



Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies



71st Annual Directors Meeting Proceedings

**July 11-13, 2004
Bismarck, North Dakota**

Hosted by:

**North Dakota
Game and Fish
Department**



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	- Ducks Unlimited (DU) Robert Hoffman	
	- Izaak Walton League of America (IKES) no report	
	- The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Claudia Emken)	
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Action Items

**Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Annual Meeting
July 11 - 13, 2004
Bismarck, North Dakota**

ACTION ITEMS

- ▶ Held Strategic Thinking Session with Directors or their Designee (Completed 7/11/04)
Funding Coordinator Position (formed Long-Term Committee to find funding)
- ▶ Accepted Minutes from last year's annual meeting in Omaha, Nebraska. (Completed 7/13/04)
- ▶ Voted to accept Treasurer's Report, balance as of June 30, 2004 - \$230,526.95.
(Completed 7/13/04)
- ▶ Voted to accept the Audit Committee Report. (Completed 7/13/04)
- ▶ Voted to accept Executive Director/Coordinator position proposal. (Completed 7/13/04)
- ▶ Voted to accept the Investment Committee's Report. (Completed 7/13/04)
- ▶ Three resolutions presented - (Completed 7/13/04)
Voted to send letter connected with Resolution 1 (To support Separate Budget Line Items
to Distinguish Missouri River Endangered Species Compliance) from Nebraska
Voted to approve Resolution 2 (Thanking North Dakota for Conference) from
Resolutions Committee
Voted to send letters connected with Resolution 3 (To support National Screening
Process for Exotic Species Introduction into United States) from Kansas on behalf
of MICRA
- ▶ Voted to offer Executive Director/Coordinator position to Ollie Torgerson for 2 more
years. (Completed 7/13/04)
- ▶ Voted to approve Affiliate Membership Applications. (Completed 7/13/04)
- ▶ Voted to accept Private Lands Working Group Report. (Completed 7/13/04)
Send letter to Bush/Cheney Campaign to get commitment on conservation stand
Send letter to Kerry/Edwards Campaign to get commitment on conservation stand
- ▶ Voted to move forward on establishing Conservation Enhancement Fund. (Completed 7/13/04)
- ▶ Voted to accept proposed changes to the By-laws of Midwest Association of Fish and
Wildlife Agencies, except dues increase, and create a Standing Bylaws Committee.
(Completed 7/13/04) Jeff VerSteeg agreed to rewrite.

- ▶ Voted to accept the new Awards program presented by Glen Salmon. (Completed 7/13/04)

Items discussed, but not voted on:

- ▶ Heard report from USFWS Director Steve Williams. (7/11/04) (no action)
- ▶ Presented award to Steve Williams, USFWS Director. (7/11/04) (no action)
- ▶ Heard IAFWA Reports from Tom Bennett, President and John Baughman, Executive Director. (Completed 7/11/04) (no action)
- ▶ Heard USFWS Reports from Robyn Thorson, Region 3 Director, and John Blankenship, Region 6 Director. (Completed 7/11/04) (no action)
- ▶ Heard Non Governmental Agency Reports. (Completed 7/11/04) (no action)
Ducks Unlimited, Bob Hoffman
MICRA, Doug Nygren
National Shooting Sports Foundation, Sharon Rushton
The Nature Conservancy, Claudia Emken
Pheasants Forever, Rick Young
- ▶ Heard Reports on CRP issues. (Completed 7/12/04) (no action)
CRP in Crisis, Steve Adair, Ducks Unlimited
CRP and Duck Production in Prairie Pothole Region, Ron Reynolds, USFWS
CRP Legislative Wake up Call, Dave Nomsen, Pheasants Forever
Quantifying the Environmental Benefits of CRP on Prairie Wetlands, Chip Euliss, USGS
CRP Value for Nongame Birds, Larry Igl, USGS
- ▶ Heard Other Reports. (Completed 7/12/04) (no action)
Silver Carp Biology and Management, Jerry Rasmussen, MICRA
Law Enforcement Crime Scene Investigation Program, Dr. Richard Minnis, MS State U.
International Association of Natural Resource Pilots, Jeff Faught, NDGF
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance, Pat Ruble, BPA, Ohio
Prairie Grouse Management Plan, Jim Mosher, NAGMP, MD; Stephanie Harmon, USFWS; Rick Baydack, University of Manitoba, Canada
National Fisheries Habitat Initiative, Doug Hansen, SD Game, Fish & Parks
State Wildlife Grants, Paul Schmidt, USFWS; Mike McKenna, NDGF
Missouri River/Yellowstone River Confluence Project, Keith Trego & Merle Bennet, ND Natural Resources Trust
- ▶ Heard Jaschek Fund Report. (Completed 7/13/04) (no action)
- ▶ Heard Jaschek Guidelines Re-Write Committee Report. (Completed 7/13/04) (no action)

- ▶ Heard Awards Committee Report and gave awards to: Dean Hildebrand, Past President; Dick Bishop, IA, Retirement; and George Burgoyne, MI, Retirement (accepted by Rebecca Humphries). (Completed 7/13/04)
- ▶ Heard Prairie Grouse Report. (Completed 7/13/04) (no action)
- ▶ Heard MAFWA Coordinator Report. (Completed 7/13/04) (no action)
- ▶ Heard CITES Report. (Completed 7/13/04) (no action)
- ▶ Heard Public Lands Committee Report. (Completed 7/13/04) (no action)
- ▶ Heard Law Enforcement Report. (Completed 7/13/04) (no action)
- ▶ Heard NCN Report. (Completed 7/13/04) (no action)
- ▶ Passed the gavel from North Dakota to Ohio (symbolic) (Completed 7/13/04)
- ▶ New President Steve Gray, Ohio set meeting for July 11-14, 2005 at Sawmill Creek Resort, near Huron, Ohio. (Completed 7/13/04)
- ▶ Adjourned at 12:08. (Completed 7/13/04)

Objectives

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.

Past Meeting Locations and Dates

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

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

39. Wichita, Kansas - Holiday Inn Plaza
July 25 - 27, 1972
40. Bismarck, North Dakota - Holiday Inn
July 16 - 19, 1973
41. Duluth, Minnesota - Radisson Hotel
July 16 - 18, 1974
42. Traverse City, Michigan - Holiday Inn
July 21 - 24, 1975
43. Rapid City, South Dakota - Howard Johnson Motor Inn
July 19 - 22, 1976
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

2003/2004 Committee and Working Group List

**COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS OF THE
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES**

Effective July, 2003 - July, 2004

Standing Committees (identified in bylaws)

Executive Committee

President Dean Hildebrand or Randy Kreil (ND)
Past President Rex Amack (NE)
First Vice President Steve Gray (OH)
Secretary/Treasurer Joe Kramer (KS)
Director At-Large Jeff Vonk (IA)
Director At-Large Jeff Ver Steeg (CO)

Auditing Committee

Chairman Dean Hildebrand or Randy Kreil (ND)
Jeff Vonk, (IA)
Member At-Large George Burgoyne (MI)

Resolutions Committee

Chairman Tim Bremicker (MN)
Richard Bishop (IA)
Rex Amack (NE)

Nominating/Awards Committee

Chairman Glen Salmon (IN)
Kirk Nelson (NE)
George Burgoyne Jr. (MI)

Technical Working Groups and Committees (should include representatives from each state)

Midwest Private Lands Technical Group (Keith Sexson, KS – Director Liaison)
Public Lands Management Working Committee (Tim Bremicker, MN – Director Liaison)
Midwest Legal Committee (John Hoskins, MO – Director Liaison)
Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers (Steve Gray, OH –
Director Liaison)
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Health Committee (Becky Humphries, MI – Director Liaison)
MICRA (Mike Conlin, IL – Director Liaison)
Midwest Pheasant Study Group
Midwest Deer and Turkey Working Group
Midwest Furbearer Study Group
Prairie Grouse Technical Council

From 1995 list (Galena, IL) Groups not listed (attached)

Wildlife Diversity Technical Working Group
Mid-Continent Warmwater Fish Culture Workshop
Western Sage/Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop

Constitution and Bylaws

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS



MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

JULY, 2003

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. 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 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.

ARTICLE I

OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers of the Association shall be President, First Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer. The President and First Vice-President shall be nominated from the members of the states and provinces on an alphabetical rotation basis, with the First Vice-President being from the state or province next in order of rotation. The term of office shall commence thirty (30) days following adjournment of the International Association of Fish and

Wildlife Agencies' (IAFWA) fall meeting and conclude thirty (30) days following adjournment of the succeeding fall IAFWA meeting. The First Vice-President shall automatically succeed to President if he/she remains eligible. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected by members and serve until replaced.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the elected officers, and one representative from each state and province except those represented by the elected 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 R T I C L E I I

OTHER ASSOCIATION POSITIONS

Section 1. The Association shall also establish the position of "Coordinator." 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.

Section 2. 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 Colorado, 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. Persons who cannot qualify for regular membership in the Association may be elected Honorary Members by unanimous vote of members.

Section 5. 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 President 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.

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, shall record and compile proceedings of that year 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 Secretary/Treasurer shall keep a record of all transactions of the meetings of the Association, as well as meetings of the Board of Directors, shall notify members of the time and place of meetings and perform such other duties as are naturally incumbent upon the office. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be custodian of all funds of the Association and draw all warrants for the payment of claims properly presented. He/she shall bill the members and collect the annual dues. It is the intent of the Association that the costs of the annual meetings and related business functions, not to exceed \$2,500.00, may be paid by the Association.

Section 4. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be custodian of all permanent files and other assets of the Association.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall conduct the business of the Association.

Section 6. The Coordinator shall perform the following services:

- (1) Function as the official "Coordinator" 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 Vice-President of the International 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) Provide such other services as may be mutually agreed upon by both parties.

Section 7. The Recording Secretary shall perform the following services:

- (1) Publish the annual proceedings of the Association.
- (2) Assist with the scheduling of meetings and conference calls and to record minutes as appropriate.
- (3) Assist other officers with correspondence, recording keeping and tax reporting.
- (4) Other duties as assigned by the President or the Secretary/Treasurer

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 outgoing President has administrative responsibility, or in such other locations designated 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 Board of Directors, by majority vote by mail ballot.

ARTICLE VII

DUES

Annual Dues shall be \$300.00 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.

ARTICLE VIII

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Association shall be July 1 through June 30.

ARTICLE IX

QUORUM

A simple majority of all member states and provinces in good standing constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENT

The Constitution and 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 Secretary/Treasurer and sent to members at least thirty days before the regular annual meeting or special meeting called for that purpose. With approval of the First Vice-President, the President may call for voting by 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, written notice sent to each member within forty-eight hours of vote tabulation by the Secretary/Treasurer, and all ballots shall be kept for one year following the vote.

ARTICLE XI

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, Secretary/Treasurer, 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.
- B. The Auditing Committee shall be composed of three members: The Vice President of the Association, who shall act as chairman, and two other members to be appointed by the President.
- C. The Resolutions Committee shall be composed of three members, one of which shall be designated as Chairman by the President.
- D. The Nominating/Awards Committee shall be composed of three members, one of which shall be designated as Chairman by the President.

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 to the President 30 days in advance of the annual meeting and may choose to conduct necessary committee business during the period between annual meetings as per their approved operating procedures.
- C. Resolutions from Technical Working Committees for Association action shall be submitted to the Chair of the Resolutions Committee.

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.

Amended: July 16, 2003

Attendance Roster

Steve Adair
Ducks Unlimited (DU)
2525 River Rd
Bismarck ND 58503
701-355-3511 701-355-3512
sadair@ducks.org

Rex Amack
NE Game and Parks Commission
PO Box 30370
Lincoln NE 68503
402-471-5539 402-471-5528
ramack@ngpc.state.ne.us

John Baughman
Int'l Assn of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA)
444 N. Capitol St. NW, # 544
Washington DC 20001
202-624-7890 202-624-7891
baughman@sso.org

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Executive Committee Minutes (6/7 & 7/11/04)

**MAFWA
Executive Committee Meeting
June 7, 2004
Teleconference Call**

Call to Order

President Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Quorum

Dean Hildebrand and Randy Kriel, North Dakota; Joe Kramer, Kansas; Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado; Steve Gray, Ohio; and Rex Amack, Nebraska. Also, Coordinator Ollie Torgerson and Recording Secretary Sheila Kemmis.

Agenda Review

Added Awards recommendations and Law Enforcement training opportunity under “Other Business” and changed order of reports to place Coordinator funding issue as the last topic of discussion.

Approval of March 17, 2004 Executive Committee Minutes

Rex Amack, Nebraska, moved, *Steve Gray, Ohio*, second.

Consideration of the Jaschek Fund Guidelines Rewrite Committee Report-Randy/Joe

Delayed discussion to incorporate decision for Coordinator position funding.

By-laws Revision Recommendations-Jeff Ver Steeg

Dues not in here yet, should have by the 10th or email by the end of the week. 1) Need to develop and implement a long-term strategy for funding the coordinator position (2003) - Pending dues increase decision at annual meeting in Bismarck. 2) Elimination of the term “First” when referring to the position of the “First” Vice President. 3) Clarification that the position of Coordinator is nonvoting (similar to Recording Secretary). 4) The allowance of electronic mail and phone calls to conduct business in certain situations. 5) Requiring Technical Working Committees to submit written reports electronically to the Recording Secretary as well as the President. 6) Creation of a new standing committee, the Bylaws Committee. Discussed proxy issue - we follow Robert’s Rules of Order and this does not allow for a proxy when someone steps out of the room, but does allow for a state to substitute a person to attend the meeting. The dues will be covered in a separate motion. *Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado*, moved to present this to the members, *Rex Amack, Nebraska*, second.

