

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

Meeting Time and Place – N/A

Executive Summary – Although some states have already completed a comprehensive review/revision of their State Wildlife Action Plan, the 2015 revision deadline is the target date for most states, and has spurred an invigorated conversation about how to better mesh SWAPs across state boundaries. This technical committee could play an important role in assisting states with ensuring that plan revisions are useful at both the state and regional level.

However, due to state agency budget shortfalls and travel restrictions, convening this committee for a full meeting has not been possible since 2010. The committee plans to hold a brief meeting in conjunction with the State Wildlife Action Plan Summit scheduled for June 4-6, 2013. 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.

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 that 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 – Members of this committee will meet during a regional breakout session of the upcoming State Wildlife Action Plan Summit, which will

take place at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV June 4-6, 2013. Recommend an additional in-person meeting in spring of 2014 in Michigan.