

COMMITTEE ON

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ACCREDITATION

The WBA Board has formed the nucleus of a committee to address the issue of professional standards and accreditation.

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The goal is to have a system that will encourage professionals and practitioners to select and value a WBA recognition of professional standing that is based on the requirements/standards.

The committee includes:

Phil Shaw

Luit Buurma

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Ed Herricks (chair)

The committee is in its very early stages of discussion but I can share with you some thoughts.

One of our first questions was:

“Why Certify/Recognize?”

- Identify qualified professionals
- Ensure recognition of expertise
- Enhance credibility and prestige
- Provide a vehicle for professional development
- Establish professional practice standards
- Protect the public.
- Enable professionals to stay current
- Increase influence on society

The next question was:

““Why WBA?”

Our sense is that the WBA is the only organization with an international focus and is the logical place to have a certification/recognition process.

A final question was:

“What do we certify?”

We need to clearly define categories and qualifications.

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In setting a categories and qualifications we are asking ourselves:

What is the value of the recognition?

Why would anyone want the recognition”

After receiving the recognition what will people do with it?

The nature and specifics of a certification/recognition system will eventually be a Board action supported by the membership.

What we will do is prepare a report/white paper that will address the issues of recognition for professionals and practitioners who address wildlife issues in aviation safety.

We are considering many options! My sense is that the emphasis is on aviation safety, not wildlife, so qualifications go well beyond, or are very different than, the FAA's qualification for airport wildlife biologists.

One option is to focus on aviation safety related to wildlife considering a broad range of training and professional activity. This might extend the reach beyond those who control wildlife to include airport operations, airport management, and possibly pilots.

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Another option would focus more on wildlife practitioners who work to achieve aviation safety. The emphasis here might be more on specific practice in wildlife management and control.

A clear objective of the committee is not to duplicate existing efforts and we are considering a certification categorization that might include: :

- Aviation wildlife biologist (someone who plays a leadership/management role in wildlife safety at airports).
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- Aviation wildlife practitioner (someone who does the active management at aerodromes);
  - Aviation wildlife trainer (someone with the skills, experience and qualifications to complete a robust training program);
  - Aviation wildlife Auditor (a select few people around the world to audit the capabilities of the people accredited in the above 3 categories).

We are also considering how a certification/recognition system might be implemented.

Would there be qualification levels such as ~~apprentice, journeyman, master, or provisional,~~ specialist, lead specialist?

How will the application process work?

Who will do the review and how open will the review process be?

We are also considering how the whole process might be developed within the WBA organizational structure. For example the WBA might first create a register of professionals that would be open to all members as the certification process proceeds.

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We are also evaluating certification models from other groups. We don't want to reinvent the wheel!

In summary, we are just beginning!

I hope to have a report to the Board by the middle of 2015.

~~This report is intended to inform the membership of our efforts and make recommendations.~~

We are also very receptive to comments. Hopefully criticisms will wait until we have really done something, so if you have ideas, please share!