MAFWA Work Plan Review-Ollie

1) Conduct a third strategic thinking session in July, 2004 and survey Directors to narrow our focus and become more specific about items of strategic importance (Dan Zekor will conduct this survey). 2) Broaden involvement of Directors (all but Kansas, Colorado and Kentucky) and outside groups, e.g. NGO’s (10 new affiliates have applied out of 19 invitations), federal

agencies (expect quite a few to come to the Bismarck meeting). 3) Establish a Director liaison with each committee of MAFWA (all but three groups have Liaisons). 4) Launch a MAFWA web site (90% complete, should be up this Wednesday, but not interactive until next week. Website address is MAFWA.IAFWA.info. 5) Develop a program to enhance the Jaschek fund (Amack and Torgerson to draft a proposal for annual meeting). 6) Revise the Jaschek fund guidelines (working on). 7) Develop a Merrill-Lynch work plan (working on). 8) Develop a NCN for coordinator funding (done, but did not pass). 9) Coordinate and develop annual meeting agenda with ND (done). 10) Develop “state of the state” reports for posting on web site (have all but Missouri’s reports). 11) Decide at annual meeting if an official logo for MAFWA should be developed to accompany our mast head (no draft yet, but a competition would be fun to incorporate for next year’s vote). Everything is on target.

Other Business - Ollie stated he received a thank you from AMH on the meeting we helped sponsor. Randy asked Ollie to get in touch with Rasmussen from MICRA to make sure he is aware he is on the strategic thinking session and also reporting on Monday. Talked about the adjustment made to registration, \$50 for spouse and family members. Asked for door prize items. Joe reminded that Working Groups need to send in their reports 30 days in advance of meeting (this week).

Awards Recommendation - Ollie Torgerson/Dean Hildebrand

Ollie - New awards recommended by Awards Committee (Glen Salmon and Kirk Nelson). 1) Excellence in Conservation Award to be presented to an agency. 2) Conservation Education Award to be presented to an agency. 3) “Spirit of the Shack” Achievement Award (highest award we would give) to be given to an individual. 4) Midwest President’s Award to be given to a political group or NGO (selected by the President only). 5) Law Enforcement of the Year Award to be given to an individual. 6) Wildlife Biologist of the Year Award to be given to an individual. 7) Fisheries Biologist of the Year Award to be given to an individual. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota- Want to thank Glen Salmon and Kirk Nelson for the superb work done on these new awards. Discussed whether we should award all of the awards or just some of them. *Steve Gray, Ohio*, made a motion to present these award suggestions to the entire membership, *Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado*, second. Decided to appoint a Committee in North Dakota to work on these awards for Ohio meeting. Also, discussed whether a change would be required in the by-laws and it was decided that we could put in on the revised by-laws and act on it at that time. Discussed who would receive awards this year in North Dakota and Ollie stated he would contact Glen Salmon.

Law Enforcement Training Opportunity - Ollie Torgerson

Attended SE Director’s meeting the first part of May and they are working on hosting a “train the trainer session” on crime scene investigation this summer. It will be presented to 17 states (a week long course) by Rich Minnis of Mississippi State University. He will take the participants out at night and train them how to secure a crime scene. Minnis has received a grant which will pay for all of the training except for the travel of the trainer to get there. I have asked Minnis if he would offer training in the MAFWA states and he stated he would be interested. The training could not occur until next year. Discussed this and *Rex Amack, Nebraska*, made a motion and

Steve Gray, Ohio, second to have Minnis present something to the member states in North Dakota on Monday afternoon to replace the predator discussion.

Consideration of the Investments Committee Report-Doug/Jeff Vonk/Joe (moved from earlier in the agenda)

Decided to wait on vote of funding for Coordinator. Merrill Lynch is down to \$44,000, loss of \$6,000 from original \$50,000 investment.

Coordinator Funding Recommendation-Dean

Ollie estimates that it will require about 1000 hours per year to perform the necessary staff work to grow the association and carry out our annual work plan. His salary (\$40,000), travel expenses (\$5,000), and office support (\$5,000) presents an annual budget of \$50,000. A dues increase of about \$3,500 per year/per state will be required to finance this. Depending on how much office support Wisconsin can provide and how much money we decide to use from our permanent fund each year, the dues increase could be reduced to about \$3,000 per year. I support a dues increase even though North Dakota likely has the smallest fish and wildlife budget among our members. I encourage you to find it within your will to do likewise. This could be a controversial issue and we need suggestions or alternatives. Randy Kriel, North Dakota - Chores and duties would fall to states hosting annual meetings if we had no coordinator. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota- Need the extra help for Directors to move forward as a viable organization. Need to look for a grant to assist all Associations, not just MAFWA. IAFWA is not interested, obvious through the NCN grant. Kansas, Ohio and North Dakota all stated they would pay the additional money if needed. Colorado stated it was a bad time for them and he didn't know if they could afford it right now. Steve Gray - Ohio is willing to pay, but we need to be aware of sticker shock and attracting negative attention. Rex Amack, Nebraska - That much money could draw the attention of the bean counters, the Governor and media. It is not an issue of wanting the Coordinator, we do. Will it be \$50,000 for sure? Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota - We can negotiate that figure at the meeting, may be \$2,000 to \$2,500 per state. Sheila Kemmis - Suggest not calling it dues, but a special project like the Farm Bill Coordinator position was. *Rex Amack, Nebraska*, moved to put this on the agenda to discuss with the full Board, *Steve Gray, Ohio*, second. Rex Amack, Nebraska, suggested this be discussed in a closed session and it was decided to place it as the first item on the agenda for the Tuesday Business Meeting. Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado, asked if he should leave a blank or question mark in the dollar amount for dues until this was discussed, it was decided he would. After discussion it was decided to discuss this on Sunday and then bring the suggestions forward to the Business Meeting on Tuesday.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

AGENDA

July 11, 2004

7:00-8:00 a.m.

**Liberty/Manhattan Room
Radisson Hotel, Bismarck**

CALL TO ORDER

QUORUM

AGENDA REVIEW

APPROVAL OF JUNE 7, 2004 EXCOM MINUTES

**CONSIDERATION OF THE JASCHEK FUND GUIDELINES REWRITE COMMITTEE
REPORT-RANDY/JOE**

**CONSIDERATION OF THE INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT-DOUG/JEFF
VONK/JOE**

COORDINATOR FUNDING DISCUSSION-DEAN

BY-LAWS REVISION RECOMMENDATIONS-JEFF VERSTEEG

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

**MAFWA
Executive Committee Meeting
July 11, 2004
Radisson Hotel, Bismarck, ND**

Call to Order

President Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota, called the meeting to order at 7:00 am.

Quorum

Dean Hildebrand and Randy Kreil, North Dakota; Joe Kramer, Kansas; Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado; Steve Gray, Ohio; and Rex Amack, Nebraska. Also, Coordinator Ollie Torgerson and Recording Secretary Sheila Kemmis were present.

Agenda Review

Approval of June 7, 2004 Executive Committee Minutes

*Rex Amack, Nebraska, moved, Steve Gray, Ohio, second. **Approved.***

Consideration of the Jaschek Fund Guidelines Rewrite Committee Report-Randy/Joe

Delayed discussion to incorporate decision for Coordinator position funding.

Consideration of the Investments Committee Report-Doug/Jeff Vonk/Joe

No one present to give report.

Coordinator Funding Discussion – Dean

Ollie estimates that it will require about 1,000 hours per year to perform the necessary staff work to grow the Association and carry out our annual work plan. His salary (\$40,000), travel expenses (\$5,000), and office support (\$5,000) presents an annual budget of \$50,000. A dues increase of about \$3,500 per year/per state will be required to finance this. Depending on how much office support Wisconsin can provide and how much money we decide to use from our permanent fund each year, the dues increase could be reduced to about \$3,000 per year. Dean Hildebrand supports a dues increase even though North Dakota likely has the smallest fish and wildlife budget among our members. He encourages other states to find it within their will to do likewise. This could be a controversial issue and we need suggestions or alternatives.

By-Laws Revision Recommendations – Jeff Ver Steeg

1) Need to develop and implement a long-term strategy for funding the coordinator position (2003) - Pending dues increase decision at annual meeting in Bismarck. 2) Elimination of the term “First” when referring to the position of the “First” Vice President. 3) Clarification that the position of Coordinator is nonvoting (similar to Recording Secretary). 4) The allowance of electronic mail and phone calls to conduct business in certain situations. 5) Requiring Technical Working Committees to submit written reports electronically to the Recording Secretary as well as the President. 6) Creation of a new standing committee, the Bylaws Committee. *Jeff Ver*

Steeg, Colorado, moved to present this to the members, *Rex Amack, Nebraska*, second.
Approved.

Other Business –

No other business discussed.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Minutes

(7/11 - 7/12/04)

**71ST ANNUAL MEETING
JULY 10-13, 2004**

**RADISSON HOTEL
605 E BROADWAY AVE
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501**

SUNDAY JULY 11th

Executive Committee Breakfast Meeting (*Liberty/Manhattan Room*)

Opening Remarks

Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota gave welcome address. Going to Fort Lincoln tonight. Going to Washburn tomorrow where Lewis and Clark spent 144 nights. We will meet in new Interpretive Center and go to Fort Mandan. Give you chapbook there.

Strategic Thinking Session

Dan Zekor, Missouri, facilitator for strategic thinking portion of the meeting. Put together basis of strategic plan from past meetings. Had communication with some of you and have come up with a list of issues.

Funding Coordinator Position – Ollie Torgerson has been acting as Coordinator for past two years and have his work plan here which most of you have read. Need to decide how we will continue funding this position. Ollie said \$30,000 to \$40,000 salary, plus expenses. Some states have stated that they would absorb costs of office expenses. Question is, do we want an Executive Director, do we go out for bids, and how much do we pay and where do we pay them from? We have about \$209,000 from the Jaschek fund and we have about \$30,000 in interest. Ollie will be done in Missouri in August and will move up to Wisconsin and Wisconsin has stated they would be willing to provide some office space. Glen Salmon, Indiana – What are dues? Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota - \$300, raised two years ago from \$100. I asked Ollie to go out and get affiliate organizations and their dues are only \$75 and I feel we can raise those. John Hoskins, Missouri – Two years ago Jerry Conley was outgoing and I was incoming and we were executing a reduction of our work force and we offered people who wanted to retire early a part-time job. Jerry came up with the suggestion to have Ollie work for the Midwest with Missouri paying his part-time salary. This has been a win-win situation. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota thanked Missouri and asked Ollie to leave the room. Mike Conlin, Iowa – Has Ollie moved to Wisconsin? Scott Hassett, Wisconsin – We can offer space, but not administrative services. Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin – We can offer space, but would like to offer that on a two year period and then review it, but we can not offer clerical support. Joel Brunsvold, Illinois – What clerical support does he need? Jeff Vonk, Iowa – Ollie stated between 120 and 150 hours. Joel Brunsvold, Illinois – One person basically. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – Ollie stated that there were three states that stepped forward and offered office space. We are trying to decide if we keep Ollie involved. Lauri Osterndorf, Wisconsin – Need to take a step back and not look at Ollie, but

other people also. John Hoskins, Missouri – We need to decide first if we want a coordinator. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – The Executive Committee felt it was very important to have a coordinator. Keith Sexson, Kansas – Do we need a vote? Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – We will vote at the business meeting, we are trying to give you as much information as we possibly can. **Asked a show of hands on who wants a coordinator, all raised hand.** Just a consensus. Glen Salmon, Indiana – Need to come up with a formal process and kick that off on Tuesday. We need to talk about money. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – We are in the short term focus and there are other ways to get this done. Had discussions with at least one other director in this room and we could host this position within our staff, which would provide a much cheaper option to the Association. We would be willing to absorb those costs. What we are struggling with, at the Executive Committee level, is continuity. Joel Brunsvold, Illinois – Illinois could offer staff also. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – Iowa could have some problem with travel costs which the Association could cover. What are the important qualities of this job? Joel Brunsvold, Illinois – Do you have an outline of what the job would cover? Jeff Vonk, Iowa – Ollie brought forth a proposal of about \$50,000, but during the Executive Committee meeting was lowered to about \$40,000. We discussed using the Jaschek fund or a special assessment. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – Ollie stated 1,000 hours at \$30 a year salary, \$5,000 travel expenses and \$5,000 office costs. Rex Amack, Nebraska – Does Wyoming pay 100% of Larry Kruckenberg's salary? John Baughman, IAFWA – In Wyoming we decided that we could. We thought it would be 10 percent most of the year with 25 percent around meeting times. It has ended up about 25 percent most of the year with 50 percent around meeting times. The Northwest pays their Coordinator about \$4,000. The Western sells their proceedings and pays Larry about \$1,000 a year and some travel. Rex Amack, Nebraska – Twenty-five percent would be about 500 hours a year. Dan Zekor, Missouri – You are talking about possibly rotating this around the states? Keith Sexson, Kansas – Continuity is important, issues don't always change, but faces change, and the coordinator could carry the Association. Not sure rotating this around the states would be a good idea. Steve Gray, Ohio – Feel that continuity is also very important and we have come a long way in two years. We have already proven that it didn't work when we were rotating this around. Doug Hansen, South Dakota – A two year rotation would be slightly better than what we had before with the President changing every year. You get what you pay for and it would take someone else quite a while to come up to speed. Who is directing this, Ollie or us, we need to decide what we want, 1,000 hours or 500 hours. Keith Sexson, Kansas – I think the fact that the Association went forward with the NCN proposal is proof that we wanted to move forward. Larry Nelson, Minnesota – Speak in favor of continuity. Dan Zekor, Missouri – Do we have enough leg work done? Do we feel good with what Ollie has done? Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – I am somewhat biased because as the President I have relied on his expertise. If we decide we want an Executive Director, possibly we could find someone with the same level of expertise for lesser money or Ollie would agree to take lesser money. Discussed a possible dues increase, which could amount to about \$2,800 a year. Can we reduce the number of hours or can we find someone in our state to do this job? We need to go over this and bring suggestions to the business meeting. We have planned an Executive Committee meeting for August. We need to look at how we want to come up with the money, maybe we need a committee to come up with a recommendation. We are trying to lay down a foundation for the future, whether that is Ollie or not. Tom Bennett, Kentucky – Are we shooting in the dark? Do we need to see how much money

