

**Midwest Association of
Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2012, 5:00 p.m.
The Hotel at Old Town
Wichita, KS**

Call to Order – President Keith Sexson called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Quorum – Keith Sexson, Kansas; Chuck Corell, Iowa; Marc Miller, Illinois; and Ed Boggess, Minnesota were present. Also present were Benjy Kinman, KY, Tim Ripperger, MO, Ollie Torgerson, Executive Secretary; Sheila Kemmis, Recording Secretary, Kansas; and Sharon Schafer, Treasurer.

Agenda Review – Ollie - Check Signing authority, Sharon; National Dove Survey Letter, Ollie; and Executive Secretary Contract, Ollie.

Approval of May 15, 2012 Executive Committee Minutes – *Marc Miller, IL moved to approve the minutes, Ed Boggess, MN second. **Approved.***

Delaney 3-Year MAFWA Contract – Ollie – We discussed in Atlanta when AFWA Matt Menashes talked about this conference and Midwest F&W conference. This is action item in business meeting on Wednesday. Matt sees no negatives in this relationship and Cindy brought this to us because it helps in her business planning. The contract includes a right of first refusal for Delaney after end of three years. Matt sees no problem and said this is a good deal for us. The contract calls for a cost of up to \$10,500 per year (changed with minor wording) and also has 3% cost of living increase per year, which would be locked in for KY, MI and MN conferences. Can take action if you wish, but asked to put this on agenda and on annual business meeting agenda. We can continue on a year-to-year basis. *Discussion: Ed (MN) as third host state, decided it would work for them and feels it is a good idea. Chuck (IA) said it is quite an investment in time. Takes experience to do a good job with hotel planning and service. Benjy (KY) says fair price.* Ollie – She worked in hotel business for several years and knows where to get the best rates. Keith – And knows what she is doing. Ollie – She does all regional Association meetings, AFWA, North American and will do Midwest F&W Conference in Kansas. Keith – Would have to put out for bids if done in house. *Chuck Corell, IA moved recommending Delaney 3-year contract to full board, Ed Boggess, MN second. **Approved.***

Midwest F&W Conference – Ollie – This is a highly successful conference that has been around since the 1930's and moves from state to state in the Midwest. The host state has to raise money, book hotel and state takes all the risk. Matt says the conference needs an owner, if an emergency happens state will have to come up with money to pay hotel. Kansas came to us and asked us to bank for them, Indiana and Michigan have asked us to bank for them too and we will get a 5% administrative fee. If

