

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Climate Change Technical Working Committee Report

Meeting Time and Place – N/A

Attendance – N/A

Executive Summary –This technical committee is working to define its mission and its role within MAFWA. The members feel that the committee can serve MAFWA by coordinating with the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, assisting in regional adaptation planning efforts, fostering multi-state collaborations on climate adaptation projects, assisting other technical committees with climate-related issues, and possibly organizing a Midwestern climate summit.

Due to state agency budget shortfalls, travel restrictions, and lack of full representation from all MAFWA member states, convening this committee for an in-person meeting has not been possible since the committee's creation. Several members did meet as part of a regional climate change workshop put on by AFWA in December, 2010. Without the opportunity to meet regularly, the committee has been unable to gain the traction it needs to establish itself.

Director Action Items – None

Director Information Items –

- Organizational guidelines for the technical committee have been drafted (see Appendix 1), along with a statement of purpose (see Appendix 2).
- The MAFWA Directors need to give full support for staff participation in this Committee and provide travel funds to meetings. Without attention to both items, this technical working committee cannot provide the guidance the Directors expect or agency staff need.
- It will aid in planning if the committee establishes a regular meeting schedule and follows the model used by more established MAFWA technical working committees that the chairmanship role follows the same order as the location of the Director's meeting host state. In other words, the Chair should be from the State that is hosting the Director's meeting and current MAFWA President. That way, every member can anticipate which year they will need to chair the committee, or serve as vice-chair, and can also anticipate when it will be their turn to host the technical committee meeting.

Time and Place of Next Meeting – Recommend March or April, 2013 in Kentucky, perhaps in conjunction with another technical working committee, such as the SWAP committee or the Health committee.

Appendix 1

ORGANIZATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES CLIMATE CHANGE TECHNICAL WORKING COMMITTEE

Mission: Advance wildlife and fish conservation in the member states of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) by providing a forum to facilitate sharing of climate change adaptation information, strategies, and resources, activity that will result in coordinated fish and wildlife adaptation planning actions and recommendations to MAFWA from the member states.

Objectives:

1. Provide a forum for the discussion of how fish and wildlife agencies are addressing climate change in member states, including how agency staff view the role climate change plays in conservation, and how climate considerations are integrated into agency organizational structure, policy, and planning efforts.
2. Define common priorities, develop coordinated strategies, and seek multi-state grants to address climate change threats to fish and wildlife and their habitats in member states (as identified in their climate adaptation plans, if such plans exist).
3. Stimulate an exchange of information among member states on legislation, administrative rules, adaptation and mitigation activity, education, funding and research related to climate change and fish, wildlife, and habitat.
4. Ensure coordination and cooperation among member states and federal agencies in dealing with programs to address the likely impacts of climate change.
5. Work closely with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Climate Change Committee, the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, and other regional committees, institutions, organizations and groups working to address climate change.
6. Stay up-to-date on climate change issues that impact fish and wildlife and inform/advise the Midwest Association of Wildlife Agency directors on pertinent issues and solutions.

Membership: The membership of the MAFWA Climate Change Technical Working Committee (MAFWA CCC) is open to employees of member states and provinces. Member states will be allowed one vote each, regardless of delegation size. Representatives of federal agencies, research institutions, conservation organizations, and other individuals may be invited to attend Working Group meetings.

Officers: The MAFWA Executive Committee shall appoint a Chair each year. The Chair shall be an employee of a member state agency. The Chair and his/her member agency shall provide clerical support needed for conducting committee business and shall maintain a file of all minutes of committee meetings, correspondence and other items as necessary. The Chair's responsibility shall include, but not be limited to, organizing a minimum of one MAFWA CCC meeting per year, maintaining committee files, preparing necessary correspondence and preparing a report of all CCC activities for submission to the MAFWA Executive Committee. The MAFWA Executive Committee

shall appoint a Vice-Chair. The duties of the Vice-Chair will be to assist the Chair as required, assume the duties of the Chair in the event that the Chair is unable to perform those duties, and to succeed the chair when her/his term is over.

Sub-Committees: Ad-hoc Sub-Committees may be appointed by the Chair to investigate and report on specific issues. Sub-Committees will be appointed by the Chair upon review of requests from members of the Executive Committee for specific Committee action.