each state can come up with, by poll? You've got to have some leadership. I can meet that red-faced test in Kentucky. Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado – In Colorado we could do this as a special assessment rather than as a dues increase and that would buy us some time. Tom Bennett, Kentucky – If it is important to you, you will find the money. Dan Zekor, Missouri – **Special assessment idea of dues adjustment for two years, \$2,500, could you go back to your state and do it? All raised hands.** Doug Hansen, South Dakota – Dedicate Jaschek fund interest to fund position for two years to minimize the assessment. Glen Salmon, Indiana – Registration for this meeting was only \$100, possibly raise registration fees, could also bring that assessment down. Doug Hansen, South Dakota – Like two year transition idea. Dan Zekor, Missouri – Look at package of ways to fund this position including an assessment. Rex Amack, Nebraska – **Asked show of hands for states that would offer financial support or administrative support like Western does.** Dan Zekor, Missouri – Show of hands? **Three states showed hands.** Rex Amack, Nebraska – Also, Kansas has made a substantial contribution with Joe Kramer as Secretary/Treasurer for about 13 years and Sheila Kemmis has been doing her job for about 10 years. Glen Salmon, Indiana – We need to look at what would happen if they left. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – The Executive Director could take on some of that responsibility. Dan Zekor, Missouri – What would be the next step? Jeff Vonk, Iowa – Formalize special assessment and other options at our business meeting. Dan Zekor, Missouri – Doug Hansen put together basic frameworks and bring to business meeting with help of Larry Nelson, Minnesota; Joe Kramer, Kansas; and Jeff Vonk, Iowa. John Hoskins, Missouri – Are we putting forward a proposal for existing coordinator or putting out proposal for bids? Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – That is up to the Association. We could put out an advertisement if you so desire. Joel Brunsvold, Illinois – Are we transitioning to a two year period? Glen Salmon, Indiana – Stick with Ollie for two years, look where he has gotten us and then over the next two years go over this and then go out for a bid. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – I don't disagree with that, but we are going to put an offer on the table and Ollie can refuse or accept that. Mike Conlin, Illinois – We can meet the budget, go forward with a maximum of \$2,500 assessment. I agree with keeping Ollie for the next two years. Dan Zekor, Missouri – Have short term position, now need to look at the long term. Joel Brunsvold, Illinois – Put a committee together. Steve Gray, Ohio; and Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota will work together and put together a committee? **Establish a long term committee – Laurie Osterndorf, Wisconsin; Rex Amack, Nebraska; Joel Brunsvold, Illinois; Glen Salmon, Indiana; and Joe Kramer, Kansas.** John Hoskins, Missouri – Regarding annual work plan, do we continue with same work plan if we don't keep Ollie? Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – We update that every year.

Break for 15 minutes

Steve Williams, USFWS – Thank North Dakota for their efforts at putting this on. Apologize for needing to leave early, going to Calgary for Wetlands Council Meeting. Feel like this is my real home Association meeting. The first meeting I came to there were only about 25 people at that meeting and think the action you will take at the business meeting is great. Introduced Robyn Thorson, John Blankenship, Mitch King, Bob Bryant from USFWS. Paul Schmitt is coming in later also. Endangered species: moving to delist wolves in northwest; moving forward to delist bald eagles; and in Region 6 and Region 1 dealing with issue to list sage grouse. We have to

make a decision by December 29. Eleven states fall within sage grouse range. Separated migratory birds and state wetland restoration programs. On migratory birds, working on setting season restrictions for waterfowl. On small wetland easement program, we have done about 3,000 easements. Matt Hogen has pushed through a policy and got it approved by the Secretary of Interior. We have run out of money that was appropriated because we are putting those on the ground faster. Reprogramming request for waterfowl survey funding. Sportfish and Wildlife Restoration new coordinator is Mitch King. We see positive results coming out of states and USFWS. On fisheries, continuing to work on step-down plans on strategic plan. Looking for enhanced funding in 2005 budget. Difficult times in fish hatcheries and trying to impress on Congress the importance of these hatcheries. Working with BOR on mitigation hatcheries, and then plan to go to COE. Excited about National Fish Habitat Initiative and the role we can play in that with the states. National Wildlife Refuges, close to finalizing three policies, the product at the end will be much improved. Recognize that even though we own and manage 500 plus refuges that each of them lie within state borders. Hope to hire someone as a national liaison with the states on how we manage the refuge system. We have hired coordinators. This year 10 new refuges open for hunting as well as wildlife viewing. Law Enforcement in the Department of Interior is working on providing full time law enforcement officers on refuge property. Having difficulties in southeast and you (states) may be approached at some point to provide law enforcement on wildlife refuges. We will be graduating a new class of Law Enforcement special agents in September. We had requests for review of law enforcement plan, which we are doing. Reported at previous meetings that USFWS and USGS are coming together on research efforts (USFWS has the need and USGS has the research capability) and we have seen success and hope to sit down at the table as equal partners. Have a dual commitment to make it work. Also, working together with NRCS to provide better conservation in this country. There has been a fair amount of discussion about the states and using some of them as examples. Fiscal year 2006 federal budget is in a tight squeeze. How do we put together a budget that has a group focusing dollars on the core mission: federal aid; critical activities, migratory, fisheries, law enforcement, endangered species, sport fish and wildlife restoration, and national wildlife refuges. Tom Bennett, Kentucky - Question about mitigation hatcheries with BOR, could use help to educate Congress on this issue.

Steve Williams, USFWS - What is the role of NABSI? Need to redefine their work and look forward to working with you and International committees. Mike Conlin, Illinois - Closer ties with USGS, real problem is tight budgets, talked about closing down some of those stations in our area. Could use help of USFWS on work on Mississippi River. Steve Williams, USFWS - We also have an overhead rate that we are paying to the USGS. We meet monthly and deal with topics that come up in the field. Trying to build a relationship and overhead might wait a little bit because it is a sticky issue. Larry Nelson, Minnesota - Appointing a coordinator to explore opportunities for refuges and hunting and fishing coordinator, do you see one at every refuge? Steve Williams, USFWS - Two national coordinators, don't see one at every refuge right now. Looking for opportunities for disability hunts, in an attempt to institutionalize one of the big six that happen at refuges (hunting and fishing).

Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota presented a plaque to Steve Williams for support of Midwest and certificate of quotes signed by directors.

Strategic Thinking (continued)

Dan Zekor, Missouri – Document handed out that listed critical issues of Association. Would like to discuss a couple of those issues and need suggestion of what to discuss. John Hoskins, Missouri – Farm bill in federal program. Will funding continue at a level where we are used to? John Baughman, IAFWA – Discussion later in program about farm bill, among seven national needs and will be guided by Midwest priorities. We are working in an advocacy role of getting as much money into these programs as we can. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – Is it right to ask when you will put together a support person for the farm bill and ask questions as an organization? John Baughman, IAFWA – Timeline of when we need to have our position put together? Jeff Vonk, Iowa – I think it is ok as an organization. John Hoskins, Missouri – Is it something we should or could do is ask for support? See value of asking Presidential candidates their position on farm bill. Joel Brunsvold, Illinois – Nationally, the International should front for us on something like this. John Baughman, IAFWA – We have sent out a document that explains our position. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – My point is that we will take position, as a coalition or in other ways, or ask for support from those candidates and get some kind of accountability to go back to. I think we ought to try and reasonably expect a response. Keith Sexson, Kansas – Also, they are working on their platforms now. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – I think both candidates will be working on conservation issues. Tom Bennett, Kentucky – We will put it on the next conference call in early August and work it out. John Hoskins, Missouri – Some of our states are considered battleground states for some of these elections. Robyn Thorson, USFWS – It is hard to get national support especially during a war issue. Jeff's point is well taken and the timing is outstanding because of the importance of the swing vote. Claudia Emken, The Nature Conservancy – Did a national poll a couple of months ago and I can provide that information and it is broken down regionally. Waiting until August to talk about that and may even be too late. Voters are concerned about conservation issues. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – Would you please provide all directors with a copy. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – Now is the time to get their response. Doug Hansen, South Dakota – The other issue involved, is does the Midwest step out in front or do we take a regional approach. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – I think this is important nationally in different ways. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – If you put together a position paper and send that to your Congressional delegation, sent by the directors, they usually are appreciative. A hand written note works best and if we do that cohesively, you can have an impact. If all four Associations did this I think this could happen. It is appropriate to do this before, not after the election. John Baughman, IAFWA – Some issues need to be occurring now, some after the election, but I think that this needs to be addressed locally. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – These are questions about commitments that we all are concerned with. Some of the issues are beyond just fish and wildlife. Richard Bishop, Iowa – Not speaking about methodology, farm bill is extremely important to the Midwest. We need to take this to the International and push this. Dan Zekor, Missouri – Possible strategy – conference call at IAFWA level, at MAFWA level have someone come up with guts of letter to send out to candidates. Reasonable approach or better idea? Mike Conlin, Illinois – Have chair of private land committee draft letter. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – Could put together a white paper, North Dakota is going to lose 1/3 of our acres. It would be wonderful if we could get this to the Presidential candidates, just not sure how we can do that. Need to work with Tom Bennett and John Baughman and write the

words. I can compose something and send it out to you, but we need to put it in the right target. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – My people could send out letters to Congressional. Randy Kreil, North Dakota – Midwest Private Lands met here. Dave Walker, IAFWA – Private Lands group could write up something and send out recommendations to the other Associations. What is regional could be different from what is national, needs to be more broad. Randy Kreil, North Dakota – You will see a report from the Private Lands group. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – We need to see what they support, not what we support, to get a sense so we have a record. Mitch King, USFWS – Like idea of putting something together and having each of you take it out to your delegation in your state. What I haven't heard is someone who could take this out nationally, identify three or four key folks that could take this to the campaign. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – When will this be discussed? Randy Kreil, North Dakota – Tomorrow discussing CRP, also Private Lands report on Tuesday. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – The private lands group did come up with something we can use and the key here is to come up with a unified approach and I would like to see Dave Walker discuss this tomorrow. Would like to build on this with President Bush first and then the Kerry side. This is getting more visibility and we need to build on that. Scott Hassett, Wisconsin – Agree with Jeff Vonk on this, it is a two prong thing, need to get message out and get a commitment out of those candidates and it should come from the Midwest because we do have so many swing states. We need to work tomorrow on the vehicle to use. John Goss, Indiana – Use power and sign short concise statement. Dave Walker, IAFWA – Right now we are seeing a slow erosion of the funding, need to ask folks what their position is on full funding of the authorization levels. Robyn Thorson, USFWS – Getting harder to wait for 14 signatures, but maybe a letter from Midwest and list states and ask them to state their opinion, signed by Association President and let them answer. I think they will be shopping for what they can say about the farm bill. **Dean asked Robyn to work with Ollie to have a letter ready to go here before we leave, in the form of asking for a response back.** Jeff Vonk, Iowa – I want specific questions. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – **Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator; Robyn Thorson, USFWS; and Jeff Vonk, Iowa; will work on this.**

Joel Brunsvold, Illinois – On the Asian Carp issue, Illinois is building a processing plant to process 23 million pounds per year to use for fish protein. Steve Gray, Ohio – Need to finance the barrier the way it needs to be. It is an immediate issue for the Great Lakes states to be sure we get the adequate funding. Marion Conover, Iowa – National screening process is really needed, tied up right now. Would possibly like to see this added to letter to candidates. Need help from federal government. Doug Nygren, Kansas – Use of Asian Carp for animal feeding industry, ban of bovine products recently could increase this. Robyn Thorson, USFWS – The use of these Asian Carp for fertilizers, concern about creating market for these fish and keep eyes on the prize, to get rid of these. I appreciate what Illinois is trying to do. Joel Brunsvold, Illinois – I think we are trying to solve the problem now. Mike Conlin, Illinois – We understand what you are saying. We have been trying to get rid of the Asian Carp for 150 years. There could be a silver bullet out there, but I don't see one. They are 70 percent to 90 percent of our viable species. We are aware of that potential and we have to deal with them now. Last week another problem, the round goby came into the Great Lakes, found one 110 miles downstream. Glen Salmon, Indiana – Is the funding in place for the barrier or is there something we need to be doing? Mike Conlin, Illinois – We have a handle on it right now. It is essentially for a double

barrier and we want both of them operational. We will have one set operational by this fall and would like to have the other one.

Dan Zekor, Missouri – If you have any issues you want discussed please send a note to either Ollie or I.

Mike Conlin, Illinois – Commercial Fisherman harvested a black carp downstream in Arkansas which adds to that. We need a clean list where it is automatically illegal. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – What is being done about that, is somebody working that issue? Mike Conlin, Illinois – I have been talking with Steve Williams and he says it is going to happen, but it is just a matter of time. Glen Salmon, Indiana – We are looking at the next wild west, or frontier, as far as aquatic species and we need to look down the road. Dan Zekor, Missouri – In Missouri working on grant to address invasive species coordinator. Eric Schwabb, IAFWA – Regional workshops, first held in Northeastern, yours in December. Make sure that the states and regions work together and that the right people are at that meeting. **Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota thanked National Shooting Sports Foundation and Sharon Rushton for their support.** Glen Salmon, Indiana – Invitation to Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference is in Indiana this year.

Lunch sponsored by National Shooting Sports Foundation

Opening Session – Dean Hildebrand, Director of North Dakota Game and Fish Department (Rembrandt Room) Welcomed other new comers to the Association. Rebecca Humphries, Director from Michigan; Bruce McCloskey, Colorado's new director (could not be here); Larry Nelson, Deputy Director, Minnesota; Bob Bates, new Deputy Directory in Kentucky (could not be here); and Dale Garner will be taking Richard Bishop's place as the new Chief of Wildlife in Iowa. Also, not new but maybe here for the first time: Joel Brunsvold, Director, Illinois; and recognize Gene Merriam, the new Commissioner in Minnesota who could not be here.

