



**81st Annual
Directors Meeting
Proceedings**

**June 22 – June 25, 2014
Traverse City, Michigan**

Hosted by:



**Michigan
Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources**

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**Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Annual Meeting
June 22 - June 25, 2014
Traverse City, Michigan**

ACTION ITEMS

- < Presented Awards to Robert Stroess, Wisconsin, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year; Andy Lindbloom, South Dakota, Wildlife Biologist of the Year; Randal Claramunt, Michigan, Fisheries Biologist of the Year; Spirit of the Shack, Ray Eisenbrender, Illinois; two Sagamore Awards, Joe Kramer, Kansas (25 years), Jon Gassett, Kentucky (8 years); President's Award to Great Lakes Fishery Commission; Past President's Award to Keith Creagh, Michigan; and Excellence in Conservation was awarded to the Missouri Department of Conservation for its leadership implementing the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's National Fish Habitat Initiative Project at Table Rock Lake and Lake Taneycomo. (Completed 6/23/14)
- < Accepted 2013 minutes from annual business meeting in Lexington, Kentucky (Completed 6/25/14)
- < Voted to accept Treasurer's Report (Completed 6/25/14)
- < Voted to accept Investment Committee Report (Completed 6/25/14)
- < Approved one resolution (Completed 6/25/14)
 Thanking Michigan for holding conference
- < Voted to approve Awards Committee Report (Completed 6/25/14)
- < Voted to approve by-law changes as recommended (Completed 6/25/14)
- < Voted to add New Technical Working Group (Completed 6/25/14)
- < Voted on MAFWA/Midwest F&W Conference Relationship Proposal (Ollie Torgerson, Executive Secretary) (Completed 6/25/14)
- < Voted to send letter to AFWA, USFWS, USACE, BLM, MO Governor (Completed 6/25/14)
- < Voted to approve Affiliate Memberships (Completed 6/25/14)
- < Voted to table National Pheasant Plan Coordinator Position (Completed 6/25/14)
- < Voted to accept FY2015 budget as presented (Completed 6/25/14)
- < Voted to adjourn (Completed 6/25/14)

Items discussed, but not voted on:

- < Discussed State Hot Topics (6/23/14)
- < Viewed PowerPoint on Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (Stephanie Hussey, RBFF) (Completed 6/23/14)
- < Discussed and viewed PowerPoint on Moving Michigan Forward: Continuing our Comeback (Dennis Muchmore, MI Governor's Office) (Completed 6/23/14)
- < Discussed and viewed PowerPoint on Wolves of the Western Great Lakes – from Recovery to Management (Dean Beyer, MI DNR) (Completed 6/23/14)
- < Discussed and viewed PowerPoint on State & Tribal Affairs Facilitating Relationships (Dennis Knapp, MI DNR) (Completed 6/23/14)
- < Discussed and viewed PowerPoints on Managing Grouse and their Habitat (Jon Haufler, ERMI; John Eichinger, RGS Executive Director; Phil Huber, U.S. Forest Service Region 9 wildlife biologist; and Terry Minzey, MI DNR) (Completed 6/23/14)
- < Discussed and viewed PowerPoint on the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports (John Frampton, President and CEO) (Completed 6/23/14)
- < Viewed PowerPoint on Kalkomey (Mitch Strobl, Kalkomey) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Discussed and viewed PowerPoint on Coordinating Approaches to Aquatic Invasive Species (Tammy Newcomb, MI DNR and Kevin Irons, IL DNR) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Discussed and viewed PowerPoints on Wildlife and Fisheries Disease Issues: Ongoing and Emerging Threats (John Fischer, SCWDS for Wildlife; and Gary Whelan, MI DNR) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Heard Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) report (Executive Director Ron Regan and President Dan Forester, GA) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Heard Midwest Furbearer Group report (Adam Bump, MI DNR) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Heard Law Enforcement Committee (AMGFLEO) report (Gary Hagler, MI DNR) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Heard Hunter & Angler Recruitment & Retention Committee report (Dennis Fox, MI DNR) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Heard Pheasant Study Group report (Al Stewart, MI DNR) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Heard Wildlife and Fish Health Committee report (Ed Boggess, MN DNR) (Completed 6/24/14)

- < Heard U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) report (Executive Director Dan Ashe) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Heard Aquatic Habitat Committee report (Mark Reiter, IN DNR) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Heard Feral Swine Ad Hoc Committee report (Shannon Hanna, MN DNR) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Heard CITES report (Carolyn Caldwell, OH) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Heard Legal Committee report (Keith Sexson, KS Wildlife, Parks & Tourism) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Heard Private Lands Working Group report (Mark Sargent, MI DNR) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Heard Public Lands Working Group report (Earl Flegler, MI DNR) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Heard NCN Committee report (Ed Boggess, MN DNR) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Heard State Wildlife Action Plan Technical Working Committee report (Amy Derosier, MI DNR) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Heard Climate Change Committee report (Chris Hoving, MI DNR) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Heard Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group report (Brend Rudolph, MI DNR) (Completed 6/24/14)
- < Discussed and viewed PowerPoints on Improving Engagement Models with NGO's (Helen Taylor, TNC; Glen Chown, TC Regional Land Conservancy; and Julie Clark, TART Trails) (Completed 6/25/14)
- < Viewed MAFWA Executive Secretary's PowerPoint Report (Completed 6/25/14)
- < Discussed New Business (Completed 6/25/14)
- < Passed the gavel to Minnesota (Completed 6/25/14)

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Objectives

The objectives of the Association shall be to protect the right of jurisdiction of the Midwestern states over their wildlife resources on public and private lands; to scrutinize carefully state and federal wildlife legislation and regulations and to offer support or opposition to legislative proposals or federal regulations in accordance with the best interests of the Midwestern states; to serve as a clearinghouse for the exchange of ideas concerning wildlife and fisheries management, research techniques, wildlife law enforcement, hunting and outdoor safety, and information and education; and to encourage and assist sportsmen's and conservationists' organizations so that the fullest measure of cooperation may be secured from our citizenry in the protection, preservation, restoration and management of our fish and wildlife resources.

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a forum for state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies to share ideas and information, pool resources, and initiate action to benefit the management and conservation of fish and wildlife resources in the Midwest.

**Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Meeting Locations and Dates**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Des Moines, Iowa - Savery Hotel
October 28, 1934 | 23. Springfield, Illinois - Hotel St. Nicholas
July 9 - 11, 1956 |
| 2. St. Paul, Minnesota - Hotel Lowry
June 29, 30, 1935 | 24. Park Rapids, Minnesota - Itasca State Park
July 10 - 12, 1957 |
| 3. Madison Wisconsin - State Capitol
June 16, 17, 1936 | 25. Bismarck, North Dakota - Grand Pacific
Hotel, July 10, 11, 1958 |
| 4. Sioux Falls, South Dakota - Carpenter Hotel
June 11 - 13, 1937 | 26. West Lafayette, Indiana - Memorial Center,
Purdue University, July 9, 10, 1959 |
| 5. Omaha, Nebraska - Paxton Hotel
June 8, 9, 1938 | 27. Rapid City, South Dakota - Sheraton
Johnson Hotel, July 17 - 20, 1960 |
| 6. Madison, Wisconsin - State Capitol
June 12, 13, 1939 | 28. Higgins Lake, Michigan - Grand Hotel
July 10 - 12, 1961 |
| 7. Mason City, Iowa - Hotel Hanford
June 17, 18, 1940 | 29. Omaha, Nebraska - Paxton Hotel
July 28 - 30, 1962 |
| 8. St. Louis, Missouri - Statler Hotel
June 4, 5, 1941 | 30. Columbus, Ohio - Neil House Hotel
July 8, 9, 1963 |
| 9. Duluth, Minnesota - Hotel Duluth
June 25, 26, 1942 | 31. Milwaukee, Wisconsin - Milwaukee Inn
July 12 - 15, 1964 |
| 10. Fox Lake, Illinois - Location Unknown
September 21, 1943 | 32. Toronto, Ontario - Westbury Hotel
July 27 - 29, 1965 |
| 11. Bismarck, North Dakota - Location
Unknown, Date Unknown, 1944 | 33. Wichita, Kansas - Hotel Lassen
July 12 - 14, 1966 |
| 12. Indianapolis, Indiana - Location Unknown
Date Unknown, 1945 | 34. Des Moines, Iowa - Hotel Savery
July 25 - 27, 1967 |
| 13. Rapid City, South Dakota - Location
Unknown, Date Unknown, 1946 | 35. Chicago, Illinois - Conrad Hilton Hotel
July 28 - 31, 1968 |
| 14. Roscommon, Michigan - Conservation
Training School, July 14-16, 1947 | 36. St. Louis, Missouri - Sheraton Jefferson
Hotel, July 27 - 30, 1969 |
| 15. Put-in-Bay, Ohio - Location Unknown
July 16, 17, 1948 | 37. Winnipeg, Manitoba - International Inn
July 29 - August 1, 1970 |
| 16. Lincoln, Nebraska - Location Unknown
October 3, 4, 1949 | 38. Aspen, Colorado - Stonebridge Inn
July 19 - 23, 1971 |
| 17. Milwaukee, Wisconsin - Hotel Wisconsin
July 24 - 26, 1950 | 39. Wichita, Kansas - Holiday Inn Plaza
July 25 - 27, 1972 |
| 18. Wichita, Kansas - Broadview Hotel
August 18, 19, 1951 | 40. Bismarck, North Dakota - Holiday Inn
July 16 - 19, 1973 |
| 19. Des Moines, Iowa - Hotel Fort Des Moines
August 15, 16, 1952 | 41. Duluth, Minnesota - Radisson Hotel
July 16 - 18, 1974 |
| 20. Dorset, Ontario - Ontario Forest Ranger
School, August 14, 15, 1953 | 42. Traverse City, Michigan - Holiday Inn
July 21 - 24, 1975 |
| 21. St. Louis, Missouri - Statler Hotel
July 8 - 10, 1954 | 43. Rapid City, South Dakota - Howard Johnson
Motor Inn, July 19 - 22, 1976 |
| 22. Estes Park, Colorado - Stanley Hotel
July 18 - 20, 1955 | 44. Lincoln, Nebraska - Villager Motel
Convention Center, July 18 - 21, 1977 |

45. Milwaukee, Wisconsin - Marc Plaza
July 16 - 19, 1978
46. Nashville, Indiana - Brown County Inn
July 16 - 19, 1979
47. Columbus, Ohio - Hilton Inn East
July 14 - 17, 1980
48. Des Moines, Iowa - Hotel Fort Des Moines
July 13 - 15, 1981
49. Springfield, Illinois - Hilton Hotel
July 12 - 15, 1982
50. Lexington, Kentucky - Radisson Plaza
July 18 - 21, 1983
51. Hannibal, Missouri - Holiday Inn
July 16 - 19, 1984
52. Wichita, Kansas - Hilton Inn East
July 15 - 18, 1985
53. Vail, Colorado - Manor Vail
July 7 - 10, 1986
54. Winnipeg, Manitoba - Holiday Inn
Downtown, July 13 - 16, 1987
55. Bismarck, North Dakota - Sheraton
Bismarck Galleria, July 11 - 14, 1988
56. Duluth, Minnesota - Radisson Hotel
July 10 - 13, 1989
57. Grand Rapids, Michigan - Amway Grand
Plaza Hotel, July 16 - 19, 1990
58. Rapid City, South Dakota - Hotel Alex
Johnson, July 8 - 10, 1991
59. Green Bay, Wisconsin - Embassy Suites
June 28 - 30, 1992
60. Ashland, Nebraska - Eugene T. Mahoney
State Park, July 11 - 13, 1993
61. Estes Park, Colorado - Aspen Lodge
July 10 - 12, 1994
62. Galena, Illinois - DeSoto House
July 9 - 11, 1995
63. South Bend, Indiana - The Works Hotel
July 14 - 16, 1996
64. Des Moines, Iowa - Embassy Suites Hotel
July 13 - 15, 1997
65. Lawrence, Kansas - Eldridge Hotel
July 12 - 14, 1998
66. Louisville, Kentucky - Embassy Suites
July 18 - 20, 1999
67. Petoskey, Michigan - Stafford's Perry Hotel
July 16 - 18, 2000
68. St. Paul, Minnesota - Radisson City Center
Hotel, July 15 - 17, 2001
69. Springfield, Missouri - Marriott Residence
Inn, July 13 - 16, 2002
70. Omaha, Nebraska - Double Tree Hotel
July 12 - 15, 2003
71. Bismarck, North Dakota - Radisson Hotel
July 11 - 13, 2004
72. Sandusky, Ohio – Sawmill Creek Resort
July 11 – 13, 2005
73. Spearfish, South Dakota – Holiday Inn I-90
July 9 – 12, 2006
74. Minocqua, Wisconsin – The Waters of
Minocqua, July 15 – 18, 2007
75. Estes Park, Colorado – Holiday Inn
June 29 – July 2, 2008
76. Peoria, Illinois – Pere Marquette Hotel
June 28 – July 1, 2009
77. Indianapolis, Indiana – Hyatt Regency
June 27 – June 30, 2010
78. Centerville, Iowa – Honey Creek Resort SP
June 26 – June 29, 2011
79. Wichita, Kansas – Hotel at Old Town
June 24 – June 27, 2012
80. Lexington, Kentucky – Hilton Downtown
June 23 – June 26, 2013
81. Traverse City, Michigan – Park Plaza Hotel
June 22 – June 25, 2014

MAFWA COMMITTEES AND APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES 2013-14

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Keith Creagh (MI), President
Ed Boggess (MN), First Vice President
Bob Ziehmer (MO), Second Vice President
Vacant (KY), Past President
Marc Miller (IL), Member
Scott Zody (OH), Member

AUDIT COMMITTEE:

Ed Boggess (MN), Chair
Jim Douglas (NE), Member
Terry Steinwand (ND), Member

AWARDS COMMITTEE:

Keith Sexson (KS), Chair
Terry Steinwand (ND), Member
Mark Reiter (IN), Member
Jeff Vonk (SD), Member
Ed Boggess (MN), Member

BYLAWS COMMITTEE:

Marc Miller (IL), Chair
Scott Gunderson (WI), Member
Chuck Corell (IA), Member

INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE:

Bob Ziehmer (MO), Chair
Joe Kramer (KS), Member
Scott Gunderson (WI), Member

NATIONAL CONSERVATION NEEDS COMMITTEE:

John Buhnerkempe (IL), Chair
Ed Boggess (MN), Member
Jim Douglas (NE), Member

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Ed Boggess (MN), Chair
Bob Ziehmer (MO), Member
Chuck Corell (IA), Member

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Keith Creagh (MI), Chair
Vacant (KY)
Ed Boggess (MN)
Ollie Torgerson (MAFWA)

CONSERVATION FUND BOARD:

MAFWA Executive Committee (see above)
Bob Ziehmer (MO), Member

MAFWA TECHNICAL WORKING COMMITTEES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DIRECTOR/LIAISON</u>
MIDWEST PRIVATE LANDS WORKING GROUP	CHUCK CORELL, IA
MAFWA PUBLIC LANDS WORKING GROUP	MARK REITER, IN
MIDWEST LEGAL COMMITTEE	KEITH SEXSON, KS
ASSN. MIDWEST F&G LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS	EMMETT KEYSER, SD
MIDWEST WILDLIFE AND FISH HEALTH COMMITTEE	ED BOGGESS, MN
MIDWEST PHEASANT STUDY GROUP	JIM DOUGLAS, NE
MIDWEST DEER & WILD TURKEY GROUP	DALE GARNER, IA
MIDWEST FURBEARER GROUP	JOE KRAMER, KS
MAFWA WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN WORKING GROUP	VACANT, KY
MAFWA CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE	KATHY DONCARLOS, MN
MAFWA HUNTER & ANGLER RECRUITMENT & RETENTION	SCOTT GUNDERSON, WI
MIDWEST AQUATIC HABITAT CONSERVATION COMMITTEE	MARK REITER, IN
NATIONAL CONSERVATION NEEDS (NCN) COMMITTEE	MAFWA President

OFFICIAL MAFWA REPRESENTATIVES

AFWA CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE TASK FORCE:

Dan Grove (ND)

Tom DeLiberto (APHIS-WS)

AFWA FARM BILL WORKING GROUP:

Mike Tenney (MN)

Mark Sargent (MI)

AFWA SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE:

Joe Larscheid (IA)

Vacant

AMERICAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PARTNER'S HUNTING & SHOOTING SPORTS ROUNDTABLE

Mark Reiter (IN)

CITES:

Carolyn Caldwell (OH)

CLIMATE CHANGE:

George Meyer (WI-WF)

COUNCIL TO ADVANCE HUNTING AND SHOOTING SPORTS:

Jeff Vonk (SD)

FEDERAL BUDGET:

Vacant (KY)

FEDERAL BUDGET WORKING GROUP:

Tim Ripperger (MO)

HUNTER ACCESS:

Tom Kirschenmann (SD)

HUNTING HERITAGE ACTION PLAN:

Dennis Fox (MI)

LCC NATIONAL COUNCIL:

Marc Miller (IL)

NATIONAL BOBWHITE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE:

Vacant (KY)

Joe Kramer (KS)

NATIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION JOINT IMPLEMENTATION WG

Jack Sullivan (WI)

NATIONAL COOPERATOR'S COALITION:

Ollie Torgerson (MAFWA)

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE HEALTH INITIATIVE

Ed Boggess (MN)

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT BOARD:

Joe Larscheid (IA)

NATIONAL GRANTS COMMITTEE:

Ed Boggess (MN)

NATIONAL WHITE NOSE SYNDROME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Mark Reiter (IN)

NORTHEAST/MIDWEST CLIMATE SCIENCE CNTR ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Kathy DonCarlos (MN)

RESERVOIR FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP:

Doug Nygren (KS)

SOUTHERN WINGS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:

Craig Thompson, (WI)

STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN REVIEW TEAM:

Mark Reiter (IN)

Bill Moritz (MI)

WILD HOG EIS:

Rex Martensen (MO)

WIND ENERGY:

Rob Manes (TNC)

PRESIDENT'S AD HOC COMMITTEES

FERAL SWINE COMMITTEE:

Rex Martensen (MO), Chair

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS



MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

JUNE, 2013

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS **MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES**

PREAMBLE

The name of this organization shall be the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Association). The Association shall be organized and operated as a non-profit professional association as described in 501(c)(6) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code with the purpose of promoting the protection, preservation, restoration and management of fish and wildlife resources. The Conservation Enhancement Fund shall be organized and operated as a non-profit charitable organization as described in 501(c)3 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. The Association and the Conservation Enhancement Fund were incorporated in the State of Kansas on August 19, 2005.

The objectives of the Association shall be:

- (a) to protect the right of jurisdiction of the Midwestern states over their wildlife resources on public and private lands;
- (b) to scrutinize carefully state and federal wildlife legislation and regulations and to offer support or opposition to legislative proposals or federal regulations in accordance with the best interests of the Midwestern states;
- (c) to serve as a clearinghouse for the exchange of ideas concerning wildlife and fisheries management, research techniques, wildlife law enforcement, hunting and outdoor safety, and information and education;
- (d) and to encourage and assist sportsmen's and conservationists' organizations so that the fullest measure of cooperation may be secured from our citizenry in the protection, preservation, restoration and management of our fish and wildlife resources.

The Association met for the first time on October 28, 1934 in Des Moines, Iowa. At that time the group was known as the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Commissioners. The Association first received its non-profit status in 1968. The Association's name was changed to the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Commissioners in 1972, to the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 1977, and to the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 2001.

