

MIDWEST/BIG RIVERS LEGAL COMMITTEE REPORT (2012)

Meeting Time and Place – None scheduled currently.

Attendance – Has been on a steady decline. Without leadership and direction from the Midwest Agencies Directors, the committee will continue to suffer from attendance issues.

Executive Summary – In past recent years, the meetings have been held in Kansas 3 times (2006, 2007, 2010) and Illinois once (2008). Indiana offered to host for 2009 and cancelled 3 weeks before being held due to lack of participation from local legal counsel. Oklahoma, although not an official member, offered to host 2011 but the meeting was cancelled due to lack of participation from agency legal counsel.

One major benefit to the legal committee is the opportunity to obtain continuing legal education credits directly in the field of practice. Few, if any, states offer CLE in fish and wildlife law. Additionally, it is an opportunity to interact with and get to know counterparts from the neighboring states.

Director Action Items – None.

Director Information Items – It is suggested that the Midwest Directors highly encourage attendance by legal counsel at the 2013 meeting. This approach was implemented by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Directors and resulted in record attendance at WAFWA in 2012.

Time and Place of Next Meeting – Currently not scheduled. Trying to arrange something for July 2012 or alternatively in 2013. Alternatives include meeting every other year or having the meeting in conjunction with the Midwest Directors Meeting.

Appendices – None.