Welcome to North Dakota - Dean Hildebrand, ND Director, showed 8 minute video on North Dakota Game and Parks. Placed outreach people in four of our largest communities, Fargo, Grand Forks, Bismarck and Minot.

Conference Overview – Randy Kreil, Conference Chairman, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, introduced planning group: Clare Renner; Jeb Williams; Kelly Wike; and Dale Repnow. Also, helping Scott Peterson; Randy Meissner; Colin Penner; and Barb Schell.

State of the International Association – C. Tom Bennett, President, IAFWA, Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources - In regards to the story of missing pelicans told a joke about a captain, a parrot and a magician. You need to write down these dates: August 2, September 26, and December 6. Financially IAFWA is solid, and we are moving space within the same building. The average tenure of Directors is very short, sometimes less than two years so we need to engage you quicker. Terry Crowth, incoming IAFWA President, will be asking you to chair or serve on a committee and involve your technical people. We need to get leadership from your level. All of you can pass red-faced test if we can say coordination of the IAFWA has contributed millions in your states. Get strategies and plans ready for next year. Status of State Wildlife Grants (SWG), has been cut, was \$80 million and we need your help to

bump that back up. August 2 is one year out meeting; IAFWA meeting is September 26 in New Jersey; December 6 – 8 is Conservation Education Summit. One year out workshop is something you need to commit to.

IAFWA Staff Report – *John Baughman, Executive Vice President, IAFWA, Washington D.C.*

- Staff report is on the website - www.iafwa.org. Comprehensive wildlife plans. Want to develop state funding, 10 – 12 states have significant state-based funding, needs to be all 50 states. We would like to provide the tools to help states find the plan right for them. Conservation Leadership Institute meeting end of May in DC, about 25 people present. In the states, 40 percent of managers are baby boomers or above, even higher at the Director level. States can nominate people to come to the National Conservation Training Center for two week training, 25 – 30 people at a time. There is a lot of leadership training classes across the country, but they are very expensive and not natural resource focused. Winter of 2005/2006 for inaugural class and looking at some fund raising, about \$250,000 a year, hopefully have each state pay room and board only for their people, about \$2,000 for the two week training. Our offices will be moving to the 7th floor instead of being on several different floors. Expect defense bill and homeland security bills will be the only ones passed before the elections. There has been a USFWS person working for national refuge system at Arlington for three years, partially funded by IAFWA. Introduced Eric Schwaab and Russell Mason. *Eric Schwaab, IAFWA* – The new NBII coordinator will be Samara Trusso. Five court cases pending, John Hoskins, Missouri, is head of IAFWA Legal Committee and is looking at those.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Reports - *Robyn Thorson, Region III Director, Ft. Snelling, MN*

Prepared a folder for Great Lakes – Big Lakes region [Not included in proceedings, contact Robyn for copy] - Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation plans; information on cormorants; fire and wildlife management; and other topics and could be of enormous value to you. The Deputy Regional Director is now Charles Wooley, since Marvin Moriarty is now the Northwest Region Director. The new regional chief of Federal Aid program is Bob Bryant. The Duck Stamp competition winner this year is again from Minnesota. A staff person from the Middle Mississippi Refuge, part of Mark Twain unit, has just been selected for the Olympic archery team - John Magera. President's executive order on Great Lakes announced May 8, will meet to address nine elements (same as Great Lakes Governor's have). Emphasized two things, separate from natural resources, relationships are everything (we listen), plan to have meetings with my leadership team and yours so that we can work together; tell our story, increasingly urban population, need to tell story in medium the public would receive best. Did not have meetings this winter, because I received a special assignment, the Missouri River (biological opinion due Nov/Dec; Corps of Engineers low water; and court case). Personally thanked John Hoskins of Missouri for his help on court case. Midwest is split between two regions, Region 3 and Region 6.

John Blankenship – USFWS Region VI Director, Denver, CO (Deputy Director)

Involved in Midwest when I was in Minnesota, last time I can remember coming was when the meeting was in Nebraska and we went to the zoo. In November, the Missouri River changed over to Region III. The court case that just came out of the district court in Minneapolis, the state

won, but the river lost. “MRRIC” is the new program that will put together a master manual. Two new appeals were filed to that court case yesterday. Sage grouse issue is a big deal (spotted owl of the Midwest). Western Association did a paper, but had no conclusions. Plan to do structured management team decisions and then meet together. The decision is extended to July 30. High Plains partnership, \$5 million, involving 11 states, NRCS, WMI, The Nature Conservancy and several other NGOs, budget has been cut to \$1 million this year. Platte River agreement in the works, EIS is on the streets. Eastern segment DPS on wolves is going to be delisted, western unit not so fortunate. Hope to have a cooperative agreement with Idaho and Colorado and 10J rule. Looking at some lands that might be better off transferred to the state. The Service is looking at transferring Kirwin Refuge (BOR in Kansas), the workshop is the end of July and the strategy workshop is the end of August. We haven’t done this for quite a while (transferred control of a refuge). We are supporting the fishing initiative for 2005/2006. Mitigation hatcheries died out for a while, four in Midwest, Hodgekiss in Colorado, Garrison and Valley in North Dakota. I will be retiring September 1. Randy Kreil, North Dakota – On Sage Grouse, we are working on conservation plans, like prairie dog plan, do you think we have a chance of making that work here? John Blankenship, USFWS – Yes. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – What about the cormorant problem? John Blankenship, USFWS – Can use the 10J rule. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – Can they show investment made of monitoring impact of all the work? Robyn Thorson, USFWS – Yes, they do. The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) will be both carrot and stick on monitoring program. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – Is there a plan? Robyn Thorson, USFWS – It is in the biological plan, if Corps doesn’t do it, they will be held accountable. Adaptive management now done by MRRIC, not just Corps. Corps held meeting in May, now assigned people who did Everglades stakeholder plan, new meeting will be on August 12 in Omaha. All of the groups involved with the river need to be involved in the recovery of the river. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – Can states do monitoring at their own level? Robyn Thorson, USFWS – Absolutely. Doug Hansen, South Dakota – Are groups like MRBA involved? Robyn Thorson, USFWS – All groups are stakeholders. John Hoskins, Missouri – On Jeff’s question on monitoring, surprised by your answer. We have been working on that for some time. Very concerned about it and there may be more monitoring there than you are aware of. On the Law Enforcement strategic plan, any opportunity for states and IAFWA Law Enforcement Committee to have a review? John Blankenship, USFWS – Yes, if not yet, soon. We will let you know. On pallid sturgeon, we put out 30,000 fish to study drift, captured some from 1996/1997 release, starting to look successful.

Break

Introduction of New Federal and NGO Partners – Ollie Torgerson, Missouri Department of Conservation, MAFWA Coordinator - Developed this session for new partners or affiliates to introduce themselves. Pleased to have federal agencies such as USFWS (Steve Williams, Robyn Thorson, John Blankenship); USDA-APHIS (Mike Worthen coming in tomorrow); NRCS (no one present); USGS (no one present); National Parks Service, Midwest regional office which includes all but Kentucky, but have Arkansas instead, (Gary Vequist) have 56 parks in our area, and administer Land and Water Conservation Funds; and US Forest Service (no one present). Got to keep working with them and get them here to represent their agency. The Midwest has

had only one affiliate for years, Wildlife Management Institute, but no one is here this year as Rob Manes resigned and they have not appointed anyone to take his place yet. Sent out 19 letters and have nine groups that applied for affiliate membership: 1) Pheasants Forever, Rick Young – 100 plus employees, biologists help chapters raise money and spend money. We focus on habitat projects (30,000 a year); legislative projects which CRP is the biggest, Dave Nomsen should be here to talk about that tomorrow. Solicit our chapters to raise dollars for legislative issues, Leopold Education program, and mentor hunts. Kicked off campaign for build a wildlife area, raised \$250,000 to buy a wildlife area in Wisconsin, plan to transfer ownership to DNR. 2) American Sportfishing Association, Gordon Roberts couldn't come. 3) MICRA, Doug Nygren, Chair from Kansas – MICRA includes 28 states in the Mississippi River Basin and other partners (federal and Indian Nations). Jerry Rasmussen is the agencies full time coordinator. Started out being a paddlefish organization, have a paddlefish/sturgeon committee did a tagging which was very successful, and also have a sauger committee, freshwater mussel committee and aquatic nuisance committee. 4) National Shooting Sports Foundation, Sharon Rushton – Vote your sport campaign going on right now, has it's own website or go through NSSF website. Trying to get people to register to vote to help keep your sport. Also, could use help on Step Outside program [**Not included in proceedings, contact NSSF for copies of Step Outside and World Shooting Complex, Sparta, IL information**]. 5) Ducks Unlimited, Bob Hoffman (also Gildo Torri with him) – Not new to Midwest, Dick Pierce was here religiously until his retirement. Great partnership is putting more water and ducks on the ground. Changing how we deliver our projects, our marsh program is one example. Added over 200,000 acres of upland and wetland habitat this past year. Confluence focus area on Missouri, Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, conserving acres within those areas. Charitable giving laws are being reviewed and that concerns us. Upper Mississippi lock and dam issue providing for updating the system in legislation. Great Lakes extremely important to us, also have legislation there. Taking an active role in these efforts to be sure they benefit habitat and waterfowl. 6) Izaak Walton League of America, Bill Grant is the official liaison, not here. 7) The Nature Conservancy, Claudia Emken – The Nature Conservancy is a private conservation organization with 1 million members nationwide. We are about protecting habitat, most people think of us as a land purchasing agency, which is true, but we are a science-based organization. Conservation by Design [**Conservation by Design and other handouts not included in proceedings, contact TNC for copies**] is our mission plan and we are a non-confrontational agency. Recently went through a reorganization and our new Midwest region encompasses almost the same area as you do. Some of the issues we are working on would be the upper Mississippi River monitoring study and the ecosystem restoration. Also, helped with our input with the ecosystem part of the bill but are not involved in the lock system. We work very closely with the COE, good partners, but don't work fast. Also, working on flood plain issue in Illinois. We have training available for prescribed burns and work on invasive species. 8) National Wild Turkey Federation (James Earl Kennemer could not be here) stated they budget \$2,000 per year for regional meetings. 9) Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (no one present). Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator - I should have contacted COE, five districts in our area, but I will try to get in touch with them for next year's meeting.

Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – I asked Glen Salmon to put together a new awards program for us and I will have him walk through it now and then we can go through it quicker at the business meeting. Also, I will ask Jeff Ver Steeg to explain the Bylaw changes. Working on getting corporate sponsors and Ollie has done a great job at getting those. We may be increasing the dues to these groups in the future. We are working on these efforts together.

Glen Salmon, Indiana – I was given this awards program assignment by Dean and I have worked on this with Kirk Nelson and Sheila Kemmis. Awards to be considered would be: Excellence in Conservation award (plaque to rotate); Conservation Education award (team); “Spirit of the Shack” award (individual), plaque given to person to keep; President’s award (individual) NGO or government agency; Law Enforcement Officer of the Year (individual plaque) Wildlife Biologist of the Year; Fisheries Biologist of the Year. Hope to come up with a five or six person team to review submissions, and don’t plan to do all awards every year. If all seven awards are given each year, it could cost about \$400 a year. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – One of best reports I have received, gives instructions, costs and examples.

Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado – Regarding constitution changes, it is a good thing that we look at our by-laws every year because we seem to change them every year. Seven possible changes: 1) allowance of electronic mail or phone calls to conduct business; 2) clarification of Coordinator; 3) Elimination of “First” from First Vice President; 4) Require Technical Working Committees (TWC), as non-voting, to submit written reports electronically; 5) Require TWC to submit to President and Recording Secretary; 6) Create new standing committee – Bylaws Committee; 7) Potentially increase annual dues to help fund Coordinator position. What our dues should be is the most important issue we need to discuss on Tuesday.

Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado - Bruce McCloskey is going to do a Partners in Flight presentation at the Western and he gave me a handout of that presentation to give to all of you [**“Integrated Bird Conservation” not included in proceedings, contact Colorado for copy**]. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – There is going to be an All Bird Workshop, August 16 and 17 in Pierre, SD and ND is having one in December.

Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator – Standing committees are: the Executive Committee; the Auditing Committee; the Resolutions Committee; and the Nominating/Awards Committee. We also have technical working groups: the Midwest Private Lands Technical Group (Keith Sexson, Kansas, liaison); Public Lands Management Working Committee (Tim Bremicker, Minnesota, liaison); Midwest Legal Committee (John Hoskins, Missouri, liaison); Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers (Steve Gray, Ohio, liaison); Midwest Fish and Wildlife Health Committee (Rebecca Humphries, Michigan, liaison); MICRA (Mike Conlin, Illinois, liaison); Midwest Pheasant Study Group (no liaison); Midwest Deer and Turkey Working Group (no liaison); Midwest Furbearer Study Group (no liaison); and Prairie Grouse Technical Council (Richard Bishop, Iowa, liaison). Do we want to continue with strategic planning session next year and keep Dan Zekor? Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – We will discuss that at the business meeting.