A R T I C L E I

OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers of the Association shall be President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice-President. The President and both Vice-Presidents shall be the duly authorized voting representative of their member state or province and shall be selected on an alphabetical rotation basis, with the First Vice-President being from the state or province next in order of rotation following the President and the Second Vice-

President being from the state or province next in rotation following the First Vice-President. The term of office shall commence thirty (30) days following adjournment of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' (AFWA) annual meeting and conclude thirty (30) days following adjournment of the succeeding annual AFWA meeting. The First Vice-President shall automatically succeed to President if he/she remains eligible.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the officers identified in Article I, Section 1 and one representative from each state and province except those represented by the officers. Such state or provincial Board member shall be the chief executive officer of the fish and wildlife agency of his/her state or province, or his/her designee. A Board member may, by written notification to the President, designate a voting proxy from the Board member's state or province. However, Executive Committee members may not designate a proxy for the conduct of Executive Committee business.

A R T I C L E I I

OTHER ASSOCIATION POSITIONS

Section 1. The Association shall establish the position of "Treasurer." An Association member agency may provide an individual to serve in this capacity or the Association may contract with a member agency or an individual to fill this position. This is a nonvoting position.

Section 2. The Association shall also establish the position of "Executive Secretary." An Association member agency may provide an individual to serve in this capacity or the Association may contract with a member agency or an individual to fill the position. This is a nonvoting position.

Section 3. The Association may establish the position of "Recording Secretary." This is a nonvoting position.

A R T I C L E I I I

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall be by states and provinces and representation of each state and province at meetings shall be by its duly authorized representative or representatives.

Section 2. The area of membership in the Association shall be the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, and the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario and such additional states and provinces as may request membership and be elected by majority vote of the member states and provinces in annual meeting.

Section 3. Membership in the Association of an individual shall terminate upon the expiration of the member's term of office as a state fish and wildlife administrator.

Section 4. Other professional organizations may be granted affiliate membership in the Association based upon demonstration that the Constitution and Bylaws of said organizations meet the basic standards of the Association. Application for affiliate membership shall be forwarded to the Executive Secretary at least 90 days prior to a regular meeting of the Association and shall include a current Constitution and Bylaws and a letter stating the organization's justification for affiliate membership. Affiliate membership shall be voted on by the voting representatives and must attain a majority vote of a quorum. Affiliated membership dues shall be \$75.00 per year; however, this fee may be waived by a majority vote of a quorum. The fee is automatically waived for affiliated conservation agencies or organizations that provide annual financial resources to support the Association through the following sponsorships: Major Sponsor (\$5,000 or more); Gold Sponsor (\$3,000-4,999); Silver Sponsor (\$2,000-2,999); Bronze Sponsor (\$1,000-1,999); and Sponsor (\$500-999).

ARTICLE IV

DUTIES OF OFFICERS and OTHER POSITIONS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, appoint all special committees, preside at meetings of the Board of Directors, and perform such other duties as are naturally incumbent upon the office. Copies of the annual proceedings shall be forwarded to each member in good standing, with the cost of preparation and handling to be paid out of Association funds. All other copies are for distribution at the discretion of the host state or province.

Section 2. The First Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the latter's absence, and specific duties may be assigned as deemed necessary by the President.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall conduct the business of the Association.

Section 4. The Executive Secretary shall perform the following services:

- (1) Function as the official "Executive Secretary" for the Association carrying out liaison services by keeping in communication via e-mail, mailings, phone contact and personal visits with member Directors, or their designated representatives, to enhance the viability of the Association.
- (2) Work to obtain direct involvement and commitment of member Directors and affiliate leaders to build strength in the Association as a leading force in the Midwest on behalf

of fish and wildlife issues.

- (3) Assist the Executive Director of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in coordinating actions and communications relevant to the Midwest Association.
- (4) Respond to inquiries for information regarding the Association and to routine correspondence.
- (5) Develop and maintain a web site for the Association.
- (6) Carry out directives of the President and/or Executive Committee of the Association.
- (7) Assist with the scheduling of meetings and conference calls and notify appropriate members.
- (8) Record minutes in the absence of the Recording Secretary.
- (9) Provide such other services as may be mutually agreed upon by both parties.

Section 5. The Recording Secretary shall perform the following services:

- (1) Record and publish the annual proceedings of the Association.
- (2) Record and retain the minutes of all meetings of the Association, and perform such other duties as are naturally incumbent upon the office.
- (3) Assist other officers and positions with correspondence and record keeping.
- (4) Serve as the custodian of all permanent files and records of the Association.
- (5) Other duties as assigned by the President.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall perform the following services:

- (1) Be custodian of all funds of the Association
- (2) Establish and have access to Association bank accounts.
- (3) Draw all warrants for payment of claims properly presented.

- (4) Invoice members and sponsors and collect dues and funds.
- (5) Review monthly account reports and monitor income and expenditures.
- (6) Prepare reports to the Executive Committee detailing income, expenditures and asset values.
- (7) Prepare and present annual budgets, financial and audit reports.
- (8) Ensure the Association complies with its governing documents and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- (9) Develop, present and oversee budgets, accounts and financial statements.
- (10) Ensure that appropriate accounting procedures and controls are in place.
- (11) Serve as liaison with any staff and volunteers about Association financial matters.
- (12) Monitor the Association's investment activity and ensure its consistency with the Association's policies and legal responsibilities.
- (13) Ensure Association compliance with legislation/tax law.
- (14) Ensure independent examination or audits are executed and any recommendations are implemented.
- (15) Make formal presentation of the accounts at the regular annual meeting.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS

One regular meeting shall be held annually. The meeting will be held in and hosted by the state or province in which the President has administrative responsibility, or in such other locations designated by the Association. It is the intent of the Association that the costs of the annual meetings and related business functions, not to exceed \$12,000, may be paid by the Association. When necessary, special meetings may be called by the President. Members shall be given 180 days notice of regular annual meetings and special meetings may be called on ten days notice.

ARTICLE VI

VOTING

Voting shall be by states and provinces, as units. Each state and province shall have one vote. All voting shall be by voice vote, except that a request by any member state or province for a secret ballot shall be honored. Any matters of Association business requiring action in the interim between meetings may be handled by the Executive Committee, by majority vote.

ARTICLE VII

DUES

Annual Dues shall be \$2,800 per member state and \$100 per province, payable in advance, at, or before each annual meeting; provided that annual dues may be suspended for any given year by a majority vote of a quorum. Dues shall be adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Dues shall be adjusted using the annual change in the CPI-U for the month of January of the previous fiscal year.

ARTICLE VIII

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Association shall be January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE IX

QUORUM

A quorum is defined as a simple majority of the states. However, for the purposes of electronic voting, a quorum shall be defined as a simple majority of all member states and provinces in good standing.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENT

The Constitution and Bylaws (Bylaws) of the Association may be amended at any regular meeting by a majority vote of a quorum; provided, however, a written copy of such proposed amendment shall have been received by the President and the Executive Secretary and sent to members at least thirty days before the regular annual meeting or special meeting called for that purpose. Proposed Bylaws amendments should be presented to, or generated by, the Bylaws Committee and reviewed by the Executive

Committee prior to submitting to voting members of the Association for their consideration. With approval of the First Vice-President, the President may call for voting by mail (including electronic mail) in lieu of a meeting. In this event, the thirty-day notice shall still apply, the date of opening ballots shall be previously announced, notice sent to each member within forty-eight hours of vote tabulation by the Executive Secretary and all ballots shall be kept for one year following the vote.

ARTICLE XI

TYPES OF COMMITTEES/BOARDS

Section 1. There shall be three kinds of committees: Standing, President's Ad Hoc, and Technical Working.

Section 2. The following Standing Committees shall be appointed by the incoming President within thirty (30) days after assuming office, they shall serve during the period intervening between annual meetings and at such meetings, or until the purpose of each such committee has been accomplished and it has been discharged by the President.

- A. The Executive Committee shall be composed of six members of the Association: The President, First Vice President, Second Vice-President, immediate Past President, and two other members to be appointed by the President with specific consideration for geographical balance. Any state or province represented on the Executive Committee by more than one individual shall be restricted to a single vote on this committee. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Association between its business meetings, make recommendations to the Association as necessary and shall perform such other duties as may be specified in these bylaws. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the orders of the Board of Directors and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the Board of Directors. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President as necessary. The Executive Committee may also act via conference call or by mail (including electronic mail). In the event that an officer of the Association or the immediate Past President separates from a member agency (or is replaced by that agency), their replacement in a member agency shall serve for the remainder of their term.
- B. The Auditing Committee shall be composed of three members: The First Vice President of the Association, who shall act as chairman, and two other members to be appointed by the President. The Auditing Committee shall audit the financial records of the Association annually and report the result of its audit at the annual regular meeting.

- C. The Resolutions Committee shall be composed of three members, one of which shall be designated as Chairman by the President. Copies of proposed resolutions should be received by the President and the Executive Secretary and sent to members for their consideration at least thirty days before the regular annual meeting. Courtesy resolutions and resolutions of a last minute nature may be recommended to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting. Furthermore, proposed resolutions for which an urgent need arises between annual meetings may be presented to the Board of Directors for consideration via mail (including electronic mail), provided members are given a thirty-day notice. Members shall be notified of the vote outcome by the Executive Secretary within forty-eight hours of vote tabulation.
- D. The Awards Committee shall be composed of five members, one of which shall be designated as Chairman by the President. The Awards Committee shall administer the official awards program of the Association.
- E. The Bylaws Committee shall be composed of at least one member, designated by the President. The Bylaws Committee shall recommend Bylaws changes to the Executive Committee for consideration.
- F. The Investments Committee shall be composed of three members. The President shall designate one of the members as Chairman. The purpose of the committee is to review investments, including the Jaschek portfolio, the Conservation Enhancement Fund, and other permanent assets of the Association and make recommendations to the Association per the investment policy statement.
- G. The Conservation Enhancement Fund shall be overseen by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the Executive Committee plus one additional Association member appointed by the President. The purpose of the Fund shall be to support those activities of the Association which maintain and enhance the capability of all member states and provinces to develop and implement comprehensive fish and wildlife programs for all species of wildlife and their habitats.
- H. The Program Committee shall be comprised of four members, one from the host state of the previous annual meeting, one from the host state of the current annual meeting, one from the host state of the next annual meeting, and the Executive Secretary. The purpose of the committee is to assist the host state with developing presentation and discussion topics and suggesting speakers for the non-business portion of meeting.

Section 3. Ad Hoc Committees may be established as deemed necessary by the President of the Association and shall serve until the purpose of each such committee has been accomplished and it has been discharged by the President.

Section 4. The Association may establish Technical Working Committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Association. Upon establishment, these committees shall adhere to the following:

- A. Within one year from establishment, each committee shall submit to the Association for approval a Mission Statement, a list of specific responsibilities, and a description of operating procedures that will become part of the official minutes of the Association.
- B. All Technical Working Committees shall submit a written report electronically to the President and the Executive Secretary 30 days in advance of the annual meeting of the Association and may choose to conduct necessary committee business during the period between annual meetings as per their approved operating procedures.
- C. Each Technical Working Committee shall be automatically abolished by the first of August every three years unless reinstated by the Association. As the end of the third year approaches, the Association shall assess the merits of reinstating the Working Committee.
- D. Resolutions from Technical Working Committees for Association action shall be submitted to the Chair of the Resolutions Committee.

The Association recognizes the following Technical Working Committees (year of automatic abolishment in parentheses):

Climate Change (2016)
Legal Committee (2014)
National Conservation Need (NCN) Committee (2014)
Midwest Pheasant Study Group (2015)
Midwest Private Lands Wildlife Management Group (2015)
Midwest Public Lands Technical Working Committee (2016)
Midwest Wildlife and Fish Health Committee (2016)
Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group (2014)
Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers (2014)
Midwest Furbearer Group (2015)
Wildlife Action Plan Technical Working Committee (2015)
Hunter and Angler Recruitment and Retention Technical Working Group (2014)
Midwest Aquatic Habitat Conservation Committee (2016)

A R T I C L E X I I

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall

govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Association may adopt.

Adopted 1936
Amended 1942
Amended 1944
Amended 1949
Amended 1954
Amended 1960
Amended 1964
Amended 1969
Amended 1971
Amended 1972
Amended 1975
Amended 1976
Amended 1977
Amended 1978
Amended 1980
Amended 1987
Amended 1993
Amended 1995
Amended 1996
Amended 2000
Amended 2001
Amended July 16, 2003Amended July 13, 2004
Amended July 13, 2005
Amended July 12, 2006
Amended July 18, 2007
Amended July 2, 2008
Amended July 1, 2009
Amended December 23, 2009
Amended June 29, 2011
Amended June 27, 2012
Amended June 26, 2013
Amended June 25, 2014

**Midwest Association of
Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Sunday, June 22, 2014
5:00 p.m. EDT
Park Place Hotel
Traverse City, Michigan**

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

Quorum – Keith Creagh, Michigan; Ed Boggess, Minnesota; Marc Miller, Illinois Scott Zody, Ohio were present. Also present were Ollie Torgerson, Executive Secretary; Sharon Schafer, Treasurer. Guests present were Carol Bambery, AFWA; Ron Brooks, Kentucky; Bill Moritz, Michigan; and Tim Ripperger, Missouri.

Agenda Review – Conservation Leaders For Tomorrow added.

Approval of May 6, 2014 Executive Committee Minutes – *Marc Miller, Illinois moved to approve the minutes, Scott Zody, Ohio second. **Approved.***

Financial Report – Sharon – Sharon Schafer presented the attached financial report. Scott Zody, OH moved to accept financial report, Marc Miller, IL second. **Approved.**

Revised Annual MAFWA Draft 2015 Budget – Sharon – Treasurer Schafer reported that a revised annual conference budget projection improved association income allowing a surplus rather than deficit annual budget presentation. Therefore, she revised the draft annual budget that was approved during the May meeting and presented the attached budget as a replacement to recommend to the Board during the annual business meeting on Wednesday. *Marc Miller, IL moved to recommend the revised annual budget, Scott Zody, OH second. **Approved.***

Midwest F&W Conference Insurance— Ollie – During our May meeting we had substantial discussion about MAFWA service to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and further clarified our Association’s policy that was approved during the 2013 Board meeting in Kentucky. However, additional clarification on insurance was needed and we now have that. We have learned that there is no insurance available that covers financial loss as is stated in our current policy. Therefore, a revision in the policy is needed. In addition, clarification was needed on liability insurance in case someone is injured during the convention. I worked with Carol Bambery and Cindy Delaney to sort this out and Carol is here to explain. Carol—MAFWA is fully insured as an additional insured under AFWA’s liability policy. This is full coverage including loss of property, injury, food poisoning, even workman’s compensation. However, since this conference is not owned by anyone the conference is considered an event, not an entity, and the host state could be somewhat vulnerable. Cindy Delaney has her own liability insurance and she also buys conference hotel cancellation insurance for each conference. Carol reported that Cindy found a liability insurance policy for a very reasonable cost of \$300 that would cover the Midwest F&W Conference “event”. Consensus was expressed by Executive Committee members that this was a reasonable expense.

Midwest F&W Conference Policy Revision—Ollie-- Ollie presented a revised service policy that deleted the words “financial loss” and replaced them with the word “liability” and also added the words “of meeting event planners” to clarify that the 10% MAFWA fee would be based on Delaney’s contract and not conference profit. *Scott Zody, OH moved to recommend to the Board the revised draft service policy, Ed Boggess, MN second, **Approved.***

Northern Long-eared Bat Conference Proposal—Keith—President Keith explained that the states of WI, MN, IN, OH, and MI met in the Twin Cities with the USFWS to express serious concern about the proposed listing of the northern long-eared bat as a threatened and endangered species and its impacts on the logging, road building, utility industries in addition to wildlife habitat management. The bat’s population has been severely impacted white-nose syndrome. The states requested an extension of the official comment period for the listing and proposed hosting a conference by MAFWA to bring together experts in the field with the objective of informing the criteria under which timber management activities could occur. Keith explained that Region 3 of USFWS has the national lead for this listing, but due to current litigation is unable to host such a conference. Keith suggested that MAFWA host the conference and help build a framework for moving forward. Discussion followed regarding the mechanics and cost of such a conference. *Marc Miller, IL moved approval of a 2-day conference hosted by MAFWA - for natural resource agencies and sister agencies (recoup adequate costs from participants) to share science and discuss state roles and discuss potential strategies to inform the response to white nose syndrome in northern long-eared bats. Scott Zody, OH second. **Approved.***

Other Business: Conservation Leaders For Tomorrow—Marc—Marc proposed that MAFWA adopt an approach similar to that of SEAFWA in support of the Conservation Leaders of Tomorrow program taught at the Max McGraw Foundation. This program exposes and educates wildlife graduate students in the heritage of our profession including the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. He explained that the program is transformative for students. This will be an agenda item for the August Executive Committee meeting.

2014 Conference Update—Keith—Keith explained that everything is on ready and if the weather cooperates all will be well.

Next Meeting Date—The next MAFWA Executive Committee meeting will be held via teleconference on Tuesday, August 12, 2014 at 2:00 pm **CDT**.

Adjourn – *Scott Zody, OH moved to adjourn, Ed Boggess, MN second. **Adjourned at 6:15 pm.***

attachments

**Midwest Association of
Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 2:00 p.m. (CDT)
Conference Call**

Call to Order – President Keith Creagh called the meeting to order at 2:15 pm.

Quorum – Keith Creagh, Michigan; Ed Boggess, Minnesota; Marc Miller, Illinois Scott Zody, Ohio; and Bob Ziehmer, Missouri; were present. Also present were Ollie Torgerson, Executive Secretary; Sheila Kemmis, Recording Secretary, Kansas; and Sharon Schafer, Treasurer.

