

**Midwest Association of  
Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
June 23, 2013 5:00 p.m. EDT  
Lexington Hilton Hotel  
Lexington, Kentucky**

**Call to Order** – President Jon Gasset called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

**Quorum** – Jon Gasset, Kentucky; Keith Creagh, Michigan; Scott Zody, Ohio; Ed Boggess, Minnesota; Marc Miller, Illinois; and Keith Sexson, Kansas. Also present were Ollie Torgerson, Executive Secretary; Sheila Kemmis, Recording Secretary, Kansas; and Sharon Schafer, Treasurer, Michigan. Guests: Carol Bambery, Ron Regan and Bill Halbower from AFWA.

**Agenda Review** – Jon – No changes

**Approval of May 14, 2013 Executive Committee Minutes** – Keith Sexson, Kansas moved to approve the minutes, Keith Creagh, Michigan second. **Approved.**

**Financial Report** – Sharon – General Checking: as of 6/14/13 - revenue \$1.46, expenditures \$3,831.85 for an ending balance as of \$9,410.54; Conference Account: balance as of 6/14/13 - revenue of \$18,006.72, expenditures \$5,900.34 for balance of \$88,982.55 (note: Kansas has \$570.75 – working to close out; and Indiana has \$6,000, paid one invoice so far - Midwest F&W Conference accounts). Southern Wings Account – no change, balance as 5/10/13 of \$14,255; Federal Grant Account, no change, balance as of 5/10/13 \$5,507.00; share account remains the same at \$5.00; Money Market and Securities Account - balance as of 5/10/13 of \$323,242.86, dividends and interest of \$2,814.45, change in market value of \$2,266.68 for balance of \$328,323.99 as of 5/31/13; and Conservation Enhancement Account balance 12/31/12 of \$3,816.77 (error in balance, actually \$3,576.88), interest and dividends of \$9.51 and expenditures \$123.83 as of 3/28/13. Boggess – What kind of account is conservation enhancement fund? Set up for donations, have brochures and never had a fund raising committee, Rex has been the only one who has donated, but never grown much. Jaschek donated \$200,000 plus to us and we have used those fund only a few times. **Scott Zody, Ohio moved to accept financial report, Marc Miller, Illinois second.** Budget – Dues \$2,300 for just under \$30,000, three Canadian provinces, affiliate dues, sponsorships \$43,000; registrations \$12,500; no hotel supplement received last year; received Kansas conference funds in 2011; exhibitors one for \$500; Southern Wings \$1,500; federal grant is closed out; interest of \$75; roughly \$89,000. Expenditures, Ollie has contract increase so about \$40,000; executive secretary travel \$6,000; Sheila \$1,500; Sharon \$3,000; accountant \$2,000; insurance \$1,100; bank charges for credit card uses through Delaney at \$550; web posting for Chris Durrill \$250; and miscellaneous of \$1,000; conference costs of \$39,000 for total expenditures of \$94,500 and a shortfall of about \$6,000. Comfortable with that because Ollie never uses his travel and I have not been using all of mine. If all sponsors come through should get \$43,000. Miller – Does

accountant cover outside audit? *Sharon* – No. *Ollie* – MO has provided the audit the last couple of times. USFWS is not paying their full sponsorships across the country, WAFWA usually gets \$25,000 and only getting \$10,000; heard we are not getting \$5,000 from Region 6, but expect to get \$5,000 from Region 3. Had conference call with Rowan Gould and sent invoices to him as requested. *Ron Regan* – Think they will meet the \$20,000 for national meeting, but don't expect to get full amount. Appears they are lightening up on travel restrictions, so may be more people traveling to our meetings.

**Potential Federal Listing of Northern Long-Eared Bat** – *Keith C.* – Not sure this is right forum, 12 month finding being filed September 30, 2013 and expect impact to logging practices. *Zody* – Indiana bats, worked together with state forestry and set up a management strategy. *Creagh* – Under 4-D? *Zody* – Have been flexible and we can get you copy of our strategy. Also, eastern small-foot and eastern brown bats. We have concerns with shale activity and pipelines and getting beat up in Ohio right now because of tight window for nesting bats. Frustration is Service is set for national. *Jon* – Biological opinion in KY, offset logging with protective habitats in other locations. Indiana bat mitigation fund, if mining, etc. has to occur and timing issue if after October 15, half until end of March. Also, cave species with white-nosed syndrome. *Bamberg* – Someone here for legal committee meeting? *Creagh* – Yes. We will learn from Ohio. *Ollie* – White-nosed in Michigan. *Creagh* – No. *Miller* – Not in Illinois. *Boggess* – Not in Minnesota. *Gassett* – Have legal folks wrestle with this.

**Reauthorization of the Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Restoration Act** – *Keith C.* – Volunteer to write letter to Congress, to reauthorize and circulate for signature, more an offer to the Great Lakes states. Have some success and movement in Great Lakes issues. *Gassett* – Hoping Congress will help out on conservation issue?

