

SOUTHEASTERN PARTNERS IN REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN CONSERVATION

TASK TEAM: DISEASES, PATHOGENS, AND PARASITES

FEBRUARY 28 AND 29, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

TIME: 10:30AM – 12:00PM

CO-CHAIRS: Dr. Amanda Duffus – Gordon State College
Dr. Debra Miller – University of Tennessee
Dr. Jennifer Ballard – Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

MINUTES:

1. Everyone in the room introduced themselves.
2. We discussed the finished projects from last year:
 - a. Perkinsea Information Sheet – Matt Atkinson – Posted on SEPARC DTT website
 - b. Disinfection Protocol – Marcie Cruz – Posted on SEPARC DTT website
 - c. Wallet Cards – Printed by SEPARC and available at this meeting
 - i. It was suggested that we reach out to State Agencies to have the card more widely distributed.
 - ii. Also, we need to add the PARC Herp Disease Alert System link and email on the cards.
3. Projects Nearing Completion:
 - a. Disease Brochure
 - i. A WDA small grant was submitted for funding.
 - ii. We need to add the PARC Herp Disease Alert System link and email to the information provided.
 - iii. Also, it was suggested that the document be shared with everyone again.
 - iv. Amanda Duffus will be contacting various people to contribute images.
 - v. Additionally, if we do not receive the funds from WDA, we should talk to Dr. Gray about getting these printed.
4. Information Sheets/Product Updates (Continuing Tasks):
 - a. Currently being revised
 - i. Bd – Dr. R. Brenes
 1. Brook Talley and Becky Hardman have agreed to work with Roberto Brenes to get this sheet updated.
 - b. Revised Projects:
 - i. Microbiomes: Dr. B. Hardman
 1. Alex Romer has agreed to help Dr. Hardman here.
 - c. New Information Sheets Suggested in 2017:
 - i. Immunological Defenses of Amphibians
 1. Dr. Hardman, Dr. Brenes, Mr. Davis Carter and Mr. Matt Atkinson
 2. There is a plan for completion of this sheet in a timely manner.
 - d. Products to Update:
 - i. Ranavirus Information Sheets:
 1. Laura Horton, Natalie Stilwell, and Amanda Duffus
 2. There is a plan for a timely completion of these updates.
 - e. Sign templates for the field.
 1. E.g. Did you disinfect your kit?
 2. We need to write up more of a proposal that hones in on the target and purpose of the signs.
5. SFD Sheet
 - a. Was suggested in the comments from 2018.
 - b. Cody Goodwin, Alex Romer and Bryan Hudson are working on this sheet now.

6. Other Business:

- a. Disease Management and Intervention Strategies information sheet was suggested last year.
 - i. Davis Carter, Wesley Siniard, Adri Tompros, and Christian Yarber will take the lead.
 - ii. Dr. Gray and Dr. Brooke Talley will help edit.
- b. Development of photographic/video necropsy guides.
 - i. Natalie Stilwell, Becky Hardman, Matthew Atkinson, Wesley Siniard, Samantha Kennett and Amanda Duffus.
 1. Target audience, trained biologists.
 2. Include the collection of tissues for molecular and histological analysis.
 3. Fixation procedures for museum specimens (might need to be a separate video)
 4. Talk to Dr. Miller about what we need to cover so that it doesn't miss anything, but is still relatively simple.
 5. Dr. Duffus will organize a zoom meeting for us all to discuss this.
- c. Partnering with Zoos to increase awareness of herp diseases.
 - i. E.g. Bsal, Bd, Ranavirus, SFD
 - ii. Dr. Duffus will contact Dr. Ann Duncan to see if interest still exists for this.
 - iii. Michelle Christman, Matt Atkinson, Emily Karawacki, and Natalie Stilwell.
- d. Invasion Biology of Diseases
 - i. Including the snake lung parasites.
 1. Matt Atkinson et al.
- e. It was suggested that we officially change our name from Diseases, Parasites and Pathogens Task Team, to the Disease Task Team to mirror the PARC DTT.
 - i. Dr. Duffus will talk to the SEPARC admin to have this change made on the website.

On February 29th, the task team met again, but this time we broke out into groups and made game plans as to how we would approach our various projects.

Apologies to any volunteers that I may have missed! If I missed anyone who is willing to do/help with a project, please email me at aduffus@gordonstate.edu so that I can link you up with the appropriate group!