Agenda Review – None

Approval of March 25, 2014 Executive Committee Minutes – *Marc Miller, Illinois moved to approve the minutes, Bob Ziehmer, Missouri second. **Approved.***

Financial Report – Sharon – Sent revised report out last night. Balances as of 4/28/14. General Checking: revenue included interest, no expenditures, for an ending balance of \$55,595.09 (will explain Kansas funds \$39,471.81 later); Conference Account: balance as of 3/24/14 of \$87,410.08, revenue included interest of \$3.87, APHIS, TNC and AMFLEGO sponsor funds \$4,500, affiliate dues \$675, half of Minnesota's dues \$1,150 for total revenue of \$6,328.87; expenditures included executive secretary salary and travel, DMEM conference charge for Michigan for June conference, web support, credit card charges associated with DMEM, and supplies for total expenditures of \$8,758.54, balance of \$84,980.41; (Keith - encouraged Ollie ordered business cards). Ed – Sorry about late dues. Ollie – Cindy has collected an additional \$25,000 in sponsorships not listed here; maybe \$12,000 more coming. Keith – Vicki is tracking down National Marine Boating Association, they may sponsor. Sharon – Also have Trout Unlimited who will sponsor event on Sunday night and pay that directly. Ollie – They sent \$1,500 to Cindy according to her notes. Southern Wings Account – no activity; Federal Grant Account – no activity; Money Market and Securities Account - balance as of 12/31/13 of \$354,251.07, revenue interest and dividends of \$1,909.16, change in market value loss of (\$655.63), no expenditures, for a balance as of 3/31/14 of \$355,504.60; Conservation Enhancement account had interest and dividends of \$9.74 and change in money market value of \$32.78 for balance as of 3/31/14 of \$3,966.48. *Ed Boggess, MN moved to accept financial report, Bob Ziehmer, MO second. **Approved.***

Draft 2015 Budget – Sharon – This budget will be proposed in June to MAFWA Board, only been doing budgets for a couple of years and are refining the art of these. Revenue estimates: dues raised with CPI at \$2,323 - \$30,199, Canadian province dues at \$101 - \$303, affiliate dues at \$75 -\$1,200, sponsorships \$43,000 (what Cindy had in her budget), conference registrations \$21,250 (may be high), Cindy had no hotel supplement revenue listed in her budget so I left it zero, exhibitors \$500, Southern Wings admin fees \$1,500 and interest of \$75 for total projected revenue of \$98,027; was conservative with this. As we work with organizations on banking fees may be additional revenues and federal grant that is being applied for may produce some additional revenue based on timing of that grant. Expense estimates: executive secretary salary

including bonus and CPI \$41,336.20, executive secretary travel \$6,000 (conferences and director travel), secretary travel \$1,500, treasurer travel \$4,500, accountant \$2,000 (990 bill should be here any day), insurance \$1,200 (bumped up), bank credit card fees \$600 (bumped up), web posting and hosting \$250, miscellaneous \$1,000, conference expenditures \$48,610 (from Cindy - rooms and food, gifts, and awards) for estimated expenditures of almost \$107,000 and a deficit budget of \$9,000, but that is pretty close and we still have money available from previous years conferences. Keith – Conference is not losing money? Sharon – Correct. Ollie – Running between \$20,000 to \$40,000 profit on our MAFWA conferences. Sharon – Indianapolis was most expensive, Iowa was cheapest, depends on where conference is held. Keith – Is this just for information. Ollie – Recommendation for Board would be appropriate. *No concerns from Committee.* Keith – Do I need formal motion? Ollie – Up to you, Board may feel better with recommendation. *Ed Bogges, MN moved, Bob Ziehmer, MO second. Approved.*

2012 Kansas MFWC Financial Report – Sharon – At last meeting had to do some adjustments and this is the result. Highlighted line \$36,906.56, on discussion, Sheila had taken in \$5,000 when she did the books for a total of \$40,000, revenue came up to \$196,000; Kansas agreed to let MAFWA take 5% for banking expenses so total expenses were \$156,532.72 which left \$39,471.81 of Kansas money being held in this account for their future use. Ollie – We put off motion last time, so need approval. *Scott Zody, OH moved to accept, Ed Bogges, MN second. Approved.*

By-Laws Revision – Marc – Thank Ollie for doing leg work on changes, only change is to extend committee dates at the end of the by-laws (listed committees). Keith – When do we handle this? Ollie – It would be appropriate to make a motion to meet the 30-day deadline. *Bob Ziehmer, MO moved, Scott Zody, OH second. Approved.*

Midwest F&W Conference Insurance & Possible Policy Revision – Ollie – Keep refining this each time we talk about it and it has been beneficial. During last meeting kicked around item #2 under policy; fee of 10% of contract fees, and what does that mean, plus actual cost of insurance. We talked about \$3,000 minimum charge if we signed hotel and Delaney contracts. Any recommendation to Board would be beneficial; just honing on this policy. Amend current policy and make recommendation to the board. Ed – You don't have anything drafted. Ollie – We meet again at on Sunday at MAFWA annual meeting and could have one and vote at that time; \$3,000 base fee and percent of conference profit, we would need to know what percent you would be happy with. Need to know where your heads are on this. Bob, appreciate you sending the Missouri conference financial report from hosting that conference, we were not involved, but Delaney was. Kansas Midwest broke even, but that was affected by sequestration and weather, but usually should make a healthy profit. This policy won't affect Indiana but will affect Michigan conference in 2016. Ed – 5% from all profit and 10% of contract fees. Ollie – Question is what contract? Ed – Haven't defined profit anywhere in current policy. What has been contract fee? Ollie – About \$30,000; 10% of that; Cindy was right at \$29,000 for the Missouri conference plus travel expenses. Keith - \$3,000 is ballpark? Ollie – Cindy just started serving this conference with the Kansas meeting, and she did Missouri and is doing Indiana and perhaps Michigan, assume her contract fee will go up each year. Keith – Profit oriented? Ollie – We take risk by signing contracts with the host hotel and Cindy and also Sharon and I spend time working on this conference. We did not sign Michigan's or Missouri's contracts, but you authorized me to

sign in the future. If Nebraska asks us for the service that is up to them. Ed – Mentioned checking on hotel cancellation insurance, back to Keith's question, doing this to make money or need more money to make this work? Ollie – Here is what I know on the insurance, Carol Bamberg is meeting with our insurance carrier this Friday on liability insurance, Cindy has not got back with me on the cost of a liability rider in MAFWA's name on her insurance. Cindy buys hotel cancellation insurance (in our name if we sign the hotel contract) and pays for it with conference registration fees. No insurance exists for the loss of profit for an event, if engage a bad meeting planner, you suffer the loss. So, we have to scratch that out of policy. Other one is personal injury, have general liability insurance under AFWA and Carol is meeting with them to see if we need an additional rider, in case someone gets hurt at conference; Cindy is also going to check on a rider on her policy. It looks like at a minimum on policy changes, scratch out financial loss policy and add personal liability insurance if Carol thinks we should have it. No final answer but will have by June. Ed – Thought I had on the last call was percentage could be variable, \$3,000 or 10% whichever is higher than we would be okay, but sounds like we are not sure on whether we need more insurance. Keith – Say \$3,000 or 10% plus cost of insurance. Ed – It is 10% of event planner contract now, roughly \$3,000; minimum or minimum and percentage of profit? Ollie – Jon Gassett thought we ought to be making more and he raised it from 5% to 10%, just need to finalize something. Ed – Concern before was additional insurance cost. Ollie – Cindy thinks about \$600. If AFWA insurance not adequate than may ask us to take out a rider. Ed – I think we can make it work the way it is now. No need to change current policy as I look at this unless people feel we need to make more. Keith – Leave it like it is. Ollie – 10% of meeting event contract planner fees? Ed – Say it explicitly. Ollie – I will redraft and make recommendation at June meeting and we can make final recommendation to the Board.

Conference Insurance – Discussed above.

Conservation Enhancement Fund Future – Ollie – Bylaws of that fund establish a Board of Trustees as the MAFWA Executive Committee plus one member that is not on the Executive Committee, up to now Bob has served as that one other person, but now he is on Executive Committee. Scott Gunderson has agreed to cover that spot. *Marc Miller, IL moved to approve, Ed Boggess, MN second. Approved.*

Bob – Not sure how many more action items, but need to leave in 10 minutes. Ollie – Endorsement letter is all, we can go to that.

WMI Endorsement Letter – Ollie – Worked with Pat Ruble to put support letter together from Keith Creagh to Steve Williams endorsing our continued partnership to help them raise money. *Bob Ziehmer, MO moved, Ed Boggess, MN second. Approved.* Ollie - I will put electronic signature on it and send it.

Jaschek Fund – Ollie – As you saw from Sharon's report we have around \$350,000 in this fund; haven't spent any money in years on project; according to guidelines won't spend below \$209,000 original funds; this was for your information. Keith and Ed – Good summary.

Indiana and No. Long-Eared bats & Public Lands – Scott – Wanted to keep conversation going on this subject, several states (listed) sent joint letter to Tom Melius and Dan Ashe, with

listing and timing and potential impact to managing public lands. Ollie has arranged for Dan Ashe to come to conference to talk about this issue and I spoke to Tom Melius and asked for the same. Also, our Ohio state forester has expressed interest as well. Talked in Florida last week and meeting with ecological services office. Trying to establish protocol or management strategy acceptable to regional office that would not require states to go into HCP process or mist nets every time we want to cut down a tree. We have been operating the same way for 20 years, then this year told we need to do mist net surveys. Make sure this was on radar screen and want to make sure we are communicating with each other and provide united front. Keith – Marc, are you paying attention in Illinois? Marc – Not as impacted as you. Keith – Road and utility crews have issues too. Meeting will be coming up and I will share with other Midwest states to see if anyone else is interested. The other thing that happened is invasive species, through Midwest Governor's Association, same cast of characters (MI, WI, OH, MN, IA). They may try to address both issues during the same meeting, more than Asian carp, but not just Great Lakes fishing. I will share both of those with this group in case there is interest to attend.

Other Business – Two info items, Chuck Corell left Iowa, no representative replacement for MAFWA or AFWA has been chosen yet. Chuck is also on several committees, check with Iowa person who replaces him first and see if they are interested in filling those empty assignments. Our wildlife values/human dimensions NCN was accepted and Letter of Intent for projects is due today and we have letter of intent going forward.

Ed – Talked about bylaws and committees earlier and Midwest does not have Human Dimensions committee and I don't know how we talk about chartering a new committee, but need to talk about it at some point because we are going to see more projects like this. Do other regional associations have human dimensions committees? Ollie – I don't know, you could select one of your staff members to move it forward and would require a bylaws change. Normally, a Director interested in forming a new MAFWA technical working committee presents the idea during the business meeting. Keith – That would happen in June. You have interest, Ed? Ed – Yes, I have staff interested and will bring forward at business meeting. Keith – Bill Moritz also interested in that. Marc – My wildlife staffer, Mark Elexis is a human dimension professional too.

2014 Conference Update – Keith – Dan Ashe will talk about relationships with states, long eared bat and potentially talk about invasive species. Sec. Stepp out of WI and Cameron Clark out of IN may come because have invasives to talk about. Anything we can do to get you to come to meeting in June? Marc – Send out friendly reminder.

Next Meeting Date – Ollie – Next meeting is on Sunday, June 22, 2014, at 5:00 pm CDT, Park Place Hotel, Traverse City, MI.

Adjourn – *Scott Zody, OH moved to adjourn, Ed Boggess, MN second. Adjourned at 3:19 pm.*

Minutes
MAFWA Annual Meeting
June 23 – June 24, 2014
Park Place Hotel
Traverse City, Michigan

Sunday, June 22, 2014

Optional Tour – Fort Mackinac and Mackinac Island Tour

MAFWA Executive Committee Meeting 5:00 pm (*Schedule – Exhibit 1*)

Welcome to Michigan Reception – Sponsored by Archery Trade Association (ATA); and Trout Unlimited

Hospitality Room – Sponsored by the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers.

Monday, June 23, 2014

Breakfast – Sponsored by Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, remarks and PowerPoint by Stephanie Hussey (RBFF Update - Exhibit 2)

GREETINGS and WELCOME to MICHIGAN

Welcome to Michigan

*Keith Creagh, President of MAFWA – (Backdrop - Exhibit 3) – (Connecting People to Natural Resources VIDEO). Not sure we are doing a good job of why we do what we do; second to California in hunting statistics. Relevancy lost, we are fish and game guys, that is where we were when budgets were long, found out we were an after-thought not primary driving force. There are 9.9 million acres of public land out of 37 million acres, 4.6 million we manage including some federal land. Good news is, we don't know why we manage, data is internal, did not connect externally. Started land management strategy, met with counties where we own the most land, introduced myself and asked how I could help. They said you can't help me; support legislature flipped 180 degrees, by getting local support and letting them know what you do is important. Governor believes in quality of life, which helped us be successful. Sometimes we make it too complicated on getting out to enjoy the resources; demands on resources will be more, not less, so trying to put policy in place to handle the resources. *Thanked staff and planning committee.**

Governor Snyder video (VIDEO) – Thanked Midwest Directors for coming to Michigan.

Keith Creagh – Governor's message was talking about how we are starting to manage Belle Isle (with Detroit going bankrupt). Didn't have direct conduit to Detroit, not good demographics for that area, aging population there and this is our chance to connect.

Dennis Muchmore, Chief of Staff, Governor Snyder's Office – Appreciate opportunity to talk to you; spent lot of time on natural resources issues, worked on conservation clubs with other states trying to do positive things for natural resources; used oil and gas money to build natural resources. Built Outdoor Adventure Center in downtown Detroit. (*Slide presentation – Exhibit 4*). Heard saying once “Rise above principles and do what is right”. For all the talk we do about good planning, a lot of it comes about by accident, and fortitude. NutraSweet was the result of a scientist trying to make a new laxative and licked his finger to turn the page. Trying not to end game at 10-yard line, like soccer game last night when Portugal scored goal in last 30 seconds; if you start something you have to finish it. If we don't put hunting and fishing in front of urban kids we have only ourselves to blame. Proactive effort with urban kids to recruit for natural resources; white guys will be out hunting by ourselves because no one will support us. Find the right people and encourage them to get into our business. Look for inventions; nature has the best invention of all, honey never spoils, it keeps forever; if we are open to it we can see it coming. Do reinvention of our own, we are trying to do what moves us forward, but it is not always right. Leo Fender didn't even play guitar, but he invented the Fender guitar. My boss is a nerd, COBOL programmer, the revenue program at the Department of Treasury is only COBOL program left in the state. Host, not just boast, but tell them they are welcome anytime. The Midwest is the key to the country, within 300 miles around Detroit; have trade, have one-third of population, and recreation.

Went around the room and introduced ourselves.

Creagh – Appreciate support of our sponsors.

STATE HOT TOPICS

State Hot Topics (13 States, 3 Provinces)

Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Executive Secretary, Facilitator – Welcome, this is the 81st meeting, MAFWA was born in 1934.

Marc Miller, IL – Thank Keith Creagh and Michigan for hosting us and Dennis Muchmore for welcoming us. Comments about Belle Island are spot on, focus on diversity is important to all of us. Challenge of positive message is to work together with common interests. At the Council of Great Lakes Governors' meeting in April, several Governors signed mutual aid agreement presented by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission; the pact for invasive species focused on Eurasian ruffe and from our Association IL, IN, MI, MN, WI signed, as well as Governors from OH, PA, NY and Ontario and Quebec premiers; other groups are part of this council as well as several industry reps. Great science coming out of this, did not find target species, but found others. Underscores common message dealing with issues across boundaries, have to pull together and work together. We exemplify that in the Midwest; facing challenges and working beyond our comfort zones.

Mark Reiter, IN – Failure we had, tried to get license fee increase, other states had some success. Discussed within division and what funding we needed to carry through the next five years, took across hall to executive and got their approval and took to budget agency (a bunch of kids). Started at beginning with North American model and series of pie charts and graphs and

stuff. They told me my problem was not with fee structure, but we needed to sell more licenses. Asked me what our market share was; asked how our product compared to our competitors, who is that, Kentucky I guess. They did not have a clue of why we were doing what we were doing. *Ollie* – What is your plan now? *Reiter* – Squeak by for next couple of years and bring it up again. *Miller* – Did you have sportsmen's group support? *Reiter* – We did, we had letters and calls. They just don't get it. *Boggess* – So this was budget committee of administration at Governor's office, would you have still needed permission? *Reiter* – That was one of the steps to the Governor. *Kramer* – Going after hunting and fishing and was it justifiable? *Reiter* – Historically, lost 4% and it comes back to 2% after sticker shock. *Creagh* – When was last fee increase? *Reiter* – 2006. *Creagh* – Ours was 1996, talked about value of dollar and enhancement of the resource; good support for general taxpayer offices because have law enforcement being first responders, by having county sheriffs support and some of that activity we were able to redirect. *Reiter* – Get capital money for operating, but otherwise all wildlife funds for rest. *Vonk* – South Dakota commission has authority over budget as well, rest controlled by legislature. If going for general funds, legislature would want to take over our funds, if just dealing with wildlife funds we are okay. *Zody* – Tried for fee increase as well, our challenge was in legislature, 90% set by them, and our Governor has taken us to a two-year budget cycle. Approached them for nonresident fee increase, last increase in 2004, got through the House, got to Senate, no questions and day they report the bill our language disappeared. All it takes is one pissed off legislator who has an agenda. So trying to approach again in next legislative session. *Gunderson* – Most of us deal with legislature, Wisconsin hasn't had fee increase since 1997. When moving forward have to have champion in the legislature who will do that. Small increase in 2007, now groups have to advocate for that increase. Have groups working on bringing our stamps together and will be a huge increase into fish and wildlife account. Doesn't work when not supported. Outdoor groups are going to have a summit regarding this. *Reiter* – We were in front of talking to the groups, budget kids accused us of trying to backdoor them by going to our customers. *Creagh* – At end of the day, when cutting the deal, Farm Bureau made it happen for us because they supported scientific wildlife management, an interesting pathway. *Brooks* – Engaging more with legislators is hard as a biologist, number one issue was they didn't see enough of our directors, should have had better rapport.

IA – *Ollie* – No one is here, for first time.

Keith Sexson, KS – Listing of species, lesser prairie chicken (LPC), brought on whole new perspective and relationship with USFWS. LPC range encompasses five states and we pulled together with range-wide plan, with help of others. Goal was to develop plan to get not-warranted listing, but had a drought and got a threatened listing working under 4d rule. Did implement our plan and efforts underway to deal with credits and impact payments. New 501(c)(4) under Western Association umbrella. Unprecedented effort by an Association, record keeping and monitoring that takes place and working with USFWS, stay tuned, we are fully into the process. Finding took effect on May 12, working with landowners and mitigation credits. Other side is law suits that are coming from both sides and petitioners on other side who want endangered finding; managing species under 4d rule. New learning experience. Speaking of 80 years we have been an Association, we do have an individual who has been a part of the Association longer than anyone in here (25 years); honor him with slide series that his staff put together (*VIDEO*). Joe Kramer is retiring December 9 and he will be leaving the agency.

Ollie – Several of our states belong to more than one Association. For Western Association to take on this type of program is pretty big, so pay attention Sharon. *Creagh* – Having conversation on long-eared bat, which provided the leadership. Region 2 was the lead and Region 6 also helped, the five states put together an interstate working group with biologists from each state. Within the Western Association developed a grassland initiative so had in place an initiative where this could fall, so brought in LPC under that and Bill Van Pelt. It did take close cooperation and coordination with the Service to address the issues surrounding the listing. Manageable with five states, Greater sage grouse group watching this program as well. *Vonk* – This decision takes the Association from what we are here to a whole different level of business; part of discussion will be whether we are providing the right level of oversight to a program like this. As a director you don't have the time or continuity to deal with this. *Ollie* – Amazing, didn't see this on radar. *Sexson* – This one is dealing with resident species, not migratory species; were states going to advocate responsibility to USFWS, we decided to step up to see what it takes to manage that species ourselves, so now in recovery. Step up to see what we can do working with industry, etc. to take care of our species. *Terry Riley* – Minimum of 10 years, long commitment and add other species, it is a huge commitment from the Association. *Sexson* – If we wouldn't have, then who would have? *Creagh* – Broader conversation about that, we complain about the Service, but if you look at many of the issues it is across the states, so we need to get the governance right. *Vonk* – We are learning a lot, the level of oversight and what we have done; a bunch of challenges, Executive Committee and five states are dealing with that. *Miller* – Will we discuss at WAFWA? *Vonk* – I think we will, we have got to have more formal processes of audit and oversight and staffing involved with this process. When Association takes on the responsibility of a species you have to keep the records, it is a big project. We are not organized as an Association to take this on. *Miller* – MAFWA should send some folks to look at this. *Sexson* – Anytime you start talking about Chief Executive Officer; already have two Chief Financial Officers, an attorney, etc. already have business structure in place. *Miller* – Have report at next Executive Committee meeting in August from those states that attend WAFWA. *Creagh* – Look at engagement model, not new territory for individual states, but is new for Association.

Ron Brooks, KY – Had large turnover, lost several people, and had acting director. Commissioner Gassett send us to NCLI to get some leadership training, so another director and I went and this helped us get through the last seven months. Looked at whole budget structure, Gassett tasked us to look beyond our divisions and look at department level. Teaches working with conflict, working as partners enabled us to look at budgets and work together on that. This is a plug for NCLI. Part of the issue was our inability to work with legislature and Director Gassett was there eight years, so his tenure was pretty much up and he found greener pastures.

Keith Creagh, MI – The only thing worse than training your employees and having them leave, is not training them and having them stay. Belle Island, got tired and Detroit could not afford to maintain the park, went through highly contentious process because it was viewed as a takeover by the state. Mayor supported, but City Council didn't. They doubted what capacities we could bring to bear. Did partnership meeting early on, worked with groups we had not worked with before. How do you police something that has been a free-for-all for years? We had 42 individuals from many organizations saying this is what you need to do, there are some neat opportunities there, 1,011 kids went through the program and several went onto college.

Governor feels if you build from the waterfront out it can be a great undertaking. *Boggess* - Cost? *Creagh* – Need passport to get on the island, coordinated effort with law enforcement and actually arresting people which is a surprise to some people. Had 30,000 cars there on a weekend, even though tarnished, it was not broke. Have full time staff there, Governor put \$2 million into parks to staff the island and other funds for law enforcement. *Zody* – Reminiscent of Cleveland lake front facilities, DNR went in and took over that lake front property. A lot of distrust and is a lot of work and effort to build those partnerships up, set the tone with law enforcement immediately and attract the right kind of people; last year we returned control of those parks back to the city. *Creagh* – Learned from other states, it is a transformative issue. Have 30-year lease on that. On July 9 had 34,000 kids on the island that one day, it was a good opportunity.