MAFWA takes a more formal role in this conference, we would need a formal document that ratifies this and this topic is on Wednesday's agenda. Keith and Ollie are to meet with the Midwest F & W Conference Time and Place Committee (T&P) this December for more formal discussion. MO has a foundation doing their banking in 2014. Do you want to take full ownership; it should be a money-making thing, but should establish contingency fund to pay bills or take insurance contract to cover loss if conference has to be cancelled for some reason. Chuck – Our insurance should cover that. Ollie – Premium might go up. Chuck – If T&P Committee decides a good idea don't want to run from it. Tell them we are open to this idea and we do not want to take over the committee. Talking about \$300,000 to \$400,000 annual budget for this conference. Chuck – Would we have to be the owner, would hire Delaney and not sign hotel contract? Keith – State's are signing that correct? Other entities part of this, but groups change around. Ed – Would want to see this organization have some ownership of it. After 1980 or 1981 conference there was money left over and it got banked in Minnesota. There was joint sponsorship so one individual from each institution put \$20,000 in their own account. It has worked for 30 years, but has potential of blowing up. Three individuals could sign checks and there is nice seed money after 10 years, \$140,000 built up, not three different agencies. Ollie – Sole source bidding is one state agency concern and setting up bank account is another. Ed – Proud of the conference and should be. Not sure we should fight to take it away, but offer to help. Keith – There is no one to bring it together, needs structure on the other end, someone to reach out, usually F&W agency owns it when they host it. Ed – Nice to pass money from one year to another. Ollie – Doug Nygren asked us to look at ownership and asked us to meet with T&P Committee to see if there is any opposition. This would be a more formal agreement. Chuck – Board action might be to offer services (say here is pros and cons) and look at proposal from T&P Committee. Ed – See states that are coming up for the hot seat might ask us to take it on. Ollie – There is an operation manual, not sure how up-to-date, you basically start from scratch each year. Ed - About 1,400 to 1,500 participants in MN, ranges from 700 on up; includes biologist from federal, state and private agencies and Universities. There are some professional societies in conjunction with this conference and it one of the best meetings in the country. Benjy – Had same issue in SE conference, directors set up and groups asked for white papers, just abstracts, say they still control meeting and we are banker only. Ollie – On agenda to bring in front of full board. Keith – If general interest will continue with plans to meet with steering committee. Ed – Assuming support, talk to our point person and ask him to sit in and share his perspective. Ollie – Have Kansas and Iowa's fish chiefs discuss it; there is no Fisheries Chiefs Committee in Midwest. Chuck – Some pride and ownership of the conference, figure out how to write MOU so they can keep that. Terminology of conference ownership is not a good term. Marc – Don't want directors taking up their travel spots, don't step on their toes, if extend helping hand for financial issues, way to segregate out duties and be beneficial as an Association. Let our professionals have an avenue for papers being published, etc. and let that be maintained. Only taking over risky part, the business part, not the conference part. Ollie – We are the only regional association that meets once a year, with the MAFWA Executive Committee meetings during the year basically runs our association and the Board is not interested in meeting twice a year. Don't expect directors will want to travel and meet another time. Keith –

Not during the Midwest F&W conference for sure if we meet again. Ollie – The MAFWA Executive Committee meets three times face-to-face and three times by conference call with one annual board business meeting a year. A second Board meeting was tried once at a Midwest F & W Conference and only one or two director showed up.

Sharon Schafer came into meeting late due to a flight delay.

Keith – Might start thinking of another day on this meeting, we run out of time, or pack it in so tight that they do not get enough time. Ollie – Seem to like shorter meetings in the past. Ed – Who set meeting at this time? Keith - WAFWA and MAFWA were meeting same time and we moved back. It is hard for us because of timing of end of fiscal year. Ollie – Used to meet in middle of July couldn't get feds and some state agencies that belong to both MAFWA and WAFWA. It is your meeting you can meet whenever you want, it is movable.

Financial Report – Sharon – General Checking: as 5/11/12 - \$8,090.49, revenue included Northern Bobwhite money from Ohio that was mistakenly placed in this account and interest for total revenue of \$5,000.34, expenditures included moving the \$5,000.00 back out for an ending balance 6/18/12 of \$8090.83; Conference Account: balance as of 5/11/12 of \$74,646.02, revenue included sponsorships of \$4,500.00 and interest \$4.64, for total revenue of \$4,504.64, expenditures – executive secretary salary \$3,402.47 for May, DMEM for KS Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference \$3,500.00, \$1,085. for bus charter, \$1,500.00 to Dustin Mengarelli for meal at Cheney, miscellaneous of \$122.50, awards \$1,111.94 for total expenditures of \$10,721.91, balance as of 6/18/12 of \$68,428.75 (Note: Kansas subaccount balance \$27,623.69 and \$7,500 and Indiana); Southern Wings Account - balance as of 6/18/12 of \$5.00, no change; Federal Grant Account – balance as of 5/11/12 \$3,999.62, drawdown of \$2,432.38 and expenditure of \$5,925.00 for balance as of 6/18/12 of \$507.00; share account remains the same at \$5.00; Money Market and Securities Account - balance as of 4/30/12 of \$287,660.69, revenue \$868.03 from dividends and interest, change in market value loss of \$5,480.05 for a balance as of 5/31/12 of \$283,048.67; and Conservation Enhancement Account balance 3/30/12 \$3,140.46 with no new statements. *Tim Ripperger, MO moved to accept financial report, Marc Miller, IL second. **Approved.***

Proposed 2013 Budget – Sharon – No change on budget, now with new fiscal year will work better on calendar year. Annual dues \$1,800 per state for \$23,400, \$100 from Canadian provinces for \$300, affiliate dues \$75 for \$900, sponsorships \$43,000, conference registration \$12,500, hotel supplement \$1,500, exhibitors \$500 and interest of \$100 for total estimated revenue of \$82,200. Revenue does not include banking services for conferences we take out, \$39,186 for Ollie, travel \$6,000 for Ollie, Sheila \$1,500, Sharon \$4,500, accountant fees \$3,000, insurance \$950, Cindy handles credit cards and we incur bank fees of about \$550 and have web posting and hosting \$250. Conference expenditures include: \$6,300 Delaney, \$30,000 for conference (\$16,000 last year - depends on place) awards \$2,000. This leaves a \$14,036 potential deficit. Ollie – On agenda for business meeting also. Sharon – Easier in future to show details

with calendar year budget. *Marc Miller, IL moved to recommend to the board, Chuck Corell, IA second. **Approved.***

Check Signing authority – Sharon – Rodney's last date is July 9, so no new director in Michigan at this point, possible replacement when he leaves. Ollie – Sharon does not want to sign the checks, have her director sign because she can take it over to them for signature. Need a motion for Mark Reiter to sign because it never got changed over to Keith as back-up signatory. Marc – Having working knowledge of Governor's office, should discuss if we have no one in Michigan. Ollie – *Two motions, have one for MI DNR to remain primary signatory on checks – Marc Miller, IL moved, Ed Boggess, MN second; have Mark Reiter be back-up check signer to sign for this conference, Ed Boggess, MN moved, Marc Miller, IL second. **Approved.***

2013 Meeting Update – Benjy – Jon communicating with Cindy so will follow-up with her. Picked Lexington and have set of dates. She is following up tomorrow. Bowling Green is second location, but not very good place to fly in, so would have to default to Louisville if that doesn't work out.

Other Business

National Dove Survey Letter – Ollie – Got call and Keith got memo from John Schulz, American Bird Conservancy regarding the decision by USFWS to delay the national dove hunter survey. Every group has looked at and signed off on the survey, but USFWS says they can't send survey out now. Dan Ashe asked the Hunting Heritage Council to review it (to delay it) and they said not their role to review it. The proposal is to send a letter to Dan Ashe expressing MAFWA disappointment in not sending out the survey. Survey does not involve lead, so don't know why it is not being sent; doesn't seem political. Ask Dan Ashe to address in his remarks. Ed – More of an informational survey, but may be questions about ammunition. Ollie – Keith, talk to Regan about it and then we will talk to Ashe. Marc – Will not be controversial during campaign, find out what issue is before we sway Dan or Ron.

Chuck – USFWS has changed allocation for migratory bird stamp funds, was 50% to states, now 70% to joint venture area and 30% to other states. Priority system favors the Dakotas, Iowa will get zero dollars and MN got cut too. Understand what is going on in Dakotas, but what disturbs us is how quietly it was done by the Service and expect DU was also in on that decision but not sure. When announced not well known. Iowa has agreement with DU and manages all waterfowl areas in Iowa with that \$2 million we receive from stamp funds. We plan to withdraw from Joint Venture. Tom Melius said he was directed to do this, zero points for restoring wetlands. This was decided in Washington DC not in Joint Venture meeting.

Executive Secretary Contract – Ollie – This is for your information only, I am on contract until June 30, 2013. Executive Committee has to renegotiate between July 1 and October 31 of this year if you wish to keep me on board. I will put this item on next

Executive Committee meeting agenda. Usually sign a contract at AFWA meeting and is a two-year contract.

Next Meeting Date – Ollie – Tuesday, August 21, 2012 via teleconference at 2:00 pm.

Adjourn – *Ed Boggess, MN moved to adjourn, Chuck Corell, IA second.* The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

