

Minutes
MAFWA Annual Meeting
June 25 – June 26, 2012
Hotel at Old Town
Wichita, Kansas

Sunday, June 24, 2012

MAFWA Executive Committee Meeting 5:00 pm (*Schedule – Exhibit 1*)
AMFGLEO Executive Committee Meeting 5:00 pm

Welcome to Kansas Reception – Sponsored by Bass Pro Shops and U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance (USSA) (Exhibit 2)

Hospitality Room – Sponsored by the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers and FDC Enterprises.

Monday, June 25, 2012

Breakfast – Sponsored by National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) (Exhibit 2)

Opening Ceremonies

Kansas Honor Guard performed.

GREETINGS and WELCOME to KANSAS

Welcome to Kansas

Keith Sexson, KS, MAFWA President – Thanks to AMFGLEO for meeting in conjunction with MAFWA this year, sponsors for hospitality room as well. Thank Bass Pro Shops and USSA for hosting last night’s welcome reception. To win door prize items get back in seats right after breaks and meals. Introduced Mayor Carl Brewer, Wichita is in a number of cooperative efforts with Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPt). The Arkansas River runs right through the city, a real asset to the city and we have had projects for river access with them. Lincoln Bridge project includes fish passage project, kayak and canoeing portage through and around the dam; important for use of river and completed through Land and Water grants and access programs.

Greetings

Carl Brewer, Mayor of Wichita – Welcome to the air capital of the world. Thanks for selecting Wichita, welcome attendees from 13 states and 3 provincial agencies. Since your group was formed in 1934 to provide a common forum for state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies to share ideas, information, pool resources, and form action initiatives to better the management and conservation of fish and wildlife resources in the Midwest. Continue efforts you have been doing and working with local governments and non-profit agencies. Your voice protects wildlife. As mayor appreciate what you have done for the City of Wichita, participated

in Governor's turkey hunt this year. Avid fisherman and enjoy the outdoors, got my first turkey this year. Mike Hayden showed me how to dress it. Granddaughter loved watching and feeding wildlife in our back yard, so when I got my turkey I served turkey and noodles to granddaughter, she said it was good and wanted to know when she could go get another one. Go visit Wichita and have fun, visit the river and you can catch fish. Work with KDWPT on a number of projects. I was surprised at the number of species of fish in the river, excellent fishing. Creating a path or canal where fish can navigate up and down the river; used to keep rocks, weeds and everything off the river, now working to conserve habitat for the wildlife as well as the people. Open for ideas. Hope your meeting is productive for you. Hope to see on my hunting trips when I travel north.

Sexson – Non-typical temperatures for Kansas. Looks like 104 degrees for the rest of the week - that will be the Kansas welcome. Tomorrow visiting a nearby state park with a beach area and if you want to swim you are welcome to.

STATE HOT TOPICS

Open Discussion on State Reports

Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Executive Secretary, Facilitator – Thank you for coming. Thank Kansas for hosting strong conference and next year Kentucky will be hosting. We do an evaluation of the conference every year, please fill out because it is important to next state doing meeting. List topics that you may want presented next year. Happy to have AMFGLEO to meet with us, been trying to get this to happen since 2009. Thanks to Kevin Jones and others for making this happen. Thank sponsors for their contributions to our Association. Ask each director to get up and talk about the hot topic in their state.

Marc Miller, IL – CWD still evolving topic and subject of several recent meetings. Dealing with CWD for a number of years – will talk about dos and don'ts and methodical method. Through sharpshooting events are holding line on prevalence rates and decreasing as well. Continue need for the program and importance of wildlife management. People who are unhappy with this are partnering with animal rights groups and has also spilled into legislature. Working with surveys, public feedback and educating general public. Mainly in urban areas, like Rockford (ground zero) spreading eastward towards Chicago and west to Joe Davis County and southward towards rivers. Challenge is continuing to communicate with diminished resources. Need to continue outreach regardless of crisis of the day. Support agency and efforts.

Mark Reiter, IN – Land acquisition project, 4% public ownership. Important towards hunting heritage, want to add to number of public acres. There is land out there for sale, opportunities on a regular basis; most important are those that add to an area we already have, and decreasing in-holdings. State money is difficult, PR money not available, want to leverage federal aid money. Take land we already own, not bought with federal aid money and sell nexus to start federal land bank. Took 200 acres of land, not bought with federal money, and let feds put nexus for \$1 and able to buy another property for \$3 million. Feds understand, other states may want to try this.

Ollie – When met in Indiana, Governor spoke about land acquisition, several thousand acres. Indiana Initiative's second year, acquired land after NRCS put easement on it, idea to protect 95 miles of the Wabash River and 25 miles of the Muscatatuck River, about 90,000 acres we are trying to protect. Purchased 5,000 acres in Wabash area and another 2,000 acres in Muscatatuck

area. All conservation groups are fired up two years later. Getting ready to change Governor's and keep level of interest high to transition into new administration. *Ollie* – Any other states using unique level of funding? *Jim Douglas, NE* – Used same process in Nebraska.

Chuck Corell, IA – President a week before the meeting last year. Acres are under water, land acquisition is a mild statement. Used to receive funding from USFWS of 50% to prairie pothole regions, changing to 70% with most of that going to the Dakotas. Another part of that decision was to focus money in prairie pothole region and Iowa will get none of that money and we were getting \$2 million. In the past they would buy area and we would manage it. Found out in March about this and the challenge is what do we tell duck and upland hunters and land acquisition folks, program gone south and money has gone north. Caused a lot of thought and discussion to decide where we are going to go from here. *Ollie* – Meeting in Iowa last year at state-owned facility. *Corell* - New director in IA, Roger Lande resigned May 25, has house on Lake-of-the-Woods and wants to spend more time there; Chuck Gipp is new director, working on quick transition. *Ron Regan, AFWA* – Had 22 out of 50 new directors in last 18 months. *Ollie* – Hard on staff.

Keith Sexson, KS – New efforts over last year. Aquatic nuisance species, hot for everybody in routine way. Commission passed regulation on transport and catching bait in Kansas; lot of discussion, especially from those who catch their own bait. New regulations on the books that restrict some of that. Also, have in place regulation on draining of water from bilges and boats before transported on public highways. Aggressive outreach program and risks of moving water and fishes. Carp is big issue and zebra mussels, one or two new impoundments every year with zebra mussels. Some barriers on Kansas River, but disheartening when people help the fish over the dam. Commission dealt with this and supports idea of trying to do something to stop the spread. New change in legislative process, got senior license in effect July 1, 2013. Used to exempt citizens from having a hunting and fishing license at 65, now 75, can purchase lifetime at \$40, benefit is not income from actual sale, but now have 30,000 users to claim in Federal Aid as users, about \$800,000 from ability to do that. Fair number of senior citizens, when explained to them about programs and use and declining fund base, most said it was a fair deal. Kudos to those who worked with legislature to get this through. Had crossbow issue, allowed during archery season, now open during firearms season, Commission passed youth 15 and younger and hunters 55 and over during archery season. Legislators wanted to help us and allowed crossbows during archery season. Pilot project in four deer management units (DMU), two of those urban, Kansas City and Wichita and two other units, one west and one south-central. In those four DMU crossbows will be legal during archery season. Some states make this work without too much problem, minimal or nonexistent. Looking at federal listing for lesser prairie chickens (LPC), five-state issue, lot of effort in listing process; proposed listing coming out in August and final listing a year from that date. Working on LPC, increase in Kansas because of CRP, expansion of range and increase in numbers. Process has to work its way out. Bobwhite quail initiative, own plan under national initiative, lot of resources into that effort.

Ollie - Jon Gassett is in Alaska on assignment, they will host next year.

Benjy Kinman, KY – Innovative with federal aid, \$5 million hatchery renovation, got appraisal (hard to get), now federal aid eligible. Fees in lieu of mitigation, Corps process, 404 dredge permit, requires mitigation. You can buy your way out of that mitigation and fees create stream restoration money, about \$28 million in bank account. Once money comes into bank, in the program we can do stream preservation, can purchase ground and buying land with high quality

streams, 1,000 acre tracks, now can build on federal aid and build wildlife management areas. Start new nucleus, hope to connect dots and merge areas. Sandhill crane season, if you thought mourning dove season was tough, sandhill crane is a sacred bird, got limited entry, 400 people with 200-300 quota and structured around migratory bird, public involvement by meeting with bird groups. Passed unanimous and went to legislature they received 3,500 group responses, some allies of ours, it passed. Prepared document to answer concerns, had first season, 350 people harvested 50 birds. Politically, major players stood down, worked it hard, biggest concern was administered under chapter 150, have 9-member commission board and Governor appoints them. Groups are going back to legislature and want to know why select group can say what happens. Highest number of sandhill cranes this year, 60,000 in flyway right now. What is acceptable number to harvest -- zero; this wound might heal, but still concerned legislatively. Don't do on a during election year. *Miller* – Fees in lieu of mitigation, higher rate than feds? *Kinman* – Don't set any of the funds, used to be on linear feet of streams, gone up on ecological value and is complicated procedure. Have 3-year time limitation to put items on the ground. Helps us to do preservation credits, have them as soon as we buy the land. Buy footprint of stream and 200 feet either side of stream, \$6 million and \$3.1 million from program income from farming operations. No money from agency. Working with Cindy on next year's meeting, in Lexington we hope, Louisville is our second choice. Feature will be Asian carp (Kentucky tuna); working on ways to rid them from our waters. Hope to go to management area, sporting clays on quail release. Will fish, hunt and eat. Dr. Jim Rich, medical doctor on Commission for 36 years, he just turned 85. He is up and five names for Governor to pick and Jim is one of 5 names. Since 2010, now term limits on Commission, lawyers say not retroactive, say he has one more term, or not, to make 40 years. *Ollie* - Kentucky and Missouri both belong to Southeast and MAFWA and four states belong to WAFWA and MAFWA. *Sharon Schafer, MI* – Rodney Stokes going over to Governor's office to help with City of Detroit. Announced Keith Creagh, former Dept. of Ag Director will become new DNR Director. No merger. *Ollie* – Also, new director has forestry training. *Becky Humphries, DU* – Good guy, hunter and trapper. *Ed Boggess, MN* – Planned to be here last year, but shut down government for two weeks in July; was chaotic time. Had Republican House and Senate and Democratic Governor so that led to gridlock; but had unlikely success in last legislative session. Brought handouts on license initiative (*Exhibit 3*); started two years ago, structured project management approach with multiple divisions. Following template, started hunting and fishing increase in fees, none for years, losing ground every six years. Got additional federal funds that helped carry our game and fish fund, were facing insolvency. Put together a project, started background work and created brochure and starting doing work with responsive management on market research. Traditional fee increase was just raised from 18% to 23%, didn't feel that would sell this time and felt people would fall out with license increase. Looked at other license types and price points where reach least resistance. Didn't know what churn would be. Only one-fourth buy license every year and only about half the hunters. Wanted to look for alternatives, shorter seasons and youth for example. Started talking to the public, got Governor to include in our initiative in 2011. Series of information available for meetings about game and fish fund; got three-eighths new sales tax in 2008, communication challenge was that money doesn't support base fund. Talked about fish and game fund and how we helped law enforcement and other groups. First session, had hearings and met with individual legislators. Hunting and fishing initiative went down in flames, thought

about bringing back, articulate as a user fee. Had letters of support from 40 individual organizations, this year 60 and traditional groups said they were willing to pay for it. No organized opposition; one of last few days of legislature got through House and went to Senate and it passed with minimum number of votes and will take effect next March. Worth a try, even if it had failed we would continue to lay the ground work. Had to change and felt we would be insolvent in two years so showed the need.