Ed Boggess, MN – Personal congrats to Joe, my first professional job was in Garden City, KS and met Joe who was in Dodge City. Mille Lacs Lake is a 130,000 acre lake known for walleye, within two hour drive of half of the state's population. Didn't have management tools figured out, game-changer was decisions around the treaties (1837 Treaty) litigated clear up to Supreme Court, it was treaty harvest started in 1998. We have been managing more intensive, two Minnesota tribes and six Wisconsin tribes have exercised fishing rights; bands take harvest through gill netting, they could self-regulate; we work with two Minnesota tribes mostly. The system in the lake is changing and the water is getting even clearer, due to some invasive species, walleye like darker deeper water, so smallmouth bass have taken over shallow areas, creating consternation and blame being placed on tribes. So we changed regulation, allowed more spearing, less netting; recently being sued on rule-making. Have a very narrow harvest slot, still catch a lot of fish, but not within the slot. Basis for law suit is state constitutional issue; because Minnesota is after Alaska and maybe another other, which basically says part of our heritage for the public good. Kept same walleye regulation, but closed during night season and pushing bass and pike fishing. Putting together blue ribbon panel of fish experts to take a look at what we have been doing on this lake to provide reassurance. Cognizant of social and economic impacts.

Tim Ripperger, MO – Captive cervid regulations, defined as livestock in Missouri. Long term issue and we continue to work with industry on a number of fronts. Had CWD in captive herd, 10-11 positives in the facility and 10-11 in wild herd in vicinity of that facility. Successful so far, no positives found this past season. Proposed captive cervid rules, no importing, record keeping, etc. Governor and Senate were at odds, have two commissioners appointed by Governor that Senate did not approve, so ongoing contention. Able to defeat bills in House and Senate but tagged on at last minute on some agriculture bills. They hired better lobbyists. Why does industry want to go with agriculture? Producer oriented to a fault some times. Assessing our options and hoping Governor vetoes the bills. We let go of elk several years ago because we have none in the wild back then, and they are hanging their hat on that. *Creagh* – As former Ag director I asked, tell me what regulatory authority agencies have to manage CWD? The two agencies need to get it right together. *Vonk* – Does Governor have line item veto authority? *Ripperger* – No, he would have to veto entire omnibus bill. *Vonk* – Some of our states had these programs, then went to Ag and have come back to our agencies, at least on collaborative effort.

Scott Peterson, ND – Serving in deputy position for about six weeks. One of the things relatively easy for me was picking this topic. Subject of extensive performance audit, started in 2013 and published June 4, 2014. It is kicking our butt (*read purpose of audit*). More of a compliance audit in my opinion. There were 44 recommendations (or formal findings). We formally agreed with 43 of the recommendations, but did not agree on uniforms. Hunter education volunteer program, never conducted complete inventory of firearms, auditor's report said there were over 100 guns that we didn't know where they were, which was true, but not guns necessarily, but 100 transactions which could have included multiple gun purchases. Feel we are closing onto the numbers, about 753, down to about 70 we have tracked, some back to 1982. All kinds of things could have happened to those firearms, have gathered the low hanging fruit now getting out step ladder to find the rest. Public focused on this recommendation, everybody can understand what could happen with those firearms. My advice to you is get your house in order, not just firearms. Media is picking up on that and making us look bad. We were successful at getting a license fee increase, so this on top of that increase is tough. Have committee hearing coming up.

NE – Not present yet.

Scott Zody, OH – Success on youth fishing initiatives, near Akron, existing ponds, administration decided we need to do more of it. Helped choose where we should do these initiatives, so we provided fish to stock ponds, provide equipment and such; had great weather and good attendance. After that we decided internally to find some places in urban settings so we reached out to the City of Columbus, found five city parks where we provided fish and some equipment and Columbus Parks and Recreation department is going to take care of that because within one of their facilities. Had 70 kids from nearby school and some of our staff were there to help 4-6 kids each at a time. The neat thing was 90% of the kids were minorities and 75-80% have never fished in their life (10- to 12-year-olds). Cool to watch kids catch first fish ever and learn to touch the fish and hear the kids say they want to come back. Comment of the day "you know that was the first time I actually held a fish that wasn't on a plate". Convinced the more we partner with those areas, the better off we will be.

Jeff Vonk, SD – Challenge that has resurfaced, public trust waters that lie over private land. Had suit filed and it went to South Dakota Supreme Court, but access and use of resources had to be determined by state legislature, so bills brought forth and none of those bills passed. Guys from Chicago bought land on big lake with flooded water on their property and they found out people could fish, hunt pheasants and duck hunt right up to the door of their cabin on the flooded water. They hired an attorney and a bill was brought up two years ago which privatized all water that lies over private land and was able to kill that bill, but had to compromise on what waters were accessible. We developed a bill where we gave up small bodies of water and all hunting, but waterfowl and most of sportsmen's community was supportive. Farm Bureau also supported our bill; big debate but that bill went down. Looking for another case and plan to file suit again. It is a really touchy issue. In northeast South Dakota in wet cycle, most of that area is privately owned that is flooded. At a stalemate right now. **Zody** – Are those natural impoundments that are naturally growing? **Vonk** – Pretty much limited to natural lakes in northeast, stock water ponds are not really the issue.

Scott Gunderson, WI – Captive wildlife – taking wildlife out of wild and putting them into an enclosure on their property which is illegal and how do we deal with it because it is such a social issue. We used to go in and euthanize those animals (Charlotte the doe). How do we deal with those animals in this more urbanized society. Keeping Wild Animals Wild campaign with PSAs to leave fawns alone because doe is near; not just deer, but people have a hard time letting go of that animal. The media never sides with us on this. What we have learned is we need to educate that animals are wild and increase awareness that we need to keep them wild and have places to rehabilitate deer. When it comes to health issues and CWD and work together with Department of Ag. Working with legislators to find a way to put those deer somewhere, wherever that may be; I think we are up to seven deer just this year. Be more sensitive to what is happening and lack of knowledge in those urban people.

Open Discussion on State Reports

Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Executive Secretary, Facilitator – Over schedule, no discussion.

Refreshment Break - Sponsored by Brandt Information Services

Great Lakes Wolves

Dean Beyer, Michigan DNR Wildlife Division – Dave McFarland, WI and Dan Stark, MN are co-authors of presentation (*PowerPoint – Exhibit 5*) Only found in two places in 1974; wolves are great travelers. Recovery of endangered species, biological and legal. Biology guided by recovery plan met in 1999. That has been a roller coast ride with litigation. Most recent attempt to remove from endangered list in January 2012. With delisting put ball back in states and tribes hands. Wolf season began in Minnesota in 2011, Wisconsin in 2012 and Michigan in 2013. Used wolf/human control issue. Common goal is sustainability, objectives varied, Michigan and Wisconsin deal with wolf/human conflicts and Wisconsin also had moving population goal to 350 animals; Michigan doesn't have any experience with livestock depredation, if we reduce number of wolves we reduce number of conflicts, some predicting opposite of that because of pack dynamics or wounding animals who have to turn to smaller prey animals. Minnesota and Wisconsin developed harvest zones across state; Michigan had to go with strategic plan and limited harvest around Upper Peninsula. Mandatory registration of harvest within 24 hours, mandatory carcass submission to look at animal and talk to hunter. Quota, all three states using model....mortality. All three states implemented seasons during winter when pelts were prime, most closed before end of season because of quota being reached. Too early to know whether we have reached the state's objectives, Wisconsin has been successful in moving population in the direction they want to go. A lot of factors reduce livestock depredation, even though numbers are down, not necessarily due to harvest. Conducted data collections getting biological data and hunter data. Michigan seems to be focal point of controversy; citizens can challenge law passed if no appropriation attached, can use referendum process by gathering signatures tied to 5% of the votes cast during last election; in 2012 passed Public Act 520, got signatures and suspended and passed Public Act 21 in 2013 and allowed us to have season in 2013, recently this one has been suspended too. Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management formed to get support for proposed legislation, similar to Public Act 21, adding free military license and adding appropriation for aquatic invasive species, which is important as this would not be able to have a referendum. There is pending litigation over federal delisting, will be threatened in Minnesota and endangered in Wisconsin and Michigan.

Estimating number of wolves is expensive and difficult task. Hope states can get together and develop population model. *Miller* – Has human dimensions work been done on anything at all? *Beyer* – Pretty good, but better if the three states got together to make progress. *Miller* – Have done some work in Illinois, so far have had two wolves, a bear and a couple of mountain lions. If you live in cities have a different perspective of animals; human dimensions angle will be too important. *Beyer* – With education know it is really hard to change core, too late by 3rd and 4th grade.

Strategies Among Tribal, First Nations and Inter-Agencies – Facilitating Relationships

Dennis Knapp, Michigan DNR – (*PowerPoint – Exhibit 6*). MI is covered by 8 principal and several minor treaties that cover all of the state. Reservation clauses to reserve rights for 12 tribes. Tribal rights do not stop at the border. Key concepts: treaties recognized as supreme law of the land; federal government has unique obligations to tribes; sovereignty; ceded territory; and they have reserved rights. The 1836 treaty covers 13 million acres and 5 tribes, (*read Article 13*) “The Indians stipulate for the right of hunting on the lands ceded, with the other usual privileges of occupancy, until the land is required for settlement”. First part of litigation, test case on gill nets to commercial fish, state court ruled they had that ability unless it triggered. Federal courts were also dealing with this at same time, but came up with same outcome. Can’t settle the surface of the water, state was without authority. Federal litigation went to Court of Appeals and they came up with same ruling. In final phase, parties interested in working things out in Michigan, but not in Wisconsin. In 2003 went back to court on inlet, encouraged to go back and work out compromise. Had 15-year consent decree started in 1985 which was extended. The 2007 inland consent decree was 20 years, spells out limits on tribal seasons, small game did not require any adjustment; fishing, mostly walleye is significant and key species to the tribe, deer, elk and bear. Also has provisions to do restoration, reclamation and enhancement projects on the land. If they let us know when doing assessments, if they do certain area, we don’t need to do survey in same area; share information and consulting; and disputes. Work with tribal natural resources officer and federal government. Have a good relationship, be known to each other and know who does what within the tribes, respectful relationship; they have governmental processes just as we do so need to allow for decisions to be made, be patient; listen and be respect of different views, remember they are a sovereign nation, treat them as stakeholders.

Awards Luncheon – Sponsored by Ducks Unlimited (DU Presentation by David Brakhage and Canadian NAWMP Partners (Presentation by Dean Smith). ***Keith Creagh*** – Awards Committee Chairman Keith Sexson will present these awards. ***Keith Sexson, Awards Committee Chairman, Facilitator*** – Introduced award winners and presented awards to state representative if winners were not present (*Exhibit 7 – MAFWA Winning Nominations*).

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year – Robert Stroess, WI, award accepted by Scott Gunderson

Wildlife Biologist of the Year – Andy Lindbloom, SD, award accepted by Jeff Vonk

Fisheries Biologist of the Year – Randal Claramunt, MI, award accepted by

Spirit of the Shack – Ray Eisenbrener, IL, award accepted by Marc Miller

Excellence in Conservation – Missouri Dept of Conservation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s National Fish and Habitat Initiative, award accepted by Tim Ripperger

Sagamore: Joe Kramer, Kansas – 25 years; Jon Gassett, Kentucky – 8 years

President’s Award – Great Lakes Fishery Commission, accepted by Bob Lambe

Managing Grouse and their Habitat

North American Grouse Partnership

Jon Haufler, Executive Director, ERMI - (PowerPoint - Exhibit 8) – Had collaborative group including North American Grouse Partnership, Ecosystem Management Research Institute, Pheasants Forever, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, American Bird Conservancy and Mule Deer Foundation to implement grassland conservation plan. Grassland conservation area is historically 585 million acres, today are most endangered ecosystem. There are threats from invasive and exotic species plants. Numerous programs looking at restoring grassland programs, like National Grasslands, Wildlife Refuges, state game areas, NRCS-EQIP, Sodbuster, GRP, FSA-CRP, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, state WAPs and NGO efforts, but declines are still occurring. Lesser prairie chickens (LPC), Sprague's pipit and grassland birds are quickly declining, despite positive contributions. Don't do a good enough job of explaining what we are trying to restore; need clearly delineated conservation areas to provide sufficient blocks of habitat; management practices such as prescribed grazing; increased coordination of programs; sufficient incentives to provide greater percentage of landowners; engage industry; and climate change. Solutions have launched this initiative to describe specific and sustainable plant communities; coordinate agencies and groups; facilitate increased collaboration; and engage industry in proactive mitigation program. Engage MAFWA and states within this and ask for active partnership to move this forward; like WAFWA has for LPC. Still in development phase, but set up mitigation framework as part of initiative; identify credits and debits and provide advanced credits. Asked for funding from NFWF Northern Great Plains Initiative: identifying additional funding mechanisms, beginning coordination with agencies, NGOs and industry, and need to discuss process for possible engagement of MAFWA for mitigation framework. *Vonk* – Expand on MAFWA involvement? *Haufler* – Keith can explain that from LPC standpoint, figure out if framework like that would work. *Terry Riley* – Petitioners as well as litigants don't believe states have the capacity to manage the species under the 4(d) rule. States have to prove them wrong. Even though you don't have as many species as WAFWA, those same groups will come after you for sand sage grouse. Put together collective effort, faced with more problems; that is the only way to move forward in a coordinated way. *Vonk* – Loss, asking for anything today or think about it? *Haufler* – Aware of organization and general support and ideas; when move mitigation forward want to know if you would consider managing this as administrator? *Vonk* – Thought process is right approach, as a state director getting sucked into this in the Western, want better sense of how this is going to work and what the opportunities and liabilities are. *Haufler* – Not looking for commitment today. *Terry Riley* – Asking if MAFWA would shepherd this plan and organization? *Creagh* – Premature to ask for director response yet; appreciate making us aware, but engage our staff with what you need.

Public Acceptance of Active Management Practices

John Eichinger, Executive Director, RGS (Exhibit 9) – Overview of Ruffed Grouse Society, started in 1961, 15,000 members, with over 40% staff is degreed biologist, received 4-star rating for transparency and accountability from Charity Navigator and 86% of funds go to program expenses. Have our own machinery on the ground, one here in Michigan. Forest land misconception, first map 1873, west was dwarfed by forest in the east, estimated 71.7% were in east at time of first European settlers; they cleared land to grow products, build homes, to keep them work and to cook their food. Logging didn't start until late 1800s. Farmers let marginal

fields go fallow and they reverted back to forests. The 2010 census showed 80.7% of population lives in urban areas, 3 out of 4 residents live in areas considered forests, but houses dot that land. In 2007, American Bird Conservancy, listed the 20 most important bird habitats. Decreased by 33%, total forest by 7%. Habitats have decreased in the east. As natural resource managers if we look at a forest we see ecosystems and natural resources, urban dwellers see scenery. Do better job of educating, public and private entities. Typically past education efforts have not been adequate. Michigan produced video on active forest management. We view forests as scientists, but general public is more emotional. Rethink information we provide and how we provide and deliver the same kind of message. Three main areas to focus information: 1) Forests follow a natural cycle, generation and regeneration a part of that; 2) Intervention is necessary, harmony with nature means human intervention; and 3) Keep nature in balance. Clear, consistent and coordinated in the way we communicate.

Early Successional Habitat Management on our National Forests

Phil Huber, Wildlife Biologist, US Forest Service, Region 9 (Exhibit 10) – Why not meeting forest plan goals? There are forests in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin of which national forests are a small part. There is success and detractors in each forest area: Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forests (NF) is mostly aspen and birch. North central Wisconsin Young forest initiative is early successional forest and shade tolerant trees; it has forest management for grouse and woodcock habitat and increasing age class diversity of aspen. Superior National Forest in northern Minnesota has increase of jack pine and aspen/birch, which contributes success in partnerships, detracts from success, and timber industry disappointed in low quality forest and economic value of this wood. Need to maintain young age forest, but focus on moose habitat, seven grouse hunter walking trails and collaborative projects with landowners. Wayne National Forest, 3 to 5% herbaceous/shrub habitat where we signed a five-year partnership with shared biologist, on treatment of Tree of Heaven (invasive species), treatment on open land, need dollars to treat prior to cutting forests. Huron-Manistee National Forest is aspen, jack pine, short-leaved oaks, jack pine barrens, oak savannahs and forest openings, goal is treat 438 acres of aspen, 1,629 acres of jack pine, 684 acres of short-leaved oak, 932 acres of barrens and 4-10% forest openings. Partners include: Michigan DNR, Ruffed Grouse Society, National Wild Turkey Federation, Arbor Day Foundation and American Forests. They have undertaken Kirkland warbler and Karner blue butterfly management, T&E species in the area and Ruffed Grouse management areas; detracts: limited capacity to plan and implement timber projects, low value of jack pine and oak; cost of follow-up treatments. Did prescribed burn, 50 acres; hope to do more of these types of burns. Aspen is declining across Michigan and similar trend on Huron-Manistee. Need to harvest more aspen to get better age class. Forest plan goals are not hard targets. *Terry Riley* – Try to drop the trees rather than just market them? *Huber* – Yes, do limited amount because really expensive, can do about 25 acres at a time, not much difficulty in selling aspen. *Creagh* – Putting \$.5 million of budget in aspen.

The GEMS of Upper Peninsula

Terry Minzey, Eastern UP, MI DNR Wildlife (Exhibit 11) – Introduced Steve Smith, editor of Pointing Dog Journal, his business is in Traverse City. Composite of pointing dog journal and golf trail, why can't we have that with dogs? Grouse Enhancement Management System (GEMS) range from 1,000 to 7,000 acres in size; long term management; intensively managed aspen habitat; gated logging roads and Walk-In access, steady stream of timber

production at reduced cost, connect hunting to local economy through shared advertizing. Target folks like you, grouse hunting is not easy for youth, create situation where we could make it easier for youth and wounded warriors and target traveling wing shooters. Deer, bear and hare hunters, all use similar habitat, be away from traffic and roads. Advance non-hunting activities like snowshoe and cross country skiers and birdwatchers. Will benefit forest management, partnered with Forest Resource Division, back rotation to 40 years, reduced logging costs and steady reliable stream of fiber to the market, and enter every five years rather than 10, more intensive management. Tie into local economics through partnerships and sponsorships and that is where other national forests come in. Also do sponsorships at entry points at kiosks, advertizing for local sponsors. We will be advertizing in RGS, Pointing Dog Journal, DNR web/hunting and trapping guide and are already receiving calls and good feedback. By September 2014 have five GEMS across UP, by September 2015 have minimum of 15. Maybe 25 of these spread across the state. In addition to Michigan, West Virginia hired two foresters and has started their own program. RGS has been talking to biologists in northeast in Vermont they are calling them demonstration areas. Why can't we combine our efforts in multiple states. ?? – Great concept, tournament bass trail, is something similar, promote local communities. *Minzey* – Looking at fly-fishing trail. Some hunters won't like it as we have gated off roads and targeted some of their favorite areas. *Boggess* – We have hunter walking trails and grouse management areas that overlap; there are some existing areas that meet your idea and maybe we could come up with a combined website. *Gunderson* – Want PowerPoint's on this. *Creagh* – More outcome-based, you can really hook youth using pointing dogs.

