



Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies



67th Annual Director's Meeting Proceedings

July 16 – 18, 2000
Petoskey, Michigan

Hosted by: Michigan DNR



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Action Items.....	1
Objectives.....	3
Past Meeting Locations and Dates.....	4
1999 Committee and Working Group List.....	5
Constitution and By-Laws.....	6
Attendance Roster.....	11
Agenda.....	14
Speaker Presentation Briefings and Field Trip Notes.....	17
Business Meeting Minutes.....	23
Appendices.....	66
Colorado Withdrawal Request	I
Treasurer's Report.....	II
Request for Additional Funds from Chuck Pils.....	III
Jaschek Trust Fund Report and Guidelines.....	IV
Midwest Private Lands Working Group Report.....	V
Ray Evans IAFWA Report.....	VI
DU Waterfowl Symposium Donation Request.....	VII
Public Lands Management Working Group Committee Report.....	VIII
Midwest Legal Committee Report (meeting held after annual meeting)...	IX



The stone was named Petoskey because of the abundance of them found on the shores of Little Traverse Bay. In 1965 the State of Michigan adopted the Petoskey stone as Michigan's state stone.

The Petoskey Stone is the fossilized remains of a type of colony coral that lived during the Devonian Period (about 350 million years ago). At this period the area was covered with a shallow marine sea, which favored the growth of many types of coral. Each cell represents a tube in which a small animal lived, waving its tentacles to secure food. The "eye" is actually the mouth of the animal



Complimentary 3-day
State Park passes for
AMFWA members &
family @ conference.

Gaslight District



Action Items

**Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Annual Meeting
July 16 - 18, 2000
Petoskey, Michigan**

ACTION ITEMS

- ▶ Officially accepted Colorado's withdrawal from the Association. George Burgoyne will send a letter to them accepting it. (This means that we will need to change letterhead, plaques and the Bylaws to reflect this change.)
- ▶ Voted to accept Treasurer's Report, balance as of June 30, 2000 - \$223,050.19. (Completed 7/18/2000)
- ▶ Pay Chuck Pils overage on CITES trip to Nairobi of \$879.79. (Joe Kramer completed 7/18/2000)
- ▶ Advised Directors of interest from Jaschek Trust Fund (approximately \$10,000 annually) that is available for grants. (Guidelines in back of proceedings or available Steve Miller, Doug Hansen or AdHoc Committee)
- ▶ Collect \$50,000 (\$3,846.16) from each of the 13 remaining states to fund the 2nd year of our 3-year commitment and send it to the IAFWA for the Farm Bill Coordinator position. (Joe Kramer will be sending out invoices.)
- ▶ Secretary/Treasurer suggested that the Association move \$50,000 from Merrill Lynch fund to CDS upon 5-year maturity. (Matures May 2003, No action taken at this time)
- ▶ Moved to allow Secretary/Treasurer, Joe Kramer and the state of Kansas to supply a person (Sheila Kemmis) to attend meetings to take minutes and supply proceedings and action items within 30 days to the Association members. Also, the Association agrees to pay her actual travel expenses.
- ▶ The Private Land Working Group had three action items:
 - 1) Letter to other Associations requesting they come up with their 3-year commitment for the Farm Bill Coordinator position.
 - 2) Letters to two Senators and two Representatives thanking them for showing their support on WRP and CRP.
 - 3) Letter to each state in the Association asking them to provide representation and to show their support of WRP, WHIP and CRP.
- ▶ President (George Burgoyne) is to call Presidents of other Associations to follow up letter requesting Farm Bill Coordinator support and also Directors are to personally contact other Directors they may know in the other Associations.

- ▶ Forward copy of Private Land Working Group presentation to other Associations and IAFWA.
- ▶ Send letter to USFWS (Jamie Clark) requesting clarification on federal aid issues, including field trial, environmental assessments and other issues, and to request that they stop any movement on these issues until the states are consulted. The letter is to be drafted by Bob Humphries from Michigan and Tom Niebauer from Wisconsin for President George Burgoyne's signature. This letter is to be reviewed by Association before being sent, within the next 30 days.
- ▶ Moved to give Ducks Unlimited a \$2,000 donation for the Waterfowl Symposium to be held in June of next year in Washington DC, formal letter to follow. (Joe Kramer completed 7/18/2000)
- ▶ Accepted mission statement and goals of Public Land Management Working Group (PLMWG) and agreed to provide a representative from each state to be on the PLMWG. Each state should contact Pat Ruble of Ohio with their representative's name.
 - 1) The Public Land Management Working Group is to send a letter to invite a Regional Forester from Region 9 to next year's Association meeting in Minnesota.
 - 2) Agreed to table Issue #4 to assign an Ad-Hoc Committee to work on field trial issues until we see where this issue is going at the federal level.
- ▶ President George Burgoyne agreed to check with Minnesota to see if they will host next year's meeting and who the new President will be. He will let everyone know.
- ▶ Secretary/Treasurer Joe Kramer is going to canvas the Association states with a questionnaire to see why so many states are not attending these meetings and to see if there are conflicts with the date.
- ▶ The Executive Committee is to meet at the IAFWA meeting in September to try and get better State participation.
- ▶ The new President from Minnesota is to review bylaws, and appoint a new standing committees and make changes or additions, especially the two at-large members of the Executive Committee, replace the retired members and delete Colorado. Recommend that the new President coordinate and communicate with Secretary/Treasurer on monthly basis with Association business.
- ▶ Appoint Resolution Committee to review and suggest changes to the Bylaws.

AMFWA Reception



Rob & Debra Manes
Wildlife Management Institute
(Back: Judy Niebauer)

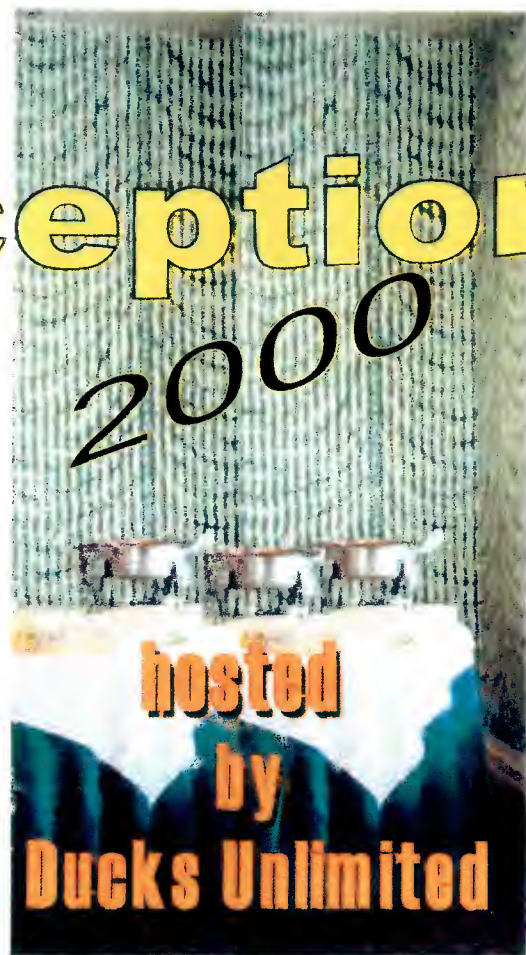
Tim Roby
Michigan DNR



Sheila
Kemmis, KS



George and Pat Burgoyne
Michigan DNR



L to R: Dr. Jim Rich (Ky), Pat Ruble (Ohio),
and Tom Young (Ky).

Objectives

Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Objectives

The objectives of the Association shall be to protect the right of jurisdiction of the Midwestern states over their wildlife resources on public and private lands; to scrutinize carefully state and federal wildlife legislation and regulations and to offer support or opposition to legislative proposals or federal regulations in accordance with the best interests of the Midwestern states; to serve as a clearinghouse for the exchange of ideas concerning wildlife and fisheries management, research techniques, wildlife law enforcement, hunting and outdoor safety, and information and education; and to encourage and assist sportsmen's and conservationists' organizations so that the fullest measure of cooperation may be secured from out citizenry in the protection, preservation, restoration and management of our fish and wildlife resources.

Past Meeting Locations and Dates

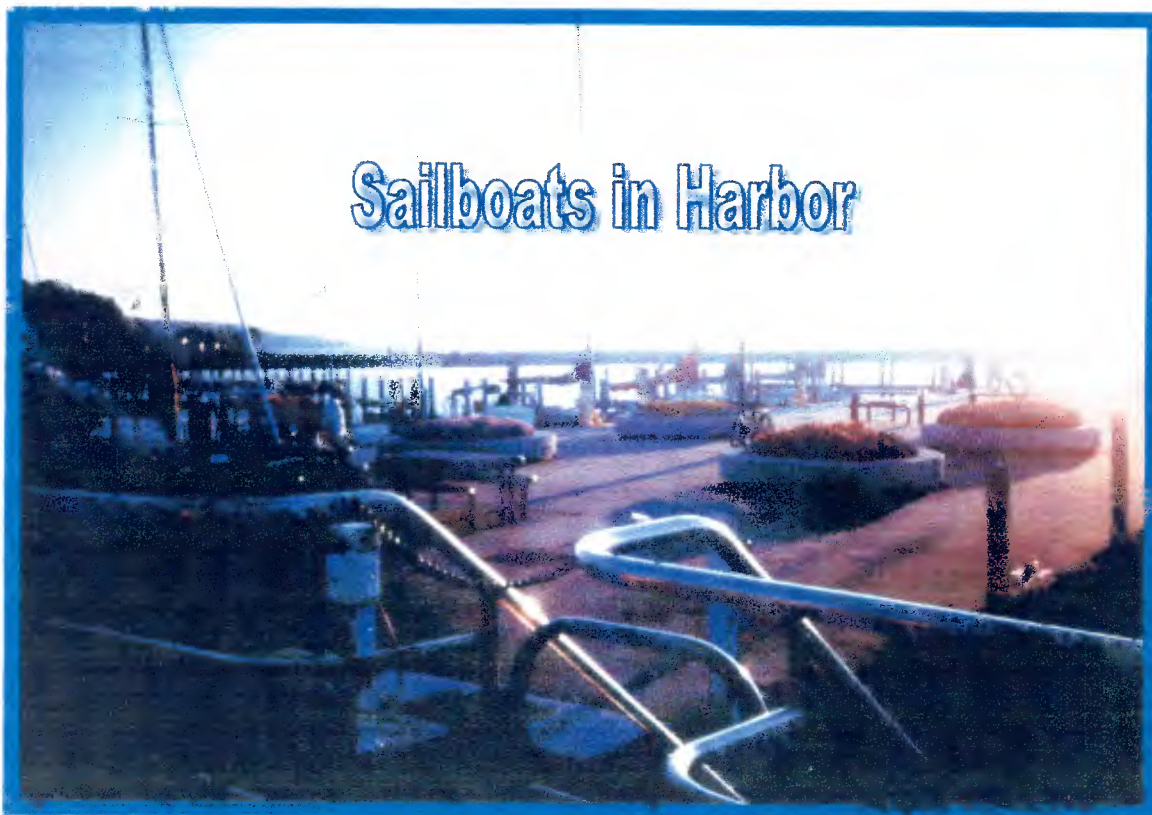
**Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Dates and Locations**

1 Des Moines, Iowa	1934	52 Wichita, Kansas	1985
2 St. Paul, Minnesota	1935	53 Vail, Colorado	1986
3 Madison Wisconsin	1936	54 Winnipeg, Manitoba	1987
4 Sioux Falls, South Dakota	1937	55 Bismarck, North Dakota	1988
5 Omaha, Nebraska	1938	56 Duluth, Minnesota	1989
6 Madison, Wisconsin	1939	57 Grand Rapids, Michigan	1990
7 Mason City, Iowa	1940	58 Rapid City, South Dakota	1991
8 St. Louis, Missouri	1941	59 Green Bay, Wisconsin	1992
9 Duluth, Minnesota	1942	60 Ashland, Nebraska	1993
10 Fox Lake, Illinois	1943	61 Estes Park, Colorado	1994
11 Bismarck, North Dakota	1944	62 Galena, Illinois	1995
12 Indianapolis, Indiana	1945	63 South Bend, Indiana	1996
13 Rapid City, South Dakota	1946	64 Des Moines, Iowa	1997
14 Roscommon, Michigan	1947	65 Lawrence, Kansas	1998
15 Put-in-Bay, Ohio	1948	66 Lexington, Kentucky	1999
16 Lincoln, Nebraska	1949	67 Petoskey, Michigan	2000
17 Milwaukee, Wisconsin	1950		
18 Wichita, Kansas	1951		
19 Des Moines, Iowa	1952		
20 Dorset, Ontario	1953		
21 St. Louis, Missouri	1954		
22 Estes Park, Colorado	1955		
23 Springfield, Illinois	1956		
24 Park Rapids, Minnesota	1957		
25 Bismarck, North Dakota	1958		
26 West Lafayette, Indiana	1959		
27 Rapid City, South Dakota	1960		
28 Higgins Lake, Michigan	1961		
29 Omaha, Nebraska	1962		
30 Columbus, Ohio	1963		
31 Milwaukee, Wisconsin	1964		
32 Toronto, Ontario	1965		
33 Wichita, Kansas	1966		
34 Des Moines, Iowa	1967		
35 Chicago, Illinois	1968		
36 St. Louis, Missouri	1969		
37 Winnipeg, Manitoba	1970		
38 Aspen, Colorado	1971		
39 Wichita, Kansas	1972		
40 Bismarck, North Dakota	1973		
41 Duluth, Minnesota	1974		
42 Traverse City, Michigan	1975		
43 Rapid City, South Dakota	1976		
44 Lincoln, Nebraska	1977		
45 Milwaukee, Wisconsin	1978		
46 Nashville, Indiana	1979		
47 Columbus, Ohio	1980		
48 Des Moines, Iowa	1981		
49 Springfield, Illinois	1982		
50 Lexington, Kentucky	1983		
51 Hannibal, Missouri	1984		

Petoskey sunset



Sailboats in Harbor



**1999 Committee
and Working
Group List**

**COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS
OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES**

Effective August 21, 1999 - August 17, 2000

Standing Committees (identified in bylaws)

Executive Committee

President George Burgoyne (MI)
Past President Tom Bennett/Tom Young (KY)
First Vice President Roger Holmes (MN) (retired - don't know replacement)
Secretary/Treasurer Joe Kramer (KS)
At-Large Jerry Conley (MO)
At-Large Dean Hildebrand (ND)

Auditing Committee

Chairman George Burgoyne (MI)
Jeff Ver Steeg (IL)
Steve Miller (WI)

Resolutions Committee

Chairman Mike Budzik (OH)
John Mumma (CO) (retired - believe Bruce McCloskey is replacement)
Roger Holmes (MN) (retired - don't know replacement)

Nominating/Awards Committee

Chairman Gary Doxtater (IN)
Doug Hansen (SD)
Kirk Nelson (NE)

Constitution and Bylaws



Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

PREAMBLE

The name of this organization shall be the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The objectives of the Association shall be to protect the right of jurisdiction of the Midwestern states over their wildlife resources on public and private lands; to scrutinize carefully state and federal wildlife legislation and to offer support or opposition to legislative proposals or federal regulations in accordance with the best interests of the Midwestern states; to serve as a clearinghouse for the exchange of ideas concerning wildlife and fisheries management, research techniques, wildlife law enforcement, hunting and outdoor safety, and information and education; and to encourage and assist sportsmen's and conservationists' organizations so that the fullest measure of cooperation may be secured from our citizenry in the protection, preservation, restoration and management of our fish and wildlife resources.

ARTICLE I **OFFICERS**

Section 1. The Officers of the Association shall be President, First Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer. The President and First Vice-President shall be nominated from the members of the states and provinces on an alphabetical rotation bases, with the First Vice-President being from the state or province next in order of rotation. The term of office shall be for one year commencing thirty (30) days following adjournment of the annual Association meeting through thirty (30) days following adjournment of the succeeding annual meeting. The First Vice-President shall automatically succeed to President if he/she remains eligible. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected by members and serve until replaced.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the elected officers, and one representative from each state and province except those represented by the elected officers. Such state or provincial Board member shall be the chief executive officer of the fish and wildlife agency of his/her state or province, or his/her designee.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall be by states and provinces and representation of each state and province at meetings shall be by its duly authorized representative or representatives.

Section 2. The area of membership in the Association shall be the states of Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, and the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario and such additional states and provinces as may request membership and be elected by majority vote of the member states and provinces in annual meeting.

Section 3. Membership in the Association of an individual shall terminate upon the expiration of the member's term of office as a state fish and wildlife administrator.

Section 4. Persons who cannot qualify for regular membership in the Association may be elected Honorary Members by unanimous vote of members.

Section 5. Other professional organizations may be granted affiliate membership in the Association based upon demonstration that the Constitution and Bylaws of said organizations meet the basic standards of the Association. Application for affiliate membership shall be forwarded to the President at least 90 days prior to a regular meeting of the Association and shall include a current Constitution and Bylaws and a letter stating the organization's justification for affiliate membership. Affiliate membership shall be voted on by the voting representatives and must attain a majority vote of a quorum. Affiliated membership dues shall be \$25.00 per year; however, this fee may be waived by a majority vote of a quorum.

ARTICLE III

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, appoint all special committees, preside at meetings of the Board of Directors, shall record and compile proceedings of that year and perform such other duties as are naturally incumbent upon the office. Five copies of the annual proceedings shall be forwarded to each member in good standing, with the cost of preparation and handling to be paid out of Association funds. All other copies are for distribution at the discretion of the host state or province.

Section 2. The First Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the latter's absence, and specific duties may be assigned as deemed necessary by the President.

Section 3. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep a record of all transactions of the meetings of the Association, as well as meetings of the Board of Directors, shall notify members of the time and place of meetings and perform such duties as are naturally incumbent upon the office. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be custodian of all funds of the Association and draw all warrants for the payment of claims properly presented. He/she shall bill the members and collect the annual dues. It is the intent of the Association that the costs of the annual meetings and related business functions, not to exceed \$1,000.00 may be paid by the Association.

Section 4. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be custodian of all permanent files and other assets of the Association.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall conduct the business of the Association.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

One regular meeting shall be held annually. The meeting will be held in and hosted by the state or province in which the outgoing President has administrative responsibility, or in such other locations designated by the Association. When necessary, special meetings may be called by the President. Members shall be given 180 days notice of regular annual meetings and special meetings may be called on ten days notice.

ARTICLE V

VOTING

Voting shall be by states and provinces, as units. Each state and province shall have one vote. All voting shall be by voice vote, except that a request by any member state or province for a secret ballot shall be honored. Any matters of Association business requiring action in the interim between meetings may be handled by the Board of Directors, by majority vote by mail ballot.

ARTICLE VI

DUES

Annual Dues shall be \$100.00 per member state and province, payable in advance, at or before each annual meeting; provided, that annual dues may be suspended for any given year by a majority vote of a quorum.

ARTICLE VII

QUORUM

A simple majority of all member states and provinces in good standing constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENT

The Constitution and Bylaws of the Association may be amended at any regular meeting by a majority vote of a quorum; provided, however, a written copy of such proposed amendment shall have been received by the President and sent by him/her to the Secretary/Treasurer and to members at least thirty days before the regular annual meeting or special meeting called for that purpose. With approval of the First Vice-President, the President may call for voting by mail in lieu of a meeting. In this event, the thirty day notice shall still apply, the date of opening ballots shall be previously announced, written notice sent to each member within forty-eight hours of vote tabulation by the Secretary/Treasurer, and all ballots shall be kept for one year following the vote.

ARTICLE IX

COMMITTEES

Section 1. There shall be three kinds of committees: Standing, Director's Ad Hoc, and Technical Working.

Section 2. The following Standing Committees shall be appointed by the incoming President within thirty (30) days after assuming office, they shall serve during the period intervening between annual meetings and at such meetings, or until the purpose of each such committee has been accomplished and it has been discharged by the President.

- A. The Executive Committee shall be composed of six members of the Association: The President, First Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, immediate Past President, and two other members to be appointed by the President with specific consideration for geographical balance.
- B. The Auditing Committee shall be composed of three members: The Vice-President of the Association, who shall act as chairman, and two other members to be appointed by the President.
- C. The Resolutions Committee shall be composed of three members, one of which shall be designated as Chairman by the President.
- D. The Nominating/Awards Committee shall be composed of three members, one of which shall be designated as Chairman by the President.

Section 3. Ad Hoc Committees may be established as deemed necessary by the President of the Association and shall serve until the purpose of each such committee has been accomplished and it has been discharged by the President.

Section 4. The Association may establish Technical Working Committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Association. Upon establishment, these committees shall adhere to the following:

- A. Within one year from establishment, each committee shall submit to the Association for approval a Mission statement, a list of specific responsibilities, and a description of operating procedures that will become part of the official minutes of the Association.
- B. All Technical Working Committees shall submit a written report to the President 30 days in advance of the annual meeting and may choose to conduct necessary committee business during the period between annual meetings as per their approved operating procedures.
- C. Resolutions from Technical Working Committees for Association action shall be submitted to the Chair of the Resolutions Committee.

Amended: July, 1996

Meet & Greet @ AMFWA Conference



MARK SARGENT AND EARL WOLF



RAY EVANS AND CHUCK PILS

AMFWA "President's" Award



CONFERENCE COORDINATOR, SHARON SCHALOW (MI DNR) AND BOB SCHALOW



GEORGE BURGUYNE RECEIVING AWARD FROM GARY DOXTATER



PAT RUBLE (BACK), DICK PIERCE, JOE KRAMER, DOUG HANSEN, AND ROB MANES.



GEORGE BURGUYNE AND ROB MANES

Attendance Roster

**ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES
ATTENDANCE ROSTER
ANNUAL MEETING - JULY 16-18, 2000
PETOSKEY, MICHIGAN**

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Agenda

Association of Midwest

July 16-18, 2000 Meeting
Host: Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Stafford's Perry Hotel
Potoskey, MI

Fish & Wildlife Agencies

Agenda: Meetings held in Reycraft Room

Sunday, July 16

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Register (registration fee \$85.00)
Checks payable to AMFWA

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Social Hour

Monday, July 17

7:00- 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast (*on own*) Rose Room serves
breakfast from 7-10:30 a.m.

8:30- 9:30 a.m.

SPEAKER: K.L. Cool, MDNR Director
• Welcome to the Michigan DNR
Tim Roby, Chief, Office of
Information Services
• Millenium Project

9:30 - 10:00 a.m.

SPEAKER: Chuck Pils
CITES REPORT

10:00-10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15-11:15 a.m.

SPEAKER: Dan O'Brien, MDNR Wildlife
Bovine TB in Wildlife

11:15-Noon •

SPEAKER: Scott Berg, MDNR Law Enforcement
Automatic Vehicle Locator/Global
Positioning System Applications
(AVL/GPS)

12:15-1:15 p.m.

Lunch served in Reycraft Room

**Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies
July 16-18, 2000 Meeting**

Monday, July 17

1:15-2:15 p.m.

SPEAKER: Gary Whelan, MDNR Fisheries
Hatchery Renovation Project and
Great Lakes Ecological Information
Center Project.

2:15-2:30 p.m.

Gather things (Wear comfortable walking shoes)
meet spouses; if riding in van, meet by 2:30p.m.

2:30 -3:00 p.m.

Travel to Oden Hatchery (Directions: Take US31
North approximately 5 miles; hatchery on left
side of the road)

3:00-4:15 p.m.

FIELD TRIP: *Spouses Welcome *(RSVP)*
Fish Hatchery Renovation Site (Oden)

4:15-4:30 p.m.

Travel to Petoskey Marina

4:30 p.m.

DINNER: *Spouses Welcome *(RSVP)*
Fish Boil @Petoskey Marina

**Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies
July 16-18, 2000 Meeting**

Tuesday, July 18

7:00-8:30 a.m.

Breakfast (*on own*) Rose Room serves
breakfast from 7-10:30 a.m

8:30 a.m.

MEETING

- Federal Aid Issues Affecting States
- Private Lands Working Group

10:00-10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15-Noon

MEETING

- Public Lands Management Working Group
- 202 Farm Bill
- Other Subjects as Needed

Noon

Lunch (on own)

1:00 p.m.

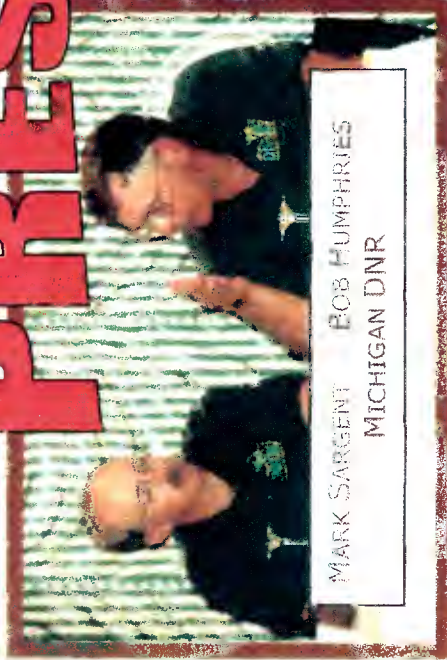
MEETING

3:00pm

Adjourn

*RSVP – Schalow@state.mi.us
Or 517-373-0046 Or @ Registration in Petoskey

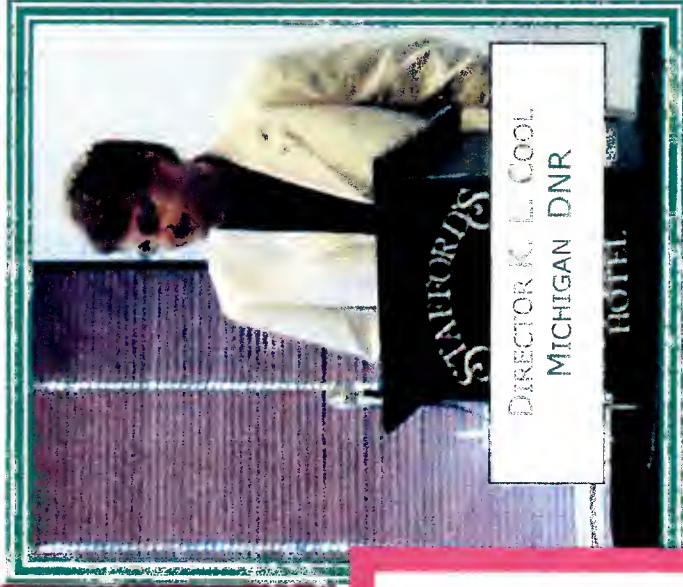
PRESENTATIONS



MARK SARGENT BOB HUMPHRIES
MICHIGAN DNR



C.O. SCOTT BERG
MICHIGAN DNR



DIRECTOR K. L. COOL
MICHIGAN DNR



GARY WHELAN, MICHIGAN DNR



CHUCK PILS, CITES REPORT



TIM ROBY
MICHIGAN DNR



GARY BILOW, MICHIGAN DNR

**Speaker
Presentation
Briefing and
Field Trip Notes**

**Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Annual Meeting
July 17, 2000**

Attendees:

George Burgoyne, President – Michigan
K.L. Cool - Michigan
Sharon Schalow – Michigan
Bob Schalow - Michigan
Earl Wolf – Michigan
Tim Roby – Michigan
Dan O'Brien – Michigan
Scott Berg – Michigan
Gary Whalen - Michigan
Mark Sargent – Michigan
Bob Humphries – Michigan
Eric Sink - Michigan
Kelley Smith, Michigan
Gary Bilow, Michigan
Chuck Pils – CITES - Wisconsin
Keith Sexson – Kansas
Joe Kramer, Secretary/Treasurer – Kansas
Robert Ahrens – Kansas
Sheila Kemmis – Kansas
Tom Young - Kentucky
Dr. Jim Rich - Kentucky
Rob Manes – WMI
Gary Doxtater, At-Large – Indiana
Glen Salmon – Indiana
Pat Ruble – Ohio
Mike Budzik – Ohio
Doug Hansen – South Dakota
Gerald Ross – Missouri
Tom Niebauer – Wisconsin
Bob Miles – IAFWA
Ray Evans – IAFWA
Greg Smith – IAFWA
Dick Pierce – Ducks Unlimited

K.L. Cool, Michigan - (Welcome to Michigan and the Millennium Project) – Director Cook presented a brief overview of the award-winning education program. He explained how the “glass world” of TV, computers and video games are replacing the natural world of Michigan’s youth. He said it is obvious children are becoming disconnected with our State’s glorious natural heritage. The DNR wants to reverse the trend, partly by implementing the youth education recommendations from Governor John Engler’s Hunting Heritage Task Force report (1996). The DNR is committed to identifying a

“connection” that delivers DNR-specific and Michigan-specific education programs to a wide range of audiences in a fun and effective manner.

Tim Roby, Michigan - (Millennium Project – 4th grade educational promotion) – Explained the educational project in more detail handing out some of the materials being used and talked about how Michigan came up with the cartoon characters. He stated that the project is designed to reach Michigan’s youth and families in schools, at home and over the Internet with the simple message: “It’s great fun to be in Michigan’s great outdoors!” He explained how the DNR youth education initiative will help students and families Learn more about Michigan natural resources, gain an Appreciation of our outdoors, and have Fun in the process.