Ollie – Tim represents us in federal budget hearings in Washington, DC.

Tim Ripperger, MO – Similar situation to Marc, CWD found in captive facility. First positive was in smaller pens, depopulated and no others found in that pen, started surveillance, hits in 2011 on two adult bucks. Primary shooting pens had positives which are two pens (1,500 acres each) and now five positives found in wild population. Our response has been testing and monitoring, early in 2012 did sample around facility. Six-county CWD area, dropped four-point antler rule, no feeding of cervids, BMP on not removing whole carcasses. Held public meetings in that zone, thoughts ranged from some wanted to nuke all deer in area to disinterest. Had luxury of learning from many of you; and partnerships are more important than you can imagine. Knew philosophical differences were vast, we were ready to move on a dime but Dept. of Ag was not. Keep getting feedback from the field. *Ollie* – Missouri does not allow baiting of turkey or deer. *Boggess* – Minnesota prohibited baiting in 1991 for this reason, CWD. *Ollie* – Need to talk more about that.

Bob Timian, ND – Donate time, didn't get instructions. Roger Rostvet retired on June 1.

Jim Douglas, NE – Two months on job; a collision of circumstances with positive outcomes. Our agency tried to address planning for recruitment and retention and have 20-year plan we put together five years ago and, last year did new strategic plan; had to do additional shooting sports which needed to be located between Omaha and Lincoln to have soft introduction for school kids. Platte River State Park has a new shooting park for families, mainly because of location. Share positive things, it is located in rolling wooded bluffs with a few ponds, a 600 acre-park, one corner created a shooting facilities with pathway, first archery center or shoot archery and flying targets with Geneses bows, etc. You are greeted by someone as people wander into this area. Then pneumatic pellet range project, move up into .22 or muzzleloader shooting facility and then clay range. Setting where you wander and not intimidating in any way. Have meeting facility in the park also and corporate events are occurring here as well. Kids enjoy it so much that mothers want to rent it for afternoon for birthday parties and etc. Have bus trips for youth to come to the park, recently ran 2,500 kids through the park and adding kayaks and fishing and things like that. Because combined with other activities that are family-friendly there are few parents who don't want kids to participate. Only one parent from Omaha out of 2,500 didn't want child to shoot. Hope to expand into other parks. One of strategic plans is to increase attendance at state parks which falls in line with recruitment and retention and shooting range development as well. Have 11 historical parks and thinking about those, but they are hard areas to maintain and don't have as many visitors. Looked at Buffalo Bill State Park at North Platte and thought about putting shooting sports there, 250 acres of grasslands between mansion and river, put in complex and start soft shooting events and add four other areas in future. Starting virtual permits on phone app. *Kinman* – Is there a user fee for area? *Douglas* – Minimal user fee, but not for school groups, about \$7 to go into state parks.

Ollie – Dave Scott from Ohio is going to Region 3 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Scott Zody, OH – Change seems to be theme this year in many agencies. Used to going towards the end, but does seem to be consistent theme, communication at crux. Informing stakeholders of rule change that took place in January; wanting to require taking fish, keep whole and skin on fish, which will help law enforcement guys. Stakeholders, when implementing the rule, first year gave lots of warnings and used the year informing and educating. Got a lot of intense, negative feedback this spring on fishing. Did mid-year pivot in enforcement and making clarifications of rule in following year. Do two rounds of open houses early spring, do hearings, joint committee on rural review, second in fall and have different stations. Do second round of open house meetings, added in August. Post on website and leave comment input. Learned important lesson, assumed constituents understood what was going on. Looking at in lieu fee program, structured different from Kentucky, partnering with state chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and they will act as program sponsor (modeled after New York). Stream mitigation important and we have wetland mitigators out there already. TNC will submit prospectus and we will become sponsor of projects and work with TNC and inner-agency review team. Banker will be Ohio Water Development Authority, developed in 1960s to work on water and sewer infrastructure, expanding horizons to add water quality issues as well. Ready to go through formal input and public process. Asian carp is an issue, went to Indiana and working together with them, doing sampling and monitoring effort and looking at other pathways to address those before carp at the gate. Also, seeing shale and oil and gas exploration, seeing tidal wave building, from 6 to 33 rigs, and increasing every week.

Jeff Vonk, SD – Same issues as many of you. Not doing good communication to constituents either. Asian carp in Missouri River and headed to North Dakota. Trying to get on top of that, and doing bait restrictions. Flood from last year was a communication issue, lost battle to national media. Lost tremendous amounts of fishing business and thought they couldn't fish, only significant flooding was below the dams, best fishing last year in years, lost a bunch of business, used media, internet, etc. to get the word out. Had salmon from North Dakota being caught three reservoirs below in South Dakota. Struggle with mountain lion management in Black Hills, elk numbers down and everyone wants to blame mountain lions; still hot topic. Hearing on elk proposal spoke four to one on mountain lions there. Someone mentioned lifetime licenses, we don't sell them. Have individual who owns Minnesota lifetime license, who wants to buy a lifetime as a resident. Lifetime license holder is not the one making the complaint, someone else doesn't want him to be able to purchase as a resident.

Scott Gunderson, WI – National news was recall of Governor, patrician politics creep into agency politics. Had issues with employees who were trying to remove the Governor, got past that. Happy with direction agency is going right now. Heard about CWD; new positive in northern part of state which has people concerned, near Shell Lake, 200 miles from other positives. Tried not to overreact and didn't put in special regulations, but held public hearings and doing intensive testing in two-mile radius, will do more this fall during hunting season and picking up road kill animals. Did DNA testing to prove deer was from that local area and not a walk-in from the south, have had some releases in past from game farms there. Dr. James Kroll is deer manager researcher done through executive order to conduct an overview of our deer management program; and we met with staff after initial report came out. Had another call with three researchers last week, report out to Governor today or tomorrow. Frack-sand mining, blessed with perfect sand, in last 18 months permitted 68 new frack sand mines. Comes down to local zoning, look at air quality, doing everything we can to monitor that industry, concern about

health hazard; trying to stay on top of this, huge issue in the future. *Corell* – Sand mining restricted to southwest region? *Gunderson* - No. *Corell* – We have some in Iowa. *Boggess* – Have some in Minnesota too. *Ollie* – I want to thank Wisconsin for providing office space for me.

Break - Sponsored by DJ Case & Associates

Building Conservation Leaders From the Ground Up

Karl Martin, WI – Not here – cancelled (Handout – Exhibit 4).

Law Enforcement Leadership Training

Larry Yamnitz, MO Wildlife Protection Chief – Randy Stark is president and couldn't make it, Bill Woody will be here later. (*PowerPoint – Exhibit 5*) Focus on issues in nationwide resource law enforcement. Talked about relevance, 911 caused focus with other things, like homeland security, money running out. Succession planning, lot of retirees coming up, need to prepare new leaders for the future. Concept of academy; a lot go to FBI academy, Police Staff and Command, etc. decided to work with National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) facility to come up with course for high levels of leadership. A unique trade, dealing with people who always have guns and knives, instead of those who seldom do. Hope to put together outline and speak to other regional associations. Have to do needs assessment, have experts who will do this, cost of about \$4,000 per state, some states already committed the dollars. Focus on USFWS advanced leadership. 10 weeks of training, do 3-4 weeks away from agency and do some internet-based training for some of it. Dealing with drugs on a regular basis now; need analysis skills, good law enforcement officer doesn't necessarily make good leader. Work with NCTC staff, in 12-18 months we hope classes will start. Don't know how many students we can handle and worry about travel budgets. Hoping to bring in instructors from agencies. *Vonk* – Focusing this on unique aspects of conservation law enforcement, supplement to broader law enforcement training? *Yamnitz* – Take in FBI training, but bring in uniqueness of conservation law enforcement. *Vonk* – Thought about using what is out there and then having a week of conservation law enforcement? *Yamnitz* – Send to regional or state police academy, good but training a cop, and we have to replace cop with conservation law enforcement, concept is similar to what we want to do with executive training, pick from FBI and use Missouri doctrine and combine to what we need. *Corell* – Talking about leadership, budgeting and personnel, aiming at leadership roles, cover strategic thinking and planning? *Yamnitz* – Yes, and grant programs.