Update on the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports

John Frampton, President/CEO (Exhibit 12) – The Council is a non-profit, charitable, educational organization. The purpose is to ensure support for and active participation in hunting and shooting sports for future generations. Vision statement is “An America where hunting and the shooting sports are an integral part of mainstream culture and where hunters and shooters are widely recognized as premiere conservation contributors”. Our Mission Statement is “Facilitate the promotion and growth of hunting and the shooting sports and the education of the public on the contributions that hunters and shooters make towards wildlife conservation”. The Council is a 29-member board, with 11 NGO CEOs, 8 agency directors, 9 industry leaders and the USFWS. We have 47 state memberships, with three to go. We offer over 400 programs on recruitment and retention programs, tens of millions being spent with little success, still decline in hunter numbers. We have 17 million hunters and 41 million shooters. Got to do something different, hopefully Council will take that roll. Our commitment: “Council (with partners) will develop a national strategy for recruitment, retention and reactivation of hunters and sport shooters and will begin facilitating the implementation of hunting and shooting sports national recruitment, retention and reactivation plan”. Know what happened with North American Waterfowl Management Plan; was greatest success and generated over \$4 billion; National Fish Habitat Plan forming now. A National Plan can facilitate sharing of information on successful programs and activities, facilitate more productive action, help measure success, can help ensure hunting and shooting sports, promote positive approach and ensure continuation of Wildlife Restoration Program. It is susceptible to change, but make sure public understands it. We need commitment from regional Associations; commitment from individual states and involvement of NGOs and industry. Most states already have staff; putting significant financial assets into recruiting, retention and reactivation; need better coordination between states, currently no assessment of

staff and financial assets going into this. The first stakeholder meeting was held in Denver in January with 32 entities; we have several committed partners and planning committee has been established to develop plan framework, with plans to have it complete by September AFWA meeting. Currently have a graduate student that is looking at states on staff and financial resources going into this program. The planning committee is 16 individuals from six state, six NGOs, two trade organizations, one media/marketing rep and one private consultant. Threats to hunting and shooting sports: 1) lack of skills; 2) lack of awareness; 3) lack of motivation; and 4) lack of access. Look at factors that go into that, existing strategies and look at new strategies. Lack of Motivation could include: cultural, time, mentors, connectivity, socially acceptable places to shoot, hunting regulations and cost. Lack of Access might be convenient places to shoot or hunt, lack of training facilities or resources like guns, gear, etc. What are we going to do? Finalize stakeholder review team; produce strategic guides, complete resource allocation survey and secure funding (a long term effort). Plan will be called National Hunting & Shooting Sports Action Plan. The Council has been involved with IHEA hunter education project, HE standards, license data, shooting range law review (used some of Carol Bamberg's interns for that), digital evaluations, WHHCC workgroup participation. We had three students who looked at individual websites, evaluated customer experience, provided detail written summary, can be a tool for agency to take a look at their website (from younger adult standpoint). Looking at development of quarterly newsletter; council logo; working with NRA to develop new mentoring program; shooting range survey; and hunting incident study. Sustained funding for the Council, received \$2 million from states to run for five years, going after small percentage of funds from PR funding or multistate grant. *Gunderson* – Passionate about what we are doing in Wisconsin, this is where it is at and how we are going to keep things alive. We as states have to make sure money goes where it needs to, like shooting ranges and youth shooting. We can get more kids involved at younger age, have more chance to exist, maybe not a hunter, but appreciation for firearms. Pushing high school trap, working on grant program through PR. Gave grant to trapshooting facility; that kind of stuff we need to be doing out there. Have to keep moving forward and put money where our mouth is. *Frampton* – Visibility of states building ranges is contagious; without that access we are dead.

Refreshment Break - Sponsored by Brandt Information Services

Depart for Afternoon Field Trips (3:25, sponsored by Meijer

Michigan Dinner Reception – Apache Trout Grill Restaurant at 7:00 pm - Sponsored by U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance

Hospitality Room – Sponsored by DJ Case & Associates

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Breakfast – Sponsored by Kalkomey, remarks and PowerPoint by Mitch Stobl (Kalkomey Update - Exhibit 13, and VIDEO)

Coordinating Approaches to Aquatic Invasive Species

Tammy Newcomb, MI DNR Executive – (PowerPoint – Exhibit 14) – Why so complicated, regional coordination, conclusions, working effectively together into the future. So many organizations have interest in AIS management, not easy even in state agencies, so who is on first? Brought all of these people together about four years ago in Michigan. Who makes bench marks and who is held accountable. Mutual aide agreement under Governor's Task Force. Who you gonna call (*listed task force members*). Did this in less than twelve months: summit in May 2013; contract with Great Lakes Fishery Commission in August 2013; developed first draft in December; held working review meeting in January; draft for stakeholder review in February; continued revisions and legal review in March; with final document and Governor's meeting in April. Agreement is preamble and purpose, uncertainty is not reason for inaction. Other issue is expectation to reduce the list. Purpose of mutual aid agreement is to prevent introduction and reduce spread. Requesting and responding party, decide who comes to the table with them, requests can be from bodies to money. Responder's role is to respond. Protocol laid out for information and readiness: staff contacts and inventories; sharing scientific data; state and province plans; procedures; and reporting. Agreement is not a binding agreement; strict protocol; or commitment of resources. Plans are to monitor implementation; standardize procedures or protocols; address permits and licensing issues. First response action in Illinois and Indiana in May; with Michigan and Ohio this fall.

Kevin Irons, IL DNR – (PowerPoint – Exhibit 14) – Actions: looked for Eurasian ruff in Great Lakes across Indiana and Illinois border. Look for eDNA, 1,500 samples in fall of 2012 and spring of 2013. Found in Calumet Lake near Chicago; eDNA is an early warning tool, may or may not be a fish, but prudent to do additional work. Put nine electrofishing boats on the water, put up trawling boats and nets. Boats from Illinois and Indiana and several other organizations, as well as volunteers from the public. Held event, found 25-30 species using electrofishing plan to publish this and get the information out on how to hold one of these events. Asian carp are moving up Illinois River to Great Lakes. Objectives: distribution and abundance; removal; identification and assessment; determine leading edge; and improve understanding. Summary slide of what we are doing “characterizing risk” hiring commercial fisherman to catch fish in the target area. Have an annual plan with 21 project plans and 75 objectives and do this yearly. Also, monitoring, doing removal operations, research and protocols. Projects: monitoring; removal and evaluations; barrier effectiveness; gear effectiveness; and alternate pathway surveillance. Removed 2.1 million pounds of carp the last three years through December and already 200,000 pounds this year. Moving downstream so we need to continue monitoring. The 2014 focus is below barrier and intensified removal and monitoring to find front line. Looking at waterway each fall. Look at Lock to see if stop fish there and looking at technology to help us out. Monitoring and response plan: concentrate efforts below barrier; ... USACE telemetry, eDNA, focus on leading edge; gear development and focus on behavior near barrier; community outreach and enforcement; long term plan looked at annually; and monthly updates via email at asiancarp.usa. Hosted Michigan DNR for training; put mutual aid agreement

together. Managing for big head and silver carp as well, finding black carp. It is not the enemies you know, it is the ones you don't know.

Newcomb – That partnership is great, Michigan and Great Lakes don't have them so it is different for us. Thank you Illinois. Conclusions: state leadership is so important (survey showed how important this is); federal partnerships important to fulfill mission; need regional consistency in long term efforts; Council of Great Lakes Governors' AIS Task force key to animated coordination (show up at table with job, task, etc.); thanks to directors and governors who were driving force in this. Future direction is to find funding similar to federal aid, \$10 million a year with \$5 million a year coming from license sales to fund program, 42% spent on enforcement, would be good example program. Be flexible, engagement and effectiveness. MAFWA challenge, are we doing all we can to move the needle on effectiveness for invasive species? *Brooks* – In Kentucky, figured out how to kill a lot of Asian carp, shout out to Kevin to a precursor to what to do. Within 24 hours, USFWS, Illinois and USGS were there trying to help us get those fish out of there; great job and great response. There were 4.5 million pounds of Asian carp in one fell swoop and still getting smaller kills, so need to find out what is killing them. We are doing what we can to figure this out, with limited budget. *Boggess* – Kevin, talked about removal, one million pounds plus, making a difference? *Irons* – Taking biggest fish out and taking some smaller fish with gill nets and seines. If we remove 2-3 fast growing fish it would be a big deal. *Creagh* – Great partnership between Kevin and Tammy, have some models that work. How can we bring our capacities and authorities to work on joint issues.

Wildlife and Fisheries Disease Issues: Ongoing and Emerging Threats

John Fischer, SCWDS for Wildlife – (PowerPoint – Exhibit 15) – National Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative endorsed by AFWA in 2005, overarching goals; did training, information materials, gap analysis; states from 2011 to 2013, reinvigorated in 2013; Becky Humphries is chair and Ed Boggess is on steering committee. DEA Controlled Substance Act has uneven enforcement of CSA, which is problematic for wildlife agencies in some states; requires separate registrations for each address; AFWA attempted to work together; and WAFWA and AFWA have working groups trying to resolve this issue. White Nose Syndrome is a problem, in a number of states and has continued to expand, now at 25 states and 5 provinces since 2006. Can kill nearly 100% of bats in some colonies, estimated 5-6 million bats killed so far. New states Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, and Wisconsin; seven species are affected – little brown, big brown, tri-colored, eastern small-footed, Indiana, gray and northern long-eared bats. This continues to spread. CWD has had a lot of activity also; research shows transmission modes are uncertain, haven't been found in the wild; feces, urine, saliva and tissues; oral transmission; aerosol transmission; and apparent doe to fawn transmission. Possible spread in cervid carcasses; can pass through GI tract of carnivore or omnivore, but no disease found in them. Used alfalfa and tomatoes grown in contaminated areas and were infectious to animals, study not printed yet (2013 abstract by Johnson). In contrast, Canadians used wheat as their model and did not see uptake, kits used not as sensitive as kits used on tomatoes and alfalfa. Live animal tests coming for CWD? Recent advances in blood test for vCJD/BSE – driven by vCJD transmission, amplified prion agent and found able to detect a large number of individuals that they knew to be infected. One study looked at four persons and picked up three out of four and felt fourth one may not be in the blood. USDA's CWD proposed rule first published in 2003, goal was eradication, now is stopping the spread (control); CWD rule implemented in December

2012, finalized in April 2014 and revised with standards published in May. Voluntary program until shipping herds interstate; shifted from eradication to control; USDA-State- Producer cooperative program; state may have more stringent regulations in place with one exception, but federal rule preempts state regulations on transit. Requires testing of all animals that die on the farm and monitored for five years after to be certified as low risk for CWD; no such thing as CWD-free. No testing requirement if die off farm facilities is not in CWD program. Is five years enough? Most farms have tested since 1998 when tests became available; animals shipped interstate from certified herds where CWD was later detected. In Minnesota red deer herds were shipped to 12 other states; Iowa monitored for nine years and found in December, had sent to 13 other herds in Iowa and one in Missouri. These people have 500 whitetails confined and quarantined, spending \$180,000 of feed a year, depopulation later this year. In Pennsylvania in 2012, monitored for 9 years, 32 areas quarantined, deer shipped to seven states. Most recent announcement in April 2014 in Pennsylvania, source herd had been dispersed in 2013, 79 deer to 39 Pennsylvania facilities, and nine other states, with traces found in one another herd that also was dispersed to three states. Investigation continues on that herd. Prevention is where it is at for this kind of disease.

Gary Whelan, MI DNR for Fisheries Division – (PowerPoint – Exhibit 16) – See traps agencies get into with fisheries health. Annual mortality is fishing and mortality due to disease (fish kills = phone calls). Increasing fishing mortality is the goal rather than fish disease. Fish pathogens and disease; every disease has a progression, typically fish gets exposed and as antigen is discovered. Test may be testing antibodies rather than disease, are you dealing with active disease. Get confirmation with multiple tests and labs. Fish pathogen rules: fish disease issues are heavily regulated; water is good medium for passing pathogens (once you have them you will never get rid of them, control is all you can do); nearly none of virus and bacteria are human pathogens (humans are too hot for replications and many parasites can use humans as intermediate hosts); key pathogen groups require different strategies (viruses, bacteria, parasites - all internal which is difficult to deal with, and fungal). Confirm you have the pathogen, poor knowledge baseline in wild (understand disease ecology and progression); most wild epizootics are result of ecosystem stress (not VHS); fish stocking is one of three legs of management chair. Anglers are good vectors through bait (preserved bait is very low to zero risk, frozen has low to high risk and live bait is very high risk). Equipment is also a way to transmit; private stocking; bilge and live well water is not a great way to move most pathogens in general, good general practice. Weed harvesting is good way to transmit and they don't clean their equipment; also dredging and commercial shipping are great ways to move pathogens, but doesn't happen very often. Resource agencies were a great vector, but much more effective than we were; fish migration not a good mover of pathogens, occasionally on spawning; fish eating birds and mammals only for parasites because body temperature is too high. Pathogens not all equal, very few in the wild (VHS, bacterial kidney disease, whirling disease, LMBv, KHV, SVC); key hatchery (Aeromonids, flavobacterium, ISA, IHN). There are risk assessment tools out there, geared toward movement between waters and hatcheries.

Fischer – Help with anyone, not just wildlife but fisheries too.

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Report

Dan Forster (Georgia Wildlife Resources Division), President – Travel around Associations, enjoyed yesterday's discussions on state topics. Your Association is doing well,

have great staff and Ron and his staff continue to do great things. Thanks for all of you who give your time. Blue Ribbon panel (*Exhibit 17*) was concept from Teaming committee spawned from past president's task force; two national leaders to co-chair this effort to find sustainable diversity funding. Co-chaired by Dave Freudenthal, former Wyoming Governor and Johnny Morris, Bass Pro Shops; putting together other members for panel which will be fully populated in couple weeks with upcoming meetings in near future. Committee structure and function, talked about in September, co-chairs looking at structure and function of AFWA, looking at ways to be more focused and aligned. Contact me, Dave or Virgil and try to get incorporated before September AFWA meeting. Recent industry summit hosted in Florida with good attendance from directors and industry. Fruits of summit: breakfast Sunday morning hosted by WMI and state initiatives at AFWA, continue dialog. Good partners with USFWS, Dan came and talked to Executive Committee and offered to have a retreat with AFWA and USFWS leadership teams.

Ron Reagan, Executive Director – Thank Dan for serving as president, lot of travel and engagement on top policy issues, he has stood tall and has been good friend to all of you. Introduced Carol Bambery, Parks Gilbert, Jourdan Rasmussen (student) Ashley Salo, Dean Smith (Canadian interests). AFWA strategy is new issue, now two-page report, with action alerts on front page (*Exhibit 17*). Have issue on CWD standards being changed by APHIS. Building lease expires 2015 and looking at options before renewing lease. At the AFWA meeting we have a block of baseball seats (your cost) and full slate of activities for Sunday. Matt Menashes has left and has taken a job as the CEO for the Society of American Foresters; Gina Main has been promoted to Director of Professional Development and Executive Director of the NCLI.

Carol Bambery – Legal Counsel – (*Exhibit 17*) - New strategic plan 2013 to 2015, new component is legal strategy, is not litigation strategy, it is a way to build capacity within AFWA and states to build strategy to rely on like the Public Trust Doctrine and the North American Model. Rely on lawyers, old and new coming out of law school; are teaching animal rights not animal or wildlife management authority anywhere in nation. Our leadership approved deliverables that Parks and I were to accomplish by the end of this year. Have been visiting other universities and offering a wildlife law class which I have had opportunity to teach at Michigan State for four years; a popular class. Public trust issue is just not taught, MSU Law is natural place, signed MOU, prerequisite for taking wildlife law, trying to do this in all 50 states, offer access and potential jobs to Natural Resource agencies. Compiled briefs and cases and will share online with your legal counsels so other people can understand what is being done with wildlife management. As regional or national Associations need to step in as a friend of the court, will have capacity to do that, not in house, implement nationally a pro bono law system if state requests it, particularly under Threatened and Endangered Species Act. Convening think tank, advisory council who will look at legal challenges to managing wildlife. If you have opportunity to talk to law universities reach out to Parks and I, don't have a good text book yet, but working on it. *Gunderson* – Pro bono network, explain a little more, how are you finding attorneys to reach out to? I know we reached out to you on wolves? *Bambery* – To get lawyers interested in working with us is “canned briefs” which we are working on supplying with the research library. Idea of pro bono network is not new, we do this through director's good work as well as legal counsels. Build capacity through own state counsels.

MAFWA COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Executive Secretary, Facilitator – Missing a few directors because of side session with Dan Ashe that is occurring right now, changing order due to that. Committees meet independently prior to this meeting, so holds numbers down at this event. We take official action right at the time of the report.

Furbearers (Exhibit 18) - *Ollie* – Joe Kramer, KS is the director/liaison (need new director as Joe is leaving). *Adam Bump, MI DNR* – One of groups that doesn't meet where director's meet. Held a joint meeting attended by the Midwest, Southeast, and Northeast furbearer groups. It was hosted by the Ohio Division of Wildlife at the Salt Fork State Park Lodge and Conference Center, March 5-8, 2014. A total of 46 people attended the joint workshop. Most of the information items are related to BMPs and future testing needs, near completion 2016 for binding agreement, Sustainable use group has 10 year plan. Finish last two action plans; Want ideas on how to move forward on BMPs and submitted funding request on trap ownership and use. Another request by Max McGraw Foundation on workshop on regulated trapping. Annual meeting of Canada and EU gave updates. There are no action items, just some informational items: 1) AFWAs Sustainable Use of Wildlife Committee (SUW) recently requested that their Fur Resources Technical Working Group (FRTWG) develop a "Phase 2 Ten-Year Plan" for activities associated with the development of trapping BMPs. Given the substantial amount of progress made, the impending international deadline, and the importance of maintaining 'institutional memory' as we move forward, the SUW committee determined that the time was right for developing an action plan to help guide the activities of the FRTWG in upcoming years. Ideas for the Plan will continue to be solicited and agency Directors and outreach personnel are encouraged to work with their furbearer biologists to identify what they see as critical needs for the future. A draft plan is to be submitted to AFWA at their annual meeting in September 2014. 2) The FRTWG of AFWA has submitted a LOI (funding request) under the approved NCN "Protecting State Fish and Wildlife Agencies Ability and Authority to Manage and Conserve Furbearers through Regulated Trapping Programs." If funded, the project is proposed for 2 years and would include completion of another national Trap Ownership and Use Survey (last one done in 2004) and a survey of state agencies to assess how they are using/implementing BMPs in trapping-related outreach and education. Another LOI was submitted by Max McGraw Foundation to the same NCN that, if funded, will provide workshops for agency professionals to understand and better communicate the benefits of regulated trapping and the many ways in which it contributes to wildlife management programs. Details of both proposals were discussed at the meeting in Ohio. 3) The annual meeting of delegates from Canada, EU, and Russia provided updates and progress reports regarding their implementation of the AIHTS (Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards). The furbearer biologists of the Midwest Furbearer Group would like to acknowledge and thank Joe Kramer for the support we have received from him during his years as Midwest Directors Representative to the Furbearer Group. He has always recognized the significance of furbearer issues relative to agency missions, he has supported our efforts to keep furbearer issues prominent in the view of the Directors, and he has been a strong advocate for the recommendations of the Group, recognizing the cumulative experience and expertise of the Group as a whole. We wish Joe the very best in his retirement,

and hope this gives him time to find his way back to his roots as a fur trapper. *Ollie* – This committee has been extremely active. Where next year? *Bump* – We will meet in Indiana.

Ollie - Longest standing committee, AMFGLEO was established in 1944. Emmett will be stepping down, need new liaison.

Law Enforcement (Exhibit 19) – *Ollie* – Emmett Keyser, SD is the director/liaison. *Gary Hagler, MI DNR* – Will be joining you in Minnesota next year for a joint meeting. Common trends across the states: Training: Working on active shooter training and acting with local government to work with them; moving to larger caliber rifles; improvements in technology has also offered trends; more cameras and enhanced surveillance, more social media, boating and water safety classes, seeing more legalized substances so updating that training, leadership development (at National Conservation LE Center in Virginia, 20 participants in that training to step up to key LE positions); funding and staffing, rely on game and fish funding and one-third of LE are reporting they are acting at full complement, most are running short of officers, continued investments at greater level; with increased funding but can't keep up with FTEs. Trends: increase LE on invasive species, special investigations and increased support for local efforts; more increased across parks, Homeland securities and across the borders. Online data system training and some agencies are using canines for invasive species as well. Challenges: locating and recruiting candidates, diverse candidate challenges, working with colleges (fish in the right pond); technology and equipment; records management systems; radios; and body counts. Fleet costs are increasing as well as costs of equipment, some states investing in tablets and GPS tracking of officers which is popular, in Michigan put GPS in the radios.