Evening Social & Pitchfork Fondue at Ft. Lincoln State Park, catered by *Best Western Seven Seas Inn* of Bismarck/Mandan, ND – Sponsored by ***Ducks Unlimited***

MONDAY JULY 12th

Buses leave for Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center – Washburn, North Dakota, south-side parking lot. (*Vans will be in the front of the Hotel @ 3:00 p.m. to transport spouses and other family members to the Interpretive Center*)

Farm Bill Session: Moderator - *Randy Kreil*, Conference Chairman, North Dakota Game and Fish Department

CRP in Crisis - *Steve Adair, Ducks Unlimited* (PowerPoint presentation) [Actual presentation separate file on MAFWA website]

Nationwide CRP cap was 45 million acres in 1985, 39.2 million acres in 2002. Provides landscape-level conservation of soil, water and wildlife habitat. Currently there are 34.1 million acres across the nation, with large acreages in ND, MT, SD, KS, TX, and OK. Duck population levels are driven by events on breeding grounds, such as nesting success. Pheasants increased from 1.4 to 6.1 million birds in SD and are 40 percent higher in Iowa. Of grassland songbirds in CRP, 5 of 12 species would decline in ND if CRP is greatly reduced. Some concerns are that CRP has caused decline of farms and rural communities. In SD, 1.5 million acres; NE, 1.2 million acres; KS, 2.9 million acres; IN, 0.3 million acres; in CRP. Some people believe CRP is not part of working lands (showed examples of people who have made it work) and believe that CRP environmental benefits are local. That is not true, there are large economic impacts from waterfowl hunting and wildlife viewing. National average was 48 percent acceptance in 2003, lower than in 1997 (67 percent). In three key states, ND, SD, MT (prairie pothole region) acceptance levels have dropped dramatically. The minimum score for the last sign up was 269 points and a lot of past acreages did not get in. Compared average EI on those three states and EI was higher than in the past. Wetlands have been taken out of the equation for CRP signup, which takes away points. Also, national priority areas do not get extra points. Wildlife quality (100 pts) water quality (100 pts) erosion factor (100 pts) enduring benefits (50 pts), drive the sign up. Many acres will expire in those three states and we will lose 84 percent of 4.1 million acres in 2007. We would need to retain 57 million acres or 54 percent of cropland, and that is not going to happen. There is a continuing loss of grasslands in the prairie pothole region, 62 percent, or 56 million acres has been converted to cropland. CRP has reached critical mass in prairie pothole region. The EBI and eligible practices need to be re-evaluated to prevent CRP loss. Demand remains strong from producers, but declining grain stocks, growing deficit, misconceptions, and competing interests threaten the program. Need to push for reauthorization in 2007 to get greater wildlife benefits for the Farm bill conservation programs. *Mitch King, USFWS* – What about a survey? *John Goss, Indiana* – How many acres in prairie pothole region? *Steve Adair, DU* – 8 million acres. *John Goss, Indiana* – What do you need to get there? *Steve Adair, DU* – About 40 million acres. *Dave Walker, IAFWA* – Actually, 63 million acres, 2002 Farm bill was 45 million. *Robyn Thorson, USFWS* – Are the Grassland and Wetland Reserve programs not used? *Steve Adair, DU* – Funding levels not there for grassland, wetland program is not well received in ND, SD, MT. No permanent easements. *Dick Kroger, ND Natural Resources Trust* – When are the citizens of this country going to stop paying for those acres. When CRP stops it will all be plowed up. This is a temporary program, we need to promote perpetual programs. *Steve Adair,*

DU – One idea is to move to more of long-term program. Dick Kroger, ND Natural Resources Trust – Not enough, must be perpetual. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – Our state will not allow us to do long-term leases, let alone perpetual leases. We are the only state that does not have conservation easements. The longest we have is a 30 year lease. There is going to be a continual battle. We are trying to make that happen, but it is going to be a political battle. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – We can't go down the road of buying the land over and over, we do need something perpetual. Arnie Kruse, ND Natural Resources Trust – Yes, you are buying the land for every 10 years, are we better off doing that? Jeff Vonk, Iowa – We need to take a more comprehensive program look at farms. If we keep saying that all we want is a 10 year fix that is all we will get. Arnie Kruse, ND Natural Resources Trust – We are paying for this with the commodity program. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – The opportunity is now. Mitch King, USFWS – I agree with this gentleman, that it is better to have the land owned by the landowner, than no land at all because they do not want to sell us the land. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – We have the opportunity here to make that change.

CRP and Duck Production in the Prairie Pothole Region - Ron Reynolds, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bismarck ND (PowerPoint presentation) [Actual presentation separate file on MAFWA website]

I can shed some light on this discussion, CRP is just part of a program. ND and SD prairie pothole region (PPR) covers 7 percent of the area and 21 percent of breeding ducks in the traditional breeding waterfowl survey units. The U.S. attracted three times the Canadian PPR of breeding duck pairs. Limiting factors – births, decline in puddle duck nest success from 1930s to 1980s. Nest failure due to depredation associated with changes in land use. Deaths – Nest period is risky, half of female deaths is during breeding for mallards. Nest success #1, hen survival 19 percent, duckling survival is 14 percent. USDA passed CRP and resulted in over 4.5 million acres in PPR of ND, SD and MT. Criteria for successful nesting cover programs: characterized by nest success higher than other major cover types; more attractive to nesting hens than competing cover; distributed to be accessible by a large portion of nesting hens. From 1992 to 1997 the Region 6 HAPET office lead a study of impact of CRP on duck production in PPR. Used four square mile plots as study sample base. Searched 30,000 acres of CRP, looked at 10,700 duck nests and applied our results to peak CRP. Results: 23 percent higher than other major nest cover types; CRP most preferred for nesting hens (undisturbed); due to magnitude and distribution of CRP available to 30 percent of hatched nests came from CRP; overall nest success in all cover types was higher during CRP period vs. pre-CRP periods; nest success positively related to percent of grass cover on landscape. Five species were studied: shoveler, blue-winged teal, gadwalls, mallards, and pintails. Bottom line: 12.4 million (2.1 mil/yr) success rate. After 1997, if current spatial distribution of CRP can be made available; assume nest success hasn't changed; look at size/distribution of breeding ducks (survey every year). Extrapolate findings – estimate 24.8 million additional ducks fledged. We have annual surveys in temporary, seasonal, and semi-permanent wetlands, can carry more ducks on CRP as opposed to croplands. Changes in CRP sign up, high duck population increase of 11 percent, low duck population if decrease of 78 percent in CRP. Several items are no longer used in EBI signup. Wetlands are the primary feature that attracts ducks. Need to protect the wetlands; swampbusters is also a good incentive. If we lose swampbuster we will see large areas being drained. HAPET worked with NPWRC to

look at mallard pair/wetland regression and came up with a model. Present size and distribution of duck population is 4,249,823 duck pairs using model, will see 38 percent decline if shallow wetlands are removed. Several groups out there are working on protecting wetlands. We need more money and effort to go into the program, protect what we have. Other wetland wildlife and grassland wildlife is also dependant on those areas. Need to maintain over 5 million acres of CRP with wetlands in PPR; maintain swampbuster; secure 1,400,000 additional wetland acres; secure 10.4 million additional acres of grasslands, can expect to lose 6.2 million ducks annually, or 68 percent of average duck harvest from 1998-2002 if unsuccessful. Dick Kroger, ND Natural Resources Trust – How often does EBI come up for adjustment? Ron Reynolds, USFWS – Every sign up. Dick Kroger, ND Natural Resources Trust – Thought grassland important, what role does mid-contract management have? Ron Reynolds, USFWS – Not same degradation of CRP. Use will go down if structure changes.

A CRP Legislative Wake-up Call – Dave Nomsen, Pheasants Forever (PF) (PowerPoint)

[Actual presentation separate file on MAFWA website]

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is the most successful federal program and is critical to PF success. But it isn't just CRP; it is also the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Security Program (CSP) and Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP). CRP is flagship program. In the summer of 1994, attended a meeting in Washington and the thought was, "not an acre, not a dollar, the days of CRP are over", and things looked grim, but we are in a more tenuous position now than we were then. In the past months, from December 4 to June 15 we have sent out several press releases and activities. President Bush and USDA Secretary Veneman met with PF. Several negative articles have appeared in 2003 including articles from the Salina Journal (KS); The Washington Post; Los Angeles Times; The Hawk Eye (IA); and American Corn Growers Association. Also we queried several states and received responses from J. Unsworth, Idaho Fish and Game; Joel Brunsvold, Illinois DNR; Richard Bishop, Iowa DNR; Gene Merriam, MN DNR; D. Childress, MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks; and John Cooper, SD Game and Fish; all giving positive comments on the benefits of CRP to wildlife. Currently we are trying to raise \$1 million at PF to help push CRP by educational publications and mailings; lobbying; congressional hearings; coalitions; and program implementation. In one of my last meetings at the White House, we asked them to come up with a statement regarding CRP. Farm Service said all options, including no CRP, should be covered, but we should have stated how successful this program is.

Dave Walker, IAFWA – Tremendous partnership in Washington with NGOs. Another aspect of CRP that deals with acres currently enrolled is the cap and the budget reconciliation process. Have 34.7 million acres enrolled, cap is 39.2 million acres. Don't expect to see a budget resolution this year from Congress, but we are anticipating significant instructions to mandatory side of the program. The authorizing committee is going to looking at the 45 million acres as a place to cut. Need to communicate accomplishments of CRP and show benefits and also of these other programs. Congress is going into a six week recess and people need to talk to their representatives at that time. The Conservation Environmental Effects Project is looking at quantifying efforts. Looking at soil and water quality benefits of these programs and how wildlife is coming along. There is an effort to update information that is out there, such as NRCS

document, FSA entering into agreement with Wildlife Society to update. Urge states that have active research efforts to forward information to me. Want updated by February to be available for this next process. We are making headway and hope to see accomplishments soon. Working with several different agencies to get this done and to see that wildlife has a share in these efforts.

Dave Nomsen, PF – Spent a lot of time on the technical solution. We need to implement CRP and WRP programs and have been using donor funds from other programs which has formed a wedge in the other groups. We have to solve this problem. There is \$95 million in the budget to solve that. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – We need a commitment from Bush Administration, also have you talked to Kerry campaign about that commitment and why not? Dave Nomsen, PF – Yes, we should. We have been wrapped up in this. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – Having hard time getting positive commitment from contender. Dave Nomsen, PF – Didn't understand question, yes I have met with the other campaign. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – Are we getting a firm commitment? Dave Nomsen, PF – Looking at his website you will find some positive comments. Dick Kroger, ND Natural Resources Trust – CREP is a better wildlife program. Why continue to promote a temporary program? Dave Nomsen, PF – The fact that the lion share of the wildlife legacy comes from CRP, not from CREP or buffers. In some states they are the only programs available. Don't have implementation success stories that we need in those programs. Want to do it on a scale we are doing it today, keep the focus where it is today.

Dave Walker, IAFWA – Take a national perspective and take the whole package together, there are 218 in the House, 60 in Senate, need to have those numbers or this doesn't happen.

Quantifying the Environmental Benefits of CRP on Prairie Wetlands: Separating Acts of Nature from Acts of Congress – Chip Euliss, USGS, Jamestown, ND (powerpoint presentation)
[Actual presentation separate file on MAFWA website]

Recognize unique combination of grass and water is largely the reason for the large waterfowl population. Acts of Nature: landscape formation (structure, weather, erosion/deposition); landscape position (elevation, slope, aspect); geomorphic processes (soils, hydrology, water quality); climate (precipitation, evaporation, temperature). Prairie wetlands hydrological functions all comes from the sky not from the ground. Recharge wetlands are temporary, gets water from sky, but lose it to the ground, holds water for short periods of time and are as fresh as drinking water; flow through wetlands have surface and ground water trickling through, which is importing and exporting salt, water is as fresh as drinking water or as salty as the ocean and are seasonal and larger and deeper; discharge wetlands are surface water driven, have salt imported into system, but no export and are extremely salty, even more than the ocean. Prairies are important to ducks and other wildlife. A great variety of wetlands in this part of the world attracts a great diversity of wildlife species. Through the prairie pothole region (PPR) there has been severe drought, especially in the 1980s. A drought changes the water quality and with a deluge of water, what is growing in the water changes and brings different types of wildlife. We are trying to encourage people to place the study results in the right spatial time. The Wetland Continuum is a publication that is coming out today and shows hydrologic relation to atmospheric water. Acts of Congress have made impacts on this. Also, 80 percent of wetlands are exposed to land use or agricultural practices, burning, or grazing. Several factors affect the wetlands. Ecosystem function of prairie depends on synergistic processes, uplands and wetlands;

a single wetland can undergo dramatic changes; wetland processes can be influenced, but not completely altered; processes influencing wetlands are interrelated. We need to look at the whole thing. Ecological fit – the idea that the health and sustainability of ecosystems depends on how well Acts of Congress are coordinated with Acts of Nature. Goal: long term sustainable productivity and health of nation's ecosystems; improved criteria for selection of ecological fit. We are looking at the impact of USDA and USDI programs on functions performed by restored wetlands in the PPR. Building on a sample of wetlands used in 1997, by the end of the summer we will have collected data on over 500 wetlands. Ecosystem services: biodiversity; water quality; sediment reduction; flood water storage; carbon sequestration; are pushed by ecosystem processes and acts of nature and Congress. About 2.4 percent annual immersion of CO₂ can be stored in an annual wetland. Arnie Kruse, ND Natural Resources Trust – How does carbon sequestration compare to corn and soybeans? Chip Euliss, USGS - Much more. Dick Kroger, ND Natural Resources Trust – You get a net carbon loss with corn and soybeans.