The Asian Carp Crisis

Marc Smith, NWF Sr. Policy Manager, MI – (*PowerPoint – Exhibit 6*). I will be short, but want interaction. I direct water policy in Great Lakes office, seems all I am doing now is Asian carp and how we keep them out or deal with it once it is there. Membership is 100% locked in on this issue, they get it that is why we are pressure builders on agencies. We are partnering, you are in field working this issue, need more collaboration on this issue than any other. Map shows progression, going up the Missouri, also near Chicago. Learned from zebra mussels that they are almost impossible to eradicate. Chicago has five entry points into the lake and three have locks and electrical barriers, two do not. Talked about closing the locks, but they are not an actual barrier and there are two other ways to get in. How we do lock modifications or

rotenone applications, Corps involved doing a study, and we are trying to prevent movement of species between Mississippi Basin into Great Lakes. Pre-analyses of what to do in 2013, several options in Congress, highlights physical separation, but don't expect to see bill until December, then maybe 18 months more. Put together stakeholders from commercial industry, if separate Mississippi Basin and Great Lakes, complicated to pour concrete because sewer issues, etc. Three scenarios, barriers downriver at electrical site, could cause flooding, but Chicago relies on locks for flows to prevent flooding; mid-system option; and closer to the lake option. Price tag was \$3-9 billion, not too crazy to think it could happen. Ways to do this, not just about carp, but round Gobi and zebra mussels, a super highway for invasive species. Not just Great Lakes, Corps study identified 18 other pathways that Asian carp could come in. Big highlights are Wabash flows up from Illinois; thank IN DNR for stepping up and putting in some fences to block flooding at Eagle Marsh, but only a temporary fix. A permanent situation needs to be vetted. Minnesota is another potential area to move up, some eDNA sampling done, best science is live movement of fish, but could be scales or whatever. Agencies and feds are moving forward. No live Asian carp in Twin Cities area, but caught downriver. Legislature approved \$7 million for fish barriers and \$3 million for ?? Congressional delegation has stepped up and if Asian Carp found at Locken Dam will call for closure of lock. Attorney Generals are partnering up on this issue; never seen an outcry from our membership like this. Two weeks ago, eDNA showed 17 positive hits above electric barrier in Lake Calumet area in one day. Still means issue going on, expect some fish are the above barrier, but still have not found a live fish. If we don't take action similar to zebra mussel situation, then dealing with management in Great Lakes. State agencies need to be commended for their work on this, and we want to be a stakeholder with you. *Emmett Keyser* – Can birds spread eDNA? *Charlie Wooley* – Corp checking that vector, will have answer soon. *Smith* – What are you doing right now, BMPs? *Corell* – In northwest Iowa, series of natural lakes with high water quality, jewel of Iowa, found silver and big heads in those areas; partnered with locals, raised \$750,000 and designed electronic fish barrier, have temporary barrier similar to Indiana while working on electronic barrier and looking at bait restrictions on transport of live fish up and down the highways. Working on statewide action plan for all invasive species. Don't think we can stop it, but hope to be able to manage in some way. State record big head carp in Iowa is 93 pounds. *Miller* – Great partner, I am Commissioner on Great Lakes Commission. Provide update on ballast water objectives on ocean going liners. *Smith* – EPA came up with permit for discharge, clean water act says can't release anything that could affect, hope states will certify with stronger standard, New York says EPA standard will not protect them. Good news is no new invasive species detected since about 2006. Shipping industry says what is in place is working, but no monitoring has been done, so how do you know. While exchanging of salt water has helped, not conclusive. *Zody* – Toronto company fined \$50,000 for bringing in live Asian carp. *Smith* – Need tighter controls at the border; saw editorial in Texas newspaper that they were stocking Asian carp because they were sterile. Need help from state managers. Think South Carolina is doing the same, but brought in to eat aquatic vegetation as carp will eat everything.

Constructing the Northeast/Midwest Climate Science Centers

Rachel Muir, USGS Region Science Advisor and Interim Director, Northeast Climate Science Center (NECSC) – (PowerPoint – Exhibit 7). Ambassador for grand enterprise started by Dept. of Interior; petitioned department to make this Northeast-Midwest Center. Cowboys

and Indians, shoot revolver, then two, then from a horse, but Indians shoot bow and arrow from a horse with no saddle. Secretary's Order (Salazar) created in 2009. Identified two initiatives: Dept. of Interior (DOI) Climate Change Science Centers and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC); with the Climate Science Centers trying to address all of these issues. Not trying to prevent climate change, but need new and better science to do effectively. Natural resource managers of all kinds will need the tools to do this. Where is NECSC? Funding started March 2012, covers whole northeast corner of U.S., but won't be all things to everyone, have eight centers and expect them to take the lead on different areas, NECSC may focus on urban areas where 40% of the population lives. Will deal with private landowners, long introductions of species because of Europeans; landscapes are vulnerable to climate change and many jurisdictions to work across within those boundaries. Active with states and private partnerships, 21 eco-systems in northeast area, overlap with four habitat areas and seven others touch on it. Partnership with universities and federal agencies, combine strengths to address this issue, seven institutions with great deal of expertise. My budget was \$2.7 million, but those universities' budget was over \$100 million. Working on conservative and effective approach and working with them to build capacities. Key characteristics: cooperative unit; building capacity with grad students; small research staff; \$3-4 million/year leverage money; and trying to get information out on the ground to land managers, federal, state and local. Hope to provide resources for all of them. Model has been Coop Unit Program and concepts introduced by DOI. Partners are LCCs (7), work through existing partnerships (from PP). Address focus, natural ecosystems and highly modified ecosystems and agriculture regions. Come out with how to manage within agriculture and urban areas. NECSC has to have a human face if it will have support. Identify initial science that has come up with, develop uniform system across area; land use change and climate change; identify ecosystems at risk (like species at risk); seeing competition over water, a key issue, knowing water needs; sea level rise on coast is big issue. Two stakeholder events coming up, St Paul, MN and Amherst, MA, may have travel money to get you there if needed. Deal with Associations rather than individual states. Provided work and cell number, a consistent resource to go to, contact me if issues come up within your state. *Bogges* – Stakeholder meeting will there be invitations that go out? *Muir* – More information coming out, invitations came out on Friday. Interested in creating committees, people from the states that would be interested and would appreciate your advice.

Awards Luncheon – Sponsored by Archery Trade Association and National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP Presentation – Exhibit 8). Keith Sexson, Awards Committee Chairman, Facilitator – Introduced award winners and presented awards to state representative if winners were not present (*Exhibit 9 – MAFWA Nominations*).

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year – Bill Miller, WI

Wildlife Biologist of the Year – Chad Stewart, IN

Fisheries Biologist of the Year – Craig Fuller, MO

Spirit of the Shack – Andrew Hulin, IL

Excellence in Conservation –

Missouri River Outdoor Expo, NE

Healthy Rivers Initiative, IN

Sagamore: Rex Amack, NE

President's Award – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Kansas – accepted by Eric Banks.

Kevin Jones, AMFGLEO President presented awards to AMFGLEO winners: Lyle Lester, Alberta; Mike Crosby, Colorado; Matt Lentz, Illinois; Doug Whiteaker, Kansas; Traci Hanson, Minnesota; Shannon Smith, Missouri; Erik Schmidt, North Dakota; Dave Beavers, Ontario; Joe Galbraith, South Dakota; Michelle Mount, Texas; Bill Miller, Wisconsin; and Michael Merida, USFWS (*Exhibit 10*).

MARKETING PANEL DISCUSSION

Panel Discussion on Marketing – National, Regional, State and Social Media Perspective

National Perspective: Bill Creighton, CEO, Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports (Exhibit 11) – Controlling message was theme from this morning, saying the same on different topics. Common theme was what's in it for me. Communication for customers and they want to know what is in it for them – if not giving that message – will find someone who can. Want to reverse need on hunting participation and move people from shooting to hunting. Market is segmented into two blocks: youth and mentors. Audience is 17-34 age groups if selling a product; have mobile, disposable income, are pack buyers, etc. Families are 34 year olds starting their family, great message for 8-year-old, but won't buy license for eight years or so. Horizontal peer influence is great way to reach people in a crowd. How do we affect and improve customer experience, brand loyalty, advocacy, trust and importance to this group. Lower support cost, higher revenue and higher sales. People are looking at their phones incessantly, at least once an hour. How can you pay so much for a Packers ticket and buy a license and complain. You are selling the price not the value, we need to do a better job, sell value of experience. Not looking at price alone, value then they share and advocate. Be trustworthy, Facebook has changed privacy. Try to build relationship of trust with hunters, in a lot of cases we don't because of language in regulations and the way we present hunter education, more enforcement than building those bonds. Secret shopper exercise: going to state websites to see how inviting, engaging, portraying, and going through buying cycle. People are used to one click buying and license buying is more than one-click buying. Attach social responsibility to process (license) and they will buy it; means giving back something to society. Losing 65,000 certified hunters a year. Difference comes from places like Platte River State Park, going into schools with NASP – going to the customers. Data is hard to get, figure out how to use it when you see trends. Barriers to entry are hunter education, regulations that require you to do something before buying product. Evaluate new customers, visual crowd learns by video, sound, etc. Base focus on customer experience.

National Perspective – Regional Focus: Stephanie Hussey, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (PowerPoint - Exhibit 12) – What you said this morning dovetails with the program we are doing; communications and outreach is key. Licenses are shared metric, increase participation, getting new hunters, but not keeping them. New year of research, e-newsletter releasing results, trend is changing, gaining more than losing. USFWS privileges 2010 shows bump and increase in license sales. Keep recreation top of mind and keep it as easy as possible for them to get out there. National advertising "Take Me Fishing" campaign, a number of print ads (in the spring), digital and social media (throughout the year). Did research on segments we

are trying to grow out there and expanded our markets into other segments. Core segment: outdoor enthusiasts and growth segment: family outdoor. New creative ads have spin back to park, are retro and playing on mother nature's water park and all leads to Take Me Fishing website TMF.org. Last fiscal year (ended March 31), had over 5 million new visitors to the site. Major revamp of site behind the scenes, being more user-friendly, and making it as easy as possible to find; playing into mobile assets to find local resources. Have boat ramp app; which shows referrals to state fishing and boat registration pages. Should be able have a mobile version rather than paper version. Direct mail marketing program – \$1 million in sales. Survey of partners asked what key obstacles were and biggest challenge has been funding and staff to run it. Provide 100% of funding and hired printing vendor to run nationally and works in partnership with your staff and all revenue is coming back to your agency. Evaluating programs that launched in April this year; worked with 35 states. Several states are testing things this year, looking for ways to talk to the customers. Hope to have results by September AFWA meeting. Collect email addresses and POs or via other methods, contact anglers with valid email address and employ angler engagement strategies. Have marketing workshop this September where you can work together, share and explore ideas.

State Perspective: Richard Smalley, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (PowerPoint - Exhibit 13) – We approach marketing through the message, consumptive and non-consumptive. Do all traditional media: magazines, trade shows, e-blasts, search engine marketing, online display and video advertising and social media. Interesting what you learn at a trade shows, answer questions on how much licenses cost, limits, etc. Outdoor enthusiasts are a target as well as consumptive users. Moving to QR codes that take you right to a website. Do 4-5 trade shows that are nature based each year. Search engine marketing – tag team with Alissa, who works for our ad agency.