Hunter & Angler Recruitment & Retention (Exhibit 20) – *Ollie* – Scott Gunderson, WI is the director/liaison. *Dennis Fox, MI DNR* – The third annual in-person meeting of the MAFWA Angler and Hunter Recruitment and Retention Technical Working Committee was a resounding success. The purpose of this meeting was for participants to take part in a 3-day training workshop in Rapid City, SD conducted by Matt Dunfee (WMI) and Bob Byrne (Byrne Consulting) that focused on recruitment and retention program evaluation. Wildlife Management Institute provided lodging and training for this event. Examined programs on national level, discussed desired outcome, had breakout session, measurable outcomes and indicators of success and using program tools to measure the impact of current programs.

Pheasant (Exhibit 21) – *Ollie* – One of our oldest groups, Jim Douglas is the director/liaison for this group. *Al Stewart, MI DNR* – Hosted last year in Iowa, who did a fine job of hosting. Most states here were represented. Implementing The Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan was main topic. The first thing in the plan is the need to hire a National Pheasant Conservation Coordinator, last year you requested we come up with a proposal for this. Cost would be about \$5,000 per state and modeled after National Bobwhite Conservation Plan, Michigan feels this is an important position and we would house position if need be; this would be a director action item. *Vonk* – What are we looking for? What is status of the plan, have we adopted the plan? *Stewart* – Adopted in 2012 by MAFWA and 2013 by AFWA. **Scott Gunderson, Wisconsin moved to pass proposal, Scott Taylor, Nebraska second.** *Vonk* – My staff does not feel this position is necessary. *Peterson* – We support the plan, but not ready to commit the dollars. Not saying we won't in the future. *Sexson* – If the majority vote in favor, but

some states prefer not to contribute, can we still go forward without full funding? *Creagh* – We cannot make them pay, those states that may contribute, can, and those that won't, don't have to. Adopting a plan without funding is a problem, so shouldn't have supported that, but I wasn't at the table. *Vonk* – They tried to go through NCN program, plan doesn't specify where the funds have to come from so if not enough from states then need to get funding from other sources. *Creagh* – Friendly amendment to motion? *Boggess* – Maybe, but this is bigger than just the Midwest. Have other Associations adopted this plan? *Ollie* – They have another action item to expand committee to encompass those other states. *Gunderson* – There are 23 states listed here? *Stewart* – They voted yes to support the plan. *Creagh* – Was resource identified with those other states? *Stewart* – I was not at that meeting. **Jeff Vonk, South Dakota– I offer substitute motion, ask committee to contact all 23 states and get feedback on willingness to financially support this and reconsider this action in September at level of support, it might change that. Gunderson, withdrew motion. Marc Miller, Illinois – Second Jeff's motion. Sexson** – Supporting coordinator position with caveat to go back and get funded? *Vonk* – Defer back to all of AFWA supported positions, in my mind we have already supported the coordinator. *Boggess* – They have tried to get funding by other sources, so we have supported position. Who would this person report to? *Stewart* – MAFWA has most states. *Sexson* – If you don't have someone in lead positions, they fall by the wayside without support. If we believe in the plan and want to see this gets done, otherwise it falls back on your states. *Taylor* – Don't think we have discussed the specifics of what the coordinator would do, like coordinating with the Bobwhite Initiative. *Vonk* – I would ask that rather than have subgroup approve that, this document should be provided to all 23 states and have them respond to this and have package in September. *Creagh* – Should we table until September? *Ollie* – President can call special meeting and set time and place, we only meet once a year and this is it. *Vonk* – Do outreach and have that AFWA committee vote on that. *Ollie* – It is a hybrid because it is bigger than us. *Gunderson* – There is support for the plan, passed through MAFWA and AFWA, we are 13 of the 23 states. *Creagh* – Table this issue at this point, go back and validate position and seek further funding. **Jeff Vonk, South Dakota - withdraw motion. Scott Taylor, Nebraska withdraws second to Wisconsin's motion.** Would be best for us to oversee rather than AFWA if those states are good with that.

Ollie – Another action item – structure to expand committee to include all 23 states? **Jeff Vonk, South Dakota moved, Scott Gunderson, Wisconsin second. Motion carried.**

Wildlife and Fish Health (Exhibit 22) – *Ollie* – Ed Boggess is director/liaison. *Ed Boggess, MN* – I participated in part of the meeting hosted by Missouri. Dr. Fischer already covered this morning some of what they discussed. Reinvigorating National Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative, have active group going again. Becky Humphries did a good job of getting that program up and running again, have NGOs very active in that initiative. Discussed elk populations in Missouri, just over 100 animals introduced, some issues have been variable; starting secondary study on meningeal worm mortality in the area. Also, had presentation on Virginia's elk restoration project, they have relocated from Kentucky, low number of animals moved and only three confirmed mortalities, looking at sulfur issues, possible disease issues and lowering quarantine time. Update on Minnesota's moose study, two populations, northeast population crashed in 1990 and stopped hunting in mid-1990s, started massive research efforts to try and determine what is happening with these dwindling populations, don't know if disease event. Non hunting mortality rate extremely high, stress with climate change, satellite GPS on 100 moose and investigating mortality within 24 hours, collars will actually text researchers, 22

of 107 died; also have calf study going on that, but was not reported at this meeting. National Fish and Wildlife Health Network-WHISPer is a web-based disease outbreak identification system. CWD discussion and update on Wisconsin's program changes, disease is spreading. Animals are sampled before entering the food supply in the food pantry (25% in adult males 12% in adult females and 4 fawns tested positive). None of the committee items required action items. Will present white paper and request that National Wildlife Health Center, University of Tennessee and Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study. Also, will bring back *P.tenuis* test. Next meeting in 2015 in Madison, Wisconsin.

Creagh – Interrupt schedule to let Dan Ashe make his presentation so he can catch a flight.

Update on Fish and Wildlife Service Action and Activities

Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – (*Exhibit 23*) - Thanks for opportunity to be here. Heard kind words on relationship between USFWS and states that represent MAFWA. Things are getting on the ground. We are faced with many challenges, but blessed with many opportunities. Staff and partners have opportunities. Being in the outdoors and having great memories. Greatly challenged, “crisis” is a good word that tends to be overused (“unique” could explain the National Refuge System). Crisis of wildlife species is the changing climate system and what that means for ecological system, animals and plants they support. We are extending our arm to you in dealing with that issue; thank AFWA for their support on this over the past 10 years. Crisis in the prairies with energy development affecting prairie potholes and wetlands; as a community imperative we protect the ducks, get feds to increase duck stamp and leverage with partner dollars and get \$40-60 on the ground. Issue of invasive species as a whole, we need better tools. At federal level, and between the states, need better regulatory tools to try to prevent species issues to begin with. Poaching is happening on a scale we have never seen in the past, need to help with law enforcement and be a leader in global community (elephants and rhinos; paddlefish in the U.S. – criminal networks moving animals to Europe), trafficking if the networks and culture it breeds is having effect in the U.S. Dealing with challenging budgets and spread too thinly, applaud AFWA for blue ribbon panel. Work on duck stamp and NAWCA and do better resourcing to get work done. What we need to do as leaders, and trying to do in USFWS, is set priorities - easy at top end, but what is less important, and the decisions to say what we are not going to do or not do, challenging decisions we all have to make. Started working on surrogate species, that tell us about ecological function on a larger scale, like lake trout, lake sturgeon, piping plover and others that help us set priorities so we don't have to be experts on everything or save everything. Tell staff what is important and not important. My poster child is the sage grouse, think of work being done in the west, 11 range states all at the table who developing a conservation plan, across nearly 200,000 square miles of the American west. We talk about disturbance and vegetative cover, fire ecology; sage grouse is surrogate for sage step ecosystem – if successful in saving other species that depend on that ecosystem. What happens when we have 11 states working in concert with USFWS, NGOs, bring in large dollars to benefit sage grouse and all of those other species as well. Northern long-eared bat will drive conservation, range across 32 states. Come up with vision for conservation will drive hundreds of millions of dollars in conservation. Do that smartly, things we are responsible for will benefit, not just northern long-eared bat (*flyer and map* – *Exhibit 23*). Making announcement that we are providing additional six months to put in place science-based

framework for northern long-eared bat. We will make seats at the table for your biologists if you want to comment on EAs. Mississippi River and Gulf hypoxia is another issue. Midwest Governor's putting pressure on modifying water development programs for flooding. Stop draining wetlands should be brought to this table. Asked for \$100 million for NAWCA and it showed up in settlement, the only piece of BP settlement not tied to the Gulf and Gulf coast, hope to build broader partnership on Farm Bill. Get Wetland Council to slow down a little bit, give partners time to amass the money, go to best use for money, not just those who have the match and put money to work in the best way. Bring more focus to Mississippi basin. The model of partnership and success is here in the Midwest; need to duplicate that in many more places in the days ahead. Hats off to Steve Williams and state leaders who put together task force years ago that has enriched our relationship (credit to Rowan Gould, AFWA and State Directors). Cooperation between law enforcement professionals, Bill Woody is our chief of wildlife law enforcement and priority for him to build and enhance partnership between states and us. Crisis are due to one thing, human beings are continuing their occupation of the planet, and most scientists believe universe is less than 14 billion years old. It took this long to be 7 billion people, with growing populations. Asking more of the environment and of the land (food, fuel and fiber). Feel good about our relationship with state fish and wildlife agencies, but we all need to get better, because it is not going to get easier. It all comes back to priorities because we don't have the resources to do all the jobs. Species are not going to be everywhere they ever were (wolves in Colorado; black bears and others). Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, need to see the bigger picture, why build separately, build it together to deal with the challenges we are going to be faced with. *Vonk* – Thank you for taking time to be with us. Talked about surrogate species, not received with open arms in all places, appreciated that you stepped back and listened to the states, appreciated opportunity to add dialog. *Ashe* – Will be better if working together. Tom Melius is providing information and working on that. Work together and key management off of one species and use it as our indicator. Plenty of material to work with. *Miller* – Thanks for being here and thanks for plug on LCCs and Mississippi River and hypoxia, Eastern Tall Grass Prairie LCC tackling that problem to work on hypoxia. LCCs give us opportunity to provide frameworks to tackle these issues cooperatively. *Ashe* – Heard rumor about new coop leader at USGS, if true this individual will give help and integrate coop unit and climate science centers, and capture a lot of resources if we work together. *Creagh* – Thanks for announcement on northern long-eared bat. Appreciate partnership. *Ashe* – Keith Sexson is sitting here and LPC is prime example of how we can do business, five range states have put together a rangewide plan, made listing under 4(d) rule and left up to state management; have federally listed species under state management; which could be done on other species. Core strength is in our regional offices and encourage you to engage with them.

Lunch – Sponsored by National Wild Turkey Federation, remarks by Becky Humphries

Farm Bill/Regional Conservation Partnership Programs

Chris Adamo, Senator Debbie Stabenow's Office – Signed Farm Bill in Lansing, MI. Michigan has grouse management, woodcock management, Belle Island and ?? No reason your state can't do programs using the Farm Bill, private and forestry conservation in ours. Took away incentives (Sodsaver). Fast forward to 2013, conservation compliance, farm groups hate us impeding on their work and livelihood. 1) Got all ag groups at the table and sat down at national level and asked how we got this done, wrote language that looked nothing like in the process. A

lot of work to talk to producers and educating them on what this means. At DC level made a lot of strides. 2) Conservation easements (grasslands, forests, wetlands and conservation), permanent stream of money for next five years, and some for when Farm Bill comes up again. Hope carried out in a way to generate excitement. 3) Regional conservation partnership program, can potentially change the game on how we send money to producers, have used WHIP and EQIP for years. We don't target very well, look at specific region and best use of dollars in an area, and tell public what we have gained from those dollars. This is not a federally led program, but federal pot of money. Opportunities, how do you pay for them and get right people on the ground. This is a people bill, producers and a public that is distant from where food comes from, water comes from, and where fish and wildlife is. How do we tell the story, we all have to do a better job. It is about building conservation constituency. Broader environmental community was not involved in this whole process. Getting a positive article is a tough sell. In talking and going out and selling what this is can be done in every corner. Forestry, passed biggest legislation since 2003 (Forest Act) amended Healthy Forest Act, huge opportunity to demonstrate better ways to mitigate. Good neighbor authority and stewardship authority partnerships can be done. Regional conservation partnership program; see this as way to get more dollars, more resources and more people in the game. Find out what problems are and what solutions are. *Ashe* – RCPP, what is your expectation, up to eight? *Adamo* – Secretary of Ag set up eight areas, for instance Great Lakes got nominated; there was a prairie; and Saganaw Bay for example. *Ashe* – Seen what we can do with NRCS and sage grouse. When we think about northern long-eared bat, opens up opportunity. *Adamo* – Avoid regulation, four rationales for codifying this program. *Creagh* – Had 50 individuals in state to talk about RCPP, can increase habitat and improvement, utilize farm bill to use these funds. *Adamo* – In application process for Phase I applications due mid-July and have mid-September deadline for dollars. These dollars are going to landowners, but could be matched. *Creagh* – Use dollars to leverage utilizing the Farm Bill. *Adamo* – A lot of what we are asking for is not new, we are just asking folks to come together in a different way. *Zody* – From Ohio's standpoint, state funds set aside for Healthy Lake Erie initiative, improved drainage is one of those, maybe this is something that could be built upon, Great Lakes focus area in place now. Have partnership with NWTf putting together management plans for wild turkey, but other benefits as well. Possibly bring in neighboring landowners to bring in their lands too. *Adamo* – Possibly. How do we get more people involved, metric and record keeping is the key. Not asking NRCS to step up and do this. Can't go beyond statutory authority, but this is chance to do that. *Creagh* – Our state office has been very open to see how they can best play in this playground. *Adamo* – Expect solid applications in July, not have everything lined up at that point. *Creagh* – How much money? *Adamo* – About \$4 million, nationwide. ?? *MI DNR* - 36 states banded together for insect and disease management and Forest Service has chance to go back and look for dollars and forest stewardship. Critical in Great Lakes. *Adamo* – Forest fires out west is sucking money out of the Midwest too.

MAFWA COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Executive Secretary, Facilitator – This is the second half of committee reports.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation Committee (Exhibit 25) – *Ollie* – Mark Reiter, IN DNR, is director/liaison. *Greg Conover*, *Midwest Aquatic Habitat* - Region 3 coordinator for large rivers program. *Maurine Gallagher* was designated as staff of the committee and she took another

position right after that committee started. Not a lot of progress since formed last year. Confirming the membership and preparing organizational documents. A lot of meetings may come in conference calls rather than face-to-face meetings to begin with; in the meantime, National Fish Habitat Partnerships (NFHP) doing good work. This year, USFWS funds submitted in May; working on proposals and getting funding out. Funding allocation changed to accomplishment-based approach. Application packet could be submitted, scored, ranked on three-tier system. All of Midwest partnerships were ranked very high for additional funding. Multistate grant received, completed over three years, and seeing that paying dividends. Thanks for support of these productive partnerships.

Feral Swine (*Exhibit 26*) – *Ollie* – *Shannon Hanna, MI DNR* – “The probability we thought we would struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just” (Abraham Lincoln quote). Feral Swine workshop was held in Missouri. Nine states were represented. Director information items include: a report on the Feral Swine in the Midwest: Problems and Solutions Workshop; a summation of regulatory and management information for a considerable portion of the feral swine infested states across the U.S.; FSC endorsed a letter of intent for a proposed research project titled “A nationwide survey of knowledge, costs, and impacts of feral swine (*Sus scrofa*) and their management” that was submitted for consideration in the 2015 Multistate Conservation Grant Program; and FSC recommends that Midwest states partner, and support to their utmost ability, the APHIS National Feral Swine Damage Management Program, and also should recurrently promote to Congress this program as a long-term federal budget priority in support of lasting eradications and meaningful reductions of invasive swine. Next meeting is not scheduled yet; not sure we will have another face-to-face meeting, but do a lot of work via emails. Have a new research program starting in Michigan. Two action items: make amendment to add report to executive committee 30 days in advance. Dissemination plan, hope to get this Summary Report out. *Creagh* – Guidance document, has our logo, are we comfortable with that? **Jeff Vonk, South Dakota moved to approve, Mark Reiter, Indiana, second.** *Hanna* – Provided a 2014 state summary report compiling feral swine regulatory and management information from the MAFWA FSC member states and presents key findings and recommendations (*Exhibit 26*). This draft report is presented for Director’s consideration to adopt as a formal MAFWA document for public dissemination. *Ollie* – Needs to be amended and include it within the report. *Boggess* – Could this be done by Executive Committee? *Creagh* – Do next year. **Motion carried.**

CITES (*Exhibit 27*) – *Ollie* – Midwest President *Creagh* is director liaison. *Carolyn Caldwell, OH* – CITES is the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and is an international trade treaty enacted in 1973 to ensure sustainable species. I attended the AFWA meeting last year in Portland, Oregon; paddlefish workshop in January in Kansas City, Missouri; the North American in Denver, Colorado; and a meeting at the USFWS in Washington DC; and, conducted business by conference calls. The USFWS Office of International Affairs administers CITES for the U.S and the technical working group consists of one representative from each of the four regional associations. There are no action items. Information items regard: 1) Development of a paddlefish assessment, conduct a webinar and workshop to engage USFWS and state agencies in discussions regarding management and conservation; 2) CITES Wolf Export Program, two prong export program. Western states are under increasing pressure to develop export ability; 3) Electronic Permitting; 4) North American

native softshell turtle species inclusion in Appendix III, over the past four years there has been significant dialogue between the USFWS and the state fish and wildlife agencies concerning international trade of smooth softshell, spiny softshell and the Florida softshell; 5) State fish and wildlife agencies role in and their authority to manage wildlife in the U.S. The CITES Technical Work Group received a multi-state grant in 2013 to conduct regional seminars and webinars, and to develop outreach materials for state fish and wildlife agencies. Our goal is to help state agency staff better understand the impacts and relationship of international treaties and conventions to their state management authority. Another component is to provide outreach materials to international partners. 6) International Crocodilian Specialty Group meeting; and the 27th Animals Committee meeting which was held April 28 to May 3 in Veracruz, Mexico. There were 23 agenda items and the CITES technical working group actively participated in four of the eight work groups. Also, our Canadian colleagues reached out to the CITES Technical Work Group just before the meeting to discuss their interest in adding the polar bear in the significant trade review; they felt CITES would show no significant trade in the species and weakening the U.S. government's next polar bear uplisting proposal.

Legal (Exhibit 28) – *Ollie* – Keith Sexson, KS is the director/liaison. *Keith Sexson, Kansas*. In 2013, the Legal Committee met in conjunction with the Director's Meeting in Lexington, Kentucky. The focus of the meeting was to provide training on federal aid legal issues related to Wildlife Restoration, Sportfish Restoration and State Wildlife Grants. There were 13 attendees at the committee meeting, representing seven states, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Interior, and AFWA. The meeting was very successful, despite having two states cancel at the last minute. The 2014 meeting was cancelled because only four legal counsel members would have been able to attend; they planned to meet in conjunction with this meeting. Encourage greater attendance from state legal councils and encourage directors to send them. Lot of things regional in nature and the more they can communicate and discuss common issues the more we benefit. No action items.