CRP Value for Nongame Birds - Larry Igl, USGS, Jamestown, ND (powerpoint presentation)
[Actual presentation separate file on MAFWA website]

Completed 15 year study of CRP and included all breeding birds not just nongame birds. In pre-settlement times three things affected the landscape: burning, drought, and ???. Since settlements there have been several factors that affect the landscape. Grassland birds can survive in just about any type of landscape. Populations are declining, more than any other species. Eastern meadowlarks are declining 2.9 percent per year since 1966 (showed several other species). Woodland species are increasing. From the North American Breeding Bird Survey 1966-2002 – Declines in 18 species is significant and increases in 2 species is significant. Converting highly erodible cropland to grassland. CRP three reasons. Background: In four states we have been studying: MN, MT, ND, SD 29 percent of CRP occurs. In 2007, expect to lose about half of CRP acres. Did study of grassland bird populations (showed samples). Most studies done in the past only cover small amounts of time or are restricted to one place, or studies one type of species. NPWRC CRP study initiated in 1990, is ongoing, four states with nine counties total, 30-40 fields/county, 300-370 fields/yr are studied. Covered a variety of practices using a modified transect study. In the early part of the program a paper was published by Doug Johnson and Jay Hestbeck, 73 species of birds used the CRP in 1993, now 130 species. In 1995, Doug Johnson and I produced a paper which asked what would happen if the CRP was converted back to cropland, it showed three species would increase, but most would decline. Study also has to deal with the changes in temporal dynamics, wet/dry cycles. Compared species densities from beginning of the study 1990/1991 to current 1999/2003, and it showed that irruptive species change locations with the change of wet/dry cycles. Also, looked at area sensitivity such as habitat fragmentation, and there are 15 species in 303 fields. A sister study done between 2001 and 2003 were on CRP seeding mixtures, 128 study areas (added IA). Looked at emergency haying and grazing during years of drought and deluge and compared species one and two years after haying. Future and current evaluations: 1) effects of haying and grazing; 2) landscape features; 3) introduced versus native plantings; 4) temporal patterns; 5) tree encroachment into idle CRP fields. Ultimately you want to show that CRP is having some benefit on nongame birds and it does appear to be reversing the decline of some species.

SESSION WRAP-UP

Arnie Kruse, ND Natural Resources Trust – Expense of CRP program was brought up and we showed that for the Midwest that we saved the US money by having the land in CRP rather than cropland (about 1/3 cost). It is very important that you get some economists together and see how much we are saving US taxpayers. One program is the preventive planting program.

Dick Kroger, ND Natural Resources Trust – We are in a non-winnable war unless we can turn this into a permanent program. *Randy Kreil, North Dakota* – The real challenge is to maintain what we have to reach that goal.

Lunch catered by Lewis & Clark Café of Washburn, ND (Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center Deck) – Sponsored by ND Natural Resources Trust

Issues and Opportunities Session - Moderator - *Randy Kreil*, Conference Chairman, North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Silver Carp Biology and Management - *Jerry Rasmussen, (MICRA)* (powerpoint presentation) [Actual presentation separate file on MAFWA website]

Bighead Carp introduced in 1972 from China, now in 23 states, typically spawn at river confluences April to June and produce 280,000 to 1 million eggs. Silver Carp introduced in 1973 from China, typically spawn at river confluences May to June producing 145,000-4,300,000 eggs. Concerns include: reproductive potential; grow up to 12 inches a year; compete for food; disrupt commercial fisheries; threaten fishermen, boaters and water skiers with physical injury. Distribution in Mississippi Basin is spreading fast, one bighead carp caught in Texas was 90 pounds. These fish were brought in by fish farmers in the south to control plankton and remove excess waste in catfish rearing ponds, but escaped captivity and the floods in the 1990s provided the spawning habitat needed. In 1999/2000, Mississippi River backwater fish kills 97 percent bighead and silver carp. There was 5.5 tons in 1994 and 55 tons by 1997 in commercial fish catches. The fish prefer temperature ranges similar to those preferred by yellow perch, salmon, trout, goby and ruffe. Duane Chapman has been studying these fish, at 36 degrees, guts are filled with food, and both fish remain active all winter. Three bighead carp have been reported from the Great Lakes (Erie and Ontario) and a fourth in a fountain in downtown Toronto. It was felt that they are being shipped here as food for Asian ethnic origin people. This causes concern among scientists and fishery managers, because they believe they are buying two, eating one and setting one free for Karma. Fish are entering from the Illinois River going towards the Great Lakes. Prevention is the answer, but something should have been done long ago. Need to tighten importation laws, develop and maintain clean species lists, educate the public about releasing new species; increase fines and penalties for intentional illegal releases; increase regulation on fish farming industry (use Lacey Act); increase regulation of baitfish collection by fishermen (look very similar to gizzard shad); prevent escape through man-made waterways by installing organism barriers, improving water and waste treatments, modify navigation systems; separate watershed through hydraulic pressure; and control (destroy captive stocks, develop pheromones and attractants, develop harvest methods, develop commercial markets, and develop rapid response measures). It is controversial to create a commercial market which would make it an

economic issue. Spending millions on control, DNRs, hunters and fishermen paying the bills, should be those who created the problem. Illinois seems to be one of the most impacted areas. Scott Hassett, Wisconsin – What do you mean by holding the industry responsible? Jerry Rasmussen, MICRA – Most of these are not small farmers. Scott Hassett, Wisconsin – Do we know specifically what farms these are coming out of? Jerry Rasmussen, MICRA – Absolutely, they are still selling them down there in Arkansas. Bruce Morrison, Nebraska – Example of lax import laws. This Association, or somebody, needs to get on the import laws and change this. We had a resolution last year in Nebraska, but nothing has been done, we need to send another letter to APHIS. Jerry Rasmussen, MICRA – A letter can be filed away, you need to get right in their face. Claudia Emken, The Nature Conservancy – Fish passage seems to be a problem, what about the COE? Jerry Rasmussen, MICRA – The COE doesn't seem to be very concerned. Mike Conlin, Illinois – What about catfish stockings, could they come in there also? Jerry Rasmussen, MICRA – Could very well be, I hadn't thought of that.

“Train the Trainer” – Law Enforcement Crime Scene Investigation Program - Dr. Richard B. Minnis, Assistant Research Professor Conservation Law Enforcement, Mississippi State University (MSU) (powerpoint presentation) [Actual presentation separate file on MAFWA website]

MSU has been a center for teaching wildlife forensics to Conservation Officers (COs) since 1985 and is an internationally acclaimed program. Concerns include: improper collection, packaging and handling evidence (funded by USFWS Forensic Lab); and the need for equipment and training on how to use it (responses from MD State Police, MS DWFP COs). Training consists of a 3 ½ day course on crime scene forensics as it applies to conservation law enforcement, it is tailored to issues and set up to train trainers to go back and train other employees. Several topics are covered in the course. It is a hands-on course, the participants receive classroom instruction; crime scenes are constructed; officers break into 5 teams; work scenes over the 3 ½ days; work each aspect; complete full documentation; and one scene is conducted at night. Benefits of the program include: receive basic crime scene kit worth \$150; provide lecture materials; practical crime scene experience; practice with documentation; exposure to resources available; minimize common crime scene mistakes. There are two options for states or organizations, the classes can be conducted at MSU for \$595 per officer (with kits); or local training at \$695 per officer (with kits). It is \$150 less if kits are not included. Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator – If Directors want to take advantage of sending officers to MSU, how much would it cost? Dr. Minnis, MSU – It would be \$595 with kits, and the participant would need to fly in Monday and back on Friday. It is probably more cost effective for us to come to you because you would not have to pay for room and board.

A Report from The International Association of Natural Resources Pilots – Jeff Faught, IANRP Vice President, North Dakota Game and Fish Department

The International Association of Natural Resource Pilots (IANRP) is a group of pilots who utilize aircraft in the field of renewable resources. Their aviation specialties are varied and include aircraft use for forestry, wildlife, and fisheries applications, plus enforcement of natural resource regulations. Each individual has a wealth of knowledge in their particular field, and through the Association they can share their experience and knowledge with others. The

organization has 250 members around the world, our website is www.ianrp.org and we also have a quarterly newsletter we send out called ConAero, put out by the University of North Dakota. We hold an annual workshop, this year at ND at Grand Forks, hosted by University of North Dakota and University of Minnesota-Crookston. Interaction between partners is very beneficial. Video of ND and MN aviation departments (video presentation) **[Actual presentation separate file on MAFWA website]** showing the various jobs done, such as wildlife research and surveys; stocking remote fisheries; law enforcement; flying officials and department staff; sometimes rescue and fire fighting. The pilots are mostly COs, but some are biologists. Association Objectives are: 1) To Promote the recognition of the importance of sound aviation practices in resource management, with safety as the paramount factor. 2) To encourage and develop the educational, social, and economic interests of aviation in resource management. 3) To exchange information on operational techniques and procedures. 4) To utilize member experience to develop and distribute reference materials of interest to the Association. 5) To coordinate, research, and promote new techniques and equipment. 6) To take all action necessary to further the use of aircraft in natural resource management.

The Bowhunting Preservation Alliance – *Pat Ruble, Director of Government Relations, Bowhunting Preservation Alliance (BPA)*

Foundation sponsored by archery and bowhunting industry, we don't have any members, don't publish newsletters or magazines, and don't do any fund raising. Funding comes from the archery and bowhunting industry. I was hired last March and our sole purpose is to work with state fish and wildlife organizations to implement projects to recruit and retain bowhunters and archers. We used DU guidelines as the basis for our guidelines for BPA. We are looking to come up with a document of projects that could be implemented over the next 3 – 5 years and are working with a small number of states to begin with and are looking for other states that are interested. The first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with IA, working with MN, MI, OH and others to complete MOUs. Hope to get archery ranges built, especially in urban areas. *Joel Brunsvold, Illinois* – What about the use of Crossbows? *Pat Ruble, BPA* – Ohio has a large number of crossbow hunters, exceeded longbow hunters by the mid 1980s, 30,000 deer were harvested by crossbow, 20,000 by longbow. *Joel Brunsvold, Illinois* – We have two groups in opposition over the use of crossbows? *Pat Ruble, BPA* – You will, we have 20 years of experience with crossbow hunters. *Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin* – Are you looking for partners or can they come to you if we are interested? *Pat Ruble, BPA* – Either, mostly we are making the contacts. If we can show the public that we are using the funds to further the sport, I think that will help. *Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota* – The program KY is using, dealing with archery in the schools, how do you interface with them? *Pat Ruble, BPA* – It already has, we have made \$150,000 available for Roy Grimes to use to set up the program in the states **[Get “Archery in the Schools” information from Roy Grimes, Kentucky]**. We are working on a website, which is not completely available yet. We are concerned that the kids going through that program (archery in the schools) don't go on and go hunting because they don't know where to go, that is why we set up the website. *Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota* – Tom Bennett stated they have a national event and stated about 34 percent of kids that have gone through the program actually purchase licenses. We are interested if there is money available to get this program started.

Break

Prairie Grouse Management Plan Proposal, Jim Mosher, Executive Director, and Stephanie Harmon, USFWS, Science Advisor of North American Grouse Partnership

Jim Mosher, NAGMP - This program is four years old and has been run completely by volunteers, until February of this year when I agreed to become Executive Director. The partnership is comprised of talented grouse biologists interested in preserving grouse and their huntable status. When discussing listing of peregrine falcon, we decided grouse could be next and this organization was formed. USFWS provided a grant, which our Board matched, that got us off the ground. We recently received a second grant that we still need to match, to get a study going. Stephanie Harmon of the USFWS and Rick Baydeck, of the University of Manitoba are here to speak about the program.

Stephanie Harmon, USFWS – (powerpoint presentation) **[Actual presentation separate file on MAFWA website]**. We need to connect dots to see why, and how, we plan to obtain our goal. Grouse are in trouble throughout North America (NA). Lesser Prairie Chicken (LPC) is an ESA candidate; Greater Prairie Chicken (GPC) is listed as a species of concern; Attwater's Prairie Chicken is ESA listed; Sharp-tailed Grouse is petitioned, but not listed for ESA; Gunnison Sage Grouse is an ESA candidate; and Greater Sage Grouse has the momentum being listed because of grassland issues. There are eleven grouse species in all and this plan will be a policy document to support self-sustaining and harvestable populations of all grouse species throughout NA. You can still take a listed species as long as there is a benefit to that species. Wrote draft document or prospectus with several component efforts including the needs **[You may obtain copies of prospectus from North American Grouse Partnership]**: prairie grouse need vast landscapes (20,000 acres); requires cross-jurisdictional coordination (facilitated plan like NA Waterfowl Mgmt Plan); plan must support all bird conservation; plan must help coordinate existing state, federal, provincial, and private efforts (including Farm Bill); and other grassland species will benefit from grouse conservation. Grasslands species are the most endangered. Need continental grassland inventory database (need to quantify amount of threat and areas – lose native grassland to western red cedar every day); fund for standardized, comprehensive, long-term grouse population monitoring (lek surveys work if done during right part of day in robust populations, [showed trends]); coordinate implementation of existing programs that affect grasslands (CRP can help areas recover if using native grass); political and regulatory authority to protect (GRP does not allow for wind turbine development); and need conservation incentive funding.

Rick Baydeck, University of Manitoba, Canada – Pleased with populations in Canada. Season starts in 59 days and can take 6 birds per day of sharp-tailed, spruce grouse, ruffed grouse, in a 3-day hunting season, a total of 18 birds. Canada supports NAGMP because finally there is an effort to coordinate provincial plans and initiatives; prairie restoration complements (PHJV) and trilateral grassland strategy; Forestry and Mining interests are encouraged by having a place at the table; Sharptails Plus and other sporting groups have rallied behind the effort; restoration and management of populations; ecosystem-based habitat management strategies; development of Grouse Management Partnerships; standardized protocols for range-wide monitoring; landscape level planning; and population and habitat research. Recommendations are to standardize and upgrade surveys; consistent harvest monitoring; establish key linkages between habitat and population variables; and research. Habitat recommendations include: ecosystem-based, large

landscape approach; restoration, enhancement, conservation and protection; inventory and monitoring; and research.

Jim Mosher, NAGMP – The plan is located at www.grousepartners.org/plandraft and if you review the plan, we would welcome feedback. You can send that to me at jim.mosher@grousepartners.org

John Blankenship, USFWS – Key with sage grouse is 55 percent of population on federal land, no management, are you ready to get into that? *Jim Mosher, NAGMP* – Worked with Izaak Walton League (IKES) in the past and have formed partnerships with BLM and other federal partners. Also, working with NRCS on the Farm Bill.

