Faulkner. The current draft, designated version 3.0, has been reviewed by the following individuals, whose comments and suggestions were received: Lynn Braband, James

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**One View of W.C.T. Seminar**

*Robert Schmidt, Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife, Utah State University*

For a variety of reasons, NADCA has not or cannot fulfill all of the needs of the expanding nuisance wildlife control industry. This is not too surprising, since one organization cannot be all things to all people. The Wildlife Society seemed unable to adapt to the emerging concerns in conservation biology, and this led to the development of the Society for Conservation Biology. Why do NWCOs feel that NADCA is not meeting their needs? Here is what I heard:

1. NADCA is not responsive to NWCO concerns.
2. NADCA cannot react in a timely fashion to NWCO issues (the Connecticut wildlife euthanasia bill is a recent example).
3. NADCA leadership is made up of individuals who, for the most part, have a very limited understanding of the business of urban nuisance wildlife management.
4. NADCA’s publications and meetings are of limited use to NWCOs.
5. NADCA’s attempts to assist with NWCO certification are flawed or misguided.

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NADCA Board Acts on NWCO Concerns

Burns, Donald Caccamise, Kevin Clark, Mike Conover, Richard Daniotti, James Forbes, Alan Foster, Tim Julien, and Jim Miller. NADCA members are encouraged to send their comments on the enclosed DRAFT version to Mike Dwyer (mailing address: c/o 870 West Third Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43212; phone 614-486-1139, fax 486-4840, or email: <MDCritter@AOL.COM>.

Future planned efforts of the Committee include working with the independent NWCO trade association to develop NWCO accreditation above minimum licensing standards. Another of the new Committee’s charges is to consider the proposed changes suggested by Robert Schmidt in his “Open Letter” (see Probe #176, May 1997). Some of the changes in NADCA structure, it was noted, would require a formal revision of the organization’s By-Laws. Notes Dwyer, “NADCA presents a wonderful opportunity for those NWCOs who want to get involved and contribute to the professional development and improved professional image of their industry. And it is precisely because NADCA is not a trade association representing just the narrow interests of commercial operators that NADCA is best suited for the development and effective impartial promotion of professional issues…” NWCO members of NADCA are encouraged to address their concerns to the NADCA/NWCO Committee so that NADCA may better serve them.

In another action, the Officers and Board again considered the suggestion that The Probe might be merged with Wildlife Control Technology (W.C.T.) Magazine. This topic had been raised in Robert Schmidt’s “Open Letter” and had been previously discussed by the NADCA leadership on several occasions. Additionally, Probe Editor Bob Timm had engaged the W.C.T. Magazine’s editor and publisher in preliminary discussions about production logistics, costs, and the benefits or detriments of such an arrangement. Following additional discussion, the Officers and Board voted unanimously not to pursue this idea further.

The Officers and Board recognize that nuisance wildlife operators now comprise a majority of all NADCA members, and that NADCA has an important role to play in fostering communication and education among its members representing all facets of wildlife damage management. Toward this end, the NADCA leadership hopes that the newly-established NWCO Committee will actively take up issues of importance to those in the private nuisance wildlife business, and will make recommendations to the NADCA Officers and Board. Probe Editor Bob Timm notes, “It would be great to have more articles in The Probe that specifically address issues and topics of interest to nuisance wildlife operators. If any NADCA member wishes to submit such articles, they’ll be most welcome... as are any and all contributions from our membership. We’ll try to fit them into the next newsletter. The newsletter is for, and by, all of us, so it’s content is truly a representation of the actions, concerns, and thoughts of our entire membership.”

One View of W.C.T. Seminar

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6. NADCA has too many academics and federal employees.
7. State NWCOs that have affiliated with NADCA have been disappointed with the relationship.

There was a meeting on Friday, February 6, in Bridgeport, New Jersey, in conjunction with the W.C.T. (Wildlife Control Technology) Seminar to explore the development of a National NWCO Association. There were approximately 50 people in attendance. Although he was unable to attend, Indiana NWCO Tim Julien had written a proposal for the development of a national organization, and this proposal was distributed to the attendees. The purpose of a national association would be “... to represent the commercial Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator and others engaged in the business of Nuisance Wildlife Management. The organization will be the voice of the operator on issues of national importance and of concern to the commercial operator.” Connecticut NWCO Rich Daniotti, Jr., moderated the discussion.

The consensus of the group present was that Tim Julien represent them as acting president as the new trade association was being established. There was some discussion on dues, and attendees were discussing annual dues in the $100-$200 ballpark.

Tim Julien is looking for additional comments. He can be reached at A&T Wildlife Management Services, 1832 N. Bazil Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana 46219 (e-mail <tjulien@iquest.net>.

Rob Erickson, publisher of Wildlife Control Technology Magazine, volunteered a page in WCT for news of the national association, as well as use of the WCT web site. In other words, the infrastructure exists for information about a national organization to be disseminated widely among NWCOs.

My prediction is that a national NWCO organization will be developed, although the development may be slow, and that it is in the best interest of NADCA to act in an assisting role to bring professional wildlife damage management concerns, issues, and foresight to this new organization. A NWCO national organization probably will not fill all the needs of many NADCA members. There will be room for both, since they will have different objectives. I look forward to these two organizations acting in concert to improve the state of the art and science of wildlife damage management. NADCA leadership should monitor the development of a national NWCO organization, and I would recommend regular consultations between the officers after both groups are established.