Private Lands (Exhibit 29) – *Ollie* – Director/liaison position is vacant. *Mark Sargent, MI DNR* – The Private and Public Lands Working Groups held a joint meeting on May 5-8, 2014 in Roscommon, Michigan. The working group asked several long-time members to summarize the history of the group, before the institutional memory is lost. This years' Private Lands Workgroup session included dialog and discussion on current conservation challenges and opportunities. Each state reported on private lands initiatives being utilized to address local conservation needs. The new Farm Bill dominated discussions. Other topics included: 1) Nebraska small grain stubble management program; 2) Impact of potential USFWS listing of the northern long-eared bat; 3) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP); 4) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP); 5) Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP); 6) Voluntary Public Access – Hunting Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) grants; 7) Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) and Wetland Reserve Program (WRP); and 8) Federal budget review. Also, attended a field tour that included multiple stops in Crawford County demonstrating management techniques used to restore pine barrens and jack pine habitat for the endangered Kirtland's warbler and other important species. Stops included a new planting of over 150,000 jack pine seedlings on 125 contiguous acres owned by four private landowners. The project is adjacent to public land and within close proximity to 300 acres of additional U.S. Forest Service land being managed for Kirkland's warbler. The final stop included a private land habitat project designed

to restore early successional aspen habitat for woodcock, ruffed grouse, deer and other wildlife. Management techniques observed on the tour include prescribed fire, invasive species control, tree planting and hydro axing. The tour offered prime examples of the importance of managing both public and private lands to benefit priority wildlife species. We had only one action item on expanding partnerships with FSA and discussed the desire to build upon existing partnerships, with an emphasis on CRP. States, NGO's and conservation districts are all interested in providing additional support and guidance to FSA. AFWA and the CRP subgroup outlined a letter to FSA that includes examples of how states have partnered on CRP in the past and ideas to expand future partnerships. *Gunderson* - Pass on letter and continue work we have started. *Creagh* - Way ahead of us, letter is not needed.

Public Lands (Exhibit 29) - *Ollie* - Mark Reiter, IN is the director/liaison. *Earl Flegler, MI DNR* - Annual joint meeting in conjunction with Private Lands Working Group. Theme of the meeting was turnover; asked group to capture some of the history of the group. The Public Lands group toured the Pigeon River County State Forest and looked at elk management, controlled hunts, prescribed fire and farming; co-management responsibilities; implications of checkerboard patterns from multiple land acquisition funding sources on horse trails and wildlife management; restoration of oil and gas well sites; and management of jack pine for the federally endangered Kirtland's warbler. The Public Lands Working Group meeting covered several topics. Discussed impacts of potential listing of northern long-eared bat on states' ability to manage habitat, possible FY 2016 federal budget funding for research on habitat to inform and develop conservation guidelines; this research could include baseline information on habitat selection, roost selection, roost switching behavior, distance between roosts, and size of roosting home range. Prescribed fire - encourages the directors to communicate with our federal partners to limit mandatory national training and agree that each state's fire training qualifications will be accepted as their standard for Rx burning. Feral swine/hogs - directly support or lobby for funding at state and federal levels to procure the essential funding to help eradicate this invasive species from the nation's landscape. Impacts of sequestration on land actions - communicate the state's concerns to the USFWS about the delays to the USFWS Region 3 Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Assistant Regional Director; mutually determine priority rankings of land actions with state input; and encourage alternatives in efficiency to promptly work with states as partners in land matter issues; completed a draft letter. Concerns with captive cervids with breeding and farming increasing transmission of chronic wasting disease. Information Items: Oil and Gas Development/Exploration - New technologies have recently increased oil and gas exploration; and discussed the concern about farming practices on state lands and the environmental impacts of cooperative farming agreements. Action Letters: State guidelines for prescribed burn training. *Peterson* - Did we get directive from the Corp? *Fleagler* - Don't know where we are. *Taylor* - Don't know about prescribed burning and grazing issues. *Sexson* - Permanent decision to leave it to the states? I don't believe we heard from Corp, but did from BOR. They asked for extension from us. Okay with letter. *Reiter* - Have not heard from the Corp either, crunch from department to do prescribed burns. **Mark Reiter, Indiana moved; Scott Taylor, Nebraska second to send letter.** *Sargent* - Follow PR standards, MAFWA in three different regions of USFWS. Need to get ahead of it. *Creagh* - **Send to all three. Motion carried.** Letter on sequestration for lands purchased with federal aid funds, primarily for Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, things are better, but still room for improvement. Envision with bump in federal aid. *Creagh* - Three issues here, letter

to partnership; better with sequestration, *Boggess* - Not sure we still need this letter. *Reiter* – I agree.

NCN (Exhibit 30) – *Ollie* – MAFWA President is the Director/Liaison. *Ed Boggess, MN* - This year the committee consisted of John Buhnerkempe (Chair, IL), myself and Jim Douglas (NE). The committee did not meet this year, but did conduct business via email on four NCN proposals. The committee's review determined that all the proposals were acceptable for consideration, but based on Multistate Conservation Grant Program (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 the recommendation to MAFWA and the Executive Committee approved and submitted "Strengthening state fish and wildlife agency capacity to understand and respond to changing trends in constituent values and demographics" to AFWA. We are also asked that directors reaffirm support to MAFWA members for direct participation and engagement of the MSCGP process as these NCNs have tangible outcomes.

Wildlife Action Plan (Exhibit 31) – *Ollie* – Jon Gassett, KY was director/liaison so this position is now vacant. *Amy Derosier, MI DNR* – A lot of groups look to the wildlife action plans, however there has been a 35% decline since 2010 due to budget cuts and another cut coming in 2015. Keep getting looked to for help, for instance, surrogate species. These regional discussions are fruitful and lead to multi-state projects and grant applications in support of the projects. Discussions offer opportunities for partner agencies and organizations to participate and take an interest in supporting the efforts of the states, but due to state agency budget shortfalls and travel restrictions, competing demands for the time of SWAP coordinators, convening this committee for a full meeting has not been possible since 2010. There are no director action items only a few director information items. 1) Last year, sent a letter to USFWS Director Ashe regarding the uneven levels of priority placed on State Wildlife Action Plans by Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs). No response was received. Some LCCs in the Midwest region explicitly value and engage, but others continue to remain less engaged with SWAP priorities. 2) The Administration's FY15 budget request included a 15% cut for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program. AFWA sent a letter to Secretary of Interior Jewell expressing disappointment over this additional cut to the program. Given that these plans together create a national platform for conservation, many state and federal agencies, and NGOs look to the plans to include broader natural resource issues, such as climate change adaptation and mitigation. *Creagh* – Funding follows success. *Ashe* – Not responsible for proposed cut, USFWS did not cut, we believe in this program. All regional directors said this should be high priority. *Derosier* – Statewide directors are always looking to do a better job. *Regan* – Looking for ways to restore those dollars in DC.

Climate Change (Exhibit 32) – Ollie – Kathy Don Carlos is the director/liaison. *Chris Hoving, MI DNR* – (“The era of procrastination, of half-measures, of soothing and baffling expedients, of delays is coming to its close. In its place we are entering a period of consequences.” quote by Winston Churchill). Climate change is something we have to adapt to. Need is for adaptation for natural resources conservation. Met for second face-to-face meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and had several conference calls. States in this region are addressing climate change at different paces and in a variety of ways; approaches vary depending upon capacity, resources, and priorities of elected representatives. Several committee members focused on vulnerability assessments this year (two in MI this year; also NE, OH and IL). Wetland species are most vulnerable, but many fully terrestrial species were vulnerable as well, including some important game species. Using AFWA’s climate adaptation survey as a jumping-off point. The results will be used to craft a basis for future collaborations among member states. A summary of the survey on Midwestern state activities on climate change is included. Varied from full time, to quarter-time to no one working on climate adaptation. Will meet quarterly by conference call this year and will need person from Indiana replaced as they are retiring. One action item; a letter commending Dr. Arpita Choudhury for her services to our committee, and supporting the filling of her position. *Creagh* – Ask them to fulfill duties, not necessarily people. **Keith Sexson, Kansas approved to send with change suggested, Scott Zody, Ohio second. Motion carried.**

Deer and Wild Turkey (Exhibit 33) – Ollie - Dale Garner, IA is the director/liaison. *Brent Rudolph, MI DNR* – No action items, but do encourage staff participation. In order to protect hunting to establish deer and turkey biologist positions and encourage them to attend these committee meetings. At our meeting in Illinois in August 2013 we had several speakers who addressed joint group prior to the separate deer and turkey breakout sessions. At business meeting heard cooperative deer genetics research update; wild turkey consortium data sharing and management; central storage location website at <http://mdwtsg.org/>; discussed deer vehicle collisions; and adopting format similar to northeast deer group for future summaries.

Ollie – Keith, I compliment your staff on presentation of these reports.

Refreshment Break – Served on bus with field trip each selected

Assemble on Buses at loading area for Tour

Field Trip – Old Mission Peninsula Tour – Sponsored by Pheasants Forever

Appetizer Reception with Gourmet Gone Wild at Chateau Grand Traverse (Two Lads, Chateau Chantel)

Hospitality Room – Sponsored by National Archery in the Schools Program; DNR staffed

Minutes
MAFWA Business Meeting
June 25, 2014
Park Place Hotel
Traverse City, Michigan

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Breakfast – Sponsored by National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF)

Improving Engagement Models with NGO's (Panel Discussion)

Erin McDonough, MUCC – Could not come.

*Julie Clark, Executive Director TART Trails (PowerPoint – Exhibit 33) –*In 2012, the Governor declared Michigan the trail state. Other states have great trails out there, but when Governor announces in his State of the State, initiatives begin. We have 12,000 miles of trails, hiking, snowmobiling, water trails. Governor did something that people have been enjoying, which provides opportunity for stability and growth. Governor wanted a new trail, to showcase trail from Belle Isle to Ironwood to connect public spaces. Already had a great system on west side of state so now two cooperating trails out there. As great as Governor's initiative was, people wondered where they were in the trail world so this was an opportunity to talk about where their trail was. Rail trails and several other trails already exist. Governor made state trails system which became something we could all be a part of, which was a fundamental shift in the way we think and act. State given authority to work together, DOT can talk to DNR, and talk to other counterparts and locals such as Friends Groups. Need top and bottom communicating, empowerment and engagement; talk about all of the different aspects of it. Trail system can help with a variety of other needs; tie communities together and economic well being. Utilize pathways in different ways and recreational access. Excite locals and volunteers. Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail is a great example of working together.

Glen Chown, Executive Director TC Regional Land Conservancy (PowerPoint – Exhibit 33) – The Land Conservancy was founded in 1991 by Rotary Charities of Traverse City, found oil on Boy Scout camp 40 years ago, now a \$50 million foundation. Growth is good for areas, but if not managed and balanced with natural resources it could become a problem. We have 37,000 acres protected, and a staff of 23 individuals. Trust Fund toured region last week. We have helped with 50 natural resource trust fund projects. Shift is harbinger of things to come; how state agencies can partner. Arcadia Sand dunes, home of power plant – in Ludington, from fish and wildlife perspective it was a disaster, turbines serve as blender for fish, sued power company and the settlement created Great Lakes Fisheries Trust that said no second pump storage facility; this power company lost \$2 million, liquidated underutilized assets and we came up with plan to purchase this property and protect it for all time (6,000 acres). We thought we could have DNR buy it. This property was under threat of development so we thought; let's make a new state park. DNR under pressure of protecting what they already had under management, so we told them to come up with different strategy. Knew we had to do

something, nothing else out there like this property. In fund raising campaign (\$30 million goal); wanted to get coastal grant for \$500,000 for this project, but there is bias towards east and west coasts and gulf coast. Called astronaut Jerry Linenger, he submitted letter to send to trust; letter stated this place is visible from space and they got a grant. Rather than buying whole thing, nearly 3,000 restricted with conservation easement and sold back to local farmers who invested millions of dollars. Public Nature Preserve has permanent easement for protection and public access. DNR would have had to spend \$25 million, but spent \$7 million because we invested in private entity. Partner with private entities to get same type of leverage. World class trails, grassland (controlled burns), invasive species control, grant sources, dune alliance, burning marshes to increase fish and wildlife, dropped water temps 10 degrees, birding; partnering in all areas. How do we bundle them into Pure Michigan, a lot of money gets spent by wildlife viewers as well as hunters and fisherman; provide trails for 30-somethings and communities where people want to live. Taking trail skill and using other places in the region.

Helen Taylor, State Director TNC (PowerPoint – Exhibit 33) – Improving engagement with NGOs, working on Great Lakes issues for 25 years and there have been changes, but when leadership at the top says something it makes it really important. Get to scale, bread and butter has been small projects, but more and more are thinking more of watershed, coastal, forest protection and more of what we own but shared natural assets and different relationship dynamics. Reduced resources have changed nature of how we engage. We talked about improving engagement with NGOs, had to by definition of facilitating and convening, not what you own, extension and partner of you as a resource. When we do that less about, coming to the mountain in the past (DNR), now side by side in what we want to solve. Harnessing assets of NGO community is different way of working together. No longer notion of NGO wanting something, but seeing us as a partner. Leveraging your assets and shifting to solutions and outcomes. Have long histories of doing things a certain way, look at where we want to go and think outside the box. Couple NGOs fretting issue, parcel being bundled in auction for gas rights, attorneys already hired, asked them if they had called Director Creagh; they felt calling was intimidating. I ended up looking like a hero because I called Keith and in 24 hours the problem was solved. Create culture with NGO world and trickle down within your agencies, work together on natural assets of the state and makes for different outcomes. The transformational project (map showing ownership of DNR, forestry, etc.) timber companies sold out about 10 years ago and questioned of how we manage forests. Who had \$150 million to buy that stuff? protected 271,000 acres, 423 miles of forest, lakes and rivers, 517 miles of rivers and streams, 660 lakes, 52,000 acres of wetlands and 60 miles of buffer to natural areas. We had to define the problem; larger forest matrix of Upper Peninsula; not about who was going to own what, DNR and TNC don't own the land, it is in long-term forest easements. What is our goal; make sure in right practices, not necessarily in our control; solutions can be done cheaper faster and more nimbly. Achieved huge outcomes; owning as state park would have not been good for the community. A different way of thinking; forest – constituencies – values – strategies; we will get more done together.

Discussion: *Gunderson* – Point on easements, makes a lot of sense, need to leverage dollars as we don't have the money; timber companies have wholesale fire sale going on. Easements are the way to go, I'm sure there are problems with it, like access because we weren't clear on easements, closing roads and gates, etc. *Taylor* – Financing, trust fund money or enough bake sales; forget about private sector capital, want buffer, more social impact objectives, wealth that wants to solve problems. Philanthropy wants outcomes and all working together on shared space. Solutions we have not looked for in the past. When looking at air and water and not land, need support of that politically unified approach. Difficult to do as regions, not just states. *Al Stewart* – How do we work to educate these people? Young forests are falling through the cracks, and show species living here and help us manage those lands? *Taylor* – Depends on audience you are talking to; 25,000 acres of sugar maple we own; accelerate use of that forest, for investor you have one set of messages, with industry use key ecological message. Different messaging lines, a lot of it is about money; that sounds cold, make it advantageous to bring in revenue; outcomes that are meaningful. *Chown* – Managing 30,000 acres at Arcadia Dune, wanted to cut red pines because of beetle issue, had targeted education sessions to let people know why. Where burning marsh, took photos and did YouTube video of before, during burn, right after, and three months after and improvement to the fisheries. Adults have responsibility to bring young people to connect with natural resources. *Clark* – You know why you are doing what you are doing, but no communication to the people or user groups. Talk with and explain the why of how managing succession and not about what you see today, but about what your kids will see. People deal with a lot if they know why. *Taylor* – Come out of communications with why what we do is important, speak in terms of win-win, not just our interests; don't define how we are different, but what we have in common and accommodate other interests. Start with what we have as common ground. *Mark Sergeant* – Water quality, increased interest in southern Michigan. *Taylor* – RCPP, measuring by outcomes be sure metrics and outcomes are meeting goals, that is a breakthrough program; we need to make that work and demonstrate how that works. *Chown* – Kudos to Governor on leveraging federal dollars with own state programs. Seize the opportunity, now is the heyday, not back in the 70s. *Creagh* – Raising dollars is a side note, industry, hook and bullets, etc. are around the table, it is exciting times.

MAFWA BUSINESS MEETING

Keith Creagh, MAFWA President – Officially called to order at 9:00 AM

Call to Order and Roll Call

All states present, except Iowa. Have proxies for Kentucky (Ron Brooks), Missouri (Tim Ripperger), Nebraska (Scott Taylor), North Dakota (Scott Peterson), and Wisconsin (Scott Gunderson) (*Proxies - Exhibit 34*); no Canadian provinces present.

Agenda Review

Gunderson – In new business, talk about Northern long-eared bats.

Ollie – John Frampton asked to talk about support for national plan on recruitment and retention.

Scott Peterson, North Dakota moved to amend, Marc Miller, Illinois second to approve amended agenda.

Approval of 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes

Scott Gunderson, Wisconsin moved to accept minutes as printed, Tim Ripperger, Missouri second. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Sharon M. Schafer, MI – (Exhibit 35) – There were four checking accounts when I started, so we started separating them last year. I am reporting on accounts on a calendar year basis, so these figures will be as of December 31, 2013. The general checking account is now the pass through account for banking services. On January 1, 2013 we had \$28,356.57: revenue included Michigan Fish and Wildlife Conference funds of \$10,000; membership dues of \$2,300; affiliate dues of \$150; and Southern Wings administration fee of \$1,375 (these last three were put in this account before last year's decision) also had a federal grant which was active last year of \$1,190.81; and interest of \$7.87; for total revenue of \$15,023.68. Expenditures included: Ollie's payroll account, paying from this account up to June, starting July will take from conference account; accounting fees of \$1,550; Delaney for Michigan Fish and Wildlife conference \$1,000; and miscellaneous expenses of \$300; for total expenditures of \$26,170.30; for an ending balance of \$17,209.95 (Holding funds for Michigan and Indiana as a pass through account). The conference account as of January 1, 2013 was \$82,900, revenue included: sponsors of \$31,000 (did collect \$7,000 more in 2014 not shown here and USFWS only gave \$5,000 instead of the \$10,000); registrations of \$18,450; membership dues of \$24,500; and miscellaneous of \$4,283.68; for total revenue of \$78,235.72. Expenditures included: executive secretary salary \$17,000 (bonus paid in 2014) and travel for Ollie - three conferences, Sheila – one conference and myself - one to two conferences \$7,600; DMEM charge for Indiana Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference \$1,500; DMEM charge for Kentucky conference \$11,000; insurance \$1,000; Hotel including room rental, AV charges, etc. for Kentucky and Michigan \$24,400; awards for MAFWA conference \$1,300; shooting clays and gun rentals for Kentucky conference \$1,300; food and beverage at shooting range and hospitality room for Kentucky conference \$2,000; credit card charges (Cindy accepts we incur charges); and miscellaneous including director gifts, printing, etc. \$1,553.20; for total expenditures of \$69,383.22; and a balance of \$91,885.93 as of December 31, 2013. Southern Wings Account as of January 1, 2013 \$14,000, revenue included: \$37,500 from Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska; expenditures included: administrative fee and AFWA fee and a total pay out to the American Bird Conservancy of \$47,500; for a balance of \$5 to keep the account open. The federal grant is now completed for fish habitat; grant was \$398,000, paid out \$379,000. Balance as of January 1, 2013 was \$25,351, revenue included: sponsorship from USDA-FS sponsorship which was placed in this account because entity could only have one big account for ACH so monies were placed in this account and moved out; grant draw-downs of \$17,591.64; for total revenue of \$20,599.37; expenditures included: downstream strategies \$20,000; Tom Niebauer, grant coordinator \$9,000; transfer USDA-FS funds out \$3,037 (different amount than above because did it at ATM and did not have exact figure with me); and DJ Case \$8,500; for total expenditures of \$40,472.64