Earl Wolf, Michigan - (Slide Presentation – no speech)

Chuck Pils, Wisconsin - (CITES Report) - Submitted his expense report for the 11th Conference of The Parties (COP 11) meeting which was held in Gigiri, Kenya. Expenses were above the \$5,000 approved by the AMFWA; Chuck explained the additional costs were a result of higher hotel costs, along with higher meal charges. The AMFWA voted and approved the higher expense report submitted by Chuck and agreed to pay the \$879.79. Chuck then gave a brief slide presentation of the COP 11 meeting held April 10-20, 2000. Bruce Taubert (Arizona Game and Fish) represented the Western Association; Gordon Robertson (West Virginia Game and Fish) represented the NE Association; Don MachLauchlan (International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies) represented the SE Association; and Gary Graham (Texas Parks and Wildlife) served as the liaison to the U.S. delegation. Efforts to place spotted turtles on Appendix II, which were supported by the State Wildlife Agencies and The U.S. delegation, were rejected by the CITES delegation, on the grounds that there was not enough evidence of international trade. A similar proposal to list timber rattlers under Appendix II was then withdrawn by the U.S. delegation because of the lack of support for the proposal by the CITES membership. The state agency representatives did considerable positive lobbying and networking with other countries and NGO’s on issues such as gyrfalcon listing, bear parts, animals used for research, movement of sample crocodile skins, and sturgeons. We have established a strong rapport with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and will continue to work proactively with them on consideration of possible future listings of alligator snapping turtles and map turtles on Appendix III. Chuck Pils has also established an electronic link with state herp representatives to alert them of any future CITES-related issues. He will attend various CITES related meetings in the future as a representative of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (The Wisconsin DNR will pay for these expenses).

Dan O’Brien, Michigan - (TB in Wildlife) – Bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*) is capable of infecting a wide variety of host species. Requiring close contact with infected individuals or contaminated areas for transmission, bovine TB’s spread is enhanced by crowding and stress. While historically a rare disease in wild cervids, the current outbreak of bovine TB in Michigan is the first self-sustaining outbreak of *M. bovis* ever recorded in a free-ranging North American cervid population. Since the first case presented in 1975, of 38,607 deer subjected to bacterial culture, 285 free-ranging

deer from 11 counties have tested positive for *M. bovis*. In addition to deer, elk and furbearers are subject to ongoing surveillance. Thus far, none of the ~600 elk tested have been positive for bovine TB. Twelve of 680 carnivores and omnivores tested from 11 species have cultured TB positive, though none has borne the outward signs of TB that generally characterize reservoir hosts. Seven of 12 were coyotes. Identical *M. bovis* strains have been isolated from all species that have cultured positive thus far. Recognizing the unprecedented nature of the current outbreak, disease control scientists have implicated high deer densities and the focal concentrations caused by baiting and recreational feeding as the factors most likely responsible for the establishment of self-sustaining tuberculosis in free-ranging Michigan deer. By drawing multiple groups of deer into close contact with each other repeatedly, baiting and recreational feeding provide ideal conditions for the transmission of bovine TB via both inhalation of infectious aerosols and ingestion of TB contaminated feed. The strategies for eradicating bovine TB from free-ranging Michigan deer are twofold: first, to minimize concentrations of deer by eliminating baiting and recreational feeding, and second, to reduce deer numbers through hunting to the biological carrying capacity. Since autumn of 1998, a ban on baiting and recreational feeding of deer has been implemented in the Northeastern Lower Peninsula, in addition to extra rifle seasons. Unlimited antlerless permits have also been made available. Concurrent with these measures, the deer population in the area has decreased substantially, and measures of apparent TB prevalence have decreased by half, providing hopeful preliminary evidence that eradication strategies are succeeding. Surveillance plans for 2000 include expanded intensive (215–700 deer/county) testing in the Northern Lower and Southern Upper Peninsulas, and testing of ≥ 36 deer in all other counties, with a statewide goal of 17,000 deer tested. Mandatory testing of all hunter harvested and road killed elk will continue, as well as testing of carnivores and omnivores from the Northeastern Lower Peninsula to better define their potential reservoir status.

Scott Berg, Michigan - (Automatic Vehicle Location – AVS/GPS applications)
Introduction: The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division has implemented a statewide AVL-GPS (Automatic Vehicle Locator – Global Positioning System) program to assist conservation officers in the field. AVL-GPS provides updated information regarding the conservation officer's location, direction of travel, speed, and emergency equipment status (i.e., lights/siren activation). The system reports a vehicle's position every 30 seconds, which is sent to a central computer located at the communications center in Lansing. Dispatchers are able to view a detailed map to ascertain an officer's location in the event of an emergency. The officer is able to use an in-car computer to view his/her location, as well as the activities of surrounding units by using a moving map. Two-way messaging can be used with AVL-GPS, voice free. An officer can also conduct driver's license and hunting/fishing license information queries by accessing Michigan's LEIN (Law Enforcement Information Network) and RSS (Retail Sales System) databases, all from the comfort of the patrol vehicle. In the event of an emergency, an officer is able to activate an emergency alert by depressing a button on the system. A collision sensor is also placed in the vehicle that will trigger an alert in the event of a serious crash. The alerts are sent to the communications center, where the dispatcher is able to take action to assist the officer. The AVL-GPS program continues to

be beneficial to the officer's safety in the field by combining state-of-the-art technology with professional training. AVL-GPS History: 1) Contractor – Meteor Communications Corporation, Kent WA; 2) British Columbia Ministry of Forestry uses for fire resource tracking; 3) Introduced to Law Enforcement Division, 1996; 4) Geared towards enhanced officer safety; 5) Utilizes current infrastructure, low band radio towers; 6) \$1.5m initial cost; 7) Several updates and add-ons, \$3.5m; 8) First test units implemented in District 6 (Cadillac area); 9) Currently 165 Conservation Officer units in field; 10) Laptop Computers are being issued, 6 in testing, 58 in training; 11) Fisheries Division w/ hatchery trucks; 12) Forest Management Division with Dozers and mobile command center. Orient Program: 1) Map Information; 2) Icon Colors/Shapes; 3) Drop Down Menus. : Demonstration: 1) Zoom in on map (low detail to fine detail); 2) Select Unit, a) View Status, b) Identify boxes w/ descriptions, c) Send a message to unit, d) Locate More Info. Menu, e) Demonstrate Alert Handling, e) Conduct Unit Replay 4-120, 7/1/00, 1450 HRS, f) Drop/Label Marker, g) Use ruler to determine distances, h) Print Screen/Make Map. Dispatch Applications: 1) Ability to communicate w/ Conservation Officers voice free. Officer Applications: 1) Automatic Vehicle Location; 2) Global Positioning; 3) Moving Map; 4) In-car LEIN/NCIC/RSS; 5) E-Mail; 6) Real-time messaging.

Gary Whelan, Michigan Fisheries Division –
The Michigan Hatchery Renovation Program Summary
State Fish Hatchery Locations

Key Issues 1) Water Supply, Treatment and Distribution; 2) Energy Use; 3) Broodstock Management; 4) Coolwater Production; 5) Building and Raceway Condition; 6) Marking Capabilities; 7) Effluent Management; a. Pond stabilization b. Improved solids collection and microscreening c. Water Reuse. Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery: 1) Project Description - Effluent treatment improvements and effluent pond stabilization including dredging. A new coolwater production building will be constructed north of the existing raceways. 2) Project Status - Effluent improvements completed. Design work on the new coolwater building will start in Fall 2000 with construction in Spring 2001. Harrietta State Fish Hatchery: 1) Project Description - Effluent treatment improvements and effluent pond stabilization. 2) Project Status - Project completed. Thompson State Fish Hatchery: 1) Project Description - Renovate inflow treatment system and add additional coldwater supplies. 2) Project Status - New well field is complete with sufficient coldwater yield. New water treatment system in final design. Expected project completion construction in the fall. Oden State Fish Hatchery: 1) Project Description - To build a new state-of-the-art fish production facility north of the current facility. Project will include 25% re-use of production water and state-of-the-art effluent control. 2) Project Status - Final drawings are complete. Site clearing is complete, site pre-loading completed and hydro geological work is complete. Sufficient groundwater supplies were found. Construction is underway and will be completed in Fall 2001. Marquette State Fish Hatchery: 1) Project Description - Repair floor warping problem and replace faulty roof. 2) Project Status - Preliminary design work is complete. Platte River State Fish Hatchery: 1) Project Description - Renovate existing hatchery to rebuild outside raceway complex, install new effluent system, new well water for incubation, and new headbox. 2) Project Status -Design phase has started and construction will start Spring 2001. Hydro geological work is complete and minimal new groundwater is available. Project

Cost: Total Project Cost = \$20 million. Money Sources: 1) State Building Bonds. 2) Game and Fish Fund.

The Great Lakes Ecological Information Center Project Summary

Project Cooperators: The Problem - The Status of Great Lakes Ecosystem Information: 1) Information is very fragmented; 2) Information does not keep pace with current research; 3) Difficult to obtain in understandable forms. Project Vision: Opportunity - 1) MDNR Hatcheries are distributed throughout the state; 2) MDNR Hatcheries currently attract 100,000 visitors per year; 3) Visitors are inclined to learn about Great Lakes Ecology. Current Status of Hatchery Interpretation: 1) The emphasis is strictly on the hatchery and there is really no discussion about Great Lakes ecosystems, or their functioning. 2) There is no indoor interpretation and limited old outdoor signage at Oden Hatchery. 3) Interpretative centers at Harrietta and Thompson are small and the displays are obsolete. Outdoor interpretation is out of date. 4) The Wolf Lake and Platte River Interpretative Centers' displays and layout are obsolete. Outdoor interpretation is out of date. 5) The Marquette Interpretative Center was never completed and has no displays. Main Themes: 1) The workings of Great Lakes ecosystems. 2) Great Lakes fisheries - their history and rehabilitation. 3) Connection of streams to the Great Lakes and their importance to ad fluvial fish. 4) Interactions with and impacts of humans on the Great Lakes watershed. How will the information be provided? 1) Indoor exhibits that provide up-to-date information about Great Lakes ecosystems and excite citizens to understand more about this ecosystem. 2) Outdoor signage and trails to provide visitors hands-on information on the fish and ecosystems of the Great Lakes. Core Indoor Exhibit: 1) Diorama of the life cycle of fish, the role of fish in Great Lakes ecosystems; the different life histories of fish in this system; role of hatcheries in fisheries management and Great Lakes fish population rehabilitation 3) Kiosk with a touch screen, Great Lakes ecosystems; key Great Lakes issues including in stream flow issues; the role of hatcheries in fisheries management 4) Fisheries exhibits, what is going on at the hatchery; who works here and what do they do. Oden Hatchery Great Lakes Information Center: 1) Develop an outdoor trail system to interpret watershed functions and discuss Great Lakes linkages to inland systems. 2) Discuss the importance of appropriate flows to maintain stream functions. 3) Redevelop the old raceway system to show stream rehabilitation techniques and to show human impacts on stream systems. Trail Exhibits - Oden Hatchery Great Lakes Information Center: 1) Restore the original 1921 hatchery building as a special exhibit area and as an auditorium. 2) Restore two old railroad cars for interpretation, One will be developed to resemble the Wolverine fish car; One will be developed as a visitors center. Platte River Hatchery Great Lakes Information Center: 1) Special emphasis on the role of large tributaries in Great Lakes systems; flow issues for larger streams; and the salmon program. 2) Full core interpretative display. 3) New interpretative trail system and signage. Wolf Lake Hatchery Great Lakes Information Center: 1) Full core interpretative display and updating of current exhibits. 2) New outdoor trail system and signage. 3) Special emphasis at Wolf Lake Hatchery on the history of Michigan Great Lakes fisheries which will examine pre-contact, early and current fish populations. Additional areas of emphasis on lake and pond roles in watersheds; and on coolwater rehabilitation. 4) Lake sturgeon exhibits that details life history, the historic and current fishery, and current rehabilitation efforts. Marquette Hatchery Great Lakes Information Center:

1) Full core indoor exhibit; 2) New interpretative trail and signage; 3) Focus on lake trout and brook trout rehabilitation; Cherry Creek geomorphology; and flow issues for smaller streams. Thompson Hatchery Great Lakes Information Center: 1) Scaled down core indoor exhibit; 2) Smaller lab module; 3) Life cycle model and Kiosk; 4) New interpretative trail system and signage; 5) A stream ecosystem trail system that interprets stream rehabilitation techniques; and the connection of smaller streams to Great Lakes ecosystems to include ADA fishing opportunities; 6) Coolwater rehabilitation and Coho program will be additional areas of emphasis. Harrietta Hatchery Great Lakes Information Center: 1) Scaled down core indoor exhibit; 2) Smaller lab module, Life cycle model; Kiosk. 3) New interpretative trail system and signage; 4) A stream ecosystem trail system that interprets headwater stream functions in the Great Lakes. Project Evaluation: 1) Continuous exhibit and information evaluation from fish food machines. 2) Peer review of all information and materials. 3) Prototype testing of displays at outdoor shows and state fairs.

Field Trip to Oden Hatchery

Fish Boil at Petoskey Marina

**July 16-18
2000**

JOE KRAMER, AMFWA
SECRETARY/TREASURER



MIKE BUDZIK, TOM YOUNG AND GEORGE BURGOYNE

AMFWA Business Meeting

BOB MILES AND TOM NIEBAUER



(BACK) DICK PIERCE, (FRONT LEFT)
GERALD ROSSI, AND OLIVIA HANSEN



SHEILA KEMMIS



AROUND TABLE, FRONT TO BACK: ERIC SMITH,
DR. RICH, ROB MANES, CHUCK PILS, GREG
SMITH, TOM NIEBAUER, BOB MILES AND RAY
EVANS



PAT RUBLE AND MIKE BUDZIK



DICK PIERCE, PAT RUBLE AND MIKE BUDZIK



Business Meeting Minutes

**Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Business Meeting
July 18, 2000**

These minutes are not verbatim, but as close as possible, due to the poor quality of the tape recording.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Called meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Joe Kramer, Kansas - Roll Call: Kansas, Missouri Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Michigan were present.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – I received a letter from Colorado asking to withdraw from the Midwest Association, as they are also members of the Western Association. I will send a letter back to them and acknowledge their withdrawal. (*Appendix I*)

Joe Kramer, Kansas – Sheila Kemmis handed out a treasurer's report and a spreadsheet on the Jaschek Trust. For those of you new to the Association, what we do is we report the treasurer's report on a calendar basis. You have before you 1999, with total assets beginning on January 1, 1999. We had \$215,453.32; Receipts: 98 & 99 Dues-\$3,400.00 (some states had gotten behind so we went ahead and collected for both years), Kansas conference reimbursement-\$242.71, interest-\$7,746.90, capital gains-\$5,765.04 (our \$50,000 fund that we will talk more about later on the Jaschek Trust – if sold in the calendar year of 1999); for total receipts of \$17,154.65. This pushed the total available assets up to \$232,607.97. Disbursements in calendar year 1999, \$750.00-Speers (Because of the Jaschek Trust money, IRS asked us to report for 3 calendar years, I am not a CPA so with the authority from the Association we had a CPA review and report to the IRS. Those reports were made available to the Audit Committee; \$10,000.00 to CARA (also, an additional \$5,000.00 came from the great state of Minnesota which made the total amount \$15,000.00 that was sent in calendar year 1999), \$22.98-trophy fees (for awards, etc.), \$6,369.20-Pils (includes Nairobi trip that Chuck spoke about yesterday, his expenses did exceed what was approved so today we will have to approve those fees and will have Chuck visit with us a little bit about that), for a total of \$17,142.18, that gave us net assets December 31, 1999 of \$215,465.79. We also broke out the accounting of assets as of December 31, 1999; Cash in checking account-\$2,918.23, cash in savings-\$199.55, cash in CD accounts-\$159,452.14, Waddell Reed money market (which is actually a money market that we thought we had closed out, but they keep sending us a statement. Evidently there was some additional money compounded in that money market that we weren't aware of, so we need to close that out.)-\$31.59, the Merrill Lynch money account-\$52,864.28, giving total assets of \$215,465.79. That is the treasurer's report for calendar year 1999. (*Appendix II*)

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Do I have a motion to accept the treasurer's report? The audit committee met this morning and went over the treasurer's report and found it to be satisfactory and complete. Any comments or discussions? All in favor of accepting the treasurer's report as read say, I.

Keith Sexson moved to accept Treasurer's Report as submitted, Mike Budzik second. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Kramer, Kansas – There are a couple of other items on the treasurers report that need to be discussed. One would be the Chuck Pils deal, so that we can decide to pay the overage.

Chuck Pils, Wisconsin – The hotel accommodations and the trips back and forth in Nairobi were more expensive and exceeded the \$5,000, the amount requested is \$879.89, to cover additional costs. (*Appendix III*)

Mike Budzik moved to pay overage, Tom Young second.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – It was moved to pay the additional expenses, are there any other questions?

Mike Budzik, Ohio – I think that it is important to have representation at the CITES conferences, if he wasn't there we would not be able to get our views across.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – It has been moved and seconded that we approve the added expense of Chuck's last trip on our behalf. All of those in favor say I.

Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Kramer, Kansas – Mr. President, the other issue is the Jaschek account and if the Association remembers we had a committee and Doug Hansen is going to report on some of the activities of the Jaschek Trust, Doug is the Chairman of that committee.

Doug Hansen, South Dakota - Acting Chair. I am reporting on behalf of Steve Miller who is the Chairman. If you recall, last year we did draft some recommended procedures on the purpose and use of the Jaschek fund. Basically, I am on page two of the proposal I just handed out. For those of you unfamiliar with this we have not disbursed any of the interest generated by the fund. If we refer back to Joe we will know a little bit better about how much money we are talking about. In theory this, roughly \$210,000, is to be invested and to generate some interest annually and that would remain basically in a trust fund and the interest could be spent on projects with a worthy cause. What the Committee tried to do was to provide some guidelines of what those worthy causes would be. You can see in the general guidelines that we would use it to support new legislative efforts, such as CARA, also effort to reauthorize very important legislation like the Farm Bill. On the second page, the money could be used in support of activities such as CITES, supporting conferences and the last bullet there was suggested by Jeff Ver Steeg who is on the Committee and I need to report that he has since withdrawn that recommendation. It was his idea to present a cash award in recognition of some Midwest Association members for outstanding service, but it is now Jeff's feeling that it should not be done. We also listed some things that it should not be used for. There were some suggestions

then that, if we were going to use this, what were the procedures, how do we logistically get the money, make the decisions and get the money to people who are interested in applying for it. Pages 3 and 4 lay out some procedures to follow where we would actually receive requests on an annual basis. It was implied here that we had to announce somehow that this money was available and could be awarded and that the requests were to be submitted to the President by April 1. The President would provide copies to the Executive Committee by April 20 and then the Executive Committee would meet and make a recommendation. That would then come before the entire membership at the annual meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer will follow up. If we were to grant money to outside sources, which we presume we would do, that would be a consideration for the group and this would be the procedure to follow. From my perspective I think we need to revisit whether this is what we want to do. There are two issues here, what we do with the money and how we invest that and then what do we do with the interest generated. It isn't doing anybody any good just sitting there drawing interest. Any comments or questions?
(Appendix IV)

Tom Young, Kentucky – We have funded CARA for two years?

Joe Kramer, Kansas – We have funding Teaming and CARA, we have funded \$70,000 from when we started Teaming and it became CARA. The Association sent \$50,000 last, \$25,000 the year before, which actually took the Jaschek fund below the \$210,000 that particular year. It just so happened that that was the same year that we said we would lock that fund in and we had already noted to send CARA \$25,000. The year before that we collected from each state and sent them \$30,000. Max knows it and has sent a letter back to the Association for three years of CARA funding, which amounted to \$70,000.

Tom Young, Kentucky – My point being, that we have already funded CARA and CITES and those have been the major things we have done.

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – Are there any changes or corrections to this draft? A couple that I noticed, under the first paragraph, purpose and use of the fund, it mentions game, nongame, endangered species and habitats and I think fisheries should be here. I think it should be included. Somebody has to stand up for the fisheries.

Mike Budzik, Ohio – It does say for fish and wildlife programs but you could put it in for point of publication if you want.

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – I also see a few typos there and I would propose that we delete the last item as far as providing cash awards for outstanding service.

Gary Doxtater, Indiana – Jeff had made that request?

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – He actually made that request last year and upon reflection we felt we did not want it.

Gary Doxtater, Indiana – In verbal introduction you mentioned notifying people that this money is available. Does that show here?

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – No its not, on the second page it starts out, "Requests shall be considered on an annual basis", I guess it was my thought that if nobody knows about it then we might not get any requests.

Gary Doxtater, Indiana – I guess my concern would be that our Association knows it and if we know it is available in a broad spectrum, we will have everybody and their brother applying for this. We know it is available and I think Directors should have the responsibility of seeing that people know it is available.

Doug Hansen, South Dakota - I think that is a good point and we should keep it low key. We all know about it and it should stay within the Midwest.

Keith Sexson, Kansas – Is there a minimum balance that we need to carry in the trust fund?

Joe Kramer, Kansas – Yes, roughly \$210,000. What happened in 1998, that was the year that we locked the fund in. The Association decided that we were not going to touch the principal, we would lock this in and then we would have access to that fund and at the same meeting we made the decision to send \$25,000 to CARA. That knocked it below the \$210,000. We will not allow that to happen again. The Audit Committee this morning discussed how when we invested in CDs, if you look at your 1999 report, \$150,000 of the Jaschek funds are in CDs and \$53,952 is in the Merrill Lynch account. We don't have access to that. The CDs were put in at 6-month, 12-month, 18-month and 24-month intervals, so the interest that came off the CDs was not available at the same time. We have been working on a way to get all of interest, all of the available money, from the trust that could then be used for projects and be made available before the July meeting. Actually available in May, so that recommendations of this particular committee made on selecting projects, roughly \$10,000 would be made available and would be there for the committee, 30 days prior to the annual meeting. It has been a learning process to try and get this lined out. We also provided the Audit Committee assets available as of June 30, which the Association wants us to do. We can still give you a calendar year report and also give you a copy of the report up till June so that we know what is available. That figure, if you want to mark it down, is \$223,050.19 as of June 30, 2000.

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – Joe, the best-case scenario when we get this all figured out, is if it gets rolling like we conceptually thought it would, where we have the trust fund and it is generating annual interest that we can utilize, what are we going to have in terms of money.

Joe Kramer, Kansas – I think minimal should be 5% on \$210,000, which would be roughly \$10,000, made available annually.

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – That is what we are looking at. Our capability for providing funding from this fund is limited so keep that in mind. We are looking at a procedure that would disburse potentially \$10,000 a year.

Tom Young, Kentucky – A point. The \$50,000 that we agreed to fund for the Farm Bill Coordinator at the International level, I believe the motion went back that we could either access each state for that amount, which we did this past year, or we could choose to distribute some of that money for that, am I right?

Joe Kramer, Kansas – We did discuss that this much money, if the Association continues to contribute \$50,000 then we said we could do that, but there wouldn't be enough money, this is only 10% of that.

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – Mr. President, I wonder if the proper action would be to request the approval of this in principle, these guidelines and procedures that have been drafted by this Jaschek Fund Committee with the changes that I mentioned and with the understanding that we would clean up the typos and get the dates in the proper order.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Do you want to make that motion?

Doug Hansen moved to accept draft proposal with changes, Gary Doxtater second.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Any other questions or concerns, comments or discussion?

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – Steve Miller deserves credit for this.

Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin – I will share that with Mr. Miller.

Gary Doxtater, Indiana – I have a question, in your discussions, because of our financial status, are we in compliance as far as IRS is concerned? Do we need to file?

Joe Kramer, Kansas – The only way we would have to, is if our annual income would exceed \$25,000. Mike Speers is available on an annual basis; he is the one that said we did not have to file this year because we did not exceed that. The only way that would happen was if the Merrill Lynch fund does something other than what it has been doing. We discussed today that once the Merrill Lynch fund matures that we would put that into CDs and not have to deal with the Merrill Lynch account. It has a 5-year maturity on the \$50,000 that we put in there. Anything we do that would put us above the \$25,000 annual income would require us to file. IRS may call and say that they want to audit us and as soon as they do that then Mike Speers is going to get involved in this.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – All those in favor of the motion to accept the report in principle, with those changes, say I.

Motion passed with changes.

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – Just for clarification, the decision to put this into trust and use the principal was made a few years ago by the Executive Board. It is my assumption that sometime in the future, if an Executive Board would meet they could change this that is not etched in stone, there could be a decision to spend it all and get rid of it. I assume that could be done by a decision of some new Executive Board. I am not necessarily recommending that, but I think it should be understood that the possibility exists. If something really big comes up and we want to spend all \$200,000 and be big players on something, then that possibility exists. Is that what you understood Gary?

Gary Doxtater, Indiana – I think it would be like anything else, I would hope if something like that came up that it would be brought before the whole body. If everybody agrees to it then it could be done.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – I think that is a decision that we would have to make as a group not just as an Executive Committee.

Joe Kramer, Kansas – The only other item that the Secretary/Treasurer is responsible for has historically been record keeping and proceedings. It is obvious from this meeting, we have six states that aren't even here, it seems like there is more and more that is expected of states when it comes to meetings. One of the Secretary/Treasurer's responsibilities is the proceedings and I don't know how familiar you are with the Western or the Southeast Associations, but generally the proceedings are done in 30 days. Because everyone is so busy we run into each other at this meeting once a year, I would recommend to the body that we bring in someone like Sheila Kemmis, to help with annual proceedings. She has done a lot of these kinds of things in the past; Sheila works for Kansas Wildlife and Parks. She could help us so that we get these proceedings out in 30 days, because it is important that we get these out. The Western Association meets for a whole week and their Secretary/Treasurer sends me a copy of their proceedings and I am impressed with the way they do that. We have said ourselves, what do we do if we don't tell people what we do, so it gets a little bit lost and we lose our ability to do good things that we all want to do. We also know from each state coming into this that there is a lot to do and there are a lot of things that the President needs to work pretty close with past presidents, the Executive Committee and the Secretary/Treasurer on so that we can keep things out in front of us and get a lot of these important issues out. Kentucky did an excellent job with their proceedings and we are not trying to tell you how to do your proceedings. Sheila, Keith and I have discussed this and how we could better get these proceedings generated, get them out in the body of the Association hands quicker. In that way we know that what we do gets out there. If you look and see what Tom Young did, it is pretty dang impressive. Like Gary Doxtater said, what difference does it make? If you look at the Farm Bill and CARA alone, if you look at historically how critical that is and how big of a role this Association played with the Farm Bill and CARA, we should be able to look back 10 years from now and we should be pretty proud of where we are going to end up. The Association needs to be a part of that and in order to do that we have to stay in front of all this and I think one way to do that is to make sure that our records and activities are

given to membership as quickly as possible. I would suggest that the Board consider allowing Sheila to come and help the host state with the proceedings.

Gary Duxtater, Indiana – We have seen the consistency with you being in that position since I have been around and that is an important part of record keeping. We have seen it takes a lot of staff time and when each state takes it on you have to find somebody, a different person every time. I think that consistency is important and it is appreciated. If you and the State of Kansas would take that responsibility on, then the Association ought to help with your travel, not for you, but Sheila.

Tom Young, Kentucky – I agree with what Gary was talking about and I know I was late in getting it out, no doubt, but a lot of things happen and it gets put off and I finally got it out. I think it would be a good idea to have one state doing it; of course you are already in a good position. Even a bigger issue to me, in terms of these minutes, if we don't start getting better participation at these meetings, in terms of the states and the Service and everywhere else, maybe this is getting off in another area, but I have been going to these meeting now for about 10 years and I have seen an evolution occurring that I really don't like. I don't think it has anything to do with the meetings, but if the states don't start participating more and we don't get the USFWS people and the different organizations that we once had, we might not have a need for meetings or minutes. I am just throwing that in because others have these same concerns, but I have seen a lot of things happen over the last 10 years and the Midwest is very important as far as decision making on Farm Bills and all kinds of issues and if it is not going to happen at the director's level in the states, then where is it going to happen? That is where the decisions are going to be made. I just wanted to throw that in, but I think it would be a good idea for the minutes to be done by you so that we can lend some consistency to it.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Do we have a motion to that effect?

Gary Duxtater moved, Tom Young second.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – We have a motion and a second, any other discussion?

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – Gary, does that include reimbursement by the Association?

Gary Duxtater, Indiana - I would like to put that in there if that is an option. I would like to see that so that they can figure their travel budget for next year and I think it is important.

Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin – Mr. President, Mr. Miller from Wisconsin expressed some of the same type of discussion that you had here about the importance of this regional Association. Particularly, the fact that the broad issues that are going on in the United States that there are several states that are members of the Midwest Association are not in the same region in terms of the USFWS, that could bring some new ideas as far as having several federal regions represented here as well. Indirectly of being in favor of this

motion, I would like to take the pleasure of introducing what we in Wisconsin might call a hypocrite, he was born in Michigan, educated in Wisconsin and used to work with the USGS and now is a member of the International, Greg Smith. Who as I understand, one of his assignments within the International is to work with regional associations. I am not sure exactly what that means but I think later on Greg will speak when Bob talks about the International. I think it is a small step, maybe a large step in the Midwest Association, I think that there is a broader opportunity. I am in support of that option to get proceedings out.

Rob Manes, WMI – I agree with Joe to getting the proceedings out, that is very important. One of the keys to enhance and draw interest to the issues that the Midwest deals with is to come up with a summary of action items, a page or two pages. These should be submitted to the Directors right after the meeting, as you know, sometimes there is not enough time to read the proceedings, they are important and I think you need to do them, but a summary of action items that went to the Directors, that might help people focus on what is important to the Midwest and draw people back into the Association. We are thinking of a page or two pages, with a cover memo from the President.

Joe Kramer, Kansas – This wasn't a tar and feather Kentucky thing at all, in fact, if you go back, Kentucky, as far as getting the proceedings done, having a record of it, they did a much better job then some of the other states in the last seven or eight years or so. This wasn't a, let's pick on Tom thing.

Tom Young, Kentucky – I didn't think it was.

Chuck Pils, Wisconsin – I think it is an excellent idea and maybe we could use electronic mail to get them out quickly.

Tom Young, Kentucky – I think it is a great idea; a quick summary would be really good. I did one but it was really late.

Rob Manes, WMI – The email is not a bad idea at all. Somebody could go back in an hour and summarize what was discussed; it doesn't have to be perfect. The idea is to have something to look at.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Do we have a motion to take you up on your offer to take care of the proceedings and as part of that, the Midwest will pay travel expenses?

Keith Sexson, Kansas – As a point of clarification, are we also talking about the one or two page action items thing, about us doing that as well as the minutes? It shouldn't be hard to do those as well as the minutes; we could pick those items out. Certainly if we send them out there is that opportunity for people to come back to us to add this particular point as well and we could add them into the official report.

Joe Kramer, Kansas – We could also get the email addresses of the body of the membership so that information could immediately go to the President and the Executive Committee, and the body as well.

Tom Young, Kentucky – The only other comment I have is, having done the meetings. There are certain ways you can do it, you can do it word for word, comment by comment or you can do summaries. I did some presentations in summary, but I tried to do the actual committee and votes verbatim. I don't know how you all intend to do it and I don't even know what everybody desires, whether it has to be word for word, and we made the motion and Joe second, I don't know what is the proper call for that.

Joe Kramer, Kansas – We will just experiment with it and we will use this meeting as the first opportunity to experiment with it and let the Executive Board take a look at it and we can discuss it at the next meeting.

Keith Sexson, Kansas – Sheila does our Commission meetings, she is the Secretary to the Commission and those are fairly detailed in some ways, particularly if we can get good tape recordings from these meetings.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – All those in favor say I.

Motion passed unanimously.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – What I would like to do next is take the Private Land Working Group report. While Mark is getting up there I would remind folks that check out time is 11:00 a.m., so when we take our break be sure you get checked out. We would like to adjourn as close to noon as possible.

Private lands working group report

Mark Sargent, Michigan – The first part of the report handed out is a summary followed by the actual report of our last meeting and then the action items are in the back of the document. The Private Land Working Group is a committee group of the Association and after hearing discussion this morning I think we have a great working relationship. Our group feels very lucky to have the support of the Association to help us create policy and action items that are important to us, such as the Farm Bill and action items. Our role is to serve as an advisory group to the Association. Every year prior to these meeting we meet to discuss important items and come up with action items for your review. We met in May in Kansas with 13 of the 14 of states present. We also had representation from WMI, DU, Pheasants Forever, QU, USDA (NRCS), and the USFWS. There were several different topics, some general information such as Carbon sequestration, and looking at the private market of farm resource management, as usual we had state update where each state has a chance to interact on new programs like pheasant initiative and to update old programs so we can learn from that. Historically one thing that takes a lot of our time is the Farm Bill because it does have so much impact on the Midwest. In the Midwest states the Farm Bill has been the best opportunity for habitat management for us.

Grasslands in the CRP program are probably the largest impact on private lands. Help of our group was requested of the WMI to help provide information for a repeat of the 1995 "How Much Is Enough" facilitated by WMI, each regional approach on the importance of the 2002 Farm Bill. The report by WMI consolidated a national report that showed the Farm Bill from regional perspective and was used in 1996 as a unified approach for the wildlife agencies and fishing agencies to look at the national Farm Bill program. Topics from the regional area included landscape changes, economic impacts, wildlife impacts and set regional goals. The Working group has submitted our recommendations on that and this is a summary and you can get a copy of that from me, I did not include that with this report today. The Midwest has submitted recommendations for the reauthorization of swampbuster and sodbuster; increase CRP cap to 45 million acres; increase the WRP cap to 250,000 acres yearly, right now they have the program capped and will be approaching that cap probably this fall or winter and then WRP will no longer exist, if you will, for the moment; increase funding to the WHIP program, the habitat incentive program was authorized in 1996 for \$50 million, that was our consensus and that report has been submitted to WMI. As far as action items you will find them in the back of report we submitted three. The first one is a letter to the other Associations requesting support for the International Farm Bill for the Ag. Position. The Midwest is very aggressive in that and agreed to fund 50% of that position for 3 years and the other three Associations were to each fund \$17,000 a year. They have not put the money on the table yet. There are several different reasons why that haven't, one of the Associations is having trouble coming up with the funds, and the other two are requesting a need for a position description, at least at this time. In that letter we note very clearly that not only are we are looking at the 2002 Farm Bill, but also the first one, such as the WRP and CRP caps which are close to being reached. In the next couple of years we may not have those opportunities to increase the amount of habitat on the ground, looking at the present Farm Bill program. There is legislation going on right now to increase those caps. Having somebody in Washington working for the states would be important at this time not only when we vote on the 2002 Farm Bill and also that person would coordinate the Farm Bill efforts. That letter is very similar to the letter you looked at last year. The second action item is a draft letter from the Association to two Senators and two Representatives to increase the caps on WRP and CRP. The WRP has legislation sponsored by Senator Johnson, Representative Peterson; CRP is Senator Hutchinson, Representative Pickering. Basically those letters are thanking them and showing appreciation for taking these action items forward and showing them our support. The third action item is fairly simple, it is a draft letter to each state in the Association with their local national representation showing support for the reauthorization of the WRP cap of 250,000 acres per year, WHIP \$50 million, CRP 45 million acres per year. What that letter would do is to get state representation to support these programs. (*Appendix V*)

Mike Budzik, Ohio – I have a question about the other Associations about whether they support or don't support? Did I hear you say that there is one Association that conceptually supports putting on a Farm Bill Coordinator, but they are struggling to come up with the money and you also said that there are two other Associations that question the timing of hiring a person, but they are still supporting but have questions on the timing?

Mark Sargent, Michigan – Unfortunately we didn't have representatives from every single Association at our meeting, we are going off who heard what. The general feeling was that there was general support across the Associations. There were some financial discussions and the other discussion was timing, why do we have to hire somebody in Washington now when it is not needed until 2002. There are things in the 1996 Farm Bill that can be done and if it takes 3 to 4 months to the fill position and 3 or 4 months to get familiar with the hill you are really not looking at an active player.

Rob Manes, WMI – WMI has a dedicated staff person that is dedicated to working on the Farm Bill. If you have another person working another angle, from another organization, that would be a very good thing.

Mark Sargent, Michigan – Ray, could you give us response to this?

Ray Evans, IAFWA – All of the Associations have expressed support for the position, The Midwest has sent its contribution and I believe the Western has sent in theirs. The problem is that the Western, the Northeast and the Southeast have all committed for one year only and they expect to examine the idea annually. The problem with hiring a full time person on a three-year basis with the money it has, is a little uncertain. All of the Associations have expressed interest for one year.

Bob Miles, IAFWA – We expect major action on the Farm Bill in fall of next year. The plan was to utilize the small amount of money we have to hire someone, instead it is to let Ray and Gary handle things up until this winter and then start looking for someone in January or February so they can be there on a part-time basis. If we hire someone before then and run out of money we are going to be in trouble.

Tom Young, Kentucky – Speaking from the Southeast, Kentucky swings both ways; we are going to fund part of this in the Southeast and also in the Midwest. At the spring Director's meeting in the SE, this was a big discussion item, the SE is ready, they have their money, they are willing to fund their portion of this position and they felt that if it worked out, they would be willing to fund it, but have not taken a vote to extend it to the 3-year period. The discussion level was, if it was needed they would probably go forth with it and each state would contribute. They are ready to put their money up. There was discussion there, among the states that this ought to be done now. They are getting their biologists and quail study group within the SE studying the issue of declining quail and that particular group, which every state is a member, is very concerned about this Farm Bill and how it will impact the south so they are pushing their Directors in the SE to try and get the International to fill a position. Gary Taylor was there for the International and said we don't need to fill this right now we feel that the major action is going to take place later. So the IAFWA better be getting the word out on this, across the country, and get a real plan in place of what you are going to do and when you are going to hire the position. The bottom line is the SE will be there for one year and I believe they will be there for others; they have the money right now.

Ray Evans, IAFWA – In response to your comments. The IAFWA will have the job description ready by our annual meeting in September. We hope to have someone hired by January. That timeline is subject to the funding and what the states want to do. It is important for you to understand that Gary has been attending and I have been hired part time to do the same thing. As far as we know nothing is going undone as far as Farm Bill related or other Ag. activities go.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – What does that mean as far as when the International needs funding from us?

Ray Evans, IAFWA – The funding problem, the IAFWA would like to hire someone that is well qualified so that we don't have to start at ground zero. In order to do that, to entice some young man from say, Arizona, to come to Washington for three years, but we only have one year's money that would make the job offer tenuous so having the money on hand is important, but just as important is to have the commitment of the three years of money. If we are working with someone, it will probably someone young and to get them to commit to coming to Washington for three years they will need to know that the funding is there for 3 years. It may well be a permanent job, but without the commitment of all of the Associations for that three years of funding so that we can offer that kind of assurance to someone we hire.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Last year, on behalf of our members we committed \$50,000.

Ray Evans, IAFWA - It is important for you to understand that my working for the IAFWA is not in lieu of someone being hired. My position is not instead of, but in addition to, this person.

Mike Budzik, Ohio - Do we take that the \$50,000 that the Midwest provided, has not been used yet and is not going to be, it is still there?

Ray Evans, IAFWA – Every dime of it.

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – Did we commit for one year or was that a three-year commitment?

Ray Evans, IAFWA – It was a three-year commitment of \$50,000 each year. The money you sent in stays there and my contract is from another source. The IAFWA is not spending your money that you appropriated for a full time position.

Mike Budzik, Ohio – It doesn't do much good to have that money sit there though.

Ray Evans, IAFWA - Max said that it would not be prudent to spend this money until we get the person hired.

Mike Budzik, Ohio – I think the difference of opinion is that there is a learning curve and that you are probably going to get a young person in there and they are going to have to get over a learning curve and it is going to take time for them to hit the street, to learn the players and all of that. They are going to be running around for 6 months, even the most astute people, to just find out whom the players are and to get their feet on the ground.

Ray Evans, IAFWA - I think that is fair.

Mike Budzik, Ohio – I think the Association sent that in good faith for a full time person to be there and I think our opinion is that the person hired has to get over a learning curve if he is going to be effective he/she can't spend (in the heat of the debate) the next 12 months learning what is going on and have them be effective. We want somebody that is effective and that knows the ropes and can get in there and make an impact.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – I think the question is, do we, the Association, want to make a motion to that effect to carry to the IAFWA meeting in September, or do we want to bring it up as states in September and make a motion at that time?

Bob Miles, IAFWA – We know right away what we don't have a 3-year commitment to move.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – You don't have a 3-year commitment from whom?

Bob Miles, IAFWA - From any of the other associations.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – I understand that, that is a separate issue. We really have two separate items.

Gerald Ross, Missouri – We have a game plan to hire someone by January 1, that the IAFWA intends to hire someone, is that not a good time? The best time would in a couple of months, if we start right now. Maybe we want to affirm our support for that schedule and have the President of this Association or the Directors of this Association start some communications and try to influence the other Associations to make a three-year commitment.

Rob Manes, WMI – It is equally important for this Association to communicate the urgency to the IAFWA to hire the position and equally important to get the other Associations to get them to belly up with the money.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – I think a letter from us to the other Associations, as requested by the Working Group here, to the other Associations from the President, would be appropriate unless somebody has a concern about that, we will take care of getting that done, asking them and reiterating that we made a three-year commitment and asking them to consider it because of the importance of the Farm Bill.

Mike Budzik, Ohio – That letter should include the timetable or whatever, that the commitment needs to be in place so the IAFWA can proceed and have a person on board by January 1. That would be the start of the process.

Rob Manes, WMI – Another thought, to make it more effective; to follow that letter, the President should personally call the other Presidents of the Associations.

Gerald Ross, Missouri – I would even include the Directors in this. Our Director Conley still knows others in the network and could push this through.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – I don't think we need a motion on action item 1, we just need to take care of doing it and if your directors, any of the other directors will take care of doing that.

Tom Young, Kentucky – Would the International want to make some suggestions to other Associations to match our three-year commitment?

Gary Doxtater, Indiana – It is my understanding that this report (from Mark) would be submitted in September at the fall Association meeting. This committee, is it strictly in the Midwest? The report was prepared specifically for this Association. Could it be submitted to other Associations as well and followed by a call by the president or another designated person.

Gary Doxtater – I would make a motion that we accept this and pass that on to the International as a Midwest recommendation. Gerald Ross second.

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – This will be our expression of urgency for the International for the other Associations to make a three-year commitment.

Gerald Ross, Missouri - Is there a similar Working Group in the other Associations?

Mark Sargent, Michigan – The other Associations meet longer and they address some private land comments but I don't know if they have an active subcommittee. In talking with the SE, Jeff Solo in the past was trying to get this going with the quail committee that is probably a strong overrun.

Tom Young, Kentucky – That has been a driving force in the quail study group.

Gerald Ross, Missouri – There would be some benefit to communications between you and your group with similar groups in the other Associations. It sounds like the quail folks in the South are pushing their Directors. If you could identify those groups in the other Associations, that might help.

Mark Sargent, Michigan – Also, Colorado was in both and helped us communicate across those lines but we have had no crossties with the Northeast.

Tom Young, Kentucky – That is Dan Faggard.

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – We are also a member of the Western Association and Secretary Cooper chairs the Western Federal Program Committee so that I know we are active with that as well.

Gary Doxtater, Indiana – I think in accepting this, then it would be our responsibility to forward that presentation to the other Associations and to the International.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – We have the draft letter and that motion, do we have a second?

Gerald Ross second.

Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin – In part of the information, in the report, I am a little confused by the two-year commitment or three year commitment, both words are used in here. Can we clarify that this is the objective of hiring the position in January 1, 2001, how many years is that? Is it 3 years from that or 2 years from then?

Mark Sargent, Michigan – The original proposal was presented a year ago for a 3-year commitment, now it would be 2 years left.

Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin - Based on that, would we be encouraging the other Association to actually make a financial commitment for 2 years?

Mark Sargent, Michigan – What we are basing this letter on, was the original recommendation at the inception of the Farm Bill in 1996. There is a good chance it could go longer or shorter.

Ray Evans, IAFWA – For discussion, the 3-year commitment would be very valuable, especially if that three-year commitment runs beyond that Farm Bill by one year. Help with regulation and policy may be more important than legislation. A three-year commitment starting January 1, 2001 would give you one year over that if the Farm Bill gets passed in 2002. You still get a three-year commitment, the Midwest has already sent their money in for the first year of the commitment and the others are negotiating and still need to make a three-year commitment.

Rob Manes, WMI – The other thing, like Ray said, the 3-year \$50,000 commitment will make it easier to get the others committed.

Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin – So now I understand that we are actually asking for 3-year commitment beginning January 1, 2001. I think it is important that you point that out.

Mark Sargent, Michigan – We were trying to be consistent with what we proposed.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – My sense is that we strike that little clarifier there so that it is clear that we are asking for three years. We will take care of that. Any other discussion on the motion? All those in favor say I.

Motion passes.

Gary Doxtater, Indiana – Can I ask a question? You made a comment about the report sent to WMI, what is that?

Mark Sargent, Michigan – Not this report, our Midwest report is not the same as the WMI. Unfortunately, as we mentioned earlier that our Midwest is not the same as the Regional or International Midwest. Leadership from Colorado asked me to report to WMI, on their request, concerning the Farm Bill. How we perceived the economic, recreational, wildlife, Farm Bill and our recommendations.

Gary Doxtater, Indiana – I just didn't know where WMI might fit into this.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Just for clarification, he is talking about the Farm Bill report that every state had input into, it was regionalized to set broad goals for the Farm Bill with WMI as intermediary for the Farm Bill issues. The Midwest section of that is completed.

Rob Manes, WMI – Through your Ag. Liaison, you should have had some input into that, if you didn't I wouldn't be too alarmed because a lot of broad recommendations need to still be put out there. I would like to add a couple of things to that. The Farm Bill results meeting, two weeks ago, in Washington, DC, several of these broad issues were discussed, primarily the strategy for getting them implemented. Part of it relates to the International position and some things that the states need to do also. I would encourage all of the people in this room to do whatever it takes to get your congressional delegation on the ground to see the results of the Farm Bill. Indiana is working on these right now; Kansas has done one in the recent past. Nothing is more effective then getting them involved. If any of you were interested in doing that we wouldn't mind helping to set that up.

Tom Young, Kentucky – Rob, we did that in Kentucky, we had a complete field day.

Rob Manes, WMI – They cannot visualize the on-the-ground impact of the Farm Bill. The other major issue I would like to summarize from the 2 days of meetings, in about 60 seconds was the discussion about having conservation easements attached to every Ag. spending item there is, commodity support, CRP payments, etc. That needs to be the wildlife community position for now, knowing full well that it isn't going to happen, there is no way that will be sold. It is another issue that the congressional delegation will be pushing in that direction.

Tom Young, Kentucky – One more comment on this Farm Bill. I was talking to Dick Pierce about this. On the Farm Bill, you have representatives like WMI, all of the states,

the National Wildlife Federation probably, I don't know how many different organizations or groups that lobby to come out with this Farm Bill if they possibly can, for wildlife, not having been in Washington when it happens. Do all of the groups coordinate and go at this thing in a fashion of assistance or are they in there with a big interest. There are so many different groups that have an interest maybe their interests are similar or a little different, Ray?

Ray Evans, IAFWA – Once a month a group meets in Washington called the Natural Resources Working Group, including all of the people that you named. They discuss the Farm Bill and other things that we agree upon. Our agendas do not totally match but the big pieces do. Yes, there is a considerable amount of coordination taking place. There will be something developed and sent out on this Farm Bill. We did discuss the 95/96 Farm Bill, the group sent out a number of jointly signed items, reporting specific recommendations of the 95/96 Farm Bill. There is a considerable amount of coordination that takes place. The leadership of committee changes each month and most of the meetings are held in the Hall of States.

Rob Manes, WMI – The big pieces, the items that are coming into focus, the 45 million acres of CRP, the 250,000 acres of WRP. One thing we talked about, the 45 million acres of CRP, if they know anything about it at all, they have to go back to face they are only at 36 million right now, why do we need more. It is important to know that. The response is that NRCS will not do there job, then the 36 million will be gone before 2002.

Mark Sargent, Michigan – One of the things that our group is struggling with in the midwestern states, is the lack of fisheries representation. A lot of our goals are for wildlife habitat, and no water quality. We need to bring in fishery representation; fishery viewpoints and you need to study their economic resource. They need to be brought into this issue and see how we can gain this broadened level of support. Some states now target fishery, to look outside the stream and look at how these federal Farm Bill impacts the fishery.

Gerald Ross, Missouri – In the state agencies, is that where the problem is?

Mark Sargent, Michigan – Particularly in the Midwest we don't look at terrestrial systems as impacting this.

Ray Evans, IAFWA – Mr. President I have a comment regarding that Farm Bill.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Why don't we take a five-minute break and let people get coffee and go to the restroom. Then I want to get into federal aid.

Break

Ray Evans, IAFWA – Some of the items the International settled on 2 years ago in San Francisco connected to the Farm Bill included, continue the conservation reserve program (CRP) to 45 million acres, to increase the WRP program, increase WHIP acres

and work is going on to improve the Forest Service program as well as the EQIP program with USDA, all of those items are being acted on. The work that the Midwest Working Group reported on today is work that the International worked on years ago. There is a good deal of coordination going on and partnerships. We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to WMI for their help. I have two points to make regarding the full time position in Washington for three years. You are the best source for that person, that person, whoever he is, exists and is more than likely in one of our organizations. Keep that in mind and be ready to promote someone for that job. They will serve us well, as well as the rest of the states. This could be a young person that can do some other training or someone older at the end of their career who wants to work with this type of work. Three important recommendations I want to leave you with, three things that need to be done: 1) Arrange some type of show-me cases, as they did in Kentucky and are doing in Indiana. 2) Get your Legislators involved, particularly on the Farm Bill. The first thing Legislators think is "can he vote for me, or against me?", it is important that you speak to people from your own state, your own district. The important thing is not to promote this just for wildlife, but it is good for my district. What can happen in my district? The congressman who proposes an issue must also come up with the way to fund it. You have to get your folks involved in these issues. 3) Get farm groups involved; a good quality green-type farm program is the best from the EPA standpoint. Instead of just waving a carrot on a stick in front of the donkey, take the stick and beat the donkey. Sixty percent of legislators from the northeast United States and California have the majority in Congress, but have nothing to do with agriculture. We need some help to gain those people. (*Appendix VI*)

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Any questions? Thank you. Next we would like to get into an important issue for all of us and that is federal aid. Even though it has only existed for a few weeks now, I wanted the AdHoc Committee to take a look at federal aid issues at the meeting here and provide us with some background discussion with what's going on and our relationship with federal aid and some of the implications that you may not be aware of, what is happening in your state. I will turn this discussion over to Tom and Bob Humphries.

Federal Aid Issues Affecting States

Bob Humphries, Michigan – I am the Federal Aid Coordinator for the Wildlife Division here in Michigan. The statewide federal aid coordinator is sitting over there, Eric Sink. Tom talked about since I got the job a few years ago; he likes having me around to face the feds. I was given the job because of my giant calculator. Niebauer suggested that we talk about CARA with Bob Miles here before we get into the other federal aid issues.

Bob Miles, IAFWA – Before I start I would like to introduce Greg Smith, he is working in the our Washington office from USGS. He should be able to develop a better understanding and some opportunity to increase cooperation.

Greg Smith, IAFWA – I am an unusual person, born in Michigan, raised in Wisconsin and will be sitting with this delegation as long as the Badgers are Rose Bowl material.

Quickly, I have a degree from Madison in wildlife technology, was Director Great Lakes Science Center, in the private sector for 7 years and now with USGS. I finished my tenure at the Great Lakes Science Center, now at IAFWA. I am fairly new to the IAFWA programs in addition like Bob said I will increase cooperation and talk about opportunities. I will be talking to Regional Associations and you can send email and give me ideas of better cooperations. Gsmith@ssso.org. There is the possibility of looking at research within the IAFWA and Bob had talked about working in states a week or so and getting the feel of each of the organizations out there. I will be talking about that later. I have business cards and would be happy to distribute them.

Bob Miles, IAFWA – Most Legislators have no idea what the Midwest is, what our goals are, and what we have been doing the last couple of years, at the International level. On CARA, the bill was expected to be marked up late Friday; a compromise was reached. CARA is being marked up today or tomorrow, there is an excellent chance of it passing out of there tomorrow. The compromise language was well received. The private land group is still looking at this. Murkowski and Bingamon do not want any amendments accepted that they both do not agree on. It is possible for this to pass tomorrow and the full senate could take it up before they recess. By the end of month. Some of the major changes on Title III, \$350 million, and the allocation formula could be from 1% to 5%. The recommendation was the same as Wallop Breaux, no 90/10 match, now 75/25, 10% law enforcement, 2 ¼ % to private wildlife programs, game or nongame with greatest conservation needs, within 5 years wildlife management strategy. Basically, one other provision requires federal management projects can be obligated, or control how it is spent. Funding on the other part of CARA, 450 million each. Max is pleased, that this will not get tied up on compromise and will get it out. Make calls between now and the end of the month to urge Senators to pass this thing. We need to redouble our efforts. It is moving. This is good news.

Chuck Pils, Wisconsin – Several states are flying in tomorrow, there is a good group of QU and other conservation groups. We are very optimistic, that this has a good chance of passing.

Bob Miles, IAFWA – We will know more tomorrow. HB3671 passed the house and is in the Environmental Public Works Committee in the Senate. There is no real champion in the Senate of this bill, but we don't think anything is going to happen to the bill. The USFWS at the regional level and the Washington level make the PR/DJ federal aid decisions and there is a question of what administration money can be spent for, it will require auditing by the USFWS to legitimize the state grant program. Also, this bill would do away with the Chief of Federal Aid and replace him with an ARD. As far as I know they have filled that ARD position. There is no real champion of this bill; nobody in the senate has engaged these federal aid problems. I don't think anything will happen before September. Not sure what is going to happen with this federal aid bill. Made some reorganization changes, these did away with ARD person, and migratory bird chief and filled that with an ARD, now Chief of Federal Aid, also created a new position ARD for the Assistant Director for migratory bird. Bob Lange quit and went to Forest Service and was replaced by Chris LaFontaine.

Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin - He works for Bruha.

Bob Miles, IAFWA – We are trying to get a state person to work with Chris to make decisions and give state opinions. Each of you should write Chris with persons name or other suggestions. This has the potential and purpose to develop better relationships with states and federal aid. It will work out well if we can find a good qualified person. Tom Dedas called last week and decided that they could no longer pay for training purposes at NCTC, etc. We are trying to get a copy of material that they based this decision on. No one seems to know why they looked at this as a trust fund. We are going to look into this further and see what we can do about it. Getting into the meat of the discussion about federal aid, we don't know what is going on with this issue; it seems to be hotter in Region 3 than anywhere else. Possibly because of the Sierra Club lawsuit in Michigan. They are reviewing their policy on how they implement NEPA to the states and the major thing looked at is the exclusions, utilizing environmental assessments, we are trying to get the opportunity to give input, but have had no response at all.

Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin – To give a little more detail, I offered to make a couple of comments primarily to you as state directors as to why you should pay attention in the next few minutes. Particularly look for comments from states like South Dakota and Kansas that are not within Region 3 of the USFWS. Some of this stuff may be Greek to them, but why the issue of federal aid is important, before we get down to specifics like Sierra Club or Endangered Species or Field Trials. Why it is important that the body, as a whole, pay attention is that the direction we are going within the federal aid program right now may very shortly mean that we can't develop any more duck habitat, we don't do anything that involves ground disturbance because it would require an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act. Which based on some proposed guidance could take up to 240 days to complete. I talked to a NEPA advisor on those assessments, 120 days for the first review, and then change it, then another 120 days. This is the worst-case scenario discussion. Another reason you need to pay attention is the USFWS tells us that there are new regulations regarding the National Historic Preservation Act involving tribal issues. Wisconsin participated in a recent dialog where a tribe demanded that we do a cultural survey for a project that was approximately 40 miles away from their reservation, because there was a feeling within the tribe of attachment to this other area. The USFWS Regional historian worked with us to not have to do this. I am told that in the Denver Region, states are having to look at cultural resources that are that far removed from projects because of the so called valueship implications of the SHIPO law. The issue of field trials, for example, the USFWS in Region 3 is suggesting that states go through the same test of compatibility for individual field trials like the refuge system does for its programs. Translating that to English, do an environmental assessment for each field, not the field trial program complete, but each field trial, including specific requirements for public participation procedures that could go far beyond what your agency has dreamed up. These are just some of the specific examples. The last reason is that the Senate version of Teaming with Wildlife (now CARA) includes 2% for administration. The Service currently has 4-6% under PR/DJ, but a lot of things are not divvied up. They are not going to help us with

training, the in-kind for grants is nominal, the suggestion that you may be writing an environmental assessment for every grant that involves, moving deer, I don't mean major development like coal mining or fish hatchery, but habitat management, as an example. We are going to get bogged down, or broken down, within the PR/DJ program. How are we ever going to divvy up the money under Teaming with Wildlife with half as much for administration and program? You have a customer base out there and Teaming with Wildlife aren't going to want to sit around for two years for us to write regulations and implement the program. The last thing, in the Teaming legislation, you should pay attention to the PR/DJ issues that Teaming legislation speaks to, any priority species with the greatest conservation need, it does not say you can not do hunting or fishing or fish and game projects because the state has to have precise size "nongame", it does say, priorities should be given to species with greatest conservation need. That draft language has been out there floating for a while and is now part of the agreement and I, and perhaps others in the body, have been involved in discussions with USFWS. When they start to implement this program, once the law is passed, it could have implications. The lead agency will be the Service, Division of Federal Aid, basically the grant programs. We are going to start out with some real serious dialog on the meaning of priorities for species of greatest conservation need. We may think we know what that means in the states, but the Service may have an all-together different perspective and I am sure they do. There are a lot of things going on, Teaming is on the horizon, PR/DJ issues that Bob Humphries is going to get into a little more detail on, now are there. It is beyond the level of the staff right now, your staff that deals with federal aid; they keep struggling on grantsmanship issues. If it has not gotten to your office then very quickly it will. There are spew-overs to other issues; the Service is now really pushing the concept of consistency between regions. If it is not a problem now in your Region, it may be in the future. What was not a problem in Wisconsin is now becoming a problem in Michigan, this tribal issue, as a specific example. Wisconsin did hatchery renovation, probably not nearly as prominent and significant as what we saw yesterday, we were told we had to write an environmental assessment, even though it was just operational type renovations and I think that will veer its ugly head again, because we did not do one. It is important that you, as Directors, collect some of this information. You, as interest groups here, work with them. Right now we are not at break down, but we are very close to it. Are there any general questions? If not, I will turn it over to Bob.

