

**NCN**

## Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) National Conservation Needs (NCN) Committee Report -2014

The NCN Committee was created in 2004 and charged to become familiar with the NCN and Mult-State grant Program (MSCGP) processes and annually counsel the MAFWA on a recommended course of action for submitting NCNs. This year the committee consisted of John Buhnerkempe (Chair, IL), Ed Boggess (MN) and Jim Douglas (NE). The committee did not meet this year, but did conduct business via email on four NCN proposals.

For the 2015 Grant Cycle, the NCN Committee received four draft NCN proposals (See attached). The committee's review determined that all the proposals were acceptable for consideration by the Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MCGP). Based upon the MCGP guidelines and the previous experiences of the committee members, the committee ranked the proposals in the following order:

1. "Strengthening state fish and wildlife agency capacity to understand and respond to changing trends in constituent values and demographics" submitted by Jeff Vonk of South Dakota.
2. "Integration and coordination of the National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan with other resident game bird plans and grassland initiatives" submitted by Todd Bogenschutz of Iowa.
3. "Improved benefits for fish, wildlife, and their habitats through evaluation of efficacious management strategies for feral swine" submitted by Chad Soard of Kentucky.
4. "State Fish and Wildlife Agencies scientific capacity assessment and enhancement of scientific information access" submitted by Karl Martin of Wisconsin.

The MAFWA NCN Committee submitted to the MAFWA membership the recommendation that the NCN proposals be considered in the above order. The Executive Committee later approved "Strengthening state fish and wildlife agency capacity to understand and respond to changing trends in constituent values and demographics" as the MAFWA's submittal to the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Director Action Item: Reaffirm support to MAFWA members for direct participation and engagement of the MSCGP process.

Respectfully submitted by John Buhnerkempe, Chair; April 16, 2014