Social Media and Marketing: Alissa Sheley, SR Digital Strategist, Jones Huyett Partners –(PowerPoint – Exhibit 13) – Research ads out there no matter if you Google, Yahoo or Bing. Online display advertising shown in around six states around Kansas. Ad campaign ran about a month long, drove interest. Bill mentioned what's in it for me, but also have to look at it being somewhere we are already at. Have blogs, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr and Pinterest – my job is based on social media. People are spending a lot of time on social media from all age groups. Facebook has over 900,000 active users, spending 6.5 hours a month and 7.3 are accessing using mobile site (phone). Figure out way to stay relevant, set up brand page, don't have to have a Facebook account to go out there, indexed, no limits, easy URL, etc. Travel KS Facebook page, send message directly to brand page, rolled out with timelines, presented staff issues and at a glance features are great. Trends, multimedia content get spread virally (more people see when posting photos or videos). If you have moms you want to reach for teaching kids hunter education, you can see if you are reaching them and making sure nothing inappropriate is posted. Have concise look at what you are all about. See trends shift over to social, asking friends or searching in Facebook. Nice to have more than one person to administer to answer private messages or questions. Twitter not as popular, but people using it are highly connected in an instant way, 15% adults with 8% who use it daily; largest demographic is 18-24 year-olds, constant back and forth. Can be great in terms of back and forth customer service, great if we want response in an hour or so. Put out 3-8 messages a day out on Twitter, nice at-a-

glance on how things are going. Got first hunting license less than a year ago. Blog and twitter each day on what I do. When you take steps to communicate easy to share with friends; take message in way that you want to take, but giving in a space where they are already at.

Questions: *Zody* – Stephanie, on mobile apps, are you tying in other travel-related sites like road-trippers or something like that? *Hussey* – Tied in a number of ways, map is something that can be imbedded. Have done with park reservations, will check to see where we are at on the other. *Miller* – Kansas Folks, is association training that helps boost your experience? *Sheley* – go to conferences every year to try to get information. *Smalley* – Go to national tourism conference and on list serve from peers from other states. Also, went to RBFF marketing conference last year. *Kinman* – For Stephanie, fishing graph going up, TN requires hunting and fishing together, another state picked up their seniors, can you tell as real numbers or not? *Hussey* – Don't know all ins and outs, in the database, shows license sales. *Kinman* – Could be a mask. *Ripperger* – Bill, to eliminate barriers do you use online learning in more effective ways, shorten time and shorten the effort and different ways to package it, be different about field days, can't treat 14-year-old same as 30-year-old. Get someone you trust to do it. *Unknown audience* – Initial hook, give experience hunt with person and then let them sit through a class, whatever we can do to get them to go hunting. *Douglas* – Bill, in secret shopping do more than buy license or look at the rest? *Creighton* – Looks at content, quality of content, Facebook and license process, looking at whole spectrum - detailed report with recommendations, some easy and some structural to implement. *Gunderson* – Bill, on hunter safety, while traveling around saying look outside the box, what is feedback? *Creighton* – Welcome opportunity to try and change it. Recommendations have changed, process may take forever, there is recognition. *Gunderson* – With social networking in Kansas, how long Facebook up in Kansas? *Sheley* – Not sure, two years ago when we got the account, was already out there. Everything we do is based on content calendar. Strategic look for two years. I don't do day to day, but I do blog, Tourism manages that. *Smalley* – Facebook – several pages, Tourism, KDWP and parks pages. *Creighton* – Go on Facebook, with a personal profile, 3.9 million people say they like hunting, this moment 27,000 talking about it. Expressing interest and searching for information. *Sexson* – What is age profile on something like that? *Sheley* – Fastest growing Facebook user is 45 and older who have about 150 friends. *Sexson* – Linking with people who have like-interest that transfers down to other ways to communicate. *Smalley* – Some people don't use email, using Facebook and Twitter. *Sheley* – New channel to find interests we have already had. *Miller* – What do you do professionally, working on Facebook myself, can track hits as administrator, fascinating to see what it is connecting to and to whom. When we do something with state park can see what demographic is lighting that up, then work with social media and have someone who doesn't mind geek moniker. *Sexson* – Just don't know when I get into an account what I am doing, wandering around out there; that is why I was asking age. *Reiter* – Just not relevant to me. *Sexson* – Telling me time to get out of the business. *Miller* – Post pictures from wounded warrior hunt or something I have taken with phone. Look to us as opinion leaders, generate interest in activity. Find a way to replace mentors, possible way to replace traditional ways. *Sexson* – This isn't like an overnight deal, had to build these things, not friends but fans and need to build base to keep them coming back for more and they pass onto their friends and numbers snowball. Keep lively but pertinent and up-to-date, hold fans and gain new fans. *Zody* – Licenses and license sales, multi-year and lifetime options; anybody offering automatic renewal? *Kinman* – We are -

on credit card sales. *Zody* – So much churn, automatically charge credit card, send notification and send a wink when it is out there and get email accounts too? *Gunderson* – Started November, 5,000 friends, we do in-house, but still growing account. Take emails with license sales again, over 100,000 email addresses that we didn't have and now can do blast emails. We all have to start doing that. I know it is hard to grasp all of this. If we don't do it we will be back in the dust. *Sexson* – Be flexible enough that will roll to next. *Smalley* – Hire companies and buy email addresses, \$27 for 1,000 addresses, spend about \$4,000 and bought 26,000 email addresses. *Hussey* – Used service like that last year and found a lot of success, higher response to the ones you collect in-house. That is a way to add on in the meantime. *Glen Salmon* – Back 10 years ago, automated licenses was discussion, AFWA set up a user group and that was really important and a huge asset, might need something like that now as we each get into social media. Tremendous teams on hunting and fishing side and now social media. If that is the future, and it is, then we better do best that our efforts are consistent and practical. Look at how much of staff needs to be working on that. *Regan* – President Gassett committed to creating a committee and looking for a chair. *Sexson* – Some of people being hired it is natural for them. *Regan* – Heard this morning, not feeling we are communicating well enough, social media is the tool. It doesn't take a geek to do Facebook or Twitter, it just takes a good communicator. *Kinman* – For Ron and Bill, on hunter education, same deal Glen is talking about, have AFWA come up with something so we all don't have to reinvent the wheel? *Regan* – Not talked about that at AFWA. *Creighton* – Look at breaking down into component parts, pool resources to build those; gun safety, tree-stand safety and build courses with different pieces, break it into modules.

Break - Sponsored by The Nature Conservancy

National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative

Don McKenzie, NBCI Director – (*Exhibit 14*). Last time in front of you was six years ago in Spearfish, South Dakota, plan was four years old then and there were 22 states in the plan. Got resolution from MAFWA supporting National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) and going fast forward to today: now 10 years old, Southeast Quail Study Group is no more, now National Bobwhite Technical Committee (NBTC); equal partners with NEAFWA and Joe Kramer represents MAFWA on that board. My position is supported by 25 states and we have four full time staff paid for from grants. Four points: 3 regions, Kansas' Jim Pitman has been on technical committee for six years for MAFWA. Challenge we have had for migratory bird management, very structured for a century with flyways, quail starting from ground zero. Every state an island unto themselves, think and act bigger. Encourage you to send delegate to that management board. University of Tennessee is home base of NBCI, answer to basically three bosses, management board, technical committee and University of Tennessee. Bobwhites continue to decline in every state of their range, without exception; a grim situation. We assert problem is solvable. Know biology, what we are bad at is knowing how to do on the scale it needs to be done. Compare science to working with people, politics and big money have chance to solve this problem. Understand vision for restoration, leadership commitment – here because of 25 states and their partners, strategy is habitat-based and professional staff helps states and partners. First update of NBCI in 2011, went from paper to web-based plan, but gives us much more power to bring strategy up another level. Ranked priority categories: high, medium, low and none; a useful tool for creating step-down plans. Takes aggressive state agency leadership;

add national capacity; combine with grassroots movement; full collaboration with solid communication and synergize off each other; and play ball. From White House to farm house, add value at top of pyramid nationally and work with joint ventures. States at core of NBCI, quail restoration will not happen without the states. Encouraging examples of states doing that, some in place 2-10 years; was only two states with viable plan, now 15 states with serious initiative going on now and just this year 4-5 others. Even in this economy people standing up and making quail restoration a priority. Major arenas of attack: ag policy, forest management, science, public outreach, grazing lands management (once sterile land), and mined land reclamation. Short term objectives (6-18 months): create central databases, to add and get data; natives first policy, NRCS continues to subsidize invasive grasses; state implementation models to give idea of what state might need; model focus area guidance and standard protocols; shortleaf pine ecosystem formed; upgrade website; upgrade awards; launch Bobwhite Foundation; hire grassland coordinator; strengthen outreach to do better marketing. Tom Dailey is science coordinator, trying to collect data for quail management, how much did your state make happen this year both on public and private lands? Natives first policy is one of highest priorities across east side of country, need to deal with this, public conservation money can be spent for new invasive species, need to stop the bleeding. Went to FSA and AFWA and asked for do-not-plant list, received and thrown in the trash so shifted target and using NRCS as technical agency, asked for low-cost conservation policy gain. Make native plants first choice, positive feedback, but it didn't happen; core issue remains unchanged. Early in stages of refining old model to more effectively help NBCI. Publically say a problem in state and make step-down plan, state interagency quail council, full-time state quail coordinator, full-time ag liaison, private lands biologists, engage joint ventures and set up quail focus areas. How many states established quail as priority in agency, was less than half (45%), now 72%. Asked 25 states how much time quail coordinator spent on quail and only six spent more than 50% of their time. On focus areas, 13 out of 25 had established one, diversity and inconsistency is very difficult to work and grow from. There are 182 focus areas with 79 measuring abundance, can't document and prove what we are doing. Have to show success, sooner than 75 years it might take to restore species. Need to prove concepts and work to secure long-term commitment from people in charge of the money. Show right size, public land core, private lands to supplement, concentrate resources, set objectives, monitor results and publicize success. Weary of monitoring, think we can come up with something that works, need to add up and compare across states, 23 of 25 think monitoring is important, 19 willing to participate in standardized or coordinated monitoring. NBCI sponsored monitoring retreat in Lexington, KY and spent three days hashing out monitoring plan for grassland birds; meeting in August in Abilene, TX to come up with consensus to do the same, need your states to come. Have some money available for travel for your staff. Developed a bobwhite foundation, approved, have a charter, have first verbal commitment, seven figures and now trying to get connections in other states. John Doty, Outdoor Press Association held two hour and a half seminars in front of outdoor writers; been invited back to TN this year so will do something similar, bring in state people this year and some positive information. Appreciate your support on this. *Kinman* – On foundation will you segregate money for just one state or into one pot? *McKenzie* – Good question, not redundant or competitive, if just want in-state then find another quail program locally, cause more problems long-term.