National Fisheries Habitat Initiative – *Doug Hansen, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department* (powerpoint presentation) [**Actual presentation separate file on MAFWA website**]

Think fish habitat and then apply what the previous speakers said to this. The PowerPoint presentation was put together by Eric Schwaab. What is the National Fish Habitat Initiative? National protection of fish habitat by implementing strategy that brings national focus, broad strategies and adequate funding. Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council was asked by IAFWA to come up with a recommendation “A Partnership Agenda for Fisheries Conservation (2002)”. USFWS adopted a leading role, but several partners are involved. Aquatic habitat is being lost or destroyed and without intervention will continue at an ever-increasing rate and will have dire consequences. Since 1900, 123 species have gone extinct, we have to address our habitat. In 2001, 82 million Americans spent \$108 billion on recreation, fishing alone was almost \$36 billion. We think that if we continue to piecemeal this at regional and local levels it won’t have the effect needed and we can deal more effectively with national issues. We need to work on water quality and quantity issues, quantify habitat needs, increase and broaden public support and track progress and achieve measurable results. Hope this can provide a framework to promote collaboration; leverage funding sources; enhance relationships; and create ongoing national congressional recognition of the problem. We looked at the NA Waterfowl Management Plan to use for a model. We can develop a national plan that has national focus; capitalizes on existing mechanisms, incentives and explore new strategies; measures progress and communicates success; is geographically focused and locally based; is scientifically sound; and fosters partnerships. Start with a national view that rolls down to regional and local plans where dollars, and technical assistance trickles down, and information trickles back up to the national plan. Incentive programs could include tax breaks, easements, etc. We could provide technical assistance where needed. Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council advises USFWS on conservation issues and has held four stakeholder meetings and the fifth meeting will be held next week in conjunction with the Western Association meeting, they will then put together a report. IAFWA has taken an interest in the plan and Eric Schwaab represents the state interests. American Fisheries Society (AFS), and USFWS (lead federal partner) are some of the other partners. Website is www.fishhabitat.org

Eric Schwaab, IAFWA – Can get access to this program and a white paper we have developed. Show economic and social perspectives of this plan. Over-fishing is the fisheries management we are going to face in the 21st century. Dealing with watersheds is a lot of what this plan is

about nationally. The AFS workshop is on August 22, at their annual meeting in Madison and we need strong state participation. It will be extremely critical to the success of this initiative.

State Wildlife Grants – Paul Schmidt, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Dean Hildebrand and Mike McKenna – North Dakota Game and Fish Department (powerpoint presentation) [Actual presentation separate file on MAFWA website]

Paul Schmidt, USFWS – A key partnership opportunity for the USFWS and state Fish and Wildlife agencies. Director has a vision, a plan where states become major partners in wildlife conservation on national basis; USFWS will help provide knowledge and expertise as requested by states; USFWS employees informed about state planning process and are knowledgeable in the roles that the Service can play in the development and implementation of strategies/plans (CWCSs). The blueprint for wildlife conservation will be national and will provide the impetus for additional Congressional support; and will increase potential for sustaining healthy populations and keep species off of the endangered species list. In 2001, there was a glimpse of this in the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program, commitment to develop a strategy by October 2005 to be eligible; In 2002, 2003 and 2004, State (and Tribal) Wildlife Grants Program strategy also due October 2005. There are eight essential elements to make this happen. IAFWA and Teaming with Wildlife have carried the ball on this. In 2003 and 2004, created Conservation Wildlife Teams to help states, now have 13 people on team, Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota is your representative and Mike McKenna has also been at the workshops. Ron Regan is on the team and I am the head of the Team. This is like a football team and the states are the quarterbacks, it is not just for the states, but the resources within those states. We work across state lines, provide resources and contacts with field service staff at regional, field or national levels. The National Acceptance Advisory Team (NAAT) is to review the 56 CWCSs to see they meet the eight critical elements and submit them to Steve Williams. If any state fails, it is a failure by the USFWS also. Development Assistance Teams were formed to sustain the Teaming with Wildlife Work Group and work with state, federal and NGO partners during the next 15 – 18 months. The National Acceptance Advisory Team (NAAT) charter is now complete and we will be attending the one-year-out conference in Nebraska in August.

Mike McKenna, NDGF – The key thing is to look at documents and generate questions for review. Glen Salmon, Indiana – How much time are you given to review each plan? Eric Schwaab, USFWS – A day for each plan. Need each state to come up with an executive summary. Claudia Emken, TNC – Disappointed in presentation that it took so long to mention NGO involvement. Eric Schwaab, USFWS – My oversight, we have asked and reached out to them and they have been an integral part to this.

The Missouri River- Yellowstone River Confluence Project - Keith Trego and Merle Bennet, North Dakota Natural Resources Trust

Keith Trego, ND Natural Resources Trust – The partnerships and coordination that went into doing long-term conservation work in this state has been a huge hurdle because of state laws. We got approval last Friday, from the Governor's office, to do this acquisition. Includes cultural, historical and many other aspects. We have only six people on the Trust. State law says that Wetland Reserve Programs (WRPs) can only be 30 years, but can be forever everywhere else.

Merle Bennet, ND Natural Resources Trust (powerpoint presentation) (powerpoint presentation)
[Actual presentation separate file on MAFWA website]

In 1806, L&C made their return trip, one surveying Yellowstone drainage, one the Missouri drainage and met up at the confluence in McKenzie County, a few miles inside the North Dakota line. A few years ago a landowner decided to sell a large chunk of land in this area. In 1866, Fort Buford was established, supply fort for Battle of Little Big Horn, Fort Union established in 1883, surrendered to army in 1886. We took a look at all of the wildlife resources in this area, prime paddle fishing and the best habitat for endangered pallid sturgeon, sicklefin chub and sturgeon chub. Also, people come from all over to hunt whitetails in this area. Piping plover and least terns, which are on the endangered species list, also are in this area. The ND State Historical Society completed a \$2 million visitor center on the north bank of the confluence. The Och's property is the property we looked at purchasing first, and then the Neu property. They are both in the area of the visitor center and a boat ramp. The Neu property is 490 acres, including 55 acres of wetland, 360 acres of woodland/ grassland and 75 acres of cropland. Started looking for funding because of the value of the land, spoke to Conservation Fund folks and they also agreed to help with the purchase of the Och's property. USFWS helped get Section 6 money and NRCS helped with the Wetland Reserve Program (the existing landowner signed up for the WRP program and will transfer that to us when we purchase the ground), and that provides 75 percent of cost-share on restoration; and special allocation of \$1 million. American Foundation for Wildlife, a North Dakota fund raising group, provided project funds and can hold the title for acquisition. North Dakota Game and Fish provided a nonfederal match for Section 6 monies, and will accept land in fee title which will eventually be turned over to them. In ND we have to go through local and state government to get approval, agencies such as the County Water Board; County Commissioners; local Legislators; Natural Areas Acquisition Advisory Commission and the Governor. Last November the Neu land was purchased. The Ochs property is 997 acres, with 110 wetland acres, 655 woodland/grassland acres, and 232 cropland acres. The land is under option to purchase and we got approval from the Governor on Friday. We hope to get this soon and have looked at a few other small pieces of land in the area. It took a long time to come up with a fair price on the Ochs property, use unmatched dollars on Neu purchase as match, and obtained partners for additional nonfederal dollars. NAWCA grants have been best money, offering a 1:1 nonfederal match. There are 16 partners and contributors in all, the largest partnership ever. We have leveraged \$2,028,048 in federal funds and protected 1,487 acres of prime property.

*Social – Music by Heart River Band – Sponsored by **North Dakota Action Group**
Chicken and Ribs Barbecue catered by Best Western Seven Seas Inn of Bismarck/Mandan, ND
Sponsored by **Pheasants Forever***

Business Meeting Minutes (7/13/04)

TUESDAY JULY 13th

Breakfast Buffet catered by Radisson Hotel (*Picasso/DaVinci Rooms*) Sponsored by **Delta Waterfowl** – Presentation by *Rob Olson*, Delta Waterfowl

MAFWA BUSINESS MEETING - (*Rembrandt Room*)

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota called the meeting to order, all states were present, except Kentucky, who left early. No Canadian provinces.

Approval of 2003 Annual Meeting Minutes

Steve Gray, Ohio moved to approve, Scott Hassett, Wisconsin second. Minutes approved.

Treasurers' Report - *Joe Kramer, KS Dept. of Wildlife and Parks*

Audit Committee headed up by ND, MI and IA. Standard statement given by body of Midwest, switched from calendar year to fiscal year a few years back which makes it hard to get final report to Audit Committee in time for review. Total assets beginning \$230,776.89. Merrill Lynch beginning \$40,660.45, now \$44,819.54, will discuss this fund later. Working assets \$190,116.44; annual dues - \$4,500.00; affiliate dues - \$550.00; Nebraska conference- \$5,672.70; North Dakota conference - \$8,250.00; Interest - \$6,900.32 for total receipts of \$25,873.02. Disbursements: NE conference expenses - \$8,883.99; Sheila - \$103.00; ND conference expenses - \$1,000.00; Parsons - \$133.58; Coordinator expenses - \$2,862.93; Website development - \$550.15; UPS - \$137.04; Dan's Safe and Lock - \$6.00; Uhlik Music - \$49.96; DJ Case - \$500.00 for total disbursements of \$14,226.65. This leaves working assets of \$201,762.81, plus the estimated value of Merrill Lynch of \$44,819.54 for total assets of \$246,582.35.

Joel Brunsvold, Illinois moved to accept report, Larry Nelson, Minnesota, second. Report approved.

Audit Committee Report - *Joe Kramer, KS Dept. of Wildlife and Parks*

Discussed treasurer's report with Audit Committee, Randy Kreil, Jeff Vonk and Rebecca Humphries (who replaced George Burgoyne). Audit Committee accepted report and final balance of \$246,582.35. **Rebecca Humphries, Michigan, moved to accept report, Keith Sexson, Kansas second to approve. Report approved.**

Jaschek Fund Report - *Joe Kramer, KS Dept. of Wildlife and Parks*

A brief history of Jaschek fund for those of you who are new to the Midwest meetings. Walter Anton Jaschek left roughly \$209,000 to the Association and also left Audubon and Ducks Unlimited each \$209,000. He did not have a lot of heirs, had a niece that did not end up with the money. Steve Miller, Wisconsin, tried to find out more about the gentleman, but was unsuccessful. Need to try to put together a brochure or something about this. He lived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and lived in a modest house worth less than \$50,000. The Midwest Association has used the funds for CARA, Teaming with Wildlife, and has helped do the work that we do. Currently we have five CDs and they are only making about 2 percent, a couple of

them are still making about 4 percent, but when they roll over we will probably not get the higher percentage. The cash in the savings account is the interest from the fund. Also, the checking account is healthy, but only reflects dues collected (none of the Jaschek money is in this account). We have been with Merrill Lynch for over five years and the money could come out at any time without a penalty. As you see it is down by about \$6,000 from the original \$50,000 invested there. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – That money made this organization much more successful. There are a lot of suggestions of what can be done with the money, but I feel we can increase affiliate membership dues, state membership dues, and increase registration rates to raise additional funds. Joe Kramer, Kansas – The board previously decided to lock in the principle and only spend down the interest.

Executive Director Position – Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota, (asked Ollie to leave the room) I appointed Doug Hansen to come up with a method of hiring and funding the position. Doug Hansen, South Dakota – I think we owe it to Mr. Jaschek, to all pronounce his name in one way. Our group had several discussions and came up with four statements: 1) desire to build MAFWA; 2) experienced Coordinator critical; 3) states willing to pay special assessment of \$2,500 each; 4) use Jaschek Trust fund. The Committee felt that funding this position falls under the Jaschek Guidelines as they now stand. We would like to offer Ollie Torgerson a contract at \$33 per hour, not to exceed 1,000 hours for a total of \$33,000 and travel expenses of \$5,000. Wisconsin has decided to house him and we don't feel like the office expense should cost us. Mike Conlin, Illinois – How will Wisconsin handle office expenses? Doug Hansen, South Dakota – They will donate the space and others have agreed to provide clerical help. John Hoskins, Missouri – We will provide support electronically. Doug Hansen, South Dakota – Came up with three options to pay for this using some of the Jaschek Trust money. Under Option 1, state assessments would be \$21,000 and \$17,000 would come from the Jaschek Trust. Assuming the interest remains the same we make about \$7,000 a year. Self directed benevolence. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – I think a two year contract ought to be part of the proposal. We need to explore and find a more permanent solution to this funding. Doug Hansen, South Dakota – It is my understanding this is a two year contract, but there is a 30 day escape clause in the contract. In Option 2 there would be more from the states and less from the Jaschek fund, which would draw down the account only about \$4,000. Option 3 would rely even less on the Jaschek fund. The Committee recommends Option 1 which would require a special assessment of \$1,500 per state. We didn't get into any alternatives such as dues increases. I would like to thank Jeff Vonk, Iowa; Joe Kramer, Kansas; and Rex Amack, Nebraska for their help on this Committee. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – Need to vote on this and it is my hope that we could initiate a contract with Ollie by the end of the day. **Motion to accept Option 1, by Doug Hansen, South Dakota, second Keith Sexson, Kansas.** Discussion – John Hoskins, Missouri – Under the proposal there is no mention of a two year contract. Amendment should read "September 1, 2004 – August 31, 2006 (24 months). Either party may terminate the contract upon 30 days notice. The Coordinator's work performance shall be reviewed, evaluated, and reported to the Executive Committee during July 2005. Review of terms of said contract as a vehicle for future years, shall be considered and negotiated by the Executive Committee between July 1 and October 1, 2005." Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – A one year contract, then an evaluation and an offer of a second year. **John Hoskins, Missouri moved to amend proposal, Rebecca Humphries,**

Michigan, second. Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado – Will amounts change after the first year? John Hoskins, Missouri – No, same amount offered for second year. Joel Brunsvold, Illinois – What is the final long term? Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – Two years. **Amendment carries. Rex Amack, Nebraska moved acceptance of proposal as amended, Larry Nelson, Minnesota second.**

Jaschek Guidelines Re-Write Committee Report – Randy Kreil, North Dakota

As we began the process of rewriting the guidelines we were on hold until we were sure what we were going to do with the Coordinator position and now we know so we will begin the rewrite.