and balance as of December 31, 2013 of \$5,477.73. We were going to close out this account, but because we have applied for another federal grant we decided to leave it open. *Sexson* – Does the Forest Service still need this account to donate? *Sharon* – No, Cindy collects now so that is simpler. The share account is so that we can have checking accounts at the credit union, it remains \$5. The Jaschek money market and securities account as of January 1, 2013 had a balance of \$312,000, revenue included: interest of \$12,600; and dividends of \$5,700; change in market value was a gain of \$16,000; no expenditures, for a balance as of December 31, 2013 of \$346,732.48. There will be an investment committee report later. *Vonk* – What is the purpose of this account? *Ollie* – this money fell from the sky, have a policy for this account which shows purpose and use of fund include: 1) Supporting the enactment of new national legislation which will increase the funding and/or enhance state authority for the development and implementation of fish and wildlife programs such as: Teaming With Wildlife, CARA (Conservation and Reinvestment Act). Support may take the form of: direct contribution to the IAFWA for information and education efforts, supporting the expenses of state staff who are assigned temporary duty on behalf of the AMFWA to work on these issues; supporting the collection, publication and distribution of information which will have a positive impact on Congressional decision makers. 2) Supporting re-authorization of existing national legislation such as the Farm Bill, Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, for the purposes of maintaining and/or strengthening these types of legislation. Support may include: contributing to IAFWA efforts to dedicate staff to work on re-authorizations, supporting studies and evaluations to provide background information reflective of Midwest states needs; paying the expenses of staff to participate on behalf of the AMFWA on national advisory groups or study groups related to re-authorization of these types of legislation; supporting the collection, publication and distribution of information which will have a positive impact on Congressional decision makers. 3) Supporting AMFWA participation in CITES. This should be limited to paying no more than the necessary travel expenses of state personnel who are working on behalf of the AMFWA. 4) Sponsoring and/or co-sponsoring conferences and symposia which provide a forum for the presentation, discussion and sharing of research findings and management programs of importance to AMFWA states. A condition of sponsoring such conferences should be the timely publication of the conference proceedings in some fashion, in a form useful to practicing fish and wildlife managers. *Vonk* – When was last time we used funds? *Ollie* – In 2008, for the Farm Bill coordinator. *Vonk* – When we use funds we need to remember we have this money. *Creagh* – Northern long-eared bats may use some of these funds for the symposia. *Sheila* – Application available for use of funds. *Sharon* - The conservation enhancement account beginning balance was \$3,400 with interest of \$0.12 and dividends of \$56.83; expenditures were a \$35 charge for inactivity. There was a change in market value, a gain of \$458.47 and balance as of December 31, 2013 of just under \$4,000. We have decided to add \$100 periodically to this account to stop the \$35 inactivity fee. **Scott Gunderson, Wisconsin, moved to accept Treasurer's Report, Keith Sexson, Kansas, second.** *Vonk* – On southern wings account, what does the Bird Conservancy do with that fund? *Ollie* – Work in Latin America and Caribbean for birds that migrate back through our states, money funnels through us; we take administrative fee and then goes back to Bird Conservancy. *Vonk* – We do meetings and have reports, but don't know the benefit of this. The bottom line is, as organization, we

need to have reports on what they are accomplishing as an organization for this money. *Ron Regan* – Fair question, Southern Wings have tried to do that, I will talk to Deb and provide something in writing. *Vonk* – At least provide write up of what is happening at annual meetings. **Motion Carried.** *Sexson* – Where is Kansas dollars? *Sharon* – Off the record here, holding check for 2014.

MAFWA Investments Committee Report & Portfolio

Tim Ripperger, MO – Committee consists of Scott, Joe and Bob Ziehmer. Met last week. Two page summary from Shane Hessman (*Exhibit 36*). The last two years investments have been very good. Talked about opportunity to invest in green fund, but truly hard to come up with. One goal is to keep \$10,000 to \$15,000 in money market. Will have recommendation to buy another bond ladder fund. We can get Shane on phone if any questions. ***Tim Ripperger, Missouri, moved that money market be moved to another bond and authorize Shane to acquire another bond for \$10,000; Scott Gunderson, Wisconsin, second. Motion carries.*** *Gunderson* – Shane mentioned, since he does this for no cost for us and he is doing a good job, if we could bring him here to go over these accounts. I think it would be good for us to bring him in next year and for us to cover his costs to come.

Audit Committee Report

Ed Boggess, MN – The audit committee consists of Terry Steinwand, Jim Douglas and myself. I and the two Scott's (Scott Peterson and Scott Taylor) met with Sharon. Have periodical audit by real auditor. No problems. *Sharon* – In 2013, Missouri performed a professional that said everything was in order, done about every three years. *Vonk* – Another Association has never done an audit and that has led to concerns, I encourage us to continue these outside audits. *Ollie* – That was a recommendation of the Audit Committee one year and Missouri does these at no cost. *Sharon* – When I write a check, I do not sign the checks at all, Director Creagh does. ***Jeff Vonk, South Dakota moved to accept Audit Committee Report, Scott Peterson, North Dakota, second. Motion carried.*** *Scott Peterson* – Shout out to Sharon for the work she does and Michigan for allowing her.

Resolutions Committee Report

One resolution thanking Michigan (Ed read) (*Exhibit 37*): 1) Thank hosts," NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at its annual business meeting in Traverse City, Michigan on June 25, 2014, acknowledges the hard work and wonderful hospitality of Director Creagh and the staff from the great state of Michigan, and hereby passes this resolution in a showing of great appreciation." ***Scott Taylor, Nebraska, moved to accept, Scott Zody, Ohio, second. Motion Carried.***

Awards Committee Report

Keith Sexson, KS – (*Exhibit 38*) Thanks for states sending in nominations, we all have people we want to recognize. Some states don't and nominations and that is okay. Also, want to thank the rest of Committee. Had good candidates that were well-deserving of awards. *Creagh* – Echo chance to appreciate staff.

Bylaws Committee Report

Marc Miller, IL – (*Exhibit 39*) Only change is to extend five committees life under this Association, add three years. They are Legal, NCN, Midwest Deer and Turkey, Law Enforcement (AMFGLEO) and Hunter and Angler Recruitment and Retention; they will go until 2017. **Marc Miller, Illinois, moved to accept report, Scott Gunderson, Wisconsin, second. Motion carried.**

Refreshment Break – Sponsored by Bass Pro Shops

Executive Secretary's Report

Ollie Torgerson – (*Exhibit 40*) – Annual report is a look back at last year, highlighted by this conference. Personal pleasure to have meeting here in Michigan; highlight for me is working with Keith Creagh, two years ago Rodney Stokes resigned and Governor asked Keith to move over from Dept of Ag, no experience but jumped right in, thanks for leadership. Jon Gassett resigned last year and Keith immediately became president. Chuck Corell left in middle of winter. Greg Johnson will be new Commissioner for Kentucky, former NRCS director, had previous vacation scheduled, but Ron Regan and I will visit him on July 9. Iowa has selected Kelley Myers as their representative to MAFWA, Ron and I have been in touch and will meet with her. Openings for committees: by-laws, resolutions, investments, National bobwhite conservation initiative (2 positions) and AFWA federal budget committees. Also, Jeff Vonk wants to be replaced on Council to advance hunting and shooting sports. *Zody* – I have interest in taking that Council spot. *Ollie* – Any others? Director/Liaison openings to committees: Midwest private land, furbearer, wildlife action and LE. Did get one volunteer for enhancement fund board (Scott Gunderson). Banking/grants – more involved in banking: Southern Wings, NBCI, three states asked us to do banking for Midwest F&W conference, banker for national wildlife grant (Big Grant) which requires a vote to accept. Great sponsorships this year, Michigan raised over \$10,000 in sponsorships alone this year; lost some but gained back \$5,000 from USFWS. New affiliate: Healing Our Waters Coalition. Established new technical committee; service policy; letter to Dan Ashe on LCCs, no response; letter to USGS on SCWDS budget cut; requested budget proposal for national Pheasant Plan coordinator, established Ad Hoc Feral Swine committee, and wrote in support of wolf delisting. Joe Kramer is hero of this Association, if not for Joe we would have folded in 1990s, Joe brought Sheila on board to manage books and finances; he has been a great supporter of us. Vicki Brown and Keith Creagh have been involved in putting together this conference as well Cindy Delaney and I. Couldn't do this without these two gals: Sheila and Sharon. I call Dan the burglar since he is a locksmith, he helps us too. Sheila maintains archives as well and Sharon has done an excellent job with finances too. The next conference will be in Duluth, Minnesota, June 28 to July 1, 2015 at the Radisson Hotel.

Ron Regan – Forest service meeting coming up, I will drop hint for conference support.

Ollie – I met with Rob Harper (the new Ann Zimmerman), sent nice letter, but he doesn't control the region and Milwaukee had total turnover, Mary Maj knew about their letter of cooperation, and she shared with administration, but nothing was done. WAFWA has had trouble in the past too. *Boggess* – Date of next year's meeting, in talking with Cindy; in

transition year. There is another option for that meeting, Sunday June 21 through Wednesday June 24 if you prefer? **Consensus to leave it where it is.**

Old Business

MAFWA/Midwest F&W Conference Relationship

Ollie Torgerson – (*Exhibit 41*) (few changes to this statement). - We are covered with liability insurance and host state is immune from these; but event is not covered. Cindy found a liability policy for \$300. Changes recommended are to “delete financial loss and replace with liability insurance” and “10% of contract fees clarified to 10% of meeting event planner contract fees” so executive committee did move to bring to the board these new changes. **Scott Zody, OH, moved Ed Boggess, MN second. Motion carried.**

New Business

Approval of Affiliate Memberships

Ollie Torgerson – We have 28 affiliate members and have a request for an affiliate membership from Healing Our Waters Coalition (HOW). **Scott Peterson, ND moved to accept new affiliate, Tim Ripperger, MO second. Vonk** – Stated purpose and goal?

Torgerson – That is why we have this procedure. HOW consists of 119 environmental, conservation, and outdoor recreation organizations, zoos, aquariums and museums. They represent millions of people who share a common goal of restoring and protecting North America’s greatest freshwater resource, the Great Lakes. **Creagh** – Tammy Newcomb, are you familiar with that organization? **Newcomb** – What organization? **Zody** – Heavily involved in water issues with use of Great Lakes, familiar with Todd Ambs; over-arching goals are inline. **Miller** – Healing our Waters as a coalition has been working with Great Lakes Commission and have seen what they do to support our Great Lakes agenda, like most natural resources types. Could add interesting support and dialog to support our cause. **Motion carried.**

National Pheasant Plan – **Creagh** - Off the agenda, dealt with that yesterday.

FY15 Budget Approval

Sharon M. Schafer, MI (*Exhibit 35, part of Treasurer's Report*) – On page 9, recap of last year’s budget, did end with \$9,000 deficit which is just a timing issue. Last year requested calendar year change to end December 31, when adopting this budget for this current fiscal year, then get on cycle to work on right budget, working with Ollie on 2015 budget. The 2014 budget is on page 10 of financial report. Have 13 states with dues of \$2,323 each, \$30,000; annual dues for three provinces are \$101 each, \$303, a \$3 increase; affiliates 16 at \$75, \$1,200 plus \$75 for new one; sponsorships, \$57,000, Ollie beat the bushes on these; conference registration, received check from Delaney for \$20,000 already so should surpass budgeted amount; did not receive hotel supplement last year so left off; exhibitors estimated at \$500, Southern Wings \$1,500, and interest at \$75. For total estimated revenue of \$112,000. MAFWA and WAFWA have applied for a federal grant and if awarded could result in additional revenue. Revenue estimates do not include investments because it is reinvested. Expenditures – Ollie’s salary \$41,000, which

includes cpi index; travel at \$6,000 for three conferences and meetings with new directors; secretary travel \$1,500; my travel three conferences which sometimes I attend and sometimes I can't, \$4,500; accountant fee to file 990 and 1099s, \$2,000; insurance \$1,200; bank charges is \$600; web posting and hosting for Chris Durrill who helps Ollie, \$250; miscellaneous supplies, etc. \$1,000; conference averaged at \$50,310 for total expenditures of \$108,696.20 for surplus of about \$3,330.80. Last year showed deficit of about \$5,000. **Scott Gunderson, WI moved to accept budget, Marc Miller, IL second. Motion carried.**

Ollie – Asked by John Frampton to support effort on National Hunting & Shooting Sports Council. Asked regional association to join other three regional associations. **Keith Sexson, KS moved, Scott Taylor, NE second.** *Vonk* – That is the next logical step for that Council, and their work will enhance this Association. *Gunderson* – Echo Jeff's comments, heading in right direction, 48 states are in and gave funding; I have staff I have committed to this; need to keep thinking outside the box and moving in right direction, think this will help. **Motion carried.**

Northern Long-eared bat – *Creagh* – Discussion on that. *Miller* – Significant announcement in our meeting yesterday with Dan Ashe saying they want state's input in this so we have an opportunity. Had a great deal of discussion in Executive Committee, bring together for summit for 1½ to 2 days and work. Think we need summit and take it on and host it and bring everyone together. **Marc Miller, IL moved to have MAFWA host summit to discuss science and conservation on Northern Long-eared bat, Scott Gunderson, WI second.** *Gunderson* – Lot of discussion going on, bigger than just bat going on there. Glad we have a chance to move forward for 2-day conference. Secretary Stepp has been very active in this and she really wants to move forward on this. Wisconsin passed out thoughts we had outside of this meeting and Secretary Stepp would like to know if feeling within summit to look at proposal we put forward as concept, I believe I heard to use it as a guide and move forward. That six month deadline will be here and gone. Keith, I know you talked about hosting this and Jeff brought up we have a fund to use for that type of summit. With work we had done in Wisconsin; done survey with 32 of 39 states responding back on that issue; we are willing to put staff on this to move forward with more data gathering or whatever needs to be done to keep this issue moving. Could affect our state tremendously and it could affect yours. *Vonk* – I support idea of holding the summit and use of funding from association; I'm not sure we are sure of what we are summiting about. Need to set a limit on use of fees, but more importantly have subcommittee that will form this. Even though we are not forest state have forest in Black Hills and this has caused an up rise in our state. You could have 1,000 people at this meeting, move forward with concept and get Directors involved in planning and set limit or target on how to use funds. *Creagh* – From Michigan's viewpoint, MN, WI, OH looked at what summit would look like; identify science gaps to make determination; start with science. Wisconsin had pretty good plan. Put parameters and side boards on it. Those four states put together technical workgroup. *Miller* – Is there benefit to having MAFWA Executive Committee work on that? *Creagh* – We could vet through MAFWA executive committee. *Boggess* – I have not been point person on this issue in MN, so cannot commit. Role of MAFWA, broader than our Association, there are two other

regional associations involved. To Jeff's point, need steering group and facilitator and program. Looks good to me. Vet through all states that have an interest. Steering group might be bigger than just the Midwest and incorporate that. Our role today is to become the host, but not set entire conference. *Creagh* – Reach out and make sure state foresters and others within our states and limit number of attendees. *Gunderson* – Core group together, lot of data collected already; states still data collecting now and doing research. Need to have core group go out and reach out and bring data in. *Creagh* – Good to see if we can help. *Sexson* – Is one of goals to maintain state control of management of this species, which means you are setting management conservation programs around regional issues, this is huge and lots of land use issues and trying to meet criteria, could see regional differences built into the plan whether, Southeast, Northeast or Midwest; identify each as different. Those six months will come up fast; took us 1 ½ years to develop range wide plan to cover five states LPC plan. *Creagh* – Guidance plan was put out with little time to deal with this issue. Stopping \$80,000 interchange in one state right now very complicated and goes on and on. One of Wisconsin's proposals was industry segment conservation practices. *Sexson* – Focal point is habitat and restrictions and critters are still dying, will cutting a tree still make a difference because this is a disease issue. *Zody* – Due to disease not habitat loss, has to be fundamental part of this issue. Develop recognition of public and private land management and gains and level of mitigation and credits built into this process; has to be a different approach. *Miller* – Scott said, "There are smarter people than you", no there isn't. Faced with unusual things, trade issues, climate change, etc. Have opportunity to develop framework to put states in the driver's seat. MAFWA can flex muscle on state's side and tackle something that will hit a lot more frequently. *Creagh* – USFWS is asking for help. Need friendly amendment Jeff said we need dollar amount. **Sheila read recommendation: "2-day conference hosted by MAFWA – for natural resources agencies and sister agencies to recoup adequate costs from participants. Purpose – share science and discuss state roles and discuss potential strategies to inform the response to white nose syndrome – in northern long-eared bats."** *Creagh* – put dollar amount to compensate speakers, make application for \$20,000 through (change to "partnership" agency rather than "sister"). Ollie already passed money to spend on the bond; do you want us to spend on both? There is \$21,000 in money market. *Sharon* - Leave investment account alone; on page three in conference funds have \$92,000 in that account and you could take money out of that. It will look like budget is negative, but will be fine at end of the year, like a fund balance. *Creagh* – Trust Executive Committee to do that and put \$20,000 limit on that and run by Executive Committee. *Gunderson* – Steering committee consists of four states, OH, MI, MN and WI. *Vonk* – By invitation also? *Creagh* – Yes, this is not a public hearing. *Ron Regan* – Talking to presidents of other regional associations? They are looped in? I never heard them discuss Northern long-eared bats at their meetings. *Creagh* – They were managing fine, but because of chatter and guidance document there has been some scrambling. *Dan Forester* – Southeast may be willing to underwrite as well. *Creagh* – I will contact them, this is a 39 state issue. *Gunderson* – USFWS will be integral part of this too. *Creagh* – We will reach out to other states. *Taylor* – Identify science gaps and process, make sure right people at the table from other groups. **Motion carried.**

Ollie - Send letter about continuation of funding, need to update letter? *Tammy Newcomb* – Last year sent letter of support to Senator Levin and Senator Kirk and so two directors sent letter, asked for reauthorizing Great Lakes Restoration Act; funds are managed by USFWS for process for projects is completely run through proposal review committee. Meeting twice a year and making recommendations to USFWS, one of only groups with this much state interaction. Need letter to co-chairs of House and Senate Great Lakes task force to continue on with that. We will send draft of letter and red line version to you for review and comment and briefing packet on what action has done over last 10 years; as well as your agency. *Creagh* – Circulate letter for your signature. **Scott Zody, OH moved to send letter, Ed Boggess, MN second.** *Vonk* – Letter circulated to whom? *Vonk* – Signed by all and sent to House and Senate. *Vonk* – Wouldn't it be better just as Association and sent by President? *Miller* – I like that and list out Great Lakes states. *Boggess* – If felt power in multiple states; then send to Great Lakes states directors. **Scott Zody, OH – Amend to send MAFWA letter on behalf of Midwest states, Ed Boggess, MN second. Motion carried.**

Keith Sexson presented past president's award to give Keith Creagh. *Creagh* – I was still trying to figure out the acronyms and we were off running down the road, Ollie has been tremendous help. It has been a great experience.

Passing of Gavel to Minnesota

Keith Creagh, MI passed gavel to Ed Boggess, MN. *Boggess* – Invite everyone to come to land of 10,000 lakes, actually 15,000 lakes; bar set high by Michigan. Express great appreciation to Keith and DNR staff.

Conference Adjourns

Scott Gunderson, WI moved to adjourn, Scott Zody, OH second. Conference adjourned at 11:23 am.

Shuttle Service to TC Airport

Great Lakes LCC Meeting (through Thursday noon)

Optional Post Meeting Field Trip – Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes

Appendix A – PowerPoint Photos

Acknowledgements

Sponsors 2014

Major Level Sponsors:

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MIDWEST

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

Thanks

The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies would like to thank Keith Creagh and the Michigan staff for putting on a great conference;

Directors, Committee members, Federal partners and Association affiliates for their dedication to the natural resources;

Ollie Torgerson, Executive Secretary, Sharon Schafer, Treasurer and Sheila Kemmis, Recording Secretary for all of their hard work throughout the year to make the Midwest a better Association; and

Sheila Kemmis, Recording Secretary, for printing and providing these proceedings.

Copies of these proceedings can be obtained from:

**Sheila Kemmis, Recording Secretary
c/o Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism
512 SE 25th Ave.
Pratt, KS 67124**