Chuck Pils, Wisconsin – You seem to have a pretty good idea of the species of greatest conservation need contention, care to elaborate on that?

Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin – No, I really don't feel qualified to elaborate, the best I can say is that the USFWS has felt uneasiness about not being at the table as CARA has evolved. The Association, in my estimation, has done a great job of keeping them informed and seeking their comments, etc. I think the Service feels, individual staff-wise, that they should have been along side us. Like anybody else that participates in the International business at the fall meeting, they will be participating on that structure. It seems to me that they have had an opportunity, but their concern is with the words "species of greatest conservation need" within the current administration. That is a very high priority with the administration, certainly the Interior in the USFWS. Some of that is

going to change after the election; indeed there will be a change of focus. The USFWS has hired a staff person, housed in Minneapolis, to work on CARA coordination from the Service's perspective, his name is Mike Swede and he used to be with the state of Illinois. The Service hired him to work on CARA coordination; he has hooked up with Naomi and David Waller on CARA issues. The Service has a team working on CARA implementation and they have shared some of their thoughts, this question of "species with greatest conservation need", how, putting my federal hat on, we are going to make sure you emphasize the species of greatest concerns. It is the question of, how we are going to do that.

Bob Miles, IAFWA – Before we go too far, let me just say that this is not even a house bill. This language has a lot of different organizations and different people interested in CARA. Actually the International plays a major role in CARA, but there are a lot of other people involved. For instance, the coalition of 1500 organizations or whatever. There is one division in this coalition that this money should be used for nongame only and they have been fighting over that for a couple of years. A lot of people have provided legislation to provide a compromise, which was the "species with greatest conservation need", was put in there to keep this thing moving. No benefit, it was a compromise. Max and I, and our people, are working on this. The way the USFWS interprets this, the same way they are interpreting the whole federal aid program everywhere you go. This is a problem. The first thing we can hope is that HB3671 doesn't make it and the second thing is we can hope for is a change in administration. Who knows what will happen.

Bob Humphries, Michigan – I will start off with a statement that is based on scientific fact and theory and let you prove me wrong. I think if I do it that way I will get your attention. The statement I am going to make is, "next year you will no longer be using federal aid money for Pittman Robertson programs for the purpose for which it was originally intended, for wildlife and habitat restoration". I think that will probably get your attention, now I will go on and try to prove that statement. Starting around 1994/1995 the USFWS did a re-review of federal aid programs and they came out with what was the supplemental environmental impact statement for the federal aid program. The first environmental impact statement of this program was admitted in 1978, after the passage of the actual Environmental Protection Act of 1969. The original draft, as it was proposed, had a choice of proposed actions and what the document was for. As mentioned, it was for advancement of nationally identified wildlife management priorities. The program was being directed by the USFWS to go into a non-traditional nongame rated back in 1995. The states, in their entirety disagreed with the direction of the proposed alternatives as managed by the USFWS. The proposed alternative which then the Director's final decision, came back to carry on the Pittman Robertson program as it had been initiated for 60 years with no change in the program. The Pittman Robertson program would be completely operated by the individual states in a manner that those individual states did manage the program. Since this time, everything that I have seen the USFWS do is going back to that original preferred alternative to direct the states to manage the way the USFWS would have you manage it for those species, or those habitats that are identified as natural or global of importance. Getting away from traditional management. Some indicators of this, as I mentioned, the environmental

impact statement. Since that time there has been changes to a number of laws, changes in the interpretations of these laws. In 1995, again the Historic Preservation Act was significantly modified to include tribal input. That affects some of the states here, but not all of the states here, but it can affect all of the states here, whether you realize it or not. Basically, that law is very general in nature, what it says is, that all federal programs must consider or must ask if there is any cultural significance, if any tribe is interested, that may be impacted by that federal project. It doesn't matter if you have them in your state or not. For example, Michigan was just recently identified; there are two tribes in eastern New York State that have types of cultural significance to Michigan projects. It could very easily be argued in a court of law. In reading that law, the tribes have veto power over your federal aid programs for any or all of your activities. That is something that I don't know if a lot of you folks looked at, because the feds in Region 3 are just now passing that around, it could take some time to catch up. The Threatened and Endangered Species Act, that has been around for a number of years, now it is questionable whether it is still legally in-force or not because it is a law that expired when the Service was still being funded by congress. Subsequent to the Endangered Species Act, either the Director of the USFWS or the Secretary of Interior directed the USFWS to use all means available for furtherance of the recovery of threatened and endangered species. In some cases, this comes in direct conflict with the operation of the Pittman Robertson program, which was specifically enabled for the restoration of wild birds and mammals. Cases where states acquired projects or developed projects for that specific purpose and are now being told that we can't manage it for the purpose that area was created for, or for the original intent of that management program. Those two acts can come in conflict in a way that we are seeing some federal administration deliberately putting us in conflict. Steering to it's logical, ridiculous conclusion the state could be, in fact, put in diversion on federal aid projects that have been approved. In the past, if they tried to back off and accommodate the threatened and endangered species in there. I would hate to think the worst of my federal partners, but over the course of the last year and a half the decisions that I have personally seen, ones that have affected Michigan, lead me to think that certainly is something they will use. Every action that the states take, results in an opposite and more than equal reaction from the feds, in my personal experience. To the contrary, I don't believe that the feds are in any point of view living up to that direction from the Director to do everything that needs to be done for threatened and endangered species. We have one species in the state, a butterfly that could be easily managed for in combination with our other wildlife management duties and the feds have put up so many road blocks in our way that our people no longer are able or willing to put the work in to get the permits in place that would allow us to manage those areas and increase the number of butterfly habitat there. Wisconsin has successfully completed one; the documentation is six inches thick.

Chuck Pils, Wisconsin – I don't think it was six inches, but we do have the conservation plan and we are very worried about that, it can be done.

Bob Humphries, Michigan – What we found in Michigan, where we had a different federal person we were working with in ecological services, with our staff drawn out at the time, we just had to give up. We will manage the butterflies without ever managing

for them. The threatened and endangered species act is definitely in conflict, or at least we are not being able to get flexibility or the feds are not living up to what they were supposed to as far as that act. They are taking it well beyond the written part of the act where several endangered species will not continue to exist or will those species retain critical habitat. The interpretation they are putting in there are well beyond that issue, Michigan has been placed under formal Section 7 consultations as far as our habitat is. We are one of the few states that are fortunate enough, or unfortunate enough, to have the Massawogus in significant numbers on most of our public lands, particularly in the southern half of the state. Without throwing anything out here, the management will be directly effected when the feds put the Massawogus on the list. When it goes on the list our traditional forms of management on those areas, will be endangered. The rationale is the fact that we have those snakes there is a result of that very management that is going on there, it won't fly with those folks. The NEPA process, you have heard a lot of talk about the Sierra Club challenge to the Division of Wildlife Service in this state regarding NEPA. In 1995 or 1997, that time frame, there were categorical exclusions that were set up for certain actions that were seen not to have significant effect on human environment. Those things included habitat development, wetland development; they included most all of the typical management activities of all of our agencies. I think all states in the country have used those categorical exclusions since about 1978 successfully to continue evolving management activities on our public and private lands. Last year, as a result of a lawsuit by Sierra Club, the USFWS decided Michigan would have to prepare an environmental assessment of our wildlife habitat programs. We have 400,000 acres in state game areas; additionally we have 4 million acres in state forest. This program related to that 400,000 acres of state game land, roughly 100,000 was wetlands and around 70,000 of that may be manageable as far as water quality. These are the activities that we have been doing for approximately 50 or 60 years. The feds are now saying we now have to do an environmental assessment. In looking at ways the Michigan chapter of the Sierra Club interacted with the feds, the U.S. Forest Service, the tactic is how they can tie you up with endless paperwork. The U.S. Forest Service has greatly reduced their timber sales in the state or their management of timber in the state. The Sierra Club's goal is to stop all harvest of timber from federal land. I don't think it is too far of a leap to make the jump to see where the Sierra Club of Michigan is trying to do that same thing with 4 million acres of state timber, they have never come out and said that, I wish they would have, it would make the partnership with the USFWS a lot easier. When NEPA was passed it was passed because the feds were building nuclear dumps or nuclear test facilities, but because of the environmental concerns or the problems they caused with their very own projects, that was the intent of that law. This perversion that they are subjecting us to now is just out of all context of the original act. The states are going to be behooved to go back and research, why and how the examples were sighted to get the course of NEPA back on track. I think this is the ultimate goal in Michigan. I think a lot of states are going to lose federal aid or be tied up in federal aid for a lot of years. The real loser is the NEPA process because I think what will eventually happen, is we will lose the Endangered Species Act; we will lose NEPA as a result of this misapplication. Another thing that all of us, or many of us, are experiencing is the audit process; I think all of us do need to see where we need to improve our federal/state projects. However, the resolution process has just begun in Michigan and the identification of real issues is

certainly well beyond the scope of federal aid. Everybody that I have talked to has been challenged on whether the NEPA legislation has been in place for 60 plus years. If it is not, then you shouldn't be getting any complaints. We have seen inexperienced Department of Defense contract auditors come in looking for \$1,000 toilet seats and that sort of thing. That is not even the real problem, the real problem is that, the last understanding I had, was the offices of Inspector General is saying that where we have spent money, that we are not going to be able to allow you to use that over-earning to match for, or account for these expenses that were ineligible. The point in fact is that we are going to have to give the federal aid program their money back in some way shape or form. I don't have anything to support that yet, or back that up, but what would be the federal motive in fining us, when most of the audits that are taking place from state records. So that money automatically has to go back, because federal aid has lapsed so guess who gets to spend that money. The same office in which the federal aid folks are now housed, the feds are rewarded for giving us the wrong information, the feds are rewarded for making the decision that causes the lapse in money, there is no accountability, they are never penalized by the lose of funding for their failure to assist the states in programs to provide federal aid for Fish and Wildlife Restoration. There is no penalty, or accounting for the wrong guess on their part, they are rewarded for it, because they get to keep the money to spend on their own projects. I never would have thought that I would believe some of the stuff that has been done deliberately, but there has been reckless appropriation of those funds. I am sorry to say that any money that Michigan gives back as a result of its' audit of 96/97, is going to be kept by the feds, it is not going to be coming back to the states. Another item that we have discussed in Minnesota and Michigan is the recession of the authority of states to issue easements. This is a blanket authority that at least these states had, I think there may be other states in the Region, and I don't think we were unique, for issuing easements on federal aid land. We formally sought this right and received it; this was rescinded early last year, for all states. Now federal aid is reviewing each and every easement request that we have that crosses federal aid land. That can be good, it can be bad in some cases, if you have to provide a power line or gas pipe line that is cutting through a sensitive area, it may provide you with a way to reroute it or keep it out of there. It is again the feds withdrawing, or holding back, or bringing back their control. The field trial issue is certainly affecting Illinois and Michigan. Michigan will freely admit that we have some issues on field trials that we need to address, or clean up, that may be in conflict with the act that the feds are recommending. It is well beyond any preventative measure that we see that we need to act on. Also, I see, as a result of this, is divisiveness between two groups, a hunting group or field group that are closely related allies, it could drive a wedge between them. In Michigan most of the field trial people are mostly active licensed hunters. Some of the contacts I have had with field trial organizations, it could be disruptive, in some cases we may need to be more restrictive on how we permit, but again it is a state issue that is identified before we got into the audit process, but the feds are taking control on that. The wildlife habitat management issue that I see as the largest issue.

Chuck Pils, Wisconsin – What is there at the federal issue about the negativity of field trials?

Bob Humphries, Michigan – I have to identify two types of field trials. There is the field trial that involves training in a small-localized area, with a relatively small impact on habitat or game species in an area. Then you have the more open field trial event, where you have a gallery following on horseback, following a pack of dogs. I am not saying it is bad or good but it can shed light on the way that activity is conducted. When you have a large number of horses and people running over habitat during nesting season, it is not good for them, but maybe, offset by the fact that we have other paying recreational users that are helping manage that habitat, what they are doing there by their overall contributions. You can argue that statement; the hunter in the field can disturb the wildlife as well. The elimination of field trails and an environmental assessment could, through its ridiculous conclusion, involve any human use of the area.

Chuck Pils, Wisconsin – So this is not necessarily as an impact on threatened or endangered?

Bob Humphries, Michigan – No, it's not. They have never even been identified in this issue; it has been strictly on assessments on public grounds.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – It is about impacts on how you manage habitats, that may impact game species and it is about direct impacts for field trials that are held in the spring. In their wisdom, have a huge negative impact on reproduction, even though it may be in very concentrated areas.

Bob Humphries, Michigan – One of the areas that we do this is the goose banding areas, for lack of a better term; those fields in the past have traditionally provided low grass cover so the geese can come in to use it. We were using the nesting habitat used by wildlife to accommodate different wildlife that might use it in the fall. Those areas were adaptable with very little other impact. There is rationale on why some of the field trials are in there. The federal partners wouldn't buy any of that and this is just one more instance where they are trying to take control of what should be a state program.

Rob Manes, WMI – We need to refocus; the field trial issue and all of these other issues we touched on, the controversy of the USFWS, one is groups that don't want us to manage public lands, but want to see the land managed by nature. The Sierra Club intended to not have us manage wildlife lands; is coming from the culture of the USFWS. There is significant culture in this direction. I spoke with Chris LaFontaine on federal aid issues and here are a few things he told me, I would like to summarize them: His intent is to reestablish implementation of federal aid programs, PR/DJ programs, to the letter of the law. That should ring ominously to you. To reaffirm the original intent of PR/DJ programs to establish absolute uniformity throughout the regions. I asked him if he saw the elimination of some of those existing categorical exclusions and he said, no I don't see any elimination of those, but I do perceive that many projects would be considered eligible for that categorical exclusion may no longer be eligible. I would like to point out the duplicity here. They say they are not going to change the rules, but change the way they apply. This could impact things that you all take for granted, like manipulating water

levels, the simple act of things. I said to Chris, that my concern was that this had to be developed in concert with the states and I think that the time to strike is now. I think they are going to cast the die pretty soon at the USFWS and then it will be more difficult to turn it back around. There are three 3 possible legs of the stool to stand on. The Service has to work with states, if I suggested that we begin with the IAFWA and the IAFWA got a working committee that has the structure to deal with this. In the worst-case scenario of implementation is if they require EA's on these things, like timber stand improvement, like wetland water level manipulation, like food plots in wildlife areas, that one EA be allowed to stand for many years, five or ten, however long is reasonable. The third thing is they may need to look at programmatic, all projects in the program, to get this thing back on track. I think it is very important that the letter comes from this group emphasizing those points, to the USFWS and it probably needs to go up through the IAFWA head office. I believe that before this group walks away from here today there needs to be some consensus on general content and the force of the response to this. Back to where I started, this is an issue fostered by those who would like to see us not manage habitats. Whose agenda is not management?

Bob Humphries, Michigan – I have some specific recommendations that tie in with Rob's. There are things that I think are going to be essential to save our program, which I have worked with for 30 plus years. Establish an escrow account for unspent state portions, so the feds are not being rewarded any longer for states not being able to spend their total portion. That might go back to that statement, if they qualify for it and couldn't spend it; the money could be reallocated to the general federal aid program of other states. At that point the feds would not get any cut of it whatsoever, for administrative overhead. We have to remove the incentive for the feds not to give federal aid money to the states, or we have to create the incentive for the feds to award all that money for wildlife restoration projects, I don't know. I would suggest possibly that the incentive might be that for every dollar that the state spends in compliance would involve a certain amount of award, but every dollar the state is not allowed to spend then the feds are also penalized, that dollar from their administration program. I think it is time to remove the USFWS from federal aid; it needs to become a block grant to protect the project. I don't believe the projects are being protected by the USFWS. I think that protection is best left in the hands of the user groups. Through a system of regular programmatic audits by an Audit group that bring us into compliance and keep us in compliance, if not, then we pay that money back and we get ourselves in compliance. The feds are proving more and more every day that they are no longer to be trusted with this program.

Gerald Ross, Missouri – I would share that Missouri has the feeling that we are about to get the shaft. Our audit reports raised such things as field trials. Due to legislation we have constitutional provisions, but they are not willing to accept that, they think we should have a state statute, which is less forceful than the constitution. Many serious issues, but many minor items too. We have had a Department of Conservation credit union housed in our office for years, we leased them a little piece of ground at our headquarters for a dollar a year and they say that is diversion of license funds. We are going to take this pretty seriously and I think we need to react strongly. I am not willing, at this stage, to give an inch, by saying, well we ought to do environmental assessments a

certain way. It seems to me that this is a political issue that we haven't scoped out. It is important enough that I think we ought to be looking at getting the best expertise and working through the IAFWA and identifying some individual to take the lead, just as we have done in the Farm Bill, CARA, and these other items. I think it is equally important that we assess where we are and where we can go quickly. I think we will find that we have every day constituents out there that are even members of some of these groups that are encouraging the USFWS to take this approach. We have a major trail across our Department lands and our people love to hike, but they say that is diversion. Field Trialers and all of these other users out there that are enjoying the benefits of what we have done with federal aid, will find that they are being precluded from those uses and they won't be happy now. We have a lot of tools right there. My sense is to field Congressmen and get their office on these people that are rendering these personal opinions that impact our ability to get administration to work. I am not opposed to adopting strong statements and recommendations, but I would not want to give up any ground.

Rob Manes, WMI – I would suggest that the communication that comes from this body, that the feds stop their movement on this issue until they have established a formal mechanism for consulting with the states.

Bob Humphries, Michigan – Their direction is patently illegal.

Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin – In response to Rob, I believe it is part of the settlement in this unit of the Sierra Club that the Service did agree to look at its endangered species compliance procedures and a follow up to the Association in Washington would be to invite the states to participate in that process. It got one step beyond that, with legal councils from Missouri and Wisconsin, to try to start understanding what the issue was in Michigan from a legal perspective. The next thing that occurred is endangered species staff in Washington DC in the USFWS, drafted new procedures for complying to the Endangered Species Act that lead to some introductory comments about an EA for every project, literally every grant. So they went from Service management in Washington agreeing to work with the Association, or agreeing to invite us to work on this endangered species issues/NEPA issues, to conclusions, without any intermediate steps. Hence I am frustrated, and saying lets talked to them and consult with them, we have talk already tried that. I applaud the efforts of Max and Bob at the Washington office, they are trying to meet with the Assistant Secretary on down to Jamie Clark and her staff and my perception is we are getting lip service, in saying yes we will invite you to the table to talk and the next thing we know this is where we are going. We are statutory partners, to quote Bob Meinen, with the Service in this, by law, and we are being shafted. Maybe we need break down before we can have break through, maybe we need more states saying, no, I'm not going to write an EA such as your state did. Such as Illinois did on the Goff trial issue, such as we did on the fish hatchery project. There are more than just those three that come to mind.

Bob Humphries, Michigan – There is one other overriding thought that I want to get out. One of the things is the environmental assessment. The reassessment of what controversy

means in the hands of these endangered species. Essentially, one person complaining about you having a conflict, hearing rifles/shotguns going off, anything could be controversy, so literally anyone can cause you to do an EA for any project just by objecting to it taking place. That is the way it is going.

Bob Miles, IAFWA – Legislation is the way to solve this problem. We looked at it, a proposal was made and discussed, and citizen language was added in CARA, HB3671, that's the way I feel. Do this carefully; there is no way any language will be accepted in CARA that would affect NEPA. Need to get spotlights on this from our senators. If you look at the dangers involved here, what Missouri is doing with management responsibility, the Service is using the dog training issue against them, sometimes I think we are our own worst enemies. If the resolution is passed, USFWS will support what they are saying as far as dog training goes. Do it through your federal government, not USFWS. They are trying to take away any responsibilities that state agencies have. We need to be very careful of what we agree to.

Bob Humphries, Michigan – I have a report from the USFWS rating these guidelines. He knows the law but he does not understand the intent of that law. He totally ignores the guidance that was provided by the council of environmental quality, people that oversee that law. The guidance was to make more use of categorical exclusions for those activities, which had demonstrated not passing, to use them more. The USFWS did the exact opposite of that. They are using them less.

Bob Miles, IAFWA – We need to tell them to stop, that we want to be involved.

Rob Manes, WMI – Be select in where copies of that goes. Certain ones could go to Max and the other Associations. With Congressman, when you invite them in, you invite them into areas where you may not want them, be alerted to this. If you think we are the only ones talking about this issue, you are probably right because this issue is hottest in the Midwest right now because of litigation. I did contact Region 6 also, they did not have a good understanding of what is going on, they knew change was coming but did not know what the intent of it was.

Mike Budzik, Ohio – Did you make that a formal motion?

Rob Manes, WMI – I cannot.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Do we have a form of a motion, that we take that action, to send a letter to Jamie with the appropriate copies?

Mike Budzik moved and Gerald Ross seconds the motion to send a letter to Jamie.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Any other discussion?

Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin – Before you point your finger, on behalf of the states of Michigan and Wisconsin, I am willing to team up with Bob Humphries to draft letter for your signature. I volunteer to draft that letter.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – That was my question, you read the finger pointing correctly.

Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin - Timing is of the essence, the primary reason is we still have the cures before we revert federal aid funds. The tendency then becomes, historically through the 60 years of the PR/DJ program, to start the fund less controversial, for perhaps more mundane kinds of activities, with those funds. If you recall Wallop Breaux is going through some criticism about the amount of DJ that was being spent on research and surveys. So states start to fund less significant kinds of projects and then we get our partners, our stakeholders in the program saying, where is my duck and deer habitat?

George Burgoyne, Michigan – If we do this, we do it well within the next 30 days, if we don't we are talking about reviewing that letter with the new President.

Rob Manes, WMI – This is controversial issue, the USFWS is sick and tired of getting sued over ESA issues and now it is more and more over PR/DJ issues. They reacting, in a large part, to that litigation, so they do have some motivation that is understandable.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Any other discussion of that?

Keith Sexson, Kansas – Will we have an opportunity to read and review that letter before it actually goes out? I am a little confused in terms of this thing. In Kansas they have really hammered on us in our audit. If we take real strong language here, in terms of USFWS authority, I know that will be in this letter. But, if we take that very strong tone instead of a maybe a heads up. I am just a little confused on where each state is. Some states are getting this head-on, and they have some very direct examples and others may not, but they see that on the horizon and want to head it off. In terms of the tone of that letter and as a co-sponsor of that letter, as part of the Association, we might want to look at that.

Rob Manes, WMI – I thought the letter was just going to say, stop and bring the states in, basically that is it.

Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin – It is not a solution to say, bring us in, we are partners.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – We can get a draft together here shortly and I can electronically send it out to you. The major point is, to involve us here.

Gary Doxtater, Indiana – Our concern is what is looming out there in the future. Right now, we have been through the audit and have things improved a great deal. Right now we are bogged down with essentially reverting some money just because of nitpicking trying to manage our grants right now. None of this other stuff has even come down yet,

so we are concerned about how it is being done right now and maybe it is just a Region 3 thing. Maybe it is even narrower than that, within Region 3. We would be supportive.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Just for your information at the last International meeting I had arranged to have a meeting between our Regional Director and myself and Bob Humphries and a Representative of the DC office to talk over some of these issues, while they were in the building. We couldn't even get them in the same room, the USFWS folks, we could get one or the other, but could never get them both in the same room to discuss this. What that means, I don't know, but I am sure it meant something.

Keith Sexson, Kansas – That is why I think it is interesting that we do have different Regional jurisdiction here because we might not have the same things occurring on our side of the line. They may not have full understanding of it either. We wouldn't want to push them over the edge there either.

Bob Humphries, Michigan – With the USFWS counterparts that I interact with on a day-to-day basis, I have a tremendous amount of respect for them and a good working relationship. I trust my contacts at the Regional office, but as soon as it leaves that Regional office the credibility goes to zero.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – On the motion to prepare and review the letter to be sent within the next thirty days. All those in favor say I.

Motion passes.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – I think we have one other potential action item.

Gerald Ross, Missouri – Can I ask a stupid question? Does IAFWA have this as a high priority, is there a point person or do we have any committee or group in the Midwest that is feeding into that system or is it just a goal as each state has a problem?

Mike Budzik, Ohio – Under the Wildlife Resource Policy Committee, which I chair, it is supposed to identify key issues or concerns that are facing the organization and states and we are supposed to bring these in front of the Executive Committee, so that I might be able to do that.

Bob Miles, IAFWA – I spend half of my time, and Gary Taylor and Max Peterson both spend a lot of time on this.

Gerald Ross, Missouri – I kind of sensed that we were getting along pretty well so we might work with someone else. I was curious if we were assimilating all of these various issues and we have lumped several issues with federal aid together in this session as part of the routine and current grants and audits part of this assessment, part of this impact and activities and management. I think it is important that we have someone collecting all that and getting it organized and putting forward our best interest.

Bob Miles, IAFWA – When CARA passes, our work is just getting started as far as federal aid. It will be a full time job.

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – I would like to presume the Federal Aid Trust Fund Committee. Their activity is primarily directed towards state administrative fund issues, but I presume they could be involved.

Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin – The Wildlife Trust Fund, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund Committee, chaired by Jerry Gamble. Their activity is directed towards the administration of the federal aid program. Jerry and I were presented to the Association on a Fish and Wildlife Service/State committee to look at administration of the program. We made specific recommendations, slightly modified by the chairman of the Association Executive Committee and transmitted to the Director of the Service and in recent response back, she had read that and thought things were not flowing back to a partnership.

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – Is that more directed towards how they spend their administrative fund?

Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin – Yes, but that relates to this because of the oversight goals that we have for the program and NEPA.

Bob Miles, IAFWA – One of the reasons the name of the committee was changed, to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund". One of the things that the federal aid committee always reports is that they are primarily involved in grants, \$4 million. They get \$30 million in administrative dollars, \$400 million in money for the states and the idea was that came out of the federal aid program for that is not involved in the grant.

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – The committee really is our voice with the IAFWA.

Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin – The committee is an International committee not for Regional Association use. Actually, there are two; it is used beyond just grantsmanship. Comments I made about changes in the types of projects we can fund and this gets into the Wildlife Resource Committee as well. I am not sure Jerry can do this for us. Mike, maybe you want to check with Jerry Conley and I think maybe both committees could have a vote to make it more significant than just beyond grantsmanship and seeing how they use the administrative funds as well.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Dick.

Dick Pierce, Ducks Unlimited – Thank you Mr. President. I would like to give a quick update from Ducks Unlimited. We have had a long history of participation and I have been coming to these meetings for about 15 years. The Midwest region actually encompasses 3 of our conservation regions. Usually at this time I give a quick report on what is going on with us, but this year I would like to make a request of the agency. I have been in communication with most of the Directors in the last couple of months

asking for your support, with the Waterfowl Symposium that we will host next summer in Washington, DC. We host these periodically, at the beginning of a new President's term and Congress term. The last one was when George Bush was President and he was our keynote speaker. We will host this next one in June and hopefully the new President will be our keynote speaker there. We would like to ask this Association to be one of the sponsors at that Symposium. I would like to formally request a \$2,000 donation for Ducks Unlimited from this Association for that. (*Appendix VII*)

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – Mr. President, you know the importance of the Midwest region for the waterfowl of the United States and Ducks Unlimited has helped support the Association.

Doug Hansen – I would move that we contribute \$2,000 to that Symposium, Mike Budzik second.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – We have a motion and a second that we contribute to the Symposium as requested, is there any further discussion?

Joe Kramer, Kansas - When do you need the money?

Dick Pierce, Ducks Unlimited – Right now.

Joe Kramer, Kansas – Do you need it before June of next year or like 6 months before or what?

Dick Pierce, Ducks Unlimited – We would like to have it in the next two or three months. I will send a letter making this request formally.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – All those in favor, signify by saying I.

Motion passed.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Since we as an agency, as an Association have acted on it, just send your request directly to the Secretary/Treasurer. The other end of the table isn't sure that we voted on the previous motion. My recollection is that we did in fact vote.

Sheila Kemmis, Kansas – I think so, there was so much discussion after that. Yes, we did.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Ok, we voted and adopted the resolution to prepare and send the letter. A couple of quick housekeeping items and then we will see if there are any other reports. There was a dog tag found outside the room here with the name T.L. Westphal, does that mean anything to anybody here? I will just turn it in at the desk. On behalf of the Association I would like to thank Sharon Schalow for arranging the meeting and arranging all of our facilities and that. I might point out that in addition to the

facilities, it was Sharon's job to make sure it didn't rain, which she took care of and it was my job to make sure the wind wasn't too strong, and I didn't do that. That I apologize for. On behalf of all of us, thank you for making the arrangements, Sharon.

Joe Kramer, Kansas – Chuck Pils is asking for more CITES money, I don't know if we discussed that, for two years from now.

Chuck Pils, Wisconsin – Not at this time. I would like to make a comment, I put together a list of contacts related to CITES and I will be sending this to Sheila, and that will let you know that I have contacts in state agencies on these CITES issues that deal with fish and reptiles and amphibians, primarily. I just wanted to let everyone know that and that I do solicit input from various state people.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Rob, you took part in the discussion on federal aid and reported on a meeting that you were at, did you want to add something additional to the WMI report.

Rob Manes, WMI – No, I think I covered everything in regards to federal aid. The only thing I would like to discuss I will set aside for another time, other than, if there is anybody in here that I don't know, let me introduce myself. I am not wearing a state of Kansas hat, I am wearing a WMI hat and to let you know that my priorities not only come from the WMI, but from the Midwest states. I consider, because of my background in state wildlife agencies, to have some foundation as well as the WMI. My priorities are set largely by what I hear from you all and if I am not working on something and you think I ought to be, just call me up and let me know. Also, if I am working on something that you would just as soon I didn't, I would like you to call me up and say the same thing. I would receive either of them very well.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Bob, did you cover everything you wanted on behalf of the IAFWA.

Gary Duxtater, Indiana – I have a couple of short reports. As host of the IAFWA annual meeting in September in Indianapolis, you should have all received your registration packet and as Directors I would remind you of a very important retreat that we will be having on September 15, which is sponsored by Ducks Unlimited again this year. At that retreat we will have OWP helping us to get some direction of where the Association is going, what our key issues will be and we are looking forward to that. It is kind of resurfacing an effort that was made a couple of years ago of a strategic plan and that will give us some direction in the future. We are looking forward to that. My second report, as Chair of the Awards and Recognition Committee, I have the pleasure and the honor of passing on a plaque of appreciation to our almost Past President, past plus 30 days. George, on behalf of the Association we present you with this nice little plaque. Good job, and particularly for what you have put together for us here this last few days.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Is there anybody here from the Public Lands Management Working Committee? Pat. We have a report here that we want to pass out; I

don't know if you want to add anything to that. One of the action items is to point out that a number of states have not appointed their representative.

Pat Ruble, Ohio -- I will go as quickly as I can, and will skip a lot of this. One thing that is going to happen, according to Constitution and Bylaws if you want to formally, when you established the Committee the Constitution and Bylaws required to submit several things back for approval to you. Those things include our proposed mission statement, specific responsibilities of the working committee and also operating procedures. Unfortunately it is going to take a little bit of time to run through that and I think you are going to have to act on that or table it until next year. If you would like I will try to run through those as quickly as I can. We met in June for portions of three days; we only had representatives from Missouri, Illinois and Ohio. The President solicited representatives from the rest of the states and unfortunately not everyone was able to send representatives so a lot of your agencies didn't have an opportunity for input, but we forged on anyway. Here is what we are proposing back to the Association in terms of a mission statement. Since you haven't read it I will read this quickly and try and get through it. "The Committee was established: To ensure wildlife and wildlife-related recreation on public lands are managed in a manner that's consistent with the mandates, goals and objectives of the state and provincial agencies that have jurisdiction over these resources and activities." And we defined public lands in a footnote down there: "For the purpose of this Committee, public land includes property owned by federal, state and local governments." We further proposed that the specific responsibilities of the Committee will be: "1) Identify issues" (specific examples at the bottom) "affecting management of wildlife or wildlife-related recreation on public lands. 2) Evaluate the significance of identified issues. 3) Recommend actions on high priority issues to the AMFWA. 4) Take action as directed by the AMFWA. 5) Provide a mechanism to communicate, develop and implement cooperative strategies to member agencies of the AMFWA. 6) Prepare and submit reports and resolutions as required by the AMFWA Constitution and Bylaws." We further recommended, in terms of the operating procedures for the Committee: "1) The Committee shall consist of one representative from each member state and province in the AMFWA" "2) The Committee shall meet once annually, no less than 45 and no more than 90 days prior to the annual meeting of the AMFWA." We picked that time frame because the Constitution and Bylaws require that technical working committees submit a written report to the President 30 days in advance of the Association meeting and we didn't want to get out too far in front of the Association meeting because we thought issues might be identified that if the Committee met too early they wouldn't be able to deal with and come back with recommendations. So that was the thought behind that window of time for the Committee meeting. We further recommended: "3) The agency hosting the AMFWA annual meeting shall also host the annual meeting of the PLMWC." You might want to take a little bit of time to look that over, this is probably the thing you want to think about most in here. I will read that paragraph below that: "While recognizing that this places the burden of hosting two meetings in a relatively short period of time on one agency, there are several advantages to operating in this manner. First, because of the process used to designate the Chair of the Committee (see below), scheduling both meetings in the same state or province will insure that the Chair can present the Committee report to the AMFWA without having to

incur costs for out-of-state travel to present a relatively brief report. Secondly, since the Chair will be responsible to see that the Committee implements the directives from the AMFWA, it is desirable that the Chair be the person making the Committee report and receiving the benefit of discussions held at the AMFWA meeting relating to implementation of directives. Finally, it is intended that the resources and effort required to host Committee meetings be limited to no more than necessary to effectively carry out the responsibilities of the Committee as outlined above." We tried to do Committee meetings as cheaply and frugally as you could. "4) The Chair of the Committee shall be the representative from the state or province hosting the annual Committee meeting." "4a) The term of office shall commence with the opening of the Committee meeting in the Chair's home state or province and terminate just prior to the opening of the next annual meeting of the Committee." "4b) The Responsibilities of the Chair: 1. Conduct the annual meeting to insure the Committee's responsibilities are met. 2. Prepare and submit a report" (the footnote refers to what should be included in the annual report) "to the President no less than 30 days in advance of the annual meeting of the AMFWA. 3. Present the Committee's report and recommendations at the AMFWA annual meeting. 4. Facilitate the implementation of AMFWA directives. "5) The Vice-Chair of the Committee shall be the representative from the state or province which will be hosting the next annual Committee meeting. 5a. The Vice-Chair's term of office begins at the opening of the Committee meeting being held immediately prior to the meeting scheduled for the Vice-Chair's home state or province and terminates when the Vice-Chair becomes the Chair as described above. 5b. The responsibilities of the Vice-Chair: 1. Schedule the annual Committee meeting in their home state within the time frame outlined above. 2. Assume the responsibilities of the Chair in the event that the Chair is unable to carry them out." Finally, "6) Ad Hoc committees may be established as deemed necessary by the PLMWC." That is a lot to figure out who is going to be hosting that and I put a little schedule at the bottom to make that a little clearer. That concludes the portion that we were required to deal with in terms of Constitution and Bylaws. I will continue with the recommendations. The first one is pertinent to previous stuff. We identified four issues when we got together and the first one is pretty significant. Only four states assigned representatives to the Committee and only three states send representatives to the Committee and two folks came from Missouri, one from Illinois and two folks from our state. Indiana assigned a person but he was unable to make it. The only other member we heard from was Ontario who expressed they appreciated the opportunity but just didn't want to take advantage of it at this time. So the recommendation from the Committee was that the states that haven't done so, should someone to represent them on the Committee or the Committee should be disbanded because the Committee because it really can't operate effectively unless everybody participates. I can read through the rest of the recommendations, but some of the subsequent recommendations here are going to be dependent on getting the Committee in place to get some of these things done. The second issue we identified: "2) There has been a long-term and steady decline in the amount of early and mid-successional stage forest habitat on National Forests in the Midwest. As a result species such as the golden winged warbler, prairie warbler, indigo bunting, American woodcock, ruffed grouse and yellow breasted chat have also been on a long-term decline." The recommendation is to invite a Regional Forester from Forest Region 9 to next year's Association meeting in

Minnesota to discuss this issue and try to resolve it. If the Association approves this recommendation the Chair of PLMWC will draft a letter within 30 days to invite the Regional Forester to next years meeting. The third issue: 3)The Committee identified several common problems among the states that would likely be better solved at the state or local level rather than the AMFWA taking action to address them. Examples include user conflicts on public hunting/fishing areas (i.e. mushroom pickers and turkey hunters, mountain bikers and birders, etc.) and lost opportunities for wildlife related recreation on public lands not managed by state wildlife agencies." The recommendation here is: "Committee members will be asked to identify public use conflicts in their state and circulate a list of them to the other Committee members prior to next year's meeting. They should come to the meeting prepared to discuss identified problems and potential strategies to solve any of the issues identified by each state." This recommendation doesn't require any action by the Association, but we wanted to let you know we were working on it. The final one is pertinent to some of the discussion we had here earlier and the Association may want to table this recommendation pending what might happen coming out of some of the discussion regarding federal aid, the issue is field trials. "4)Field trials are resulting in conflicts with resource management objectives (soil erosion, vegetation and crop damage, disturbance of nesting birds) and conflicts with other area users (deer and turkey hunters, bird watchers, anglers, trail users, adjacent landowners). In addition, a substantial amount of administrative time (permit processing, permit compliance, correspondence) and field activities (mowing, facility maintenance) are spent to accommodate this user group. A related issue is the lack of clear guidelines for Federal Aid compliance with regard to field trials." "We recommend an Ad-Hoc Committee, comprised of either the PLMWC member or their designee, be established and charged with:" putting a brief report together describing what is going on in terms of field trials in their state. "Identifying gaps in information for which research or monitoring is needed to evaluate the impacts on wildlife and management activities."and "Developing draft guidelines to minimize field trial conflicts with resource management objectives and other public users." (*Appendix VIII*)

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Ok, thank you. What is your pleasure? Do you prefer to accept the mission and goals or would you prefer to table this for action at our next meeting?

Rob Manes, WMI – I just have a request that you outline committee membership there and the Institute has put a lot of an initiative to National Forest land particularly in regards to their management plans they are developing as well the wildlife areas. Primarily since no one else has shown up to comment on those, therefore the problem that is outstanding is the litigation. With that thought in mind I would request that there be a provision made for NGOs participating in the Midwest to have membership on that committee. Specifically because of the interaction with the National Forest Service and the National Wildlife Federation.

Mark Sargent, Michigan – On the Private Lands Working Group, the Bylaws specifically state NGOs as invited, but not voting members.

Rob Manes, WMI – That's fine.

Mark Sargent, Michigan – WMI, USFWS, there were specific groups that we felt were private land groups.

Rob Manes, WMI – I was just guessing right now that there is no one is interacting as well as we are with the Forest Service and the USFWS.

Mike Budzik, Ohio – I still think we need a commitment or some kind of statement if we are going to have a Committee, then we need to send people to them. If we aren't going to send people to them then there is not going to be a Committee.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – That is certainly one of our options, rather than accepting the mission and goals we can decide to resolve this.

Keith Sexson, Kansas – Kansas will have someone there; I don't know what happened this year.

Joe Kramer, Kansas – I know what happened, Rob Manes was going to represent us and he bailed out.

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – I think we ought to reaffirm our belief that this is needed and move on to approve it and make a stronger effort to get the states involved.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – If we chose to accept their mission and goals that would be a reaffirmation. If we are ready to do that.

Doug Hansen, South Dakota – As we pass the meeting from state to state that will force them to get involved.

Joe Kramer, Kansas – I think it is great and you did a real good job with your write up and to me it looks like, if you look at the success of the private land, this thing here is ready to go. All we have to do is get involved.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Do we have a motion to adopt this, including the NGOs as part of the write up.

Keith Sexson moved, Gary Doxtater – I think that not as NGOs as members, but invited.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Yes.

Gary Doxtater - second.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – It has been moved and second, any other discussion about the mission and goals as amended? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying I.

Motion passes.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – There is a series of Action Items here I think the first issue and recommendation is taken care of. Those of us that don't have an appointed member will go back and make sure that gets done. I don't think we need to have a motion on that.

Pat Ruble, Ohio – Since Minnesota isn't here and that is who would inherit this thing, I will be happy to try and shepherd this along, if that is ok with the Association. If you guys want me to, I will do that and try to get it turned over and get it into the cycle as quickly as we can.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – That seems reasonable.

Pat Ruble, Ohio – One good thing, it is a lot easier to write mission statements and procedures if only a few people are there. If you guys had all sent 14 people we would probably still be meeting. We do need to get participation now.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – On Item 2, this issue related to long-term decline and inviting the Regional Forester, do we have a motion on that?

Mike Budzik moved and Doug Hansen second.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – It has been moved and second that we implement the recommendation number 2 about inviting the Regional Forester. Any other discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor of the motion, signify by saying I.

Motion passes.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Pat are there any others that you would like to take action on?

Pat Ruble, Ohio – Issue 3 didn't need any action, but Issue 4 probably would, but based on some of the earlier discussion about federal aid field trials we may want to wait to deal with that.

Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin – As far as the Region 3 states are aware, but for the other states in the Association; Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin met at spring meeting of the International, through the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund Committee, we reached an agreement that the Region 3 states would work with the UFWFS, per the Service's request of us, to set up a field trial guideline committee, to form an Ad-Hoc form of group, made up of a representative from each of the eight states in this Region along with the USFWS representatives from Region 3. We are to work on guidelines associated with field trials. Guidelines has no meaning, it is something we take a stab at the issue of field trials and they are to be shared through the Association, potentially with all of the states,

on whether or not policy guidance is needed under the old resolution policy process that the Association had. That group has not met. The USFWS put together a straw dog, not a pre-draft, I am not going to even call it a draft, a pre-draft of guidance for field trials that is quite troubling to many of us. It basically says that field trials can go through the same test of compatibility that the Service does on the refuge program in terms of compatible positions. Our lands are managed with the same purpose that the refuge is and there are some other major concerns about the process. One of them was requiring an EA on every field trial. I think at this point it would be appropriate to suggest tabling implementation of this within the Midwest Association if the rest of the states in the Association will allow the Region 3 states to take the lead on this and take first crack, if you will, recognizing field trials are becoming a major issue. There seems to be an alternative process right now.

Mike Budzik – I will make the motion that we table Issue 4, Keith Sexson second.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – It has been moved and second that we table the recommendation on Issue 4 from our Public Lands Committee. Any further discussion of that motion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying I.

Motion passes.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Are there other committees that have something to add, or other guests that have something they would like to add, for the good of the organization?

Joe Kramer, Kansas – I might make sure that the Private Land Working Group and the Public Land Working Group know that we, the Association, can up-front some of the costs associated with those meetings. We found out that in Kansas, Troy Schroeder, Regional Supervisor, created his own checking account to run the meeting and there was no reason for that. We are not saying that we would fund the meeting, but that we would up-front the cost so that whoever is hosting next year could use the checking account and the funds that we have to help start that. We just want to make sure that those working groups know that is available to them.

Mark Sargent, Michigan – Also, the Wildlife Society in most states will do that.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Ok, anything else, for the good of the organization, for the group here?

Gary Duxtater, Indiana – A question about next year's meeting?

George Burgoyne, Michigan – I will be in contact with Minnesota since they weren't able to send anyone since, in the normal rotation, they would be the next host. I will be in touch with them, maybe later this week, or the beginning of next week, to see if they are going to be willing to host. If not I will work my way down and I will get back to all of

you and the Secretary/Treasurer so everybody knows who is going to be the host and pass some of the materials down.

Mike Budzik, Ohio – George, if Minnesota won't host the meeting, we will volunteer to host it.

Gary Duxtater, Indiana – You might question the date, with six states missing, is that just by chance or is the date conflicting. We adjusted it to the Western.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – We had specifically adjusted to not conflict with the Western.

Joe Kramer, Kansas – We could canvas the states again with a questionnaire. That would help the next state.

Gary Duxtater, Indiana – I am real concerned about the activities, in Minnesota particularly. We have been told that Roger's position will not be filled, so we don't know just what their interest might be. We have a lot riding on our future as to the activities that our Association has and we just don't want to let that enthusiasm lapse.

Tom Young, Kentucky – We got several states that haven't participated for several years. With the pressing issues that developed to date with the feds, with everything that is going on, it is going to take everybody to come together.

Bob Miles, IAFWA – One problem you have is a change of directors. Bruce McCloskey is now the Acting Director in Colorado, Lyle Asel in Iowa is Director, and Minnesota will have three Directors now, Lee Van Buhler-Environmental Services, Rod Payer-Fisheries and Tim Bremicker-Wildlife. Hugh Durham is the new Director in Arkansas, Ross Haterview as the Director in Iowa and an interim Director for ? is Larry Bell. Such a turn over in directors is bound to cause problems.

Tom Young, Kentucky – In the past Bob, what we have had is, if the Director couldn't attend they would send a representative that would.

Joe Kramer, Kansas – I think the Executive Committee certainly needs to meet at the September meeting to shore up some of these communication problems that we are having. So the states, when you are at the International in September, the Directors could talk to the other states and remind them of the activities of the Association. The Executive Committee could help get that done in September, which means that Minnesota or George or the Treasurer/Secretary is going to have to work with the Executive Committee because George would be a member of the Executive Committee, myself as Secretary/Treasurer, the Past and Present Presidents; the 1st Vice President (which would be the next state coming after Minnesota); and two at-large members.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – That would be Missouri. How about if you and I arrange to get that set up. Pat, previously at-large members were Jerry Conley and Dean Hildebrand.

Tom Young, Kentucky – That was always decided by the incoming President to appoint the at large members. That will be Minnesota's chore.

Joe Kramer, Kansas – We have pretty much stayed with the same standing committees.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – The President in the next 30 days makes sure that all of these things get done.

Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin – So you expect that in 30 days you will know which state will hold the next meeting.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Yes.

Joe Kramer, Kansas – The Bylaws say that the change is 30 days from today.

Mark Sargent, Michigan – As our first year was not in tune with the host state, we will have to change our Bylaws to do that.

Mike Budzik, Ohio – Our Bylaws state that there is a host state on that, Mr. President, for instance if Minnesota declines and I would go next?

Tom Young, Kentucky – Protocol being by alphabet, wouldn't that follow with Missouri, if Minnesota did not do it? I don't know what the Bylaws speak to, in that instance. We adopted by alphabetical order. I would love to come to the state of Ohio, but I am just saying would it make a difference here?

George Burgoyne, Michigan – We follow the Bylaws.

Joe Kramer, Kansas – "One regular meeting shall be held annually and the meeting will be held and hosted by the state or province in which the outgoing President has administrative responsibility or in such other locations as designated by the Association. When necessary a special meeting may be called by the President. Members shall be given 180 days notice of regular annual meetings, special meetings may be called on 10 days notice." Under officers: "The President and First Vice-President shall be nominated from members of the states and provinces on an alphabetical rotation basis, with the First Vice-President being from the state or province next in order of rotation. The term of office shall be for one year commencing thirty (30) days following adjournment of the annual Association meeting." Jeff Ver Steeg redid this in 1995.

Ray Evans, IAFWA – Let the records show, we all like to notice the good work of our peers and Roger Holmes, at a recent celebration in Washington DC, was given an award for his work with wetlands.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – Do I have a motion to adjourn?

Joe Kramer, Kansas – I have one more item. It just dawned on me, since Colorado is bailing out of the Association that would impact the invoices that we brought with us to give to everyone on the Farm Bill. Last year each state contributed \$3,571.43, that was \$50,000 divided by 14 states and now it will be divided by 13 states unless we want to force the issue with Colorado and say that they were a part of this the first year. We could send them a bill. There is a lot of CRP in eastern Colorado. They did vote on this, they were a part of it. If they decline then we will have to send another invoice out.

Keith Sexson, Kansas – Maybe Ohio will volunteer to pay that.

Joe Kramer, Kansas – What is your pleasure; we could sure send them the bill? We could write McCloskey and tell him thanks for the letter, here is your invoice for the Farm Bill money.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – That is only \$300 each.

Gary Doxtater moved to adjourn, Keith Sexson second.

George Burgoyne, Michigan – All those in favor, signify by saying I. Thank you for a great meeting.

Adjourn at 1:05 pm

Appendix

Colorado Withdrawal Request

M

STATE OF COLORADO
Bill Owens, Governor
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

John W. Mumma, Director
6060 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80216
Telephone: (303) 297-1192



*For Wildlife-
For People*

June 19, 2000

George Burgoyne, Jr., President
Association of Midwestern Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Department of Natural Resources
Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Mr. Burgoyne:

The Colorado Division of Wildlife reluctantly and regretfully has decided to withdraw its membership from the AMFWA. This decision comes after careful consideration of how best to direct our efforts in a world where constituent demands grow, partnerships become more important and resources are scarce. We remain committed to addressing the important wildlife issues facing the mid-western states and will certainly continue to work with AMFWA members on projects of mutual interest. Colorado will also continue its memberships in the Western and the International Associations.

As you may know, John Mumma, our director for the past five years, has retired this month. Until a new director is appointed, probably within the next couple of months, I am serving as the Acting Director. Please give me a call if you have questions or if there are issues we need to discuss.

Please convey our regrets and best wishes to the membership at the Association meeting in July.

Sincerely Yours,

Bruce McCloskey
Acting Director

Treasurer's Report



Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies



TREASURER'S REPORT

2000 Transactions
(As of June 30, 2000)

Total Assets beginning January 1, 2000 \$215,465.79

Receipts 2000 (6 months)

Annual Dues (2000).....\$1,650.00
Interest-Checking/Savings/CD's.....4,854.22
Capital Gains(if sold)W.Reed/M.Lynch.....1,080.18

Total Receipts \$ 7,584.40

Total Available Assets \$223,050.19

Disbursements 2000

NONE.....\$ 0.00

Total Disbursements \$ 0.00

NET ASSETS, JUNE 30, 2000 \$223,050.19

Accounting of Assets, June 30, 2000

Cash in checking account.....\$4,611.02
Cash in CD accounts.....153,132.20
Cash in Savings account.....11,330.92
Waddell & Reed.....23.13
Merrill Lynch.....53,952.92

Total Assets \$223,050.19

ASSETS, JUNE 30, 1999 \$223,050.19



Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies



TREASURER'S REPORT

1999 Transactions

Total Assets beginning January 1, 1999 \$215,453.32

Receipts 1999

Annual Dues (98/99).....\$3,400.00
Kansas Conference reimbursement.....242.71
Interest-Checking/Savings/CD's.....7,746.90
Capital Gains(if sold)W.Reed/M.Lynch.....5,765.04

Total Receipts \$17,154.65

Total Available Assets \$232,607.97

Disbursements 1999

Mike Speers CPA.....\$ 750.00
IAFWA (Cara).....10,000.00
The Trophy Shop.....22.98
Chuck Pils (Cites Meetings).....6,369.20

Total Disbursements \$17,142.18

NET ASSETS, DECEMBER 31, 1999 \$215,465.79

Accounting of Assets, December 31, 1999

Cash in checking account.....\$2,918.23
Cash in savings.....199.55
Cash in CD accounts.....159,452.14
Money Market (Waddell & Reed).....31.59
Money Market (Merrill Lynch).....52,864.28

Total Assets \$215,465.79

ASSETS, DECEMBER 31, 1999 \$215,465.79

Request for Additional Funds from Chuck Pils

June 21, 2000

George Burgoyne
President- Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Michigan DNR
Box 30044
Lansing, MI 48090-7944

Dear George:

Sorry I am so late in submitting this, but there were ^{SALES} ~~anfus~~ on the billing which had to be sorted out by Don MacLauchlan and the IAFWA office. I just got their billing (see June 21, 2000 attached letter).

The trip to Gigiri (a suburb northwest of Nairobi) for the recently completed Conference of The Parties (COP 11) from April 10 to 20, 2000, was more expensive than COP 10 in Harare, Zimbabwe for several reasons. First, prices were generally more expensive across the board for everything, including food, transportation, and lodging. The per night charge from the hotel room was advertised for \$108.00 per night, but turned out to be \$147.50 per night with all the Kenyan Hotel Taxes added. Unlike Harare, where I could walk 4 blocks to the nearby Sheraton where COP 10 took place, our group had to travel by shuttle bus from our hotel to the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) compound. We hired a minibus and driver for the entire COP 11 period for \$175 apiece; this gave us the flexibility to come and go from the UNEP compound at our discretion. Laundry was expensive! I paid \$118 for very little laundry (shirts and underwear).

I am submitting my expenses along with copies of key receipts as follows (receipt attached indicated by *):

Airline Ticket-

Roundtrip airfare-Madison WI,
Nairobi, Kenya- \$1,989.04

Misc. in-transit expenses/including

Overnight in London and
Transportation in Nairobi..... \$341.93

TOTAL- \$2330.97*

COP 11 Registration Fee-	\$ 600.00*
Hotel Room (15 nights-breakfast included)-	\$ 2212.34*
Laundry	\$ 118.00*
Hotel lunches and dinners + tips (no receipt for tips)	\$ 127.58*
All other meals (tips included)	\$ 491.00

GRAND TOTAL.....\$5879.89

Previously, Joe Kramer supplied me with a check for \$5,000 for COP 11 expenses.

Therefore, I am requesting a check for \$879.89 for the balance of my COP 11 expenses.

Please let me know if you need clarification on any part of this expense account.

Sincerely,



Charles M. Pils

Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies CITES Representative

C: Joe Kramer-Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES**

444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 544

Washington, DC 20001

(202) 624-7890

Federal ID # 41-6029770

INVOICE

Billed To: Chuck Pils, Special Representative
Midwestern Assoc. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
5725 Cedar Place
Madison, WI 53705

Date: June 20, 2000

Travel Expenses for Cites Mtg. For Chuck Pils	
Roundtrip Airfare-Madison WI, Nairobi Kenya	\$1,989.04
Misc. in-transit expenses/including overnight in London and transportation in Nairobi	\$ 341.93
TOTAL	\$2,330.97
Balance Due	\$2,330.97



International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Representing Fish and Wildlife Agencies since 1902

Hall of the States, 444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 544, Washington, DC 20001

Telephone (202) 624-7890 ♦ Fax (202) 624-7891 ♦ E-mail: iafwa@ssso.org ♦ Web Page: www.sso.org/iafwa

President
David J. Waller
Georgia

Executive Vice-President
R. Max Peterson

Secretary-Treasurer
C. Thomas Bennett
Kentucky

Vice-President
Patrick J. Graham
Montana

June 21, 2000

Chuck Pils
Association of Midwest Fish & Wildlife Agencies
5725 Cedar Place
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Chuck,

Finally we have the final billing in for your Africa expenses! I am sending this to you since I am aware that the Midwest Association sent you an advance for your expenses.

I am also aware that you have reported directly to each state on the weeks in Nairobi. I do hope that in any subsequent correspondence to your member states that you will pass on our gratitude for their allowing you to participate.

I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Donald E. MacLauchlan
Director of International Affairs

cc: Joel Kramer, KS

Executive Committee:

John Baughman, Wyoming
Arnold H. Boer, New Brunswick (Vice-Chair)
Allan L. Egbert, Florida

Roger M. Hansen, Minnesota (Past President)
Robert L. McLaughlin, New Jersey (Chair)
G. Brent Manning, Illinois

Alfred T. Menus, Delaware
George E. Meyer, Wisconsin
Steven A. Williams, Kansas

Jaschek Trust Fund Report and Guidelines

Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Guidelines on the use of the Anton Walter Jaschek Fund
July 7, 1999 DRAFT

DRAFT

The Anton Walter Jaschek inheritance was an unexpected and unique gift given to the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 199_. The sum of money was considerable for an organization like the AMFWA. This inheritance affords the AMFWA the potential for long term financial participation on a variety of issues. The Association can utilize this fund rather than request contributions from individual states for many issues, thus helping to keep annual dues modest and selected requests for other financial needs limited.

The AMFWA should invest the principle of the Jaschek Fund for long term, stable income growth. Only the annual interest earned on the fund should be utilized for funding agreed to projects in a given year. The principle should remain invested and protected from expenditure to assure a steady source of investment income for future project use.

Purpose and Use of the Fund

The purpose and use of the Anton Walter Jaschek fund shall be to support activities of the Association Midwest of Fish and Wildlife Agencies which maintains and enhances the capability of all Midwest Association States to develop and implement comprehensive fish and wildlife programs for game, non-game and endangered species and their habitats.

1.) Activities that shall be given priority consideration are as follows:

- Supporting the enactment of new national legislation which will increase the funding and/or enhance state authority for the development and implementation of fish and wildlife programs such as: Teaming With Wildlife and CARA (Conservation and Reinvestment Act). Support may take the form of: direct contribution to the IAFWA for their efforts; supporting the expense of state staff who are assigned temporary duty on behalf of the AMFWA to work on these issues; supporting the collection, publication and distribution of information which will have a positive impact on Congressional decision makers.
- Supporting reauthorization of existing national legislation such as the Farm Bill, Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, for the purposes of maintaining and/or strengthening these types of legislation. Support may include: contributing to IAFWA efforts to dedicate staff to work on re-authorizations; supporting studies and evaluations to provide background information reflective of Midwest states needs; paying the expenses of staff to participate on behalf of the AMFWA on national advisory groups or study groups related to reauthorization of these types of legislation; supporting the collection, publication and distribution of information which will have a positive impact on Congressional decision makers.

DRAFT

- Supporting AMFWA participation in CITIES. This should be limited to paying no more than the necessary travel expenses of state personnel who are working on behalf of the AMFWA.
- Sponsoring and/or co-sponsoring conferences, workshops and symposia which provide a forum for the presentation, discussion and sharing of research findings, successful management programs, and emerging management issues of importance to AMFWA states. A condition of sponsoring such conferences should be the timely publication of the conference proceedings in some form useful to practicing fish and wildlife managers and policy makers. Conferences of this type should serve to help develop coordinated policy and management strategies among AMFWA states, and may be a precursor to the recommended development of additional state and federal legislation to further protect and enhance fish and wildlife resources.
- Recognition for outstanding service. Annually, no more than 5 % (???) of the annual interest earned by the Fund may be set aside by the Association for the purposes of rewarding outstanding service by an individual, organization or agency within the boundaries of the Association. This recognition can be given to professional and non-professional persons who demonstrate outstanding commitment and stewardship to fish and wildlife resources in a state or the Midwest. Specific guidelines and procedures will developed by the Nominating and Awards Committee of the AMFWA.

2.) Activities for which the Jaschek Fund will not be used include:

- habitat projects
- fish and wildlife surveys, and research projects not directly related to enactment of national legislation
- books and publications not resulting from workshops, conferences or symposia sponsored by the AMFWA
- buildings and interpretive exhibits

3.) Other activities not specifically described herein may be considered if they are have a direct relation to any or all of the items included in (1) above.

Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Guidelines for the Use of the Anton Walter Jaschek Fund
July 18, 2000

The Anton Walter Jaschek inheritance was an unexpected and unique gift given to the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 1996. The sum of money was considerable for an organization like the AMFWA. This gift affords the AMFWA the potential for long term financial participation in a variety of issues. The Association can utilize this fund for many activities rather than request contributions from individual states, thus helping to keep annual dues modest, and selected requests for other financial needs limited.

As determined by the Executive Committee, the principle of the Jaschek Fund will be invested in securities to provide long term stable income growth. Only the annual interest earned on the fund will be utilized for funding appropriate projects in a given year. The principle will remain invested and protected from expenditure to assure a steady source of investment income for future project use.

Purpose and Use of the Fund

The purpose and use of the Anton Walter Jaschek fund shall be to support activities of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies which maintain and enhance the capability of all Midwest Association States to develop and implement comprehensive fish and wildlife programs for game, nongame, endangered species and their habitats.

1.) Activities that shall be given priority consideration are as follows:

- Supporting the enactment of new national legislation which will increase the funding and/or enhance state authority for the development and implementation of fish and wildlife programs such as: Teaming With Wildlife, CARA (Conservation and Reinvestment Act). Support may take the form of: direct contribution to the IAFWA for information and education efforts, supporting the expenses of state staff who are assigned temporary duty on behalf of the AMFWA to work on these issues; supporting the collection, publication and distribution of information which will have a positive impact on Congressional decision makers.
- Supporting re-authorization of existing national legislation such as the Farm Bill, Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, for the purposes of maintaining and/or strengthening these types of legislation. Support may include: contributing to IAFWA efforts to dedicate staff to work on re-authorizations, supporting studies and evaluations to provide background information reflective of Midwest states needs; paying the expenses of staff to participate on behalf of the AMFWA on national advisory groups or study groups related to re-authorization of these types of legislation; supporting the collection, publication and distribution of information which will have a positive impact on Congressional decision makers.

- Supporting AMFWA participation in CITES. This should be limited to paying no more than the necessary travel expenses of state personnel who are working on behalf of the AMFWA.
- Sponsoring and/or co-sponsoring conferences and symposia which provide a forum for the presentation, discussion and sharing of research findings and management programs of importance to AMFWA states. A condition of sponsoring such conferences should be the timely publication of the conference proceedings in some fashion, in a form useful to practicing fish and wildlife managers.

2.) Activities for which the Jaschek Fund will not be used include:

- Habitat projects.
- Fish and wildlife surveys and research not directly related to obtaining information or evaluating past programs pertaining to enactment of national legislation (i.e. Farm Bill, Clean Water Act, CARA).
- Books and publications not resulting from workshops, conferences or symposia sponsored by AMFWA.
- Buildings and interpretive exhibits.

3.) Other activities not specifically described herein may be considered if they have a direct relation to any or all of the items included in (1) above.

Procedures for Requesting, Awarding and Distributing Grants from the Jaschek Fund

Annually, Joe Kramer, the Secretary/Treasurer, shall inform the President and the Executive Committee of the amount of earnings from the Jaschek Fund that are available for distribution. Any current commitments for funding for the coming year, already agreed to by the AMFWA, will be deducted and itemized.

1.) Requests for Funding

- Requests shall be considered on an annual basis.
- Requests shall be submitted to the President of the AMFWA no later than April 1 of each year.
- Requests shall include:
 - the name, address, phone number and affiliation of the requester;
 - a description of the activity and how it fulfills the purposes of the Fund in (1);
 - the total cost of the activity;
 - the amount of Jaschek Funds requested;
 - date when the Jaschek Funds are needed;
 - how the requestor will report back to the AMFWA on the use of the funds and success of the project or activity.

2.) Awarding the Grant:

- The President shall forward copies of all grant requests to the full Executive Committee of the AMFWA by April 20.
- The Executive Committee shall meet, via phone conference call, prior to June 1 and develop a joint recommendation on grant funding priorities, utilizing the Jaschek Fund guidelines.
- The President shall forward the recommendations of the Executive Committee to all members of the AMFWA no later than 30 days prior to the summer meeting of the AMFWA.
- The AMFWA shall give final approval or modify the recommendations of the Executive Committee at the Business meeting of the AMFWA.

3.) Distributing and Evaluation of Grants:

- On behalf of the President, the Secretary/Treasurer shall notify the grant recipients of the AMFWA action within 30 days.
- The Secretary/Treasurer will arrange for the funds to be sent to the requestor.
- Successful grants recipients shall be requested to provide a report back to the AMFWA on the use of the funds as requested by the President.

Anton W. Jaschek Trust
Midwest Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Spreadsheet
1996

Trust Deposits	Interest Income	Share Withdrawals	Deposits	CD Accounts	Balance
01/09/96 (658669) \$150,000.00					\$150,000.00
	02/06/96 536.30				\$150,536.30
	03/06/96 538.22				\$151,074.52
	04/04/96 540.14	04/11/96 (TWW) 30,000.00			\$121,614.66
	05/06/96 501.99		05/09 & 05/30/96 12,858.00		\$134,974.65
	06/06/96 479.48				\$135,454.13
	07/05/96 447.71		07/15 & 07/19/96 8,572.00		\$144,473.84
	08/06/96 513.23				\$144,987.07
09/05/96 \$ 58,970.18	09/06/96 513.60		09/17/96 2,143.00		\$206,613.85
	10/04/96 643.96		10/11/96 4,286.00		\$211,543.81
	11/06/96 790.26		11/20/96 2,143.00		\$214,477.07
	12/06/96 705.48				\$215,182.55
1996 Totals \$208,970.18	\$ 6,210.37	* \$ 30,000.00	* \$ 30,002.00		\$215,182.55

* NOTE: The Association sent \$30,000 to IAFWA but collected \$2,143 from each state for a total of \$30,002.

Anton W. Jaschek Trust
Midwest Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Spreadsheet
1997

Trust Deposits	Interest Income	Share Withdrawals	Deposits	CD Accounts	Balance
1997 Beginning Balance					\$215,182.55
	01/07/97 809.32				\$215,991.87
	02/06/97 738.51				\$216,730.38
03/03/97 564.26	03/06/97 691.83	03/11/97 (Pils) * 6,000.00			\$211,986.47
	04/04/97 707.40				\$212,689.87
	05/06/97 775.70				\$213,465.57
	06/05/97 729.88				\$214,195.45
	07/07/97 781.20				\$214,976.65
	08/06/97 735.04				\$215,711.69
	09/05/97 737.56				\$216,449.25
	10/06/97 764.75		10/15/97 (Pils) * 1,096.00		\$218,310.00
	11/06/97 770.19				\$219,080.19
	12/04/97 699.14				\$219,779.33
1996 Totals \$208,970.18	\$6,210.37	\$30,000.00	\$30,002.00		\$215,182.55
1997 Totals \$209,534.44	\$8,936.52	\$6,000.00	\$1,096.00		\$219,779.33

NOTE: Chuck Pils initially received \$6,000 to go to the CITES conference but his actual cost was \$4,904 so he refunded \$1,096.

Anton W. Jaschek Trust
Midwest Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Spreadsheet
1998

Trust Deposits	Interest Income	Share Withdrawals	Deposits	CD Accounts	Balance
1998 Beginning Balance					\$219,779.33
	01/07/98 851.66				\$220,630.99
	02/05/98 729.23	02/11/98 150,000.00			\$ 71,360.22
	03/05/98 313.21			01-25,000-06mo 02-25,000-12mo 03-50,000-18mo 04-50,000-24mo	\$221,673.43
	04/06/98 261.40	04/17&29/98 (to ckg) 71,934.83 *04/23/98 (from ckg) 25,000.00 (TWW)			\$150,000.00
	05/11/98 01 - 284.53 02 - 304.79 03 - 628.09 04 - 656.48	05/06/98 (from ckg) 50,000.00 (Merrill Lynch fund)	05/06/98 50,000.00 (Merrill Lynch)		\$201,873.89
	08/06/98 01 - 287.77 02 - 318.97 03 - 657.55 04 - 687.67			NOTE: 01 rolled over 100% to 05	\$203,825.85
	11/10/98 02 - 322.99 03 - 666.09 04 - 697.01 05 - 353.68				\$205,865.62
	12/31/98 ML dividends ML Ready Assets	Projected Loss of Merrill Lynch funds (if sold) 4,095.08 (Portfolio Price-47,318.65)			\$203,184.27
1996 Totals \$208,970.18	\$6,210.37	\$30,000.00	\$30,002.00		\$215,182.55
1997 Totals \$209,534.44	\$8,936.52	\$6,000.00	\$1,096.00		\$219,779.33
1998 Totals \$209,534.44	\$9,434.85	\$226,029.91	\$50,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$203,184.27

* NOTE: Gave \$21,934.83 from Jaschek Trust, \$3,065.17 from other monies (checking) for a total of \$25,000 to TWW - Non-returnable.

Anton W. Jaschek Trust
Midwest Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Spreadsheet
1999

Trust Deposits	Interest Income	Share Withdrawals	Deposits	CD Accounts	Balance
1999 Beginning Balance					\$203,184.27
	02/10/99 02 - 327.06 03 - 674.75 04 - 706.47 05 - 358.58				\$205,251.13
	05/10/99 02 - 289.86 03 - 661.08 04 - 692.56 05 - 351.60				\$207,246.23
	08/10/99 02 - 303.00 03 - 692.09 04 - 725.47 05 - 368.39		08/17/99 savings -3,979.65	NOTE: 03 rolled over 50,000 to 06 & rolled 3,979.65 (interest) into a savings account	\$209,335.18
	11/10/99 02 - 306.45 04 - 735.31 05 - 373.50 06 - 0.00	*11/03/99 3,800 .00 from savings, - 10,000 (CARA)			\$206,950.44
	1999 Projected Capital Gain of Merrill Lynch funds (if sold) 1,080.18 (Portfolio Price- 52,864.28)				\$208,030.62
1996 Totals \$208,970.18	\$6,210.37	\$30,000.00	\$30,002.00		\$215,182.55
1997 Totals \$209,534.44	\$8,936.52	\$6,000.00	\$1,096.00		\$219,779.33
1998 Totals No Change	\$9,434.85	\$226,029.91	\$50,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$203,184.27
1999 Totals No Change	\$8,646.35	\$3,800.00			\$208,030.62

*NOTE: Gave \$3,800.00 (CD interest from savings) from Jaschek Trust, 5,970.31 (Waddell Reed) and 229.69 (checking) from other monies for a total of \$10,000 to CARA - Non-returnable.

Anton W. Jaschek Trust
Midwest Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Spreadsheet
2000

Trust Deposits	Interest Income	Share Withdrawals	Deposits	CD Accounts	Balance
2000 Beginning Balance					\$208,030.62
	02/11/00 02 - 309.94 04 - 745.29 02/13/00 05 - 378.66 06 - 0.00		02/11/00 savings - 2,483.06 5,646.26	NOTE: 02 rolled over 25,000 to 07, interest (2,483.06) rolled to savings; 04 rolled over 50,000 to 08, interest (5,646.06) rolled to savings.	\$209,464.51
	03/31/00 savings - 26.22				\$209,490.73
	05/10/00 05 - 375.49 06 - 1,884.98 07 - 317.59 08 - 717.65	CD interest - 375.49 1,884.98 317.59	savings - 375.49 1,884.98 317.59		\$212,786.44
	06/30/00 savings - 55.61				\$212,842.05
1996 Totals \$208,970.18	\$6,210.37	\$30,000.00	\$30,002.00		\$215,182.55
1997 Totals \$209,534.44	\$8,936.52	\$6,000.00	\$1,096.00		\$219,779.33
1998 Totals No Change	\$9,434.85	\$226,029.91	\$50,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$203,184.27
1999 Totals No Change	\$8,646.35	\$3,800.00			\$208,030.62
2000 Totals No Change	\$4,811.43				\$212,842.05

TOTAL Investments and CDs = \$200,000.00.

**Midwest
Private Lands
Working Group
Report**

Midwest Private Lands Management Group



July, 2000

**Private Lands
Working Group**

- ✓ Sanctioned group of the Directors Association
- ✓ To serve in an advisory capacity to the directors on private lands matters
- ✓ 10th annual meeting was held in May in Kansas
- ✓ Resulted in action items for your review

Meeting Overview

- ✓ Meeting was held May 14-17 in Salina, Kansas
- ✓ 13 of the 14 Midwest states were present
- ✓ Other Groups represented include: WML, DU, PF, QU, USDA, USFWS

Topics Covered

- ✓ Carbon Sequestration
- ✓ Total Farm resource management in the private market
- ✓ State Updates
- ✓ Farm Bill

Farm Bill

- ✓ 1996 Farm Bill has been the best opportunity for habitat in the Midwest.
- ✓ Midwest CRP: 20 million acres of grassland
- ✓ Programs such as WRP have greatly increased wetland restorations

WMI Report How Much is Enough

- ✓ Repeat of the 1995 report
- ✓ Facilitated by WMI
- ✓ Regional Approach to 2002 Farm Bill
- ✓ Topics include:
 - Landscape changes
 - Economic impacts
 - Wildlife impacts
 - Regional goals

Midwest Recommendations

- ✓ Reauthorize Swampbuster and Sodbuster
- ✓ Increase CRP cap to 45 million acres
- ✓ Increase WRP to 250,000 acres per year
- ✓ Increase funding to WIHP to \$50 million per year
- ✓ Consensus reached

Action Item #1

- ✓ Letter to other associations requesting support for International Association Farm Bill Coordinator
 - Asking for \$17,000/year
 - Position description
 - Current and future farm bill policy
 - Coordinate farm bill efforts

Action Item #2

- ✓ Draft Letter to sponsors of legislation to increase WRP and CRP caps
 - WRP
 - Senator Johnson
 - Representative Peterson
 - CRP
 - Senator Hutchinson
 - Representative Pickering

Action Item #3

- ✓ Draft state letter for reauthorizing WRP and WHIP and increasing the CRP cap
 - WRP - 250,000 acres/year
 - WHIP \$50 million/year
 - CRP cap at 45 million acres

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2000

The 10th annual meeting of the Midwest Private Lands Management Group was held May 14-17, 2000 in Salina, Kansas. This group, formally sanctioned by the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agency Directors in 1994, meets annually to discuss private land wildlife management issues. This report of the 2000 meeting is provided to the Midwest Directors.

Midwest states in attendance at the meeting included Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, and South Dakota. Wisconsin was not represented. Texas was a guest at the meeting in an effort to maintain coordination with the Southeast Association. Other groups and agencies represented include: Pheasants Forever, Quail Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, Wildlife Management Institute, Farm Bill Network, Wildlife Habitat Management Institute, Kansas State University, Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The meeting agenda focused on Farm Bill programs and activities and preparation for wildlife community involvement in the development of the new Farm Bill for 2002. Kansas NRCS and FSA state office staff updated the group on programs to include CRP and WRP. Continuous Signup CRP and the Buffer Initiative were also discussed. NGO's, USDA, USFWS and Kansas Congressional Staff discussed their ideas about the 2002 Farm Bill development, including a potential grassland easement program. Kyle Thompson, Prairie Land Management, Inc. discussed total resource management as a private business. Chuck Rice, KSU, presented an overview of carbon sequestration.

As in past years, each state made a brief report on their private land efforts. It was particularly noteworthy that private land programs have been significantly enhanced in several states to include, Nebraska, Missouri, Kentucky and Iowa.

The Wildlife Management Group meeting continues to provide a valuable opportunity for sharing ideas and coordinating wildlife management policy recommendations among biologists from Midwest states. In spite of a wide array of ideas, this report reflects group consensus and recommendations on several topics.

FARM BILL

The tremendous impact the federal Farm Bill has on agricultural land management and the associated influence on wildlife habitat is obvious. Thus, the Farm Bill was a major focus of this meeting. In spite of some problems identified by several group members, the 1996 Farm Bill has provided the best ever opportunity to improve wildlife habitat at the national scale. It is therefore obvious that efforts to develop a favorable Farm Bill in 2002 should be a priority. Through a cooperative effort between the state wildlife

agencies and the various private conversation groups, unified policy recommendations will hopefully be incorporated into new Farm Bill Legislation.

How Much Is Enough

The Wildlife Management Institute, in preparation of the 1996 Farm Bill development, assembled this document with input from the state associations. The document is being rewritten in preparation for the 2002 Farm Bill efforts. Tim Davis, Colorado has coordinated efforts for the Midwest section of the document. Topics addressed in the document include landscape changes, recreation/economic impacts, wildlife impacts, progress since the 1996 farm bill, goals and recommendations for the 2002 farm bill and success stories from previous farm bill programs. It was decided to limit recommendations to items that will be addressed by legislation. Consensus was reached on this document and a draft will be forwarded to WMI. It is important that consistency for major recommendations be maintained among the sections submitted by all the associations. Farm program recommendations from the Midwest section for 2002 include:

General Recommendations

- Link agriculture support payments, such as loan deficiency payments and crop insurance, to Conservation Compliance.
- Reauthorize Swampbuster.
- Reauthorize Sodbuster.

Conservation Reserve Program

- Increase nation CRP cap to 45 million acres.
- Expand the use of the riparian buffer practices by including the use of riparian herbaceous cover and natural regeneration on riparian buffers in marginal pastureland that has no history of tree cover.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

- Increase funding to a national minimum of \$50 million annually.

Wetlands Reserve Program

- Increase national cap to a minimum enrollment of 250,000 acres annually.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- Increase funding to provide at least \$300 million per year nationally.

Forest Stewardship Program

- Provide \$50 million per year nationally.

Stewardship Incentive Program

- Provide \$50 million per year nationally.

New Program Recommendations

- Establish a new Grassland/Rangeland Easement Program.
 - ✓ Template to follow WRP program, with 15-year, 30-year and perpetual easement options.
 - ✓ Objective to protect and enhance existing native grasslands.
 - ✓ Offer enrollment option for expiring CRP acres that could allow producers to roll expiring CRP acres into the new

- “Grassland/Rangeland Easement Program” with a grazing management plan.
- ✓ Establish enrollment goal of 12 million acres of existing grasslands in the Midwest.
- Establish a Conservation Security Program or “Green Payment” type program.
 - ✓ Reimburse landowners for providing key conservation (including wildlife) on their land.
 - ✓ Establish three levels of annual payments – 10%, 20%, and 40% of the average annual rental rate for the land.
 - ✓ Identify key Best Management Practice (BMP’s) on the basis of major hydrological unit or zoogeographic unit.
 - ✓ Assign “Conservation Credits” to each key BMP (i.e. 25 for conservation tillage, 25 for nutrient management, 25 for wildlife field borders, etc).
 - ✓ Establish a threshold number of conservation credits to trigger each level of payment (more conservation = higher payment).

International Association Farm Bill Coordinator

Ray Evans reported on the status of the Farm Bill Coordinator position to be hired by the International Association. The position has not been filled for the following reasons: 1) It is the judgment of the staff that the need for a full time person does not yet exist and it is more prudent use of funds for a part time position at this time. 2) All of the states and associations have not made the three-year commitment needed to fund a full time position and funds to pay for the position are currently inadequate. 3) It will be difficult to recruit someone full time until the funds are adequate to assure a definite term of employment.

ACTION ITEMS

Letter to other Associations asking for support for International Association Farm Bill Coordinator Position

The group recommended that the Midwest Directors send a letter to the other Associations, NE, SE, & W asking for a financial commitment of \$17,000 annually to allow the position to be filled and working on January 1, 2001. The need for the position is identified as follows: 1) work on current farm bill policy and regulations, e.g. reauthorization of WRP & WHIP, increasing the CRP cap to 45 million acres. 2) Coordinate Farm Bill efforts between associations to present a more unified wildlife position to Congress. 3) Prepare policy for the 2002 Farm Bill.

Letters thanking sponsors of legislation introduced to increase WRP and CRP caps

The conservation community has had a great deal of influence in guiding Farm Bill programs in recent years. Several legislators have been helpful in this process. Legislation has been introduced to reauthorize WRP at 250,000 acres per year and to raise the CRP cap from the current 36.4 million acres to 45 million acres. Both these programs are extremely beneficial to wildlife habitat. The group recommends that the Midwest Directors send letters of thanks to sponsors of these bills.

State letters of support for reauthorizing WRP and WHIP and increasing the CRP cap

In an effort to generate additional support for important conservation measures such as reauthorizing WRP at 250,000 acres per year, reauthorizing WHIP at \$50 million per year and increasing the CRP cap to 45 million acres, it is recommended that a draft letter be given to each state director to be used to contact the state's delegation, urging support for this legislation. It could come from the director or governor of each state.

NON-ACTION ITEMS

The management group meeting agenda was discussed in some detail. In spite of the importance of Farm Bill issues, it was decided to dedicate more of future meeting agenda time to discussing other wildlife management topics and that state reports will be moved up on the agenda and given more time. This is needed to insure the informal exchange of ideas with adequate time to discuss special topics of interest regarding private land wildlife management, as emphasized when the group was formed.

July <date>, 2000

<association president>, President
Association <NE, SE, W> of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
<address>

Dear Mr. <association president>:

Last year the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies made a 3-year commitment of \$50,000 annually (now a 2-year commitment) to fund agricultural policy coordinator position through the IAFWA. The position would coordinate agricultural conservation efforts in Washington, D.C. on behalf of the states. The expected cost for such a position is \$100,000 annually.

The IAFWA has yet to receive a financial commitment from you to help with this vital effort. A 2-year commitment from the <NE, SE, W> Association would be approximately \$34,000 or \$17,000 annually. Your participation in this effort to get a person hired by January 1, 2001 is crucial to our collective ability to influence federal farm programs in a way that will be beneficial to wildlife.

It is clear that addressing landscape level wildlife opportunities and concerns is often best accomplished through agricultural conservation programs that have come about through favorable agricultural legislation and ensuing policies. Indications are that due to current agricultural economics and the political climate, the 2002 Farmbill will be a greater challenge for wildlife-friendly elements. In the last 2 years, AMTA and Market Loss Assistance payments to producers have topped \$20 billion nationally, with no conservation requirements tied to any of these funds.

It would appear the time for the wildlife community to act is now, or the tremendous advances made in agricultural wildlife conservation could be lost. Responsibilities of a full time staff person are immediate:

- 1) work on current Farmbill policy and regulations (e.g., reauthorization of WRP, SIP, & WHIP, increasing the CRP cap to 45 million acres)

- 2) coordinate Farmbill efforts between associations to present a unified wildlife position to Congress (*e.g., position statements on fescue, monoculture pine, early successional species*)
- 3) prepare policy for 2002 Farmbill (*e.g., improving the EBI, rules regarding T&E and petitioned species, and forest management*)

I believe that agricultural legislation and policy are among the most important opportunities in wildlife management. Conservation advances in the 1996 Farmbill suggests a coordinated effort among the associations could be expected too greatly improve conservation benefits in the 2002 Farmbill.

Your prompt consideration of this most important request is appreciated. Our time to act cooperatively is short. I will be calling you within the next several weeks to talk with you about this critically needed position.

Sincerely,

K. L. Cool?, President
Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Cc: R. Max Peterson, IAFWA
<NE, SE, W> Association Presidents

Active Items "L"

July < date >, 2000

The Honorable Tim Hutchinson
United States Senate
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hutchinson:

I write to express the sincere appreciation of the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AMFWA) for your introduction of S. 1448 to re-authorize the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) to enroll 250,000 acres annually in calendar years 2000 through 2005. WRP is a key resource tool toward achieving no-net-loss of wetlands and sustainability of fish and wildlife resources in the 14 states with membership in the AMFWA.

Agriculture is a major land use in the Midwest and the production of food and fiber is extremely important to the economy of the Region and the vitality of the Nation. Wetlands are critically important to groundwater recharge, water quality and many species of fish and wildlife, such as migratory waterfowl. Healthy lakes, streams and abundant wildlife populations contribute to the quality of life as well as the multi-billion dollar tourism/outdoor recreation economy in the Midwest. Agriculture, resource conservation, tourism, outdoor recreation and a healthy economy are inextricably linked.

WRP has been tremendously popular to farmers that have struggled with land that is often too wet to farm and/or at risk of flooding. WRP provides them with a viable means of converting marginally productive croplands to wetlands which improve the environment to the benefit of all citizens. It is a win-win situation for all concerned.

Again, Senator Hutchinson, thank you for your continued effort toward re-authorization of WRP.

Sincerely,

< name >
President, AMFWA

cc: AMFWA State Fish and Wildlife Directors

July < date >, 2000

The Honorable Charles "Chip" Pickering
United States House of Representatives
427 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pickering:

I write to express the sincere appreciation of the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AMFWA) for your introduction of H.R. 2066 to re-authorize the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) to enroll 250,000 acres annually in calendar years 2000 through 2005. WRP is a key resource tool toward achieving no-net-loss of wetlands and sustainability of fish and wildlife resources in the 14 states with membership in the AMFWA.

Agriculture is a major land use in the Midwest and the production of food and fiber is extremely important to the economy of the Region and the vitality of the Nation. Wetlands are critically important to groundwater recharge, water quality and many species of fish and wildlife, such as migratory waterfowl. Healthy lakes, streams and abundant wildlife populations contribute to the quality of life as well as the multi-billion dollar tourism/outdoor recreation economy in the Midwest. Agriculture, resource conservation, tourism, outdoor recreation and a healthy economy are inextricably linked.

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Again, Congressman Pickering, thank you for your continued effort toward re-authorization of WRP.

Sincerely,

< name >
President, AMFWA

cc: AMFWA State Fish and Wildlife Directors

July < date >, 2000

The Honorable Tim Johnson
United States Senate
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Johnson:

I write to express the sincere appreciation of the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AMFWA) for your introduction of S. 1961 to expand the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) cap to 45 million acres. CRP is a key element of achieving sustainability of fish and wildlife resources in the 14 states with membership in the AMFWA.

Agriculture is a major land use in the Midwest and the production of food and fiber is extremely important to the economy of the Region and the vitality of the Nation. Agricultural lands are also key to quality water, healthy streams/lakes and wildlife, all of which contribute to quality of life as well as to the multi-billion dollar tourism/outdoor recreation economy in the Region. Agriculture, resource conservation, tourism, outdoor recreation and a healthy economy are inextricably linked.

The CRP has been one of the most effective tools for providing critical habitat for wildlife on a scale large enough to make a difference. CRP is particularly important to grassland nesting wildlife species that have been on serious decline. In addition, CRP has proven to be very popular to farmers as an alternative to farming marginally productive lands - this seems particularly important in view of low commodity prices and the depressed farm economy.

Again, Senator Johnson, thank you for this significant effort in support of expansion of the CRP acreage cap to 45 million acres.

Sincerely,

< name >
President, AMFWA

cc: AMFWA State Fish and Wildlife Directors

July < date >, 2000

The Honorable Collin Peterson
United States House of Representatives
2159 Rayburn House Office
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Peterson:

I write to express the sincere appreciation of the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AMFWA) for your introduction of H.R. 408 to expand the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) cap to 45 million acres. CRP is a key element of achieving sustainability of fish and wildlife resources in the 14 states with membership in the AMFWA.

Agriculture is a major land use in the Midwest and the production of food and fiber is extremely important to the economy of the Region and the vitality of the Nation. Agricultural lands are also key to quality water, healthy streams/lakes and wildlife, all of which contribute to quality of life as well as to the multi-billion dollar tourism/outdoor recreation economy in the Region. Agriculture, resource conservation, tourism, outdoor recreation and a healthy economy are inextricably linked.

The CRP has been one of the most effective tools for providing critical habitat for wildlife on a scale large enough to make a difference. CRP is particularly important to grassland nesting wildlife species that have been on serious decline. In addition, CRP has proven to be very popular to farmers as an alternative to farming marginally productive lands - this seems particularly important in view of low commodity prices and the depressed farm economy.

Again, Congressman Peterson, thank you for this significant effort in support of expansion of the CRP acreage cap to 45 million acres.

Sincerely,

< name >

President, AMFWA

cc: AMFWA State Fish and Wildlife Directors

July < date >, 2000

The Honorable < name of Senator or Representative >
< United States Senate or United States House of Representatives >
< address >
Washington, DC < 20510 for the Senate or 20515 for the House >

Dear < Senator or Congressman (name) >

Approximately < % > of < name state > is in agricultural production. These lands produce food/fiber essential to the nation. These lands are also key to healthy streams and lakes, forests and wildlife that contribute to the quality of life of all citizens and are important to the vitality of our tourism and outdoor recreation industries which contribute billions of dollars annually to the < name state > economy. Agriculture, resource conservation, tourism, outdoor recreation and a healthy economy are inextricably linked.

Farm commodity prices and the depressed farm economy threaten the American farmer in two very important ways. First, in the ability to generate enough income to continue farming. Second, in the ability to afford the cost of resource conservation measures that are important to everyone.

The < name state agency > supports measures to maintain a strong farm economy in concert with conservation of natural resources, including soil, water, fish, forests and wildlife. Toward these ends, your support of the following is encouraged:

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP):

WRP has been tremendously popular to farmers that have struggled with land that is often too wet to farm and/or at risk of flooding. In addition, WRP enrollments have helped improve water quality, recharge ground water, re-establish bottomland forest and provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife. USDA reports that the WRP acreage cap of 975,000 acres will be reached this year.

Without action, WRP enrollments will cease and a major tool to achieve the national policy of 'no-net-loss' of wetlands will cease to function.

H.R. 2066 (introduced by Congressman Pickering) and **S. 1448** (introduced by Senator Hutchinson) seek to authorize, for calendar years 2000 through 2005, the enrollment of 250,000 acres annually in WRP.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP):

The current CRP acreage cap is 36.4 million acres and, although landowners offer many more acres than the cap can accommodate, current enrollment is about 33.5 million acres. This is because some uncommitted acres must be maintained to ensure the ability of CRP Continuous Sign-up to enroll buffers in situations where productive portions of fields can continue to be farmed. Re-authorization of the original 45 million acre cap for CRP would help additional farmers to maintain cash flow and conserve critical natural resources.

H.R. 408 (introduced by Congressman Peterson) and **S. 1961** (introduced by Senator Johnson) seek to expand the CRP ceiling to 45 million acres.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP):

WHIP was created by the 1996 Farm Bill, with a \$50 million cap, to provide USDA with a tool to address critical fish and wildlife needs during conservation planning with agricultural producers. WHIP has been a tremendously popular complement to other USDA programs and the \$50 million cap was quickly reached in the first two years of the program. Without additional funding, USDA will be left without an essential tool to help landowners achieve fish and wildlife resource goals.

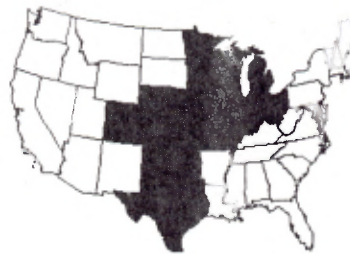
The President's Executive Budget and the USDA Operational Budget for Fiscal Year 2001 included a request for \$50,000,000 in funding for WHIP.

Thank you for your previous support of conservation initiatives and I encourage your support of continued funding for WRP, expansion of the acreage cap for CRP and additional funding for WHIP.

Sincerely,

< name >

< title >



Midwest Region

(CO, IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, OH, OK, TX, WI)

MIDWEST LANDSCAPE CHANGES

Agriculture has played a major role in changing the landscape of the Midwest since the turn of the century. Pre-settlement habitat consisted of the central hardwoods of eastern Ohio, to tallgrass prairies of Indiana and Illinois, to oak savannas in Texas and Oklahoma. Wetlands accounted for almost one-fourth of the total surface acreage in some areas. This region also featured several major river systems, which combined with wetlands and natural lakes, support millions of migratory birds and a rich fisheries.

Historic farm policies and agricultural subsidies, some more than one-half century old, designed to meet America's need for food and fiber were driving forces behind many of the land-use changes in this region. The needs of a growing nation that possessed a seemingly unlimited land resource, combined with tremendous agricultural technological advances, created major changes on the Midwest landscape.

Through the Swampland Acts of 1849, 1850, and 1851, Congress transferred 64.9 million acres of wetlands to 15 states. The states were asked to reclaim the wetlands to reduce flooding and eliminate mosquito breeding areas. The states subsequently transferred nearly all of these wetlands to private owners who converted large acreages to other uses. The U.S. Department of Agriculture continued to help farmers drain wetlands through numerous cost-share and subsidy payments. Wetlands were converted at a rate of 800,000 acres per year between settlement and 1954. Forty-four percent of original wetlands were drained or filled by the end of that period. Eighty nine percent of Iowa's presettlement 3.7 million acres of wetlands were converted or otherwise altered. Lakes, streams and their associated shoreline vegetation were also impacted.

Through programs administered by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, many stream channels were straightened throughout the region to provide more efficient outlets for drainage and floodwaters. As agriculture moved west, the Bureau of Reclamation was established to develop irrigation for the semi-arid climates. Since then, increased demand for irrigation has contributed to water quality and quantity problems.

In recent history, public attitudes and policy have shifted from supporting and subsidizing wetland conversion to encouraging wetland restoration and protection. In 1970, the Water Bank Program became the first agricultural program to temporarily protect wetlands. Other changes eliminated some of the economic incentives for wetland conversion such as farm commodity program benefits and tax breaks. Swampbuster, enacted through the Food Security Act of 1985, protected thousands of acres of wetlands by denying farm program payments to landowners who drain protected wetlands.

The U.S. has moved toward the goal of "no net loss" of wetland acreage through federal programs for the last decade, but losses in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri and Ohio had already approached 90 percent of those state's original pre-settlement wetlands. Most recently, two voluntary agricultural programs have demonstrably affected wetland restoration and protection more than any other program in U.S. history. The Conservation Reserve Program and the Wetlands Reserve Program have both been instrumental in restoring our nations wetlands. These two programs will be critical in continuing the restoration and protection of Midwest wetlands in the future.

Today, most of the native prairie of the Midwest has been lost. More than 95 percent of the tallgrass region area has been converted to other uses. Michigan, not necessarily known as a grassland state, had over 2.3 million acres of grasslands in the early 1800's. Currently, it is estimated that over 99 percent of these grasslands in Michigan have been lost. Iowa currently has just one tenth of one percent of the 23.5 million acres of pre-settlement tallgrass prairie. Tallgrass prairie and related oak savannas are the most decimated plant communities in the world. Shortgrass prairie conversion and fragmentation in this region has prompted petitions for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing of numerous wildlife species associated with this system. Texas converted approximately 243,000 acres of grasslands per year from 1992 through 1997. Voluntary, long-term and permanent protection and restoration programs are critical to preserving and enhancing the remaining grasslands and associated wildlife populations in this region.

Forests on private lands have decreased by 60 percent since early settlement. Lack of management, over-harvest, and poor regeneration has degraded many of the remaining forest areas. This degradation has had a negative impact on many forest dependant wildlife species, such as cerulean warblers, prothonotary warblers, scarlet tanagers, and Bell's vireos.

RECREATION/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The recreational use of wildlife through hunting, fishing, camping, wildlife watching, wildlife-based tourism, and other outdoor activities contributes significantly to the economic health of many rural communities across the Midwest. Nationally, 57% of adult Americans (18 & older) participate at least monthly in natural resource related outdoor recreation. Fish and wildlife-related activities contribute more than \$3 billion per year to the economy in Colorado alone. Upland game hunting contributes more than \$85 million to the rural economies of Iowa, with total fish and wildlife related expenditures exceeding one billion dollars. Missouri estimates that fish and wildlife-related activities contribute \$3.2 billion per year. Wisconsin's wildlife industry supports 85,700 jobs and generates \$6.4 billion for the state's economy. Expenditures by hunters during first week of upland bird seasons sustain many small businesses in the rural Great Plains Region. Wildlife is big business, and healthy, sustainable wildlife populations are important to maintaining and improving economic conditions in this region.

WILDLIFE IMPACTS

Agriculture and other human activities related to early settlement affected major changes in the Midwest's fauna. Species that were native to the region and dependent on large expanses of habitat were extirpated, declined dramatically, or were forced into marginal habitat. The early 20th century saw small, diverse farms that supported a varied abundance of wildlife species in a patchwork of cropland and edge habitats associated with small diverse agricultural fields. Pheasants, for example, were introduced and thrived under this agricultural regime that integrated small crop fields and this "early successional habitat".

After World War II, agricultural technology flourished and produced larger equipment, larger farms, monotypic crop production and generally more efficient farming. This technological change resulted in dramatic declines in those wildlife species that depend on edge habitat, such as quail. This decline is illustrated by the decreased quail harvest in Iowa, where the estimated 1970 harvest was over one million birds, while in 1998 the harvest was approximately 100,000 quail.

Another significant effect can be demonstrated by the declines in grassland and wetland-dependant species.

Historic trends show continuing, sometime precipitous declines in grassland dependant birds such as grasshopper sparrows, prairie grouse and burrowing owls. Most of the habitat types that supported these species once characterized the Midwest. Fragmentation of these habitats is also of concern because many of these grassland species are sensitive to the size and continuity of blocks. Fragmentation of the landscape has been the most intense in shortgrass prairie in the Southern Great Plains region of the U.S. The black-tailed prairie dog, once considered a pest

throughout the shortgrass region, has recently been petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The loss and fragmentation of the shortgrass ecosystem is a major concern for many shortgrass dependant species.

Although the conversion of cropland to grassland habitat through CRP has shown improvement in nest densities on newly enrolled lands, native grasslands, critical to many species survival, continue to decline in acreage (Figure 1) and quality.

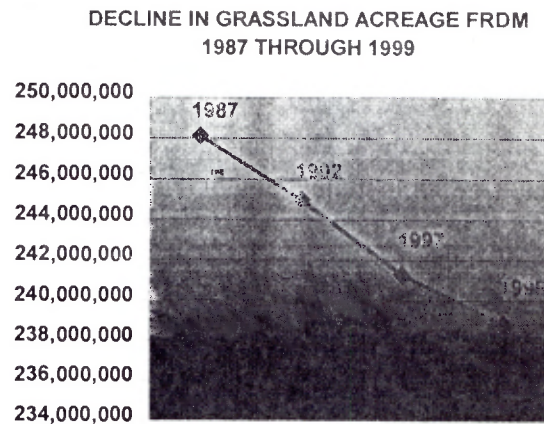


Figure 1. Decline in grassland acreage from 1987 to 1999.

PROGRESS SINCE THE 1996 FARM BILL

Recent agricultural technological advances and policy changes promise to halt and reverse some of the damages done in the past. With the advent of the 1996 Farm Bill, which provided wildlife habitat recognition equal with soil erosion and water quality, an attempt has been made to start the mending process, and many improvements have been realized.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is the single most important program to affect wildlife habitat on a landscape scale. Wildlife habitat quality of CRP has improved with the changes made in the 1996 Farm Bill. Preliminary research on the response of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse to CRP fields in Colorado indicate significant population increases to CRP plantings comprised of native diverse mixtures of grasses and forbs. Other preliminary data show that positive wildlife impacts are being realized because wildlife was recognized as a purpose in CRP. This has been accomplished while maintaining soil erosion and water quality objectives. Unfortunately, acreage enrolled in CRP has declined by almost 3 million acres from 1997 to 1999 in this region and the program has fallen short of the regional goal of converting 10 percent of cropland to wildlife beneficial grassland (Figure 2).

REGIONAL CRP DATA as COMPARED to REGIONAL GOALS

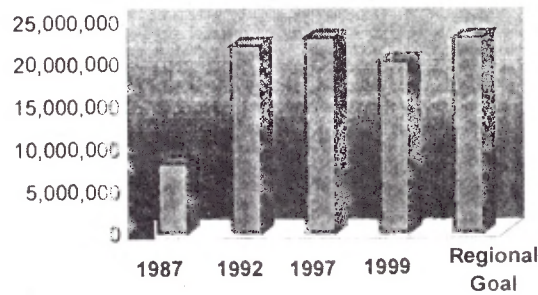


Figure 2. Regional CRP data compared with regional goals.

The Wetlands Reserve Program has enhanced and protected 785,000 acres nationally through the end of 1999. A high percentage of these projects occur in the Prairie Pothole Region of the northern Midwest. This is an extremely popular program among producers. There are currently 268 landowners in Iowa alone waiting to enroll in WRP. Wisconsin has producers waiting to enroll over 4,000 acres in their state. Unfortunately, the total acres enrolled is quickly approaching the 975,000 national cap established under the 1996 ACT. The Clean Water Action Plan called for a net gain in wetlands of 100,000 acres per year. As illustrated in Figure 3, wetland restoration through WRP and EWRP is approaching "no net loss" of wetlands, but the goal of 100,000 per acre per year of wetland gains will require an increase in the WRP acreage cap, reauthorization of Swampbuster, and a substantial increase in funding. More effort must be placed on wetland protection through Farm Programs to achieve the Clean Water Action Plan goal.

Converted vs Restored Wetlands - 1992 thru 1999 (National Data)

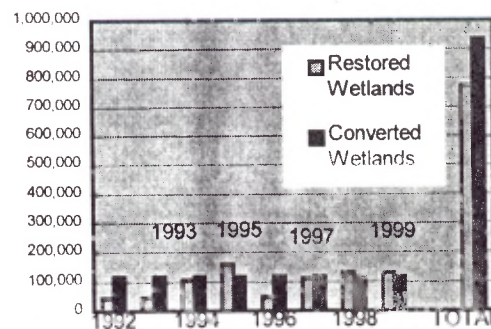


Figure 3. Converted versus restored wetlands in the U.S., 1992 to 1999.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) accomplished many wildlife objectives for a two-year period, at which time funding was eliminated. Many WHIP projects focused on critical

threatened and endangered issues that could not be addressed through other programs. This program was embraced by landowners and brought many partnerships between USDA and non-federal organizations together which resulted in tremendous leveraging of non-federal dollars. This program has the potential to provide significant wildlife and landowner benefits.

GOALS FOR THE 2002 FARM BILL

Grassland Species

Goal:

- Increase declining grassland associated species to maintain viable populations in targeted areas.

Habitat needed to meet goal:

- Convert a total of 25 million acres of cropland existing prior to CRP (1985) to wildlife-beneficial grasslands.
- Protect and enhance 12 million acres (5 percent) of existing grassland.

Wetland-dependent Species

Goal:

- Stabilize or increase declining wetland-dependent species.

Habitat needed to meet goal:

- Protect all existing functional wetlands within the region.
- Restore approximately 2.2 million acres of wetlands with approximately 400,000 acres of associated uplands as buffers.

Aquatic and Riparian-dependent Species

Goal:

- Restore self-sustaining populations of native and recreational fishes to all major streams and river systems.

Habitat needed to meet goal:

- Protect all existing riparian areas within the region.
- Restore an additional 8,000 miles of riparian habitat focusing on those drainages associated with native or sport fishes.

Forest-dependent Species

Goal:

- Stabilize or increase forest-dependent species and maintain viable populations of sensitive forest wildlife species.

Habitat needed to meet goal:

- Prevent conversion or degradation of private forestland within the region.

- Improve management of 1 million acres of hardwood and 130,000 acres of shelterbelts in the southern portion of the region, where appropriate.
- Increase hardwood forest acreage by 350,000 acres in the northeastern part of the region.
- Focus forest restoration in the northeastern portion of the region to areas larger than 7,000 acres to reduce fragmentation.

2002 FARM BILL PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

General Recommendations

- Link agriculture support payments, such as loan deficiency payments and crop insurance, to Conservation Compliance.
- Reauthorize Swampbuster.
- Reauthorize Sodbuster.

Conservation Reserve Program

- Increase national CRP cap to 45 million acres.
- Expand the use of the riparian buffer practices by including the use of riparian herbaceous cover and natural regeneration on riparian buffers in marginal pastureland that has no history of tree cover.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

- Increase funding to a national minimum of \$50 million annually.

Wetlands Reserve Program

- ❖ Increase national cap to a minimum enrollment of 250,000 acres annually.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- Increase funding to provide at least \$300 million per year nationally.

Forest Stewardship Program

- Provide \$50 million per year nationally

Stewardship Incentive Program

- Provide \$50 million per year nationally

○ New Program Recommendations

- Establish a new Grassland/Rangeland Easement Program.

- ✓ Template to follow WRP program, with 15-year, 30-year and perpetual easement options.
- ✓ Objective to protect and enhance existing native grasslands.
- ✓ Offer enrollment option for expiring CRP acres that could allow producers to roll expiring CRP acres into the new “Grassland/Rangeland Easement Program” with a grazing management plan.
- ✓ Establish enrollment goal of 12 million acres of existing grasslands in the Midwest.
- Establish a Conservation Security Program or “Green Payment” type program
 - ✓ Reimburse landowners for providing key conservation (including wildlife) on their land.
 - ✓ Establish three levels of annual payments – 10%, 20%, and 40% of the average annual rental rate for the land.
 - ✓ Identify key Best Management Practices (BMP’s) on the basis of major hydrological unit or zoogeographic unit
 - ✓ Assign “Conservation Credits” to each key BMP (i.e. 25 for conservation tillage, 25 for nutrient management, 25 for wildlife field borders, etc)
 - ✓ Establish a threshold number of conservation credits to trigger each level of payment (more conservation=higher payment).

Selected State Anecdotal Farm Bill Successes

Wisconsin: Alice Stroinski remembers a time when wildlife was as much a part of the family farm as cows and corn. From 1941 to the late 1970s, the Stroinski's raised crops, cows, and tended lush pastures on land in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin.

A meadowlark would sit in the top of a tree outside the living room window, singing to his hearts content. That was before the family switched to raising peas and sweet corn. The meadowlark vanished, unable to survive without the grassy habitat provided by the lush pastures.

In 1988, the Stroinski's enrolled a parcel of their land in the Conservation Reserve Program. By 1991, the meadowlarks had found the grassy CRP. Says Alice, "Now that we have grasslands again, we see birds that we never saw before".



Missouri: A 1,400 acre site along the Missouri River was enrolled in WRP. The owner had struggled to farm this land and, in the aftermath of a flood that destroyed crops and caused severe damage, saw WRP as a way to retire land that was historically a financial drain on the whole operation. The site was restored, providing habitat for an array of migratory and wetland species. And, with connectivity to the Missouri River restored, the site provides benefits to fish, as well as water storage during flood events. The farmer has retained ownership and now has a productive farm and a wetland where he can enjoy wildlife through hunting and viewing.

Restored Wetland Provides Waterfowl and Shorebird Habitat in Missouri



Iowa: Luann Rolling, NRCS District Conservationist in Allamakee County, Iowa describes Vernon and Sandra Gavles' farm as "a fairly big dairy farm". The upper end of the creek they are on is a state-owned trout stream. Practically the entire riparian corridor the Gavles' own is in buffers. They have over 40 acres of buffers consisting of grasses and shrubs and have installed 6,870 feet of fencing to keep the cattle out of the stream. An alternative water source was created from a nearby well on an old farmstead. "The 50 percent cost-share made it possible to hire a forester to do the tree planting. I guess if there wasn't cost share, I probably wouldn't have done it", said Mr. Gavle. A certain percent of the new CRP ground will be in switchgrass "wherever I choose". On the 10 acre field, the Gavles plan to leave switchgrass for 10 to 15 years. "Pheasants love that – they're already coming, and we hope for more," he says.

Switchgrass Planting in Iowa Provides Habitat for Pheasants



Ray Evans IAFWA Report



International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Representing Wildlife Agencies since 1902

Hall of the States, 444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 544, Washington, DC 20001

Telephone (202) 624-7890 ♦ Fax (202) 624-7891 ♦ E-mail: iafwa@ssso.org ♦ Web Page: www.sso.org/iafwa

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Vice-President
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Montana

Memorandum

To: State Fish and Wildlife Directors

From: Raymond D. Evans, Chair, Agricultural Conservation Task Force
Gary J. Taylor, Legislative Director

Date: July 13, 2000

Re: Farm Bill Conservation Program Results Workshop: FYI/Necessary Attention

Ray Evans
Gary J. Taylor

The Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) hosted the above meeting in Washington, DC July 8-10 with good attendance by state fish and wildlife agency personnel as well as others. It was a valuable and worthwhile opportunity to share the results and accomplishments of the conservation programs under the Farm Bill. An agenda is enclosed to show the scope of presentations.

Major contributions were provided by the first two guest speakers, Dr. Otto Doering (Purdue University) and Bob Stallman, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation, at the opening session. Further valuable political insights were shared by the first two speakers on Monday morning, Bill O'Conner and Ann Simmons, House Agriculture Committee. These speakers' remarks framed the anticipated discussion for the next Farm Bill in the following context:

- Farm Bills tend to be reactive and are passed based upon the most recent two years of farm economy.
- Passage is based upon most recent hot button issues and agriculture conservation (in general) may not be a priority issue except for Gulf of Mexico hypoxia, which is considered more of a water quality issue.
- Conservation stands the best chance of passage when melded with income support.

Executive Committee:

John Baughman, Wyoming
Arnold H. Boer, New Brunswick (Vice-Chair)
Allan L. Egbert, Florida

Roger M. Holmes, Minnesota (Past President)
Robert L. McDowell, New Jersey (Chair)
G. Brent Manning, Illinois

Andrew T. Manus, Delaware
George E. Meyer, Wisconsin
Steven A. Williams, Kansas

July 13, 2000

- On the other hand, it is important not to just accept a purely income support program just because it is called a conservation program.
- Conservation program and payments, to be politically acceptable, must account for geographical distribution of program benefits. Change that affects geographic distribution will have tough political going.
- To be acceptable to farmers and hence farm legislators, conservation programs must be voluntary, incentive driven and make economic sense.
- Priorities for spending limited funds for agricultural programs will drive where the dollars are spent, i.e., conservation programs visibility, need, desirability and support (in the agriculture community) will determine where these programs end up on the list of spending priorities. The Hill staff in particular emphasized the expected limited availability of funds.

General comments and group discussions from the participants regarding Farm Bill 2002 invariably supported:

- Continue CRP in present form and raise the cap to 45 million acres.
- Reauthorize and fund WRP at \$250 million per year for at least five years.
- Re-couple commodity benefits (crop insurance et al) to a conservation compliance philosophy including sodbuster and swampbuster.
- Fund WHIP at a recurring and meaningful level.
- Provide full funding for EQIP and assurance of appropriate acceptance of wildlife projects (nationally through 1999, 15% of EQIP reportedly went toward wildlife projects).
- Authorize a program to address the loss of grasslands by giving family ranchers an incentive to keep lands in native pasture appropriately managed for livestock grazing use.

As you know, the Association works regularly with WMI and the other fish and wildlife conservation organizations, and you are to be commended for sending participants to this and similar workshops that exchange knowledge and strengthen partnerships as we move toward the next farm bill reauthorization.

July 13, 2000

There are a few primary observations coming from this workshop which we would like to share with you for your attention:

1. The Association's Farm Bill objectives articulated in San Francisco (March 1999) and contained in the Association's June 3, 1999 memo (copy attached) remain timely, germane and broadly supported by workshop attendees. The only perspective that is clear now (that was not in June 1999) is that the next farm bill will not be written until closer to 2002 when the current one is up for reauthorization.
2. Many workshop participants who work at the field technical level generally pressed for more strident and aggressive political actions, which, as you are aware, may result in losing political support rather than in passing good conservation legislation. The art of successfully legislating good farm bill policy will more likely hinge on your success at building informed and effective coalitions in each state to carry the message regarding the need for and merits of agriculture conservation programs to your members of Congress.
3. You should expect to receive feedback from your staff who attended.
4. The document "How Much is Enough" (detailing the success of farm bill conservation programs and reflecting on what more needs to be done) is being re-drafted through cooperation between the states and WMI and will be available to you in draft form at the Association's annual meeting in Indianapolis. Final copy is expected near January 1, 2001. Existing drafts are presently available from your staff working on Farm Bill matters.

Serious discussions in Congress about national agricultural policy to be reflected in the next farm bill will likely not start in earnest for 6-8 months. You need to use the time between now and then to build a state coalition with your local agricultural landowners, producer organizations, sportsmen's organizations, NGO conservation groups, and others to send a very positive message to Congress about your collective interest in agricultural conservation programs within the framework of the Association's recommendations as provided to you in our memo of June 3, 1999 (copy attached).

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact either one of us.

Attachment

FARM BILL CONSERVATION PROGRAM RESULTS WORKSHOP

July 8-10, 2000

HOLIDAY INN CAPITOL ☿ WASHINGTON, DC

AGENDA

Saturday, July 8, 2000 ☿ The Holiday Inn Capitol

6:00-8:00 p.m. Reception in the Discovery II Room--Come meet new people, renew friendships and have some fun. Cold and hot hors d'oeuvres will be offered for your enjoyment. A cash bar will be available. First drink compliments of the steering committee.

Sunday, July 9, 2000 ☿ The Holiday Inn Capitol

Morning Event: Registration and Presentations

7:30-8:30 a.m. Registration outside the Columbia Ballroom
8:30-8:45 a.m. Welcome: Why Are We Here, What Are We
Going To Do?—*Rollin D. Sparrowe*, Presi-
dent, WMI, Washington, DC Session Mod-
erator
8:45-9:25 a.m. The Politics of the Farm Bill—The Reality
Factor—*Dr. Otto Doering*, Purdue
University, West Lafayette, Indiana
9:25-9:35 a.m. Question/Answer Session

economic stability to the agriculture community, public benefit in the form of fish, wildlife, soil and water conservation, and affordable food prices. One of our Hill contacts suggested that these voluntary programs could draw a "green line" between farmers and the EPA.

7. There is no better time than now to advocate for voluntary agricultural conservation programs. When commodity prices are high, farmers don't enroll because land is too valuable for commodity production. When commodity prices are low, farmers don't enroll because they can't afford to. At least this is the popular excuse. All the more reason for advocating the need for and utility of conservation programs to achieve both economic stability and fish, wildlife and soil and water conservation.

We understand that interest in agricultural conservation programs is increasing in discussions in the Regional Fish and Wildlife Associations, and we have been invited to participate with the Western Governors' Association as they revisit and revise their farm policy. In-town (DC) discussions within the conservation community are also intensifying. We encourage you to work with your local agricultural landowners, producer organizations, sportsmen's organizations, and NGO conservation groups, to send a very positive message to Congress about your collective interest in these agricultural conservation programs with specific emphasis on those recommendations included in our April 21, 1999 letter.

Specifically, as we see it, we need to move on three fronts simultaneously:

- 1) we need to request farm state members of Congress to support a closer tie between conservation programs (the public benefit) and assured income stability. This is the most obvious strategy;
- 2) we need to encourage farm groups to ask for and support voluntary conservation efforts as a "green line" against EPA regulation. While this seems logical to us, it may be the most difficult to convince farm groups of the merits of such an advocacy position;
- 3) we need to encourage non-farm state members of Congress (and this is the vast majority) to insist on a quid pro quo of conservation benefits for farmer income stability. This is, without a doubt, the most strategically important and what has carried conservation compliance in the past. Recall that in the Congressional deliberations over the 1996 farm bill there was no conservation title in the bill until agriculture advocacy groups and agriculture state members of Congress realized that they could not pass a farm bill unless it had a conservation title

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of us.

cc: Bill Baxter, Vice-Chair, Agriculture Conservation Committee

s/gary/Agricultural Conserv. Pol



International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Hall of the States
444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 544, Washington, DC 20001
(202) 624-7890 - Telephone (202) 624-7891 - FAX
R. Max Peterson, Executive Vice President

April 21, 1999

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510-1401

Dear Senator Lugar:

The continuing lethargy in farm commodity prices and the accompanying depression of overall farm income threatens the stability of American farmers and the outputs upon which the nation depends, including conservation of fish, wildlife, land and water resources.

