

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies State Wildlife Action Plan Technical Working Committee Report

Meeting Time and Place – N/A

Executive Summary – Due to state agency budget shortfalls and travel restrictions, convening this committee for a full meeting has not been possible since 2010. Members of the SWAP Technical Working Committee met briefly at a breakout session of the National Wildlife Diversity Program Managers/Plan Coordinators meeting on January 28, 2011 in New Orleans, LA. In an attempt to work around travel restrictions, since 2009 we have attempted to hold meetings by piggybacking them onto national meetings or regional conferences. We tried to work a MAFWA SWAP meeting into the December 2011 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, held in Des Moines IA, but only 1-2 states were planning to send their Action Plan Coordinators to that conference.

Because of the liaison role which plan coordinators fill for their respective states, there are many national and regional meetings which compete for travel approval with the MAFWA SWAP committee meeting (for example, LCC meetings, JV meetings, national SWAP Coordinator or Wildlife Diversity Program Manager meetings, Teaming With Wildlife Fly-In Days, other AFWA regional association meetings, AFWA Work Groups, and other MAFWA committees).

Director Action Items – N/A

Director Information Items – 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 Plan/Strategy Coordinators 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. 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.