**Wolf Delisting Action** – *Carol Bamberg* – Two issues asked to bring to your attention for possible action. Introduced Bill Halbower from Michigan State University, jumped into Endangered Species Act and Amicus brief case, appreciate work he has done. First issue is if MAFWA would file comments on rule that came out 10 days ago in federal register to delist wolf in lower 48 states. Service proposed to add listing for Mexican wolf and second subspecies of gray wolf known as Eastern timber wolf, not completed status report but no action on it today. Gray wolf is in three states, western Great Lake wolves already delisted may not affect that segment. Principally in Canada. Service noted that should be listed as different species in Great Lakes. Concerned about rule because Service stated it would look at revisions to 10J rule; sued last year regarding Mexican wolf and 10J rule and director was dropped from the case; 10J important to Midwest. Recommend ask work group to study the rule and if it has the implications I am afraid it might then have WG come back to Executive Committee and have recommendations (read formal motion “MOVE that the MAFWA Executive Committee recommend to the MAFWA directors that MAFWA authorize Carol Bamberg, AFWA's general counsel, after it has been reviewed by the MAFWA legal committee, to sign onto the state brief prepared by AFWA. Further, that Carol will circulate the amicus brief to the MAFWA state directors and state lawyers for the individual states in MAFWA to also sign.”). *Ollie* – Executive Committee can act between meetings already so that takes care of second

part. *Gasset* – Just need first part of that motion. *Ollie* – Michigan has started drafting a comment letter, but not sure who. **Scott Zody, Ohio made motion, Keith Creagh, Michigan second.** *Boggess* – Haven't had chance to study rule yet, but more concerned now than I was from what Carol said. Species intermingle in counties and complicated DNA of wolves, nothing to separate them. Needs biologists as well as legal minds to look at this. Recovery plan was called Eastern timber wolf recovery plan in Minnesota that's what they are. *Gasset* – Amend motion to include wolf experts to working group, **Zody moved, Creagh second. Approved.** *Bambery* – Have legal person from wolf state to step up. On litigation, does MAFWA want to sign on to AFWA's amicus brief, this is Humane Society of U.S. law suit, third attempt by this group filed in Federal Court in DC. Issues raised were very much the same as last lawsuit, remanded back to the Service, but they came at us again. New complication is Service's notice to list two species. Want to help, could do state brief that looks at state authority within federal law. Bill H. has drafted a motion, working on main brief and plan to circulate to legal committee. Ask if MAFWA would want to sign on to AFWA state brief, did in 2008 to a solid brief written by Michigan. Have Directors circulate to your legal staff. (Read proposed motion again) **Ed Boggess, Minnesota, Marc Miller, Illinois second.** *Boggess* – Good idea, Great Lakes all intervening in their own fashion, got our briefing filed and appreciate AFWA is filing, making arguments that states are not capable and are reckless. What you have been researching would be valuable for state management of species. *Bambery* – Those that have their own Amicus would not be appropriate for them to sign. *Gasset* – Does this become background for other ESA lawsuits? Talking to other Associations too? *Bambery* – Yes to SE and WAFWA. **Approved.** *Ollie* – Bring forward under new business in Wednesday's business meeting? *Gasset* – Yes. *Ollie* – And Carol will be there to explain again if needed.

**Sharing MAFWA Email Listings** – *Ollie* – Request from Cindy Delaney, can her staff use our email list for Partners in Flight annual conference in August to invite to their conference? I use for job openings and things like that and annual meeting. Never had a request to use our list before. Need discussion. *Boggess* – May need policy, you don't use blind copy function so that list could already be out there. *Ollie* – maybe that is the way I should be sending it out. *Boggess* – Maybe we should send it out instead of giving it to them. *Ron Regan* – We have a policy and can share it with you; we get requests too and we send it out for them, rather than giving them the list. Treat emails like they are important pieces of information. *Gasset* – Reduces liability to Cindy. *Ollie* – Could say asked to share this, not necessarily endorse. *Miller* – Limit to member or affiliate organizations. *Gasset* – Look at what Ron has.

**2014 Meeting Preview** – *Keith C.* – June 21-25, Park Place Hotel in Traverse City, Michigan. *Ollie* and Cindy and Vicki Brown is our lead and she is here to get a feeling for the meeting. Please share agendas, topics and sponsorships. *Ollie* – Please fill out evaluations that really helps us out in planning. Directors like interactive meetings and hot topics.

**Other Business** – *Ollie* – Regional coordinators together quarterly, DU cut their sponsorship to the Western this year, directors didn't show up for their breakfast. Ken

Mayer is now working for WAFWA on sage grouse and Tom Remington on research. Appreciate Ron setting up these sessions.

Gasset – If John Fischer hasn't gotten with you, increasing dues to SCWDS; Don McKinzie, NBCI looking for increased PR for northern bobwhite. So expect requests for increased funding.

**Next Meeting Date** – Ollie – August 13, 2013 at 2:00 CDT by teleconference.

**Adjourn** – *Keith Sexson, Kansas moved to adjourn, Marc Miller, Illinois second.*  
The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.