These circumstances appropriately guided the assistance provided American farmers in the recent \$6 billion rescue package and the on-going discussions of additional efforts that might be required. It is our conviction that a healthy farm income and soil and water based conservation are inextricably linked. We propose and respectfully request that the Congress pursue these goals with actions recognizing their commonality. The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and many concurring conservation organizations, recommend the following actions be taken for farm income improvement, stability and assurance while advancing the nation's conservation agenda of clean water and productivity of restored soils that support much of our nation's valuable fish and wildlife resources.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) - CRP at the present enrollment level of 32 million acres, adds \$1.7 billion to farmers cash flow. We believe farm cash flow can be improved, long term soil restoration achieved, and the nation's natural resource conservation agenda advanced by re-authorizing the original 45 million acre CRP goal.

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) - Never before have so many producers voluntarily stepped forward to protect, enhance and preserve the nations wetlands under appropriate public compensation for their efforts. Literally thousands of acres/offers are now on the table to enroll additional wetlands into WRP. Short-term impediments include available funding and personnel while the long-term impediment is the 975,000 acre enrollment cap. We believe that it is simply good business to increase that cap by 2 million acres and appropriate the necessary funds for enrollment. Producers could enroll and thus insure themselves against the increased risk of farming those economically marginal acres, add immediately to their cash flow, and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) - The originally authorized \$50 million for WHIP was literally snatched up by anxious and willing farmers with little public announcement of the availability of funds. In many cases more than half of the offers were left on the table and thousands of farmers were

9:00-10:15 a.m.

A Look to the Future: What Should We Be Doing NOW to Prepare for the Next Farm Bill? *Bob Stallman*, President, American Farm Bureau Federation, Park Ridge, Illinois

10:15-10:30 a.m.

Question/Answer Session

10:30-10:45 a.m.

Summary: Putting the Pieces Together—*Rollin D Sparrow*, President, WMI,

10:45-11:00 a.m.

BREAK

Afternoon Event:

Farm Bill Results—Raymond D. Evans, Missouri Department of Conservation, Jefferson City, Missouri, Session Moderator

11:00-11:30 a.m.

CRP—Wildlife Results—*Steve Brady*, —NRCS, Ft. Collins, Colorado

11:30-12:00 noon

CRP—Economic Results—*LoRoy Hansen*, USDA Economic Research Service, Washington, DC

12:00-1:00 p.m.

LUNCH—Provided

1:00-1:30 p.m.

CRP—Water Quality Results—*Tom Hooxham*, Monsanto, St. Louis, Missouri

1:30-2:00 p.m.

Question/Answer Session

1:45-2:15 p.m.

WHIP—*Bob Wengrynek*, NRCS, Bangor, Maine

2:15-2:45 p.m.

CRP—*Steve Gilmore*, FSA, Washington, DC

2:45-3:00 p.m.

BREAK

3:00-3:30 p.m.

EQIP—*Mark Berklund*, NRCS, Washington, DC

3:30-4:00 p.m.

WRP—*Ken Babcock*, Ducks Unlimited, Jackson, Mississippi



4:00-4:15 p.m. Question/Answer Session

4:15-4:30 p.m. How Much Is Enough Update—*William Smith*, South Dakota DGP, Pierre, South Dakota

4:30-4:45 p.m.

Annotated Bibliography, Farm Bill Research—*Bill Hohman*, WMI, Ames, Iowa

4:45-5:00 p.m.

What Does Tomorrow Hold?—*Ron Helinski*, WMI, Washington, DC

Monday, July 10, 2000

Rayburn House Office Building

Morning/Afternoon Event: Presentations and Small

Group Exercise—*David Nomsen*.

Pheasants Forever, Alexandria,

Minnesota, Session Moderator

9:00-9:45 a.m.

Farm Bill Realities—Factors, Considerations and Dealing With Change—*Bill O'Conner*, House Agricultural Committee (Rep.

Combest, House, R), *Anne Simmons*, House

Agricultural Committee (Rep. Stenholm,

House, D), and

Bob White, Senate

Committee on

Agriculture (Sen.

Lugar, Senate, R)

Question/

Answer

Session

A Landowner's

Perspective

on Farm

Bill

Pro-

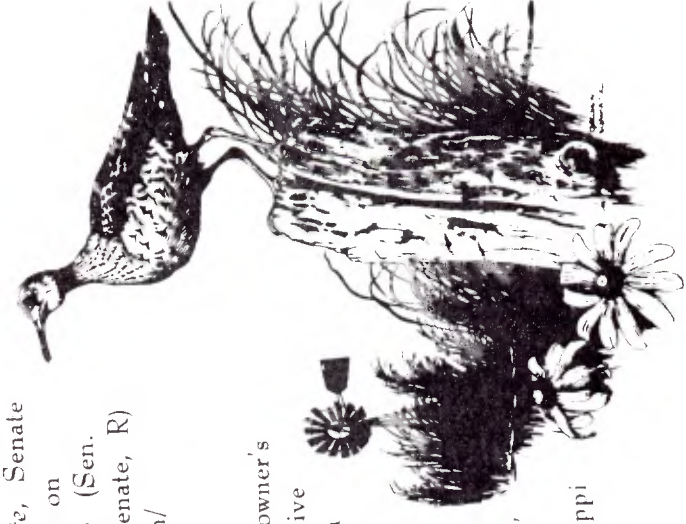
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Philip

Barbour,

Sidon,

Mississippi



10:00-10:30 a.m. Question/Answer Session
10:30-12:30 p.m. Small Group
Exercises
12:30-1:30 p.m. LUNCH—Provided
1:30-3:00 p.m. Reports and
Discussions From
the Small Group
Exercises
3:00-4:00 p.m. Wrap Up: Where Do
We Go From Here?
Otto Doering,
Purdue
University, West
Lafayette, Indiana





INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

Hall of the States, 444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 544, Washington, DC 20001
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President
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Minnesota

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Kentucky

Vice-President
David Waller
Georgia

Memorandum

TO: State Fish and Wildlife Directors

FROM: Raymond D. Evans, Chair, Agriculture Conservation Committee
Gary J. Taylor, Legislative Director

DATE: June 3, 1999

SUBJECT: Agricultural Conservation Policies: Necessary Attention

Ray Evans
Gary J. Taylor

Our letter of April 21, 1999 advocating several agricultural conservation policies (copy attached) elicited a good response from the Hill. As a follow-up, we just completed visits with several key House and Senate staff in leadership positions on the Agriculture Committees, Agricultural Appropriations subcommittees, and in the conservation arena. Here's a summary of what we heard with some interpolation of our own thoughts:

1. We have a good message that needs to be broadcast more widely than just among members from agricultural states/districts. In our endeavor to use conservation programs to meet objectives of both stabilizing the agricultural economy and providing public benefits in the form of fish, wildlife, soil and water conservation, we need the grassroots farmers/landowners to also espouse this message to Congress. Right now, Congress is interested in getting relief aid (money) into the farmer's pocket as quickly and directly as possible. While we made it clear that we aren't competing for that money, and enrollment in conservation programs would be the vehicle for providing economic stability, the agriculture producer advocacy groups see this as, at a minimum, a delay in getting benefits (money) directly to farmers. Congress needs to hear directly from the farmers/landowners that they want enrollment in conservation programs to be a vehicle for economic stability because it is consistent with and satisfies their land stewardship practices. And, in reality, it can help small farmers literally save the farm during times of economic hardship. Enrollment in CRP and WRP have been extremely important in helping farmers make land payments. As you know, many agricultural landowners also supplement their farm income with hunting leases, etc., so there is value added from enrollment in conservation programs. As a matter of reality, it is important to remember that Congress seeks to dispense this money with no strings attached and it is difficult to get farmers to request that conservation strings be attached. The generosity of Congress continues to be a major stumbling block to tying conservation benefits to payments to farmers.

Executive Committee:

Arnold Boer, New Brunswick
Patrick Graham (Chair), Montana
Allan L. Egbert, Florida

Robert McDowell (Vice-Chair), New Jersey
Wayne MacCallum, Massachusetts
Brent Manning, Illinois

Andrew T. Manus, Delaware
George E. Meyer, Wisconsin

2. Although the Farm Bill isn't due for reauthorization until 2002, and whether some will admit it or not, Congress is de facto rewriting the 1996 Farm Bill already. Last fall, in the FY99 omnibus appropriations bill, approximately \$6B was made available as farm aid relief. In the just recently signed FY99 supplemental appropriations bill, Congress has made another approximately \$750 million available in direct farm aid relief, much of which will be leveraged to secure low interest loans for farmers. So in spite of the fact that the 1996 farm bill (Freedom to Farm) was intended to allow the market to direct what crops were planted, the total amount farmers are being paid under Freedom to Farm plus the enacted relief packages already exceeds farm program subsidies under the price support protocol that existed before. Plus, with small grain prices expected to stay low, most Hill staff suggest that there is at least a 50% chance of another supplemental appropriations for farm relief, probably in September. In any event, now is the time for us to be advocating the need for and utility of agricultural conservation programs.
3. Some Agriculture Committee staff are already drafting language for revisions and improvements to agricultural conservation programs, so our suggestions are very germane and timely. There could be committee hearings on agricultural conservation programs as early as next month. The short-term (3-5 year) land set-aside, however, seems to no longer be on the table and is presumed "dead".
4. Raising the cap on CRP, WRP, reauthorizing WHIP, etc. will all require a budget offset under the budget rules, i.e. these would have to be paid for by reducing equivalent amounts of spending from other programs. As you know, there are also outright opponents of idling additional acres which they claim will hurt local economies and provide more market access to our international competitors. Our idea of trying to link these conservation programs to the "emergency" supplemental appropriations, which doesn't require a budget offset (the most recent supplemental was paid for using Social Security related surplus funds) may help address the spending question. While Hill staff acknowledge that there is difficulty in qualifying funding for agricultural conservation programs as an "emergency", they are willing to continue to try this route if there is enough support. In any event, strong support will be necessary for either finding offsets or additional money to pay for these recommendations.
5. Hill staff on both sides of the aisle acknowledge that there is little or no interest at the highest level of the Administration in voluntary agricultural conservation programs for private landowners. This Administration's agenda is focused on federal public lands and regulatory programs. Support for these voluntary agricultural conservation programs is going to have to grow from the ground up.
6. Virtually all Hill staff reflected on the conundrum facing farmers regarding agricultural conservation programs that address water quality issues. On the one hand, if farmers embrace these programs, they are concerned that they are tacitly acknowledging that agriculture can pollute. And, if the voluntary programs are effective, farmers fear EPA will turn those into regulatory programs and impose them on farmers. On the other hand, if farmers do nothing, EPA is certain to impose regulatory restrictions. Some of the farmer's anxieties are likely being heightened by the agriculture producer advocacy groups whose first line of defense is always to appeal to Congress to not let farmers be regulated out of business. Nonetheless, our own opinion is that the only viable choice is for farmers/landowners, working with our agencies, to embrace and actively advocate voluntary conservation programs as the appropriate solution to meet objectives of

turned away from the funds. Implementation of WHIP provides enhanced fish and wildlife value, improved recreational opportunities and marketable outdoor experiences. This is the only significant program applicable on non-farmed lands and is of signal importance in the northeastern US because of demographics, cropping history, farm size and a host of other variables that render other authorized Farm Bill programs less applicable. We recommend that \$100 million be authorized for WHIP through 2002.

Continuous CRP Sign-up - The Buffer Initiative - This program has potential to provide significantly more water quality, erosion control and fish and wildlife benefits if some changes are made. The nation will likely, without enlightened intervention, fall sorely short of the goal of 2 million miles of buffer habitat by the year 2000. In order to increase the interest and success of this program, action needs to be taken in the following areas:

1. Increase agency promotion at the state and local level.
2. Streamline, simplify and reduce program rules.
3. Increase staff to address landowner interest and aid in program outreach and education.
4. Provide an up-front rental payment structure.

While premium per acre rental rates are available, small acreages acceptable for enrollment with payments spread over 10-15 years are unattractive.

Addressing these problems while providing for a significant up-front rental payment would increase participation, boost farm income/cash flow, and provide a concurrent environmental enhancement.

Short-term Soil Restoration Program - A soil restoration program of short duration (3-5 years) can enhance soil and water quality, improve aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat, and bolster commodity prices. It is imperative that this new program be constructed outside of CRP goals and dollar constraints so as not to imperil the CRP, the nation's greatest soil, water, and fish and wildlife enhancement program. Appropriate cover establishment goals should insure all of these benefits.

USDA and Personnel Reduction - It is imprudent and unrealistic to expect FSA and NRCS to deliver existing, invigorated or enlarged programs in the face of continuing declines in personnel. Work analysis studies within USDA have substantiated what staffing levels would be needed to fulfill these program objectives. These studies should be used as a road map on the way to staff recovery.

A Recoupling Imperative - Crop Insurance/Conservation Compliance - Farm income assurance and private risk reduction through private sector insurance, with part of the cost borne by the public sector, is not inappropriate, as long as the public interest is secured by the contract imbedded within the Conservation Compliance Provisions of farm legislation. Insurance will decrease the risk of farming marginal lands but, coupled with Conservation Compliance, should not inadvertently function as an incentive to farm this marginal land. In this way, the marginal land retains some conservation value for wildlife. As you are aware, without insurance, this marginal land may likely not have been farmed, thus reverting to wildlife habitat.

These suggested actions can provide income enhancement and conservation accomplishments for America's crop producers. Although nothing here is targeted for grassland producers, they also continue to be at risk and deserve income enhancement considerations. Native grassland habitat continues to be in short supply and is likely to decrease if not buffered from competing uses. A substantial suite of grassland dependent birds have suffered

precipitous declines but are capable of recovery with conservation and stewardship management of the remaining grasslands. This is particularly true in the West and Upper Midwest where short and mixed grass prairies historically dominated and in the Far West where sagebrush steppe habitat continues to decline.

The opportunity exists within these regions to provide income enhancement and grassland conservation through a variety of easement arrangements with perhaps a buy-back option for future owners.

We appreciate your consideration of these suggested options and stand ready to work with you to address farm income enhancement and conservation accomplishments as mutually sustainable items on the nation's agenda.

Sincerely,



R. Max Peterson
Executive Vice-President

WITH CONCURRENCE BY:

Ducks Unlimited

Pheasants Forever

Wildlife Management Institute

Delta Waterfowl

North Dakota Wetland Trust

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Wildlife Legislative Fund of America

Quail Unlimited

**Ducks Unlimited
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FAX (734) 623-2035

July 19, 2000

RECEIVED JUL 21 2000

Association of Midwest Fish & Wildlife Agencies
c/o Joe Kramer
R.R. 2, Box 54A
Pratt, KS 67124

Dear Mr. Kramer:

Ducks Unlimited appreciates the long-term partnership we have with the Association. In 2001, DU will once again host *The Eighth International Waterfowl and Wetlands Symposium* in Washington, D.C. As you are aware, DU hosts this symposium every five years to bring to the conservation community cutting edge issues affecting waterfowl and wetland resources in North America and the world. With this being the first symposium of the new millennium, as well as 2001 being an inaugural year, the symposium promises to be a significant event.

DU thanks you for your \$2,000 support in co-hosting the Eighth Symposium. Please don't hesitate calling me should you have any questions about the symposium. As always, we thank you for your support, and for your partnership for waterfowl and wetlands conservation in this new millennium. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Richard B. Pierce
Director of Operations

RBP:gmt

**Public Lands
Management
Working Group
Committee
Report**

**Report of the
Public Lands Management Working Committee (PLMWC)
of the
Association of the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AMFWA)**

The newly established Public Lands Management Working Committee of the AMFWA met on June 12, 13 & 14, 2000 at Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area near Sandusky, Ohio. In attendance were Jane Epperson and Mike Schroer from Missouri, Bob Cottingham from Illinois, and Pat Ruble and Bill May from Ohio.

As per the AMFWA Constitution and Bylaws, the Committee developed a mission statement, specific responsibilities and operating procedures. In addition, as charged by the AMFWA, a list of priority issues related to public lands management along with recommendations were also compiled. The report from this committee follows:

Proposed Mission Statement

The Committee was established:

To ensure wildlife and wildlife-related recreation on public lands¹ are managed in a manner that's consistent with the mandates, goals and objectives of the state and provincial agencies that have jurisdiction over these resources and activities.

Proposed Specific Responsibilities

The Committee shall:

1. Identify issues² affecting management of wildlife or wildlife-related recreation on public lands.
2. Evaluate the significance of identified issues.
3. Recommend actions on high priority issues to the AMFWA.
4. Take action as directed by the AMFWA.

¹For the purpose of this Committee, public land includes property owned by federal, state and local governments.

²Issues can relate but are not necessarily limited to situations involving acquisition, habitat management, consumptive and non-consumptive uses of wildlife, non-compatible activities, access, jurisdiction, legislation/regulations and enforcement. Situations in which adjacent private lands are impacted as a result of management on public lands are also under the purview of this Committee.

5. Provide a mechanism to communicate, develop and implement cooperative strategies to member agencies of the AMFWA.
6. Prepare and submit reports and resolutions as required by the AMFWA Constitution and Bylaws.

Proposed Operating Procedures

1. **The Committee shall consist of one representative from each member state and province in the AMFWA.**
2. **The Committee shall meet once annually, no less than 45 and no more than 90 days prior to the annual meeting of the AMFWA.** *It should be noted here that the Constitution and Bylaws require that all Technical Working Committees submit a written report to the President 30 days in advance of the AMFWA annual meeting. Scheduling annual Committee meetings more than 90 days in advance of the AMFWA annual meeting is discouraged to minimize the opportunity for issues to arise after the Committee meets and therefore not be considered by the Committee for action.*
3. **The agency hosting the AMFWA annual meeting shall also host the annual meeting of the PLMWC.** *While it is recognized that this places the burden of hosting two meetings in a relatively short period of time on one agency, there are several advantages to operating in this manner. First, because of the process used to designate the Chair of the Committee (see below), scheduling both meetings in the same state or province will insure that the Chair can present the Committee report to the AMFWA without having to incur costs for out-of-state travel to present a relatively brief report. Secondly, since the Chair will be responsible to see that the directives from the AMFWA are implemented by the Committee, it is desirable that the Chair be the person making the Committee report and receiving the benefit of discussions held at the AMFWA meeting relating to implementation of directives. Finally, it is intended that the resources and effort required to host Committee meetings be limited to no more than necessary to effectively carry out the responsibilities of the Committee as outlined above.*
4. **The Chair of the Committee shall be the representative from the state or province hosting the annual Committee meeting.**
 - 4a. **The term of office shall commence with the opening of the Committee meeting in the Chair's home state or province and terminate just prior to the opening of the next annual meeting of the Committee.**

4b. The Responsibilities of the Chair:

1. Conduct the annual meeting to insure the Committee's responsibilities are met.
 2. Prepare and submit a report³ to the President no less than 30 days in advance of the annual meeting of the AMFWA.
 3. Present the Committee's report and recommendations at the AMFWA annual meeting.
 4. Facilitate the implementation of AMFWA directives.
5. The Vice-Chair of the Committee shall be the representative from the state or province which will be hosting the next annual Committee meeting.

5a. The Vice-Chair's term of office begins at the opening of the Committee meeting being held immediately prior to the meeting scheduled for the Vice-Chair's home state or province and terminates when the Vice-Chair becomes the Chair as described above.

5b. The Responsibilities of the Vice-Chair:

1. Schedule the annual Committee meeting in their home state within the time frame outlined above.
 2. Assume the responsibilities of the Chair in the event that the Chair is unable to carry them out.
6. Ad Hoc committees may be established as deemed necessary by the PLMWC.

³Reports should include but are not necessarily limited to a discussion of actions taken by the committee during the previous year, a brief description of current issues and recommendations for action by the AMFWA if needed.

Proposed Committee Officers and Meeting Locations

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Committee Meeting Host	Minnesota	Missouri	Nebraska	North Dakota	Ohio
Representative Serves as Chair	Minnesota	Missouri	Nebraska	North Dakota	Ohio
Representative Serves as Vice-Chair	Missouri	Nebraska	North Dakota	Ohio	South Dakota or Saskatchewan

Issues/Recommendations

1. **Issue:** Only four states assigned representatives to the Committee and only three states sent representatives to the Committee meeting.

Recommendation: States that haven't done so should assign someone to represent them on the Committee or the Committee should be disbanded because it can't operate effectively at this low level of participation. Note: If the AMFWA selects the second option, there is no point in considering Recommendations 3 and 4 because substantial involvement by the Committee will be required to implement them.

2. **Issue:** There has been a long-term and steady decline in the amount of early and mid-successional stage forest habitat on National Forests in the midwest. As a result species such as the golden winged warbler, prairie warbler, indigo bunting, American woodcock, ruffed grouse and yellow breasted chat have also been on a long-term decline.

Recommendation: Invite the Regional Forester from Forest Region 9 to the next year's AMFWA meeting in Minnesota to discuss this issue and explore options for resolving it. Note: If the AMFWA approves the recommendation, the Chair of the PLMWC will draft a letter within 30 days explaining our concerns and inviting the Regional Forester to next year's meeting which the President can sign and send once the dates and location of the meeting have been determined.

3. **Issue:** The Committee identified several common problems among the states that would likely be better solved at the state or local level rather than the AMFWA taking action to address them. Examples include user conflicts on public hunting/fishing areas (i.e., mushroom pickers and turkey hunters, mountain bikers and birders, etc.) and lost opportunities for wildlife related recreation on public lands not managed by state wildlife agencies.

Recommendation: Committee members will be asked to identify public use conflicts in their state and circulate a list of them to the other Committee members prior to next year's Committee meeting. They should come to the meeting prepared to discuss identified problems and potential strategies to solve any of the issues identified by each state. Note: This shouldn't require any action by the AMFWA. We simply wanted the Directors to know that we were working on this and to document the process we discussed to address it.

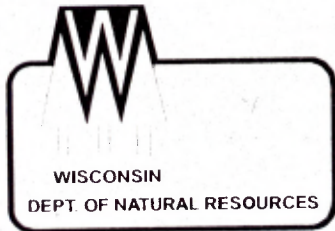
4. **Issue:** Field trials are resulting in conflicts with resource management objectives (soil erosion, vegetation and crop damage, disturbance of nesting birds) and conflicts with other area users (deer and turkey hunters, bird watchers, anglers, trail users, adjacent landowners). In addition, a substantial amount of administrative time (permit processing, permit compliance, correspondence) and field activities (mowing, facility maintenance) are spent to accommodate this user group. A related issue is the lack of clear guidelines for Federal Aid compliance with regard to field trials.

Recommendation: We recommend an Ad-Hoc Committee, comprised of either the PLMWC member or their designee, be established and charged with:

- a. Developing a brief report which describes the field trial policies and practices of each member state (number and name of areas, number of trials per area, resource impacts, season, facilities provided, special management provided, permit system, and special conditions such as participation limits, gallery size, allowing sales of tack or dog food or dogs, cancellation due to wet weather, etc.).
- b. Identifying gaps in information for which research or monitoring is needed to evaluate the impacts on wildlife and management activities.
- c. Developing draft guidelines to minimize field trial conflicts with resource management objectives and other public users.

The Ad-Hoc Committee Chair shall submit the draft products to the PLMWC Chair by March 1, 2001.

Midwest Legal Committee Report



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE

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August 1, 2000

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Directors

Subject: Meeting of the Midwest Legal Committee - July 20 and 21, 2000

Dear Directors:

The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Legal Committee met in Memphis, TN on July 20 and 21. In light of the Michigan legal counsel's inability to sponsor a Midwest Legal Committee meeting, the members chose to hold the meeting in Memphis, TN since a primary agenda item involved U.S. Corps of Engineers projects and the application of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. Several Southeast Association Legal Committee members demonstrated interest in working on this issue. Therefore, to enable their attendance, the meeting was held in Tennessee. As a result, attorneys from Tennessee, South Carolina and North Carolina were able to attend. Also, attorneys from the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers participated in the meeting. The following is a brief summary of the topics discussed and comments on the issues.

Federal Aid Application Processes and DCAA Audits

Jim Christenson, WI, and Larry Mellinger, Solicitor for the Department of the Interior made presentations.

It appears that on the federal front, most audit issues are in the Assistant Director's office for resolution. Jamie Clark, Director of the USFWS, and the Office of the Solicitor, have been arguing for resolution consistent with the recommended policy clarifications reached and recommended by the IAFWA at its meetings in San Francisco and Killington, VT. Since then there have been many changes in the Federal Aid staffing structure and some Federal Aid staff and DCAA Auditors have argued against resolution consistent with the IAFWA recommendations.

Also, as an outgrowth of the USFWS response to the Notice of Intent filed by the Sierra Club regarding Michigan Federal Aid applications, the USFWS is reviewing its compliance procedures respecting the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 7 (ESA) as they might relate to Federal Aid applications. The USFWS also committed to reporting on their findings and any intentions to change those procedures. Various states and the IAFWA have repeatedly requested input on the review and any recommended changes. Discussions have

Federal and State Regulation of Watercraft and Other Recreational Vehicles

The discussion focused primarily on recent National Park Service decisions regarding personal watercraft and snowmobiles on Park lands, or within their boundaries. The authority upon which the Park Service bases these regulations was identified with discussion of state authority and issues. As to state regulation, it is evident that each state may vary with their authority and how it might be applied.

Nonresident Participation in Quota Hunts

There was extensive discussion of litigation in various states, including Arizona and Wyoming. Other states presented for discussion legislation or regulations currently being considered or in effect in their state. The attorneys will share the results of the discussion, with recommendations, with their director if this is an issue in their state.

Fish and Wildlife Law Update and Networking by State Attorneys

The attorney internet site developed and maintained by Norman Young of North Carolina has proved extremely effective in expeditious sharing of information, cases, and advice on issues a state agency may be facing. This tool has replaced other conservation law update tools used in the past, which are often obsolete by the time they are distributed. We owe a big thanks to Norman. Also, he is working on the establishment of a web site that will allow state agency lawyers to link to other state laws and regulations which can be a real time saver in conducting research.

Licensee Data and Social Security Numbers – Confidentiality

Information and interpretations on the “deadbeat dads” legislation requiring the obtaining of social security numbers for certain licenses. The states shared their experiences and status on this issue.

The meeting proved to be very important and timely on a number of agenda items. The sharing of interpretations, litigation, and strategies on the issues by state and federal attorneys cannot be easily accomplished in any other manner. Issues regarding the Mississippi River and other Big Rivers go beyond Regional Associations, and this meeting of attorneys representing the Midwest, Southeast and Western Associations served to bring the attorneys together to share and develop strategies and positions.

If you have questions regarding the meeting, please contact me at (608)266-1318 or any other attorney who attended. An attendance list is attached. The federal agency attorneys attending were Larry Mellinger – Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior; and Larry Barnett – Counsel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

already taken place in some Regions of the USFWS with the states on how the Section 7 reviews will be conducted. Little has been heard about the NEPA review. For both reviews, it can be expected that the states will be required to provide further documentation regarding any conclusions it might reach regarding applications submitted.

The role of the IAFWA in seeking input opportunities and participation in the reviews continues to be important.

Land and Resource Management Partnerships

The discussion on the value of such partnerships, e.g. with Timber Land owners, focused on the proposed PECE Policy recently published in the Federal Register. The policy seeks to identify the consideration federal agencies will give to conservation agreements when making their ESA listing decisions. The Endangered and Threatened Species Committee of the IAFWA has been spending considerable time on the issue of state conservation agreements and hope to provide suggestions on this Policy to the Directors.

Search & Seizures, Checkpoint Stops, Open Fields, etc.

A subcommittee of the IAFWA Legal Committee has been formed to assist states on these search and seizure issues. The Law Enforcement Committee of the IAFWA requested assistance on the issues. The Subcommittee members presented their preliminary findings at this meeting and finalized their plans to develop a document and present it to the Law Enforcement and Legal Committee meetings at the IAFWA meeting in Indianapolis, IN in September, 2000.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Projects and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

With the number of projects affecting states throughout the nation, and the desire of states to assure they have opportunities for input and it is considered, this topic was designed to research and present how the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act may help states in protecting their natural resources. Presentations were made by attorneys representing the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Buford Mabry, South Carolina DNR, shared his experience and interpretation of the Coordination Act and what it assures states. Surprisingly, the Corps and states don't agree on the interpretations. Mr. Mabry, and others, emphasize the need to revitalize the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and its guarantees to states.

The perceived need to pursue this revitalization was so strong at the Legal Committee meeting that the various attorneys will be working further to determine how this Act and its application can be strengthened. They will also review federal legislation currently being considered regarding Corps projects to determine whether clarification in the Act could be pursued at the same time. This is an issue that needs to be focused on by each state.

A brief summary of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and its application, as viewed by state agency lawyers, is attached for your information.

Recommendation: We recommend an Ad-Hoc Committee, comprised of either the PLMWC member or their designee, be established and charged with:

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