A Fishy Future: An Update on the National Fish Habitat Partnership

Gary Whelan, Program Manager, Michigan DNR Fisheries Division (Exhibit 15) – Background is science based, action oriented and collaborative effort. The partnership works to: identify priorities and knowledge gaps; identify and achieve measurable outcomes; focuses resources and funding; encourage public-private partnerships; and monitor and disseminate results. Fix processes not symptoms; bring in new partnerships and disseminate results. Protect, restore and enhance through a series of partnerships; 450 partners currently involved, not regulatory approach and look to different funds. This is a landscape issue; 2006 initial plan is signed and revision is nearly complete. Fish habitat partnerships across the country, have 18 right now. Key goal achieved was assessment, status report. Two parts to this and hope to get to process level. Improve ecological condition of fish habitat, restore process, protect intact systems rather than fix, look at improving overall fishing opportunities. National set of conservation strategies, plans to work on as priorities, broaden stewardship community, improve overall assessment (data gaps that are long-term issues) wants module on socio-economic data, and communicate what we have done. Map showing partnerships, one federal. Worked hard on performance issues, Congress and auditors want to know if you were effective or not. Development of 10 measures to look at; good with strategic priorities, focusing conservation actions, leveraging dollars and working cooperatively. There is a lot of overlap, but not overlapping efforts. Know some weaknesses: operational functions, measure effectiveness, outreach and get better collaboration with science and data. Looked at overall evaluation, 47% received over 70% of performance points with two of those over 80% of points. Key is longevity of partnership, the longer the better the score. Developing new vision for assessment strategy focused on filling those gaps. Assessment team is Michigan State University, Alaska and Hawaii and NOAA. Return received \$16 million in federal money, \$40 million from partners; worked on about 350 projects in 45 states, 1,500 miles of river; with direct economic benefit of \$145 million and 1,100 jobs; with long-term estimates at \$851 million and 19,259 jobs (18/1 return on investments). Current priorities, support plan in Congress, enhance leadership, seek new funding sources and develop project effectiveness, develop standard effectiveness, facilitate communication and develop and initiate implementation of strategy. Legislation is still in front of Congress, June 15, 2011 introduced; 10 bill sponsors, moved some in Senate and some in House, continue to work to get it moving. Secretarial agreements with Interior, Agriculture and Commerce; implemented currently and 180 days after signing back in March. Can't expect to get benefits from degrading environment. *Regan* – How well, or not so well, are partnerships intersecting with LCCs? *Whelan* – Some working together, some not at all, will see more work to bring better intersection. Language is in budget bill. In Denver at national coordination meeting, pushing hard for national and ground level partnerships.

Fishing for Answers: Developing Landscape Tools for Aquatic Species Management

Maureen Gallagher, USFWS Region 3 Coordinator, National Fish Habitat Action Plan, located in NW Missouri (Exhibit 16) – MAFWA received \$400,000 multistate grant for five of partnerships, each partnership supposed to do own assessment. Working with Midwest partnerships and part of Southeast aquatic resources. Matched funds to complete assessments in Great Plains. Different response variables. Complex process to pull something like this off to get data and clean it. Lot more biological data, thank states for fish chief's providing this information. Have one state with no useable data. Not talk about science on YouTube. Talk about landscape tools: slope, ground water and items we don't have control over as well as

human impact. Two different indices and have catchment habitat condition map and HUC 12 habitat condition map, database connected to which catchment, have website and GIS website and hard copy and map books and see habitat conditions. Natural habitat quality index (blue good, red not so good), restore for certain species where natural habitat would have never supported that. Human impact index tells us where lowest amount of impact and highest impact. Making assumption, good habitat good numbers, poor habitat poor numbers. Didn't only do streams and rivers from glacial lakes and more work needs to be done on lakes. Looked at all lakes greater than 10 acres, regardless of depth. Usefulness is in decision support tools: visualize (take out bias), ranking which allows us to add own belief system (add bias back in); ability to predict the future. Choose area and species in visualization model, look at catchment or HUC 12 level and choose category, like landscape variables, socio-economic data, etc. and it pops up the map. Drill down to get information. We use ranking money, say farm bill money to do habitat restoration, do to help brook trout; look at all variables, brook trout/farm ground/population expansion and put in all that data and tool bars from 1-100 and ask for model to run to help narrow down. Then go into future tool, choose catchment and box pops up that shows you information and tool bars and then ask for model. New website shot, engaging with link to all of the FHPs, find all of science, apply for projects (online application system) which we hope to link to USFWS in future, success stories, project mapper about individual projects and auto populated projects (once a year). Doing regional model across all FHPs and will have three response variables (warm water, cool water and cold water). Website finalized at end of week. Watched YouTube video. Try to continue work with LCCs and make tools assessable without ARC or GIS skills. Planned for roll-out at national conference in August. MAFWA should be proud of your help with this.

Ollie – We were recipient of multistate grant on fish habitat, Tom Niebauer works on that.

MAFWA COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Executive Secretary, Facilitator – Have 13 MAFWA committees, proud of work they do, sometimes have action items and sometimes they don't.

Furbearers (*Exhibit 17*) *Joe Kramer, KS Dept of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism* – Workshop in Missouri in May at Trout Lodge hosted by Missouri Department of Conservation; 32 participants, 10 member states and attendees from other organizations were present. Spent lot of time discussing dispersing mountain lions. Have interest in not getting into cascade of nonresident restrictions when it comes to regulations. Came out with four action items and three information items. Three information items: 1) representative from host state attend meeting, 2) post on website, and 3) thank MAFWA directors for travel to this meeting. Action items: 1) continued support of BMPs (past action item) new individuals in the group, largest trap study ever conducted, meet injury and efficiency standards (resolution in report); 2) support multistate approach for bobcats and river otters, concept expanded on by University of Missouri and Jeff Beringer brought in front of group (resolution in report); 3) continued support and funding for management and research, increased involvement by society increased need to manage species and habitat; and 4) support trapper ethics DVD by funding from multistate conservation grant, originally developed in Wisconsin. *Ollie* – Passed BMP action at last year's meeting, rest are more information; put in application for multistate grant and bring forth for approval before submitting. Joe is liaison director. Resolution will be voted on Wednesday morning.

Law Enforcement (Exhibit 18) Ollie – Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers (AMFGLEO) has been in place since 1934, 28 state members, Emmett Keyser, South Dakota is director liaison. *Kevin Jones, KS Dept of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism* – Chief's meeting is different than in other associations, good for both directors and chiefs. In light of travel and budget had good attendance in today's business meeting, 21 or 22 in attendance. Highlights: publications AMFGLEO is involved with, Wildlife Forensics manual first published in 1992 to investigate wildlife violations, released fourth edition, collaborative work, last revision by Danny Walker, WY and Bill Avery, CO, on CD as well; in 1984, Time of Death put out by State of Nebraska, recently collaborated. Discussion with other regional associations identifying a need for standardization of law enforcement training, especially at advanced level. Looking at entering into discussions for more standard training package, will help in a lot of ways, especially in cross border investigations. Looking at proposing resolution for consideration by directors for leadership training program brought to you by Larry Yamnitz, key training for law enforcement. Reviewed committee structure and have combined some, for efficiency looking at adding technology committee.

Private Lands (Exhibit 19) – Ollie – One action item. Keith is director liaison. *Mike Mitchener, KS Dept of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism* – Held meeting in Manhattan, KS, in conjunction with Public Lands Working Group, May 6-9, 2012. Covered Eastern Tallgrass prairie research, Farm Bill overview and discussion, wetland determination compliance, tying crop insurance to conservation compliance and budget recommendations. Action item was letter to David White of NRCS that was mailed. As of June 21 compliance to crop insurance done, but left out conservation compliance. Attended meeting May 30 and 31 in Springfield, IL where steering committee met. Moving forward on two human dimensions potential projects: 1) landowner/producer motivations to participate in conservation programs beneficial to wildlife, will evaluate wildlife benefits that address resource concern of water quality in terms of sedimentation and nutrient loading; and, 2) motivators to drive landowner/producer to sustainable agriculture and how to keep them there.

Public Lands (Exhibit 19) – Ollie – Rodney Stokes, director liaison so need someone to step up and take his place. *Brad Simpson, KS Dept of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism* – Pleasure to work with both public and private lands groups, first three years struggled with attendance and last three years had great attendance and thank you for your support. A number of issues: disease and invasive species and loss of funding; prescribed fire training, working with feds to limit their training requirements and go with state-prescribed plans; meeting attendance; oil and gas exploration has exploded and discussed how each state handles those requests like mineral rights; and budgets are common theme at all meetings and each committee understands. Started working together in 2011 to develop a matrix of allowable uses on public lands and identified 12 more in 2012. Another topic discussed was lead and non-toxic shot issue.

Climate Change (Exhibit 20) – Ollie – Kathy DonCarlos director liaison. *Brad Simpson, KS Dept of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism* – Never met face-to-face, but working on formulating purpose of committee. Lack of participation in committee is an issue and asking for support from each state to be on that committee and asking for chair from current MAFWA president. Those

that are part of committee have drafted guidelines, which include: mission, objectives, membership, officers, sub-committees, meetings, meeting agenda, attendance, business meeting and reports. The Committee has also put together a statement of purpose. *Ollie* – Approval of organization items is part of business meeting. *Keith* – We will vote on this on Wednesday.