Investments Committee – Doug Hansen, South Dakota

I am not an investment person, but I have handed out a brief report that was handed out to the Executive Committee. You will see the gift listed there. The decision was made that basically 75 percent would go into short term investments, the CDs, and 25 percent would go into long term investments, the Merrill Lynch account. As you can see we did not make any money on the Merrill Lynch stocks. The CDs have made approximately \$77,000 in interest and the \$50,000 put into Merrill Lynch is only worth about \$44,000. I spoke with a firm in South Dakota, I am not related and they are not friends, but they are very active in natural resources funds and they handle our state trust funds. I asked them for a proposal. The first question they asked was whether we had a formal Investment Policy Statement and I told him that we had a basic policy. He asked what our goals were and my first recommendation is that we develop a formal Investment Policy Statement to cover our goals, etc. Feel Investment Committee should work on a draft for this. Our second recommendation is that we transfer the Jaschek fund to an investment management group that offers a more active investment service. They can do periodic reviews and rebalance our assets and invest in CDs and short term bonds. It is our recommendation that we shop around and transfer funds from Merrill Lynch to a firm that can actively manage our funds consistent with the policy and goals we set up. It would be prudent to set up basic specifications and there is a fee involved. We will then come back to the Executive Committee with three other plans. Joel Brunsvold, Illinois – I don't know how risky you want to be. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – We have to decide what level of risk we want to engage in, 60 percent into safe low risk (bonds and CDs) and 40 percent into long term, more risky stocks. One other aspect of this firm is that they can manage all of your funds and you can write checks and they can transfer funds electronically. More research needs to be done. Glen Salmon, Indiana – What you are asking for is approval to take the money out of the Merrill Lynch fund and move to firm approved by the Executive Committee? Doug Hansen, South Dakota – Yes, we hope that we can have a report by the September IAFWA meeting. We will pull out the other funds as they mature. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – Joe and Sheila this could aid in your work by offering a one-shop-stop service. **Joel Brunsvold, Illinois, moved to accept report, Glen Salmon, Indiana, second. Report approved.**

Resolutions Committee

Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – Tim Bremicker, who is the Chair of the Resolutions Committee, is not here, but Larry Nelson, Minnesota, has volunteered to take his place as Chair. Please send in resolutions to Larry. Larry Nelson, Minnesota – I have two resolutions in front of

me, but as a committee we have not had a chance to meet since I have just been appointed. One will not take any discussion, but one may need some discussion.

Kirk Nelson, Nebraska – There is a resolution from Nebraska regarding “Resolution in support of separate budget line items to distinguish Missouri River endangered species compliance, infrastructure projects, and bank stabilization efforts” and asks for support to again contact the COE for states on the Missouri River. The attached letter was signed by several states. We feel the COE is trying to use all of the monies on pallid sturgeon and trying to blend these funds and that is not what Congress intended and we are not sure that what they are doing is legal. Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado – The Midwest should not do business on Montana’s behalf since they are not in this Association, feel we need to contact them. **Jeff Vonk, Iowa moved to pass the resolution, Rex Amack, Nebraska, second.** John Hoskins, Missouri – I suggest we remove Montana from the letter. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – Strike Montana from signers of resolution. **Motion carried.**

Larry Nelson, Minnesota – One more resolution, thanking North Dakota for hosting the conference. **Larry Nelson, Minnesota moved to pass resolution, Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado, second. Motion carries.** Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – We appreciate the resolution.

Keith Sexson, Kansas – We also have a draft resolution on behalf of MICRA and Jerry Rasmussen. Doug Nygren would like to address this group. Randy Kreil, North Dakota – A resolution that passes here goes onto IAFWA and that may be better than a letter. Doug Hansen, South Dakota – Not sure that would happen. John Baughman, IAFWA – You would have to move that and send it to me and I will take care of that. Doug Nygren, Kansas – “Resolution to Support National Screening Process for Exotic Introductions into the United States”. We urge IAFWA to implement a clean species list as stated in letter sent by MICRA (attached to resolution). Steve Gray, Ohio, moved to pass the resolution, Glen Salmon, Indiana, second. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – I think we should defer action for a few minutes while we have an opportunity to look at this. Doug Hansen, South Dakota – Suggestion to Doug Nygren that Water Resources Committee has addressed this in the past and feel he should bring this to that committee also and we will take it to the IAFWA. Bruce Morrison, Nebraska – Similar to motion passed last year in Omaha, may want to change that to fish and wildlife invasive species to cover all species. Keith Sexson, Kansas – If we passed wildlife on one in a previous session, we need to revisit that. Doug Hansen, South Dakota – Not have too many resolutions, but let’s keep specific. John Hoskins, Missouri – Have Randy refer to edits. Glen Salmon, Indiana – Where is the resolution we passed last year? Bruce Morrison, Nebraska – It went to APHIS, USFWS and others, Nebraska was contacted by APHIS and told that there would be a review and I will meet with them later. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – Please report back to us on this and you can kick start that other resolution (from last year) and report back to us. **John Hoskins, Missouri, moved to pass resolution as changed, Keith Sexson, Kansas second. Motion approved.**

Executive Director (continued)

Jeff Vonk, Iowa – Ollie is in favor of all but the one year. I am in favor of changing this to a two-year with a one year review. **Jeff Vonk, Iowa, moved to amend period of contract to two years with an option to renew, all other items to remain the same, Rex Amack, Nebraska, second. Motion carried.**

Awards Committee – Glen Salmon, Indiana

The past president's award is presented to Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota. Asked him to give out two other awards. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota - No one can over state the importance of Dick Bishop to the Midwest, gave an award for 23 years of commitment as he is retiring this year. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota presented award. Dick Bishop, Iowa – The thing that will bother me the most is seeing all of you, but I am going to love the freedom I will have. I will miss working with all of you. It is most exciting to see the attendance you have here now, just two years ago the group was considerably smaller. I think it is important to keep your programs up or you can lose it as fast as you have gained it. Pleased to see rejuvenation of the Midwest. Glen Salmon, Indiana – The next award we have for dedicated service is for George Burgoyne Jr. who is not here and we can have Rebecca come up and receive this award for George who also retired this year. I would be remiss if I didn't thank Kirk Nelson and Sheila Kemmis for their help on this. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – I would like to thank Glen for all of the awards that we are going to be giving. May want to add a Jaschek award to the new awards you presented before. Glen Salmon, Indiana – Those new awards include one traveling trophy and several individual awards. We went over what the other Association's have and came up with the list we presented. We will accept this in new business later.

Approval of Affiliate Memberships – Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator, Missouri

I would like to express my gratification and support of my position in the Association. It is an honor to serve you and work with John Baughman at IAFWA and the other regional coordinators. I won't let you down. One of the jobs I had was to build affiliate members. It was interesting that the NA Grouse Partnership said they were going to affiliate with us. I did not know that the Bowhunting Alliance had applied for affiliation, Pat Ruble sent it to Randy and he approved their bylaws. We have ten new affiliates that have applied for membership in the Association, they are: Bowhunting Preservation Alliance; American Sportfishing Association; Ducks Unlimited; Izaak Walton League; MICRA; The Nature Conservancy; National Shooting Sports Foundation; National Wild Turkey Federation; Pheasants Forever; and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – Thanks Ollie for going out after these. I would charge you to find affiliates in your state and to send any suggestions to Ollie to pick up as many affiliates as we can and think about increasing dues in the future. Also, I would ask Ollie to continue working on finding affiliates. **Steve Gray, Ohio, moved to accept the new affiliate members, Larry Nelson, Minnesota, second. Motion passed.** Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator – I have certificates for new affiliate members.

Break - Sponsored by ND Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Prairie Grouse – Jim Mosher, NAGMP

The North American plan is a prospectus and the larger plan will be comprised of other species. We believe WMI is beginning to move on grouse. At March meeting, we were awarded a \$200,000 grant on prairie grouse (\$100,000 with \$100,000 match). In kind contribution would be greatly appreciated, but we need cash also. There are a number of Western states also involved and they will also be hearing from us. I know a lot of you are putting together your state

conservation plans and I hope to get grouse in those plans. I have one last copy of 2003 annual report for Ollie and we would like an application from Midwest for membership.

MAFWA Coordinator Report – *Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator, Missouri*

Last time we met in North Dakota was in 1985 and I have a photo of who attended. Only myself and Joe Kramer in the photo, the rest are not here. I have a mailing list we need corrected that I am passing around. Also, sending around MAFWA work plan 2003-04. Developed a NCN for coordinator funding, spent quite a lot of time on this even though it did not get approved. Did not have an opportunity to work on “state of the state” reports. Broaden involvement of directors and outside groups, e.g. NGO’s, federal agencies, etc., in MAFWA activities, which we have done. EXCOM and coordinator should personally network with the above groups inviting their involvement (have 10 Directors here and more federal agencies than ever before and 10 new NGOs). There was 122 registrations and I think Ohio should plan for 150 people. We are about to launch a MAFWA website and Kirk Keller, Missouri, has set up an interactive website for the other Associations, IAFWA and all Committee chairs to update their own reports. Asked to look for State Director liaisons for all Committees, Joel Brunsvold, Illinois, volunteered for the Pheasant Group and Jeff Vonk, Iowa volunteered for the Prairie Grouse Technical Group. I am still looking for someone for the furbearer group. Helped plan this conference and will go to Ohio to help them. Worked on Jaschek fund enhancement program. Also, working on possible new logo and will talk about that later in meeting. *Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota* – I am sending around the Executive Director contract for review.

CITES Report – *Carolyn Caldwell, CITES Representative, Missouri*

Four issues of importance to Midwest. 1) Deletion of Lynx Rufus from Appendix II list. 2) Appendix II export process (one not listing dates on tags, 28 states will not have a year designation on them. Got results from statewide survey which I provided. 3) Solicited for comments on alligator snapping turtles and map turtles and we would like to add those two species to Appendix III (only monitors trade). 4) Multi-state grant application submitted for CITES team, best relationship with USFWS we have ever had. I will represent you to the best of my abilities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Private Lands – *Greg Link, North Dakota Game and Fish Department*

Proceedings of meeting will be handed out in the fall. We talked a lot about CRP and talked about strategies for 2007 and the ramifications of that turn over and the acres. Got a good run down of the Farm Bill issues from Dave Walker, IAFWA and Dave Nomsen, Pheasants Forever. Had Senator Conrad come in the last day and had him speak about legislation that would be coming up. Giving Directors a heads up on activities we are working on. Recommendations: 1) Encourage each state to put one FTE in charge of Farm Bill issues, agricultural lands are a large amount of the acres of Midwest states and influence wildlife. Very few states have staff dedicated to Farm Bill issues. Each state will benefit from each state having that person. 2) Secure a nonfederal IAFWA position for policy development and need to forward this to the other three Associations. In 1999, the Directors of the Midwest realized the need for a position

which is currently held by Dave Walker. A multi-state grant was secured for two more years, but this is not a long term funding source. 3) Encourage the Midwest, via a letter, to encourage private landowners to open their property for recreation, "Open Fields" SB 1840 and HB 1382. Hope this will help states without a program get one started. Have each state get hold of their state legislators to get their support. 4) Haven't utilized CRP allocation and don't want to see us lose that. Encourage regular sign up and have all Midwest states write a letter to Secretary Veneman. Bush is recommitting his support of CRP, but didn't see 29th sign-up happen this spring. Need to send the letter to Secretary Veneman. 5) Midwest President needs to send a letter to WMI Board for continued support to us because they are such a valuable asset to us. Other key items that will be happening are: 1) Full conservation title of the Farm Bill. 2) Need to seek out economic data to make people aware of benefits of CRP. 3) Broad based coalitions for support of Farm Bill. Last year WMI helped start that. 4) Environmental Index (EBI) is ever revolving, suggest modifications, such as nesting issue. 7) Direct FSA to work on county rental rates. 8) Webpage for Farm Bill network, would like a communication network set up again. Maybe through Teddy Roosevelt Conservation group. 9) Support of WHIP program in states, get proper dialog to ensure effective delivery and application. 10) Use USDA programs. Next meeting will be in Ohio, Luke Miller will be chairman. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – Ask for approval of report and ask that we send letters as requested. **Keith Sexson moved to accept report, John Hoskins, Missouri, second. Motion carried.** Greg Link, North Dakota – Also, have Jeff Vonk's proposal to query Congressional delegates, letter drafted. Ken Herring, Iowa – Handing out letter of draft outline of Conservation Policy Questions from MAFWA. Asked several questions and invited them to attend IAFWA and respond to Dean. Joel Brunsvold, Illinois – Letter is good, do staff know who Fish and Wildlife agencies are? They may not know the states that belong. Is there some way we can identify the importance of us. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – We will send these to all of the other Associations and IAFWA and ask IAFWA to follow up with these to the staffers. I think they all know who the IAFWA is and feel they can make that stronger. John Hoskins, Missouri – Clarify first paragraph from 14 states to "14 state agencies", fourth paragraph should say "State Agency Directors". Jeff Vonk, Iowa – I am going to take this letter and make sure the Kerry campaign knows who they are dealing with. This should get some follow up. Doug Hansen, South Dakota – I support the effort to take the bold step forward, unsure about paragraph four, to invite them to the meeting, don't know if we have that right, it is not our meeting. Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator – Dave Walker wrote it. Dave Walker, IAFWA – We had a discussion about that and we can follow that up with a letter from the IAFWA. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – This should be put on the Executive Committee agenda. Larry Nelson, Minnesota – I suggest the opening line should be "the purpose of the letter is to get a statement of your position on...". Reorder the letter a little bit and conclude with "we expect to hear back from you by...". Joel Brunsvold, Illinois – We are going to have to get a little bit political here and let them know who is sending this letter. Glen Salmon, Indiana – Can we approve this draft in theory and send the final out for comments to save time. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – Ollie, please write that for my signature and send out to all Directors and other Associations for their input. Jeff Vonk, Iowