President Amelia Woolums called the CRWAD business meeting to order at 12:02 pm (central time).

President Woolums asked the members to observe a moment of silence for members who passed away in the previous year.

President Woolums recognized the members of the 2020 CRWAD Council and thanked them for the contributions to the meeting under extraordinary conditions related to the global pandemic and the first fully virtual Conference in the organization’s 101-year history.

Dr. M.M. Chengappa moved to accept the meeting minutes of the 2019 business meeting as presented. Dr. Chuck Czuprynski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dr. Rebecca Wilkes reported that two Council members reviewed the financial documents of the organization and found the finances to be in order. Dr. Wilkes noted the organization’s bank accounts would be transferred during 2021 as the transition is made from Dr. Benfield to Dr. Morley as the executive director. The organization’s bank accounts will be held at First Dakota National Bank in Pierre, South Dakota moving forward.

President Woolums announced the creation of the CRWAD Fellow Planning Committee. Dr. Scott McVey will chair the committee. The committee’s charge is to develop a program to honor CRWAD members with distinguished achievements in original research related to animal health and disease, population health, and translational medicine and represent an eminent cadre of scientists from all types of research careers, including academia, industry, and government. The committee will develop the criteria for selection and process for selection with a goal of announcing the inaugural class of inductees in 2021.

Dr. Paul Morley, CRWAD Executive Director, provided the membership with an update on the organization’s work in the previous year. Dr. Morley introduced and recognized the members of the 2020 planning committee. He noted their flexibility and willingness to learn as the committee worked through ways to deliver the content of the Conference in a completely new format. Dr. Morley reported that Conference had 429 submitted abstracts and 20 featured speakers, maintain the organization’s efforts to grow the Conference year over year, despite the challenges of the pandemic.

Dr. Morley thanked the partner organizations participating in the Conference. American Association of Veterinary Immunologists; American College of Veterinary Microbiologists; Association for Veterinary and Preventative Medicine, North American PRRS Symposium; and US Animal Vaccinology Research Coordination Network all contributed to the content of this year’s Conference.

Dr. Morley also thanked the partner organizations providing support for the student award competition for the Conference. Animal Health Institute/Joseph J. Garbino Foundation Biosafety & Biosecurity; American Association of Veterinary Immunologists; American College of Veterinary
Microbiologists; American College of Veterinary Parasitologists; Association for Veterinary and Preventative Medicine NC1202 Enteric Diseases of Food; and Society for Tropical Veterinary Medicine all conducted student award competitions for the Conference.

Dr. Morley announced the future Conference dates of January 20 – 24, 2023; January 19 – 23, 2024; January 17 – 22, 2025; January 16 – 20, 2026; and January 15 – 19, 2027 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel and Conference Center. The Conference is transitioning to a January date to accommodate the anticipated growth in the Conference and the available space at the Conference hotel. Due to this transition to a January date, there will not be a Conference in the calendar year 2022.

Dr. Morley reported that all participants of the 2020 Conference will be deemed members of CRWAD for 2020.

Dr. Woolums gave remarks as the outgoing president of CRWAD. She thanked the Council and the membership for their dedication to research and the cultivation of the next generation of scientists. Dr. Woolums recognized Dr. Morley for his work in setting a vision for the Conference and the organization and his work to grow the Conference each year. Dr. Woolums thanked the program committee for their work in making sure the Conference happened this year and the adaptability to move to a virtual Conference seamlessly.

Dr. Chris Chase presented the slate of officers for nomination. The slate included:

Dr. M.M. Chengappa, President
Dr. Charles Czuprynski, Vice President
Dr. Annette O’Connor
Dr. Rebecca Wilkes
Dr. Weipang Zhang
Dr. Marcus Kehrli
Dr. Amelia Woolums, Past President

Dr. Qijing Zhang seconded the motion to elect the slate of Council members as presented. Motion carried.

Dr. Woolums thanked the members for their dedication to CRWAD and reminded the membership of the next Conference date of January 20 – 24, 2023.

President Woolums adjourned the meeting at 12:35 pm (central time).