Legal (*Exhibit 21*) – *Ollie* – This committee needs a director liaison. *Chris Tymeson, KS Dept of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism* – I am AFWA Legal Committee vice-chair and MAFWA chair, no meeting scheduled and attendance is on steady decline. Without direction from directors our committee will continue to suffer. Major benefit to committee is opportunity to obtain continuing legal education credits, few states offer this in fish and wildlife law. Committee puts out guidelines and the only director items is informational encouraging directors to send attorneys, this approach was used in WAFWA and got record attendance (16), and also encourage attendance to AFWA meeting in September. *Ollie* – Committees need to be reauthorized every three years.

Wildlife Action Plan (*Exhibit 22*) – *Ollie* - Jon Gassett is director liaison. *Benjy Kinman, KY* - Not met since 2010 and same problem as the Legal Committee-- not getting people to attend. Informational item: need director support for staff participation and funds to travel. Suggest putting chairmanship on rotating basis like MAFWA, next year chair would be from Kentucky and recommend March or April meeting.

Took director's picture, which is included in Photo PowerPoint presentation.

Reception and BBQ – Sponsored by Ducks Unlimited (Remarks by Becky Humphries)

Hospitality Room – Sponsored by the AMFGLEO and FDC Enterprises

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Breakfast – Sponsored by Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) (PowerPoint presentation – Exhibit 23)

AFWA UPDATE

Ron Regan – Executive Director, AFWA – Provided written report (*Exhibit 24*). APHIS published rule stating stricter CWD rules by states take priority over APHIS rules. Dove survey was suspended. States are disappointed, but that it was the casualty of election year politics.

PARTNER UPDATES

USFWS - The Nation

Dan Ashe, USFWS Director (*Exhibit 25*) – There is an important relationship between USFWS and the states, it is strong and improving. Increasing U.S. and world populations demands more water, food, fiber and fuel every day which means less for the plants, fish and animals that we are tasked to conserve and increases in challenges we will face. There are 350 million people in the U.S. now and by the middle of the century there will be 400 million. USFWS budget is being cut and we need to continue trying to restore that funding.

USFWS - Region 3

Tom Melius, USFWS Regional Director (Region 3) – (*Exhibit 25*) – As in previous years, the threat of Asian carp to the Great Lakes remains a serious natural resources challenge. After helping to collect more than 59,000 fish during sampling in 2011, we did not find a single bighead or silver carp in Chicago's waterways that connect to the Great Lakes. But our work continues with additional research and monitoring below, in, and above the electric barriers in the Chicago Area Waterway System. We will also soon be breaking ground on a state-of-the-art environmental DNA lab in La Crosse, Wisconsin that will open late this fall. The new facility will give us the capacity to test water samples for the presence of Asian carp DNA in the Chicago Area Waterway System and eventually across the Great Lakes. White nose syndrome, initially discovered in 2007 in the northeast, has since spread to bats in 19 states and four Canadian provinces, including Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Ohio. We have new confirmations of the disease farther south and west than ever before and now found in a seventh bat species in 2012, the endangered gray bat. Research suggests that several species of bats could become regionally extinct in the next decade should the spread of the disease continue at its current rate. It is critical that we continue to work collectively, to motivate each other and to work toward the common goal of meeting the immense challenge that white-nose syndrome presents. We are working alongside members of the wind development industry to mitigate and minimize impacts of wind energy facilities on migratory birds, eagles, and federally listed species; in addition to informing and facilitating wind developer participation in Habitat Conservation Plans. Recently removed the gray wolf in the Western Great Lakes from the list of threatened and endangered species; with Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin being instrumental in the recovery of gray wolves in the Midwest. We also continue to see success in our fisheries restoration efforts across the Great Lakes basin; we have restored Lake Superior lake trout populations to self-sustaining levels with the support of our state agency partners and funding

from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative; also self-sustaining populations in Lake Huron, and making progress in Lake Michigan. We are also improving the way we evaluate the success of our hatchery programs through mass marking using coded-wire-tag on hatchery stocked fish in the Great Lakes. Partnerships are critical to addressing these challenging issues that we all face as natural resource managers. We must work across agency and jurisdictional lines; LCCs are helping us do just that. These and many other partnerships are critical to the future of how we conduct business. They can help us work more effectively and efficiently, with maximum return on our investments, for the benefit of fish, wildlife, their habitats and the American people. Our Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, is vital to keeping that partnership strong.

USFWS - Region 6

Steve Guertin, USFWS Regional Director (Region 6) – Colorado fire related to the pine beetle. Working in the Flint Hills to protect the last of the tall grass prairie. Working in Nebraska to protect prairie pothole region.

USFWS – Law Enforcement

Bill Woody, Law Enforcement Chief – Surveyed states on law enforcement issues. Relationships with states haven't always been good, but have about 20 projects working with states right now. Prosecutions in Indian country difficult when there are arrests of Native Americans. There are 235 agents nationwide and 145 inspectors that man the ports.

NRCS

Eric Banks, Kansas State Conservationist (Exhibit 26) – Important issue here in Kansas is the upcoming USFWS deadline of making a decision on the possible listing of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative (LEPC). USFWS upgraded the candidate status of the LEPC from 8 to 2 in 2008. August of this year the Service will publish a proposed listing of Threatened and Endangered, or make a decision of not warranted for listing at this time. NRCS, in order to increase and improve LEPC habitat throughout the five state range of the chicken, started the Lesser Prairie-chicken Initiative (LPCI) in 2010. KDWPT recognized the concern of expiring CRP being retained in grass and continuing to provide LEPC habitat. NRCS could provide financial assistance for water development, cross fencing and other practices but the largest cost to producers was perimeter fencing. NRCS revised their program rules to provide financial assistance for perimeter fencing around expired/expiring CRP. This made it more attractive for producers to leave expired CRP in grass and incorporate it into a working lands grazing system. LPCI has three primary goals: transform idle CRP lands to working grasslands; improve the sustainability of grazing lands; and remove and control invasive woody species. LPCI has been very successful providing over \$19M in financial assistance to improve or create LEPC habitat on over 700,000 acres. NRCS has committed to continuing to work with our state partners as they develop a five-state plan addressing LEPC future goals and needs.

Ron Regan – Sierra Club adopted position statement that is strongly anti-trapping. Based on behind the scenes work relying on American Society of Mammologists.

USDA-APHIS/WS – The Nation

Bill Clay, Administrator (*Exhibit 27*) – A controversial issue for us is wolves; we are receiving additional requests for controlling wolves to protect big game species. One of the requirements that I have set for WS to get involved in controlling wolves is for the State (if delisted) to try to meet their wolf management goals through regulated hunting or trapping. If they are unsuccessful, we can assist if requested and the funding is provided. Most of the public accepts the need to control predators when livestock are being killed. They have a harder time accepting it when wolves are being killed for doing what they do naturally – eat deer or elk. One activity that we are currently involved with in Kansas and South Dakota (and later this year in other Midwestern and western States) is the black-footed ferret recovery program. A MOU will be signed to cooperate in this process. WS's part will be to conduct prairie dog boundary control around neighboring lands that request it. In addition, once the new plague vaccine is available, we will also assist in vaccine delivery along with USGS. A rapidly expanding area for WS is feral swine. There is currently a provision in the new Farm Bill to fund a pilot feral swine program if the Farm Bill is passed without this being removed. Our NWRC has been researching a potential new toxicant – sodium nitrite – which I have discussed at the AFWA and North American committee meetings, already licensed in Australia; and our research has focused on a delivery system whereby pigs can get the toxicant without exposing non-target animals. The USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services program is in the final phase of collaborating with the US Coast Guard and EPA to develop a MOU, with the primary focus of the document to continue to improve on communication between the three agencies regarding wildlife response during spills and to acknowledge wildlife response capabilities. It is anticipated to be completed and signed by the end of summer. Never mentioned BMPs and did not cite position statements from anyone. Misinformation out there, get information out on both sides, have public make more informed statement based on both sides.

US Forest Service - Region 9

Nancy Ross, Director Renewable Resources, Region 9 (*Exhibit 28*) – Changes in Milwaukee office, Chuck Myers was appointed the new Regional Forester last July; Deputies Logan Lee and Lee Nightingale who were here last year have retired and we now have Gene Blankenbaker and Mary Beth Borst now. Mary Maj is our new Wildlife Biologist and I worked together with her near Yellowstone, most of her career there, knowledgeable about wildlife and working with partners. Two new forest supervisors, Brenda Halter came to Duluth from Washington DC and Tony Scardinna on Ottawa and Upper Peninsula of MI; new folks this summer, Oshawun Chalmers, Hutton Junior Fish Biologist Scholar and wildlife bio-tech Brittnee Shows. Appreciate remarks of working shoulder to shoulder. Chief Tom Tidwell and Secretary of Ag. successful in talking to Congress about ways to use limited resources to increase pace of conservation in national forests. Work with state foresters and fish and wildlife agencies, some of old MOUs are between forest service and states. Goals: to set priorities, landscape conservation cooperatives, frameworks, collaborative forest restoration, finding overlapping priorities is incredibly important to leverage limited resources. Asst Director Pam Drier, Landscape Scale Conservation, putting together maps of various priorities and trying to identify overlaps. Looking at efficiencies in NEPA process, most time consuming and expensive part trying to streamline and more efficient. New way of bundling funding budget line items into one pot to work shoulder to shoulder internally as well as externally, especially in Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR) funding. Working with other sister agencies, especially ag partners. Future

will be getting together at meetings, look at consolidating meetings with breakout opportunities. Harder to travel, getting better at virtual meetings, but still need some face-to-face contact. Concern is to manage and restore watershed and forest health under one umbrella, maintain habitat and survive white nosed syndrome. Working on aquatic species and fisheries partnerships. Meeting with EPA with GLRI and importance of restoring headwaters of Great Lakes, looking at threats specific to the estuaries and deemphasizing some of the work we have been doing in the forest.

