

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Aquatic Habitat Conservation Committee

Charter

June 1, 2012

I. **Committee Purpose:** Since 2006 member states have been involved in a national effort to elevate the importance of habitat conservation in improving fish populations nationally. This effort, driven through the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, has manifested in the development of seven Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHP). These FHPs operate within the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) member states, several of which overlap geographically. This committee will insure efficient operation and maximize communication in an effort to advance the efforts of these FHPs.

II. **Membership:**

- a. Voting membership: Voting members will consist of the highest ranking fisheries professional for each member state within the agency responsible for fishery management. These individuals are often referred to as *Fish Chiefs*, regardless of agency designated job title. A roster of voting members can be found as Attachment A to this Charter.
- b. Nonvoting membership: Given the nature of the Fish Habitat Partnerships, it is necessary to have active participation within this committee by the coordinators of each Fish Habitat Partnership. A roster of nonvoting members can be found as Attachment B to this Charter.
- c. Staff to the Committee: The Midwest Regional Coordinator will act as primary staff to the committee. This is a nonvoting position. Contact information can be found in Attachment B.
- d. MAFWA State Director Liaison: One State Director will be appointed to a two year term to serve as a liaison with MAFWA State Directors. This is a nonvoting position. Contact information can be found in Attachment B.
- e. Fish Habitat Partnerships:
 - i. Driftless Area Restoration Effort
 - ii. Fishers and Farmers of the Upper Mississippi River Basin
 - iii. Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership
 - iv. Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership
 - v. Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership
 - vi. Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership
 - vii. Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership

III. Administration and Management

- a. Committee Chair: The Committee Chair is also the MAFWA representative to the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) Board. This individual is chosen by the State Directors and remains in that position until resignation or decision of the State Directors.
- b. Staff to the Committee: The Midwest Regional Coordinator will act as primary staff to the committee. Principle duties include communications, meeting management, liaison with the FHPs, correspondence and other documentation, and liaison with the MAFWA Executive Secretary.
- c. Meeting Schedule: The Committee will meet in person at least once every 18 months. Conference calls will occur a minimum of twice per year and on an as needed basis.
- d. Decision-making: Decisions will be made by consensus where possible. When the Committee Chair has determined that consensus cannot be reached, a decision will be made by simple majority. The Chair will make every effort to reach consensus.
- e. Executive Committee: Given the operational style of the NFHP Board, it may be necessary for this Committee to make decisions and or provide feedback to the NFHP Board on short notice. For this reason, an Executive Committee will be formed to include the Chair and three other voting members. They have the authority to act on behalf of this committee on matters that show no potential to adversely affect and/or require a financial commitment by any MAFWA state. Executive Committee members are identified in Attachment A.

Attachment A
Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Aquatic Habitat Conservation Committee
Voting Membership Roster
Last updated June 12, 2012

Committee Chair

Joe Larscheid, Chief
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Michigan DNR

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Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

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South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks

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Indiana DNR

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Kansas Dept. of Wildlife & Parks

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Minnesota DNR

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North Dakota Game & Fish Department

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WI Dept of Natural Resources

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Illinois DNR

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KY Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources

Ron Brooks, Chief
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Missouri Dept. of Conservation

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Ohio DNR

Ray Petering, Chief
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Attachment B
Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Aquatic Habitat Conservation Committee
Nonvoting Membership Roster

Last updated June 12, 2012

MAFWA Board Liaison

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Midwest Regional Coordinator

Maureen Gallagher
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Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership

Rob Simmonds, Interim Coordinator
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Cartersville National Fish
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Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership

Mark Brouder, Interim Coordinator
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Driftless Area Restoration Effort

Jeff Hastings, Project Manager
Trout Unlimited
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Driftless Area Restoration Effort

Louise Mauldin, Fishery Biologist
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**Fishers and Farmers Partnership of the Upper
Mississippi River**

Heidi Keuler, Fishery Biologist
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Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership

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Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership

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