Meetings: The MAFWA CCC will meet at least once per year. The meeting may be held in any member state or in conjunction with other regional or national meetings that are timely or to reduce travel costs, or be conducted by conference call or webinar. The schedule and duration of each meeting will be determined by the Chair after consultation with other members of the Working Group. Notice of meeting dates and locations will be made available to members far enough in advance to enable them to secure out-of-state travel authorization for attendance.

Meeting Agenda: The program will be organized to permit adequate time for discussion of agenda items. Each Working Group meeting should include a short (10-minute) report from each state on the status of climate change-related projects in that state. Other topics on the agenda will reflect current issues related to the relationship between climate change, fish and wildlife, and habitat, as well as progress toward meeting the objectives of the Working Group. The Chair may request special reports from states and individuals on current topics. State and special reports will also be submitted in written format to facilitate sharing them with agency directors, maintenance of proper files and provision of reports to other appropriate persons. Guest speakers may be invited to Working Group meetings to make presentations on topics of interest. Short field trips may be arranged in conjunction with the meetings.

Attendance: To enhance an atmosphere of participation and exchange of ideas, attendance from all member states and provinces is strongly encouraged.

Business Meeting: A formal MAFWA CCC business meeting will be held in conjunction with any Working Group meeting. The business meeting will discuss and determine specific recommendations to the MAFWA Executive Committee. Recommendations to the Executive Committee must represent the majority view of member states/provinces. Each member state with a representative in attendance will be allowed one vote. Invited agencies, private citizens, NGOs and others in attendance are not eligible to vote.

Report: Following any MAFWA CCC meeting, the Chair will prepare a report for the Executive Committee of the MAFWA. The Chair will also send a copy of the report to all members of the Working Group. MAFWA CCC members should brief their own administration immediately following the Working Group meeting. The report shall contain a summary of the information presented at the Working Group meeting, items covered in the business meeting, any recommendations from the Working Group, appropriate handouts obtained at the meeting and names and address of all attendees.

This report shall be submitted to the Executive Committee not less than 30 days before the MAFWA Directors Annual Meeting.

Appendix 2

MAFWA Climate Change Committee Statement of Purpose

Climate Change can serve as an impetus to generate increased cooperative conservation planning across state lines in order to achieve a more ecosystem-based approach. Planning across state lines has always been a challenge due to different mandates, authorities and missions of natural resource agencies. Due to the broad-scale nature of climate change predictions and climate processes, a more proactive and cooperative approach will be necessary to successfully protect and manage Midwestern natural resources into the future. Our cooperation in this effort will demonstrate the effectiveness of state-based conservation in meeting current and future challenges.

MAFWA member states are taking a variety of approaches to adaptation planning for climate change. Most Midwestern states are still in the early to middle stages of adaptation planning. At this time, there is considerable opportunity to help member states by sharing information, and to improve the success of adaptation planning across the region through cooperation. The MAFWA Climate Change Committee will function as MAFWA's principal forum for discussion, gathering information and/or identifying actions relative to all aspects of climate change as it relates to fish and wildlife.

The MAFWA Climate Change Committee will be responsible for:

- Increasing coordination and communication among Midwestern states on key climate change related issues. This includes:
 - Supporting regional efforts to develop strategies to manage the effects of climate related changes to fish and wildlife habitats.
 - Identifying cross cutting issues that require multi-state coordination and collaboration.
 - Creating a network of Midwestern climate change contacts that will work together to share information.
 - Working with MAFWA's State Wildlife Action Plan Technical Working Committee to integrate climate change and regional climate change planning into State Wildlife Action Plans.
 - Identifying regional approaches for fish and wildlife monitoring, evaluation, and management responses.
- Providing a venue to share information with state, federal, and provincial partners, as well as other conservation partners to improve development, integration, and implementation of fish and wildlife conservation plans and habitat objectives into state and federal agency planning.
- Assist AFWA's efforts to provide training for state fish and wildlife managers to develop strategies to address climate change by listing desired outcomes.
- Advancing priorities or actions for discussion and consideration by the designated committee(s) within AFWA and MAFWA.
- Upon request, reviewing white papers advanced by other MAFWA committees for consideration of climate change.