FDC Enterprises: Partnering with Conservation Organizations and Contractors to Manage Public Land

Tom Schwartz, Vice President of Marketing, FDC Enterprises – (Exhibit 29). In career as biologist worked as waterfowl biologist, then DU, now private industry. Talk about partnering and leveraging; PR/DJ is 11%, Obama bomb challenge to leverage dollars in limited budgets. Pheasants Forever helped in Nebraska, took administrative burden and paid contractors; whole focus was to assist with wildlife management areas and increase capacity. Most areas just trying to maintain, purpose of program was to be additive. Occurring in many different states, in IL pheasant management areas falling by the wayside, but found way to leverage and do the work. Advantages: come up with Request for Proposal (RFP) opportunity to do landscape habitat management. RFP, collaboration between NE and PF, selection based on ranking system, contractor like us who has ability to do large projects helped us get in the game, bundled projects together, able to select from bigger pool of contractors. Turned in maps of when and where dollars were going. Selection: experience, capacity, administrative support, price. Communication is the key, from different levels, initial project rollup with wildlife managers, need to build relationships early before work even starts. Three years into program, mostly removing eastern red cedar and Russian olive. Complete change of landscape in 3-4 days. Did disking with heavy equipment. Have done interseeding and foodplots as well. High forb diversity, PF strongly involved in seed. In last two years worked on 69 WMAs, 9,096 acres and spent over \$1.3 million to leverage those dollars. I live in world of contracting and we deal in administration, with non-profits doing management and fund raising and we meet in the middle we are getting biggest bang for our buck and encourage all of you to work together.

75th Anniversary of Pittman-Robertson (WSFR)

Ron Regan, AFWA Executive Director – (Exhibit 30). - Where we have been and where we are going, paper presented at North American. Information on the web on celebration work wsfr75.com when John Frampton mentioned retiring we contracted with him to be AFWA's leader to work on the initiative this year. Bob Duncan, VA Director and Hannibal Bolton share chair and work on partnership and also Glen Salmon. Good success stories this year: Shot Show in Las Vegas, ATA show in Columbus, two weeks in ICast Fisheries Show. Working with industry, Bass Pro Shops putting story in fall catalog. Working on advancing resolutions through state assemblies, and some through proclamations. Thanks for all of the good work we appreciate that, but missing opportunity if we only showing the past. With 30 million anglers... conservation leadership institute said fewer than 50% graduate.... Bread and butter is excise taxes and engagement of people buying licenses. Steve Williams, wrote article on "will the well run dry". Work from RBFF through... Challenge is: staying committed to program, keep intact and whole for the future; think more like a business, marketing and date, technology and

innovation, protect assets (items being shipped to another country and then back in); tell the story; and grow for future, opportunity to grow through excise tax on other products. The missing link is sustainable funding for projects.

Break – Sponsored by Pheasants Forever

Dan Ashe – Decision in regards to migratory bird conservation fund, worked with migratory bird commission, provided paper and we recommended moving 70% into prairie pothole, highest priority production area and those with biggest threat, driven by farm economy, tiling technology and complicating enforcement of easements. Seeing expansion and conversion of wetland and grassland habitat into crop land. Moving more money to the prairies, working with joint venture structure to target those dollars. No permanent decision, but have permanent interests. In next 3-5 years work with flyway and joint venture structure.

Hunter Education: Saying Goodbye to “We’ve always done it that way”

Kurt Kalkomey, Kalkomey Enterprises (Exhibit 31) – Modern education products, have user experience department to make sure users have a great experience when using our products, information architects and front-end developers and web designers. Want Hunter Education (HE) to be an awesome experience, need to get up-to-date, deliver the way they want to learn, not how we want them to learn. Reaching out to internet and are connected anywhere anytime; 50% of all U.S. citizens own a smart phone; 15% own e-reader or tablet, which is expected to increase to 30%; 1.5 million devices being sold each day. Migration to mobile, 500% increase in 2011. Need to get our products so they can be connected at any time. Already have converted several of our books to eBooks and soon student hand guides. This fall all HE courses will be available on mobile device, already boating courses are available. Used application called responsible web design which knows what device you come in on and adapts application accordingly. Watching gamification trend... (definition) makes learning fun to do. Made shoot-don't-shoot available and get feedback. Late July completed new series of HE videos covering tree stand safety and transporting firearms, etc. Went to company that specializes in educational videos. Showed some at Nebraska and used humor to teach. Show some of them tonight after supper. When coordinating HE events, lot of public events, have lots of data (student data, pass or fail, instructor data) and have instructors and students and want to have an event. See that lot of places where coordination can break down, see a lot of phone calls occurring and paperwork at the end of the class. Communication issue, no info on students before the event, not capturing right info. Frustration of access to data once in IT department. Product like Event Manager makes it easier for administrator and gives them oversight, reduces phone calls, registration online and we capture the data, instructors do reporting (digitized), have way to communicate with the student (before or after an event). Virginia has 50% who want to be contacted about other products you have. Can track report and have downloadable onto Excel. Offer full support from us. Coming in late July, will be on mobile platform all converted by first quarter of 2013. Event Manager is being used by several agencies and we are trying to develop innovative products to move hunter education into the future.

Wildlife Lab/Forensics Society Accreditation

Deedra Hawk, Wildlife Laboratory Director, WY Game & Parks and President of Society of Wildlife Forensics Science (Exhibit 32) – Thanks to Bob Thompson and Kevin Jones for inviting me and thanks to staff of WY Game and Fish. Overview of what I am going to talk about. Main reason for being here is collaboration, want to help you do your job better and easier. Forensics is application of science to law enforcement. Match victim (animal) to the crime scene to perpetrator. Protein and DNA-based analysis. Federal nexus trying to determine if crime has been committed, if CITES species, different questions are asked as compared to state labs. Lots of press on poaching, seafood fraud and we work on those as well. So much money involved in this type of crime, about \$53 billion a year, right behind drugs and firearms and often related to each other. Ivory has continued to skyrocket in value, so the more focus. Also concern about bio-safety. Illegal trafficking of wildlife, \$32 billion of just endangered species, often comes in dead or in pieces and parts and some alive into the country. Some photos from international airports (cat, birds, reptiles, monkeys). Also work with animal cruelty cases. Some labs also work on criminal murder investigations, hair from pets to match suspect to crime scene. Created in 2009 in response to changing dynamics. Mission is to develop wildlife forensic science; vision is to become pre-eminent professional. Research is not done a lot, as resources are limited, would like to be able to get enough money to promote research. Overview of board: Have a cool website, WY G&F paid to have outside developer set it up. Inaugural meeting was in Ashland in June 2010; three or four weeks ago, second meeting with 91 participants from 9 countries, two days of workshop and banquet. Currently 12 countries, 59 labs represented, very small group of people. Have members in 25 states, federal, state, private and university labs involved. Code-of-Ethics for scientists to sign to become part of the Society involving professionalism, competency and proficiency testing and provisions for disciplinary action (involves taking away someone's license and livelihood in some cases). Investigate labs you are using and that is something we can help you with. Proficiency program started by USFWS in Oregon in 2004 (not run by the Society), which is important in court system and important in human arena. Anticipated changes: bad press about forensics and that resulted in congressional mandated report and Natural Resources Council went out and found deficiencies in forensic science reforms. Between two reports a lot of questions. Wildlife forensics in not even mentioned, easy to standardize human crime labs because one species, but we have several different species, hardly any labs doing the exact same species, but it will be swept up with all of these. Recommendation is mandatory certification, but no one who does that for us. Justice response to Leahy Bill asking for ... large price tag attached and will have forensic labs become certified. Differences in human vs. non-human forensics so it was decided we needed own Scientific Working Group (SWG) newest of 19. Work with animals that have unknown numbers and are not studied at all. Sometimes question is whether crime even committed. Called SWG-Wild created in 2011, handpicked ... three sub committees – white paper, certification, Members from: NOAA scientist, University of Maine, WY G&F, USFWS, Canada, etc... First meeting hosted by NOAA, most people paid for themselves to come, not agency-paid. Met in July 2011, developed certification scheme, morphology group, best practices, white paper and third meeting in Tahoe. Recognized by FBI, all documents have to be consensus reviewed for a couple of months so have best practice and guidelines for genetics and morphology and should be federal mandates, have certification scheme and white-paper. Accomplishments, not addressed accreditation yet, but recognized by accreditation body. If can't meet federal mandates this will shut down most of the state labs. Using science to test evidentiary items for law

enforcement. ... Do species ID for CITES and DNA sequencing. Difficult for species identification is defining characteristics, no morphological-based test to do it. Chemical analysis, USFWS uses to identify species like black coral that are CITES listed. Using DNA testing, male or female. DNA matching. Can do freezer search case, can identify how many animals, gender testing. Can do trespassing wrong area or private property stuff to tell where animal came from and catch poachers. Abandonment, cape animal and take head and leave rest to waste. Had some grizzly bear vs. human cases, to be sure proper animal is being removed from the wild. Important for PR and can turn around in 24-36 hours. WY G&F worked with several other states. Have predator attack team, CHICK KIT, carnivore human interaction kit; carnivore carcass collection kit; victim collection kit; and animal sampling kit. Lusk WY cases, 33 evidentiary items (heads, meat and carnage), four animals and two illegal animals, got fines of \$22,000 and \$8,000 restitution; CO has large fines too. Good press for us. Joint investigation with Montana, mountain goats – two killed in MT, lab matched... CO case poached elk, took out whole, hardly anything at kill site, bear in back of truck eating the elk, one guy had bear tag and called game warden to tag their bear. Went back to LA and found gut pile in closed area so put two and two together and didn't have enough evidence to get back to elk, so we did forensic match on bear claws and were able to match elk DNA called Samson bull and able to add \$10,000 to fines. Other labs NOAA, marine forensic program, mostly federal and species ID... hard to get reference samples. Spend lot of time on seafood fraud. USFWS at Ashland, get sea turtles used for guitar picks and banjo picks... horns are big, especially rhino horns; black coral, some are 4,000 years old and comes out in jewelry and several items; bear bile is huge, 1 million black bears in NA and 40,000 gall bladders, high price. Do pathology on oil spills, mammology identification. Stakeholder groups are you the state agencies, asking for professional support and asking for financial support from federal government, NGOs and way to continue SWGWILD meeting and certification program. Contamination steps would cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars and not something we need to do unlike human forensic labs. Collaboration to help you find a lab, give you a list of questions to ask the lab, can help by putting together evidence ID kits. If we have people like you who have some influence will help us get recognized. Put together professional group, work with LE groups to help them collect the correct evidence, only as strong of voice as our membership allows, if have state lab have them get in touch with us. Increased court credibility, third party..., ethics requirement, standardization of databases..., standardization of statistical labs, sharing protocols with others. Have training available for officers. Future goals: list of contact names, additional training, evidence collection kits, more secure funding and centralized lab for states that don't have labs now (a pie in the sky). If we are not successful....Ashland can do a lot, but not 50 states worth of work. Working on training internationally. Can't keep our doors open without you. *Douglas* – Large issue, questions on what states can do in future given need for accreditation, like biologist trained in general morphology, see issues there? *Hawk* – If giving testimony need to be certified, but some people say no they won't if not doing scientific testing, still experts show training and known standards, hopefully won't fall under this. In strictest sense of Leahy Bill, if opinion is science-based it will fall under this bill. Had one year to define what forensic laboratory is. Not sure what is going to happen there. *Bill Woody* – Same issue in Ashland right now, looking at regional labs...coming, but, when it comes I don't know. *Hawk* – Big labs have one person dedicated to paperwork. DNA is not as heavily condemned because more background. *Glen Salmon* – Keep separation from human, asking for letter of support from states, regional associations or AFWA? *Hawk* –

Had support letter from AFWA to Leahy and Shippo of FBI and will be asking for support, don't know who the people are, when better understanding of who the players are we will send something out. Want to keep our jobs and hate to see poachers get away with stuff.

MAFWA COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Executive Secretary, Facilitator – Second half of reports.

CITES (Exhibit 33) – *Ollie – Midwest President is director liaison. Carolyn Caldwell, OH* – CITES of conventional trade of flora and fauna, not endangered species list, used in title only. Sustainable trade, three appendices, 30,000 plants, 5,000 plus wildlife species. Only 500 not legally allowed in trade. I represent Midwest on technical work group and try to digest information and report back to directors throughout the year. Appreciate support and feedback from directors, without that not sure of impact at state and regional level. Strong partnership with USFWS, different components, International Affairs Section based in Washington office and administers CITES for U.S. Deal with state wildlife agencies, feel that is way it should be done in international arena, each country has only one vote, USFWS is our one vote and the five of us on the technical committee work very closely with them. While at CITES internationally, begin by saying on behalf of myself and my four colleagues and the 50 states we represent. The Center for Biological Diversity posted call for people to post comments on CITES, stop slaughter of U.S. turtles, most of this is not true. One good example of propaganda and on back of that there are a list of groups species survivor network, 81 members with about 20 U.S. based and are very vocal and try to promote their agendas in the CITES arena. Appreciate support and trust we receive from directors and we continue to enjoy great partnership with USFWS.

NCN (Exhibit 34) – *Ollie Torgerson* – John Buhnerkempe chairs, Jim Douglas replaces Rex as Director/Liaison and we also need to replace Rodney Stokes on this committee. *Douglas* – Report in green booklet, limited direct knowledge but involved in email exchange. Two draft proposals received, one submitted by Keith Warnke on hunter recruitment was done jointly with WAFWA, contacted AFWAs Michael Marcum and discussed advantages and disadvantages of joining the two proposals together, pointed out signing onto proposal would allow us to review all letters of intent; other proposal was submitted by Karl Martin, new proposal about leadership development in young biologists, proposal needs further development. Committee reviewed and decided to submit Outdoor Heritage and that was selected for 2013 grant cycle, proposal also contained in booklet. **Action is to reaffirm support to NCN proposals.** *Ollie* – You will get email in December asking for NCN proposals with deadline in February and Executive Committee decides (our Association gets to submit one proposal per year).

Hunter and Angler Recruitment and Retention (R&R) (Exhibit 35) – *Marc Miller (director/liaison), IL DNR* – Unable to participate in March meeting. Marketing discussion we had yesterday is being discussed in this committee and taking that type of approach that we need to understand our target audience. Discussed social media and networking. Participate in next meeting, which will be held in March in 2013 and hosted in Nebraska, a lot of items are crossing over. Asking directors to review HE approach; and mentoring/apprenticeship license concept; cost effective ways to give to hunters/anglers and using smart phones; provide information on

federal budget priorities, like to see \$25 million in outdoor support. Get outside the box and get 17-34 year old demographic area.

Pheasant (Exhibit 36) – *Ollie* – Oldest group, Jim Douglas replacing Rex Amack as director/liaison for this group. Sent final draft of the National Pheasant Conservation Plan to you and will be asking for your support. *Dave Dahlgren, KS Dept of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism* – When first got request to develop a pheasant conservation plan; birds were just ditch parrots and didn't see the need, but see the need now. Goal for plan is initiative to restore and maintain wild pheasant populations and being able to hunt them 1,000 years from now. Looked at National Bobwhite Quail Initiative and what they are dealing with across the states and quail have slipped down a long slope, but pheasants haven't gotten there yet. Still sustainable populations, but seeing significant declines in harvest rates. Anticipate declines in future years, with reduction of cap in Farm Bill, which will have some impact. Look at pheasant populations in WI, OH, etc. and hope that is not what will happen to the rest of it; 836,000 sportsmen harvest, 5 million birds and average \$78 per rooster. Economic impact is easy to see, but intangibles requires sportsmen to be behind the model; recruitment of youth (a big deal and how most of us learned how to hunt). Modeled after bobwhite plan and after planning process, divided up states that were in the pheasant range. Tried to link harvest to habitat and then to dollars. Took large landscape data and made assumptions on crop types, CRP and total acreage and compared to harvest information and back calculated to get to pre-hunt condition. Calculated land cover needed to meet goal and got into regional numbers and goals. Outcomes from plan: national coordinator like NBCI, not discussed logistics; partnerships; education; research; and we want to affect policy from top level to landowner level doesn't mean a lot until this lands on landowner's doorstep. October meeting to finalize and move into implementation. *Ollie* – Concept here is to get Midwest directors to endorse and then get endorsed at AFWA which is action item. ***Ed Boggess, MN moved, Mark Reiter, IN second. Approved.***

Deer and Wild Turkey (Exhibit 37) – *Ollie* – Dale Garner, IA is the director/liaison. Asked for committee to develop brochure and committee has worked on that. *Lloyd Fox, KS Dept of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism* – Started this committee in 1977 in MO, last year at MI at Roscommon, 25 specialists from 12 states and provinces, 51 people total with professors and students and other individuals. Rodney Stokes welcomed us to MI. Russ Mason gave update on things and one of his comments, 90% of MI hunters only hunt deer and only for about four days per year. Need to diversify. Joint meeting in morning, focus is strategic planning and planning in general provided by MI; risk communications and communicating with the public. Break up in afternoon into separate groups, deer and turkey. Then go to state plans, copy in CD or hard form. One item that came out of this, which was unusual, compiled information on deer harvest per square mile in the Midwest. Action item is communications on feeding and baiting and defer to Dale Garner to bring this up after Shane speaks, worked together with the Wildlife and Fish Health Committee on this. At business meeting, November 16-19 in SD, Tom Lichfield brought up research data and asked for specimens from adjacent states and wild turkey group is looking at ways to get regional data and share back to regional biologists.

Wildlife and Fish Health (Exhibit 38) – *Ollie* – Ed Boggess is director/liaison, report from Dale Garner after this report. *Shane Hesting, KS Dept of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism* – Thanks for

allowing us to continue this committee. Michelle Carstensen, MN is new chair and Dan Grow, ND is vice chair; 18 people attended and 8 via WebEx set up by USGS with 12 states represented. Each state gives report of what is going on in their state-- some diseases only affect individuals not populations. Only three diseases currently are population- tied: EHD, CWD and white-nosed syndrome (which has devastated some populations, but has stabilized). EHD is spreading west, now in IA, MO and OK had it, not in KS yet, but no more associated mortality with the new detections. CWD will affect populations in the future, maybe not in our lifetime. National Wildlife Health Center involved as main player in submissions, send migratory birds there, trematoid worms, fungal pneumonia, avian botulism B and C and rabies. Bovine tuberculosis, currently in IN and other states, in cows, not in deer; Is in deer in MI and MN and it is a political disease. VHS in fish and feral swine increasing even with efforts and using helicopters, white-nose syndrome, tularemia, chewing lice and pneumonia in big horn sheep in SD. *Boggess* – On white-nose syndrome, when showing up farther west, not showing mortality? *Hesting* – Not seeing that, possibly resistance or environment could be tied to temperature. *Corell* – Tied to detection method? *Hesting* – Don't know, caused by fungus, in both North America and Europe, but European bats live with it, North American bats die. NA stain is different than the one in Europe, think it came from Europe originally. About 60 days away from EHD showing up.

Dale Garner, IA – One of things directors asked for was something we could hand out, a brochure or information for public to look at (*Exhibit 38*). We want to know whether or not you want to put your logo on that or not? *Ollie* – Developed so state could adapt this and use in their state. *Garner* – Asked us for educational tool to give to public. States could put more into it if they want. *Ollie* – Take a look at this and action item would be if this meets your needs. You can adapt it, put state logo on it and your own regulations, but if need MAFWA logo need permission of board to use that.

National LCC Update

Glen Salmon, Acting Regional Director, Science Applications (Exhibit 39) – Representing Doug Austin today, request was for update on National LCC perspective. Thank directors and state staff who were heavily involved. Appreciate hard work. Struggled to get LCCs up and running, some got initial shot of money, mine we tried to get steering committee and looking for technical committee and used private/public land working group and people started asking where they can fit in. Coming from DC, I am happy to see this up and running. Now 22 LCCs nationally, self-directed partnerships run by chair and co-chair or vice-chair, running separately. What holds them all together is coordination Supervisor Craig Zarnecky, exchanges emails daily with other LCCs in our region, sharing resource and ideas. Top supervisor is Doug Austin and others who form leadership team with all 22 coordinators and meet and talk about where we want to go as a community. See that we staff the steering committees. At science coordinator levels connected through their own working group. Connected in a couple of different ways. Good meeting in Denver with 400 people all interested in how LCCs were going to work. Making sure working through executive order and where it is going, make sure partnership stays strong and work with partnerships that existed before LCCs. Talk at national level about LCC committee or council, lot of great folks who represent important partners, not a good name for it, doing interviews and looking at strategy and look at

what overall council would do and report back to Service, yet to be vetted on how that is going to work.

Box Lunch – Sponsored by National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF)

Load Buses for Cheney State Park Activities

Wing Shooting

Archery

Laser Shot

Personal Watercraft Simulator

Law Enforcement Displays

Sailing

Steak Dinner at Ninnescah Sailing Association, Cheney State Park – Sponsored by National Wildlife Federation and Kalkomey (Remarks by Kurt Kalkomey)

Hospitality Room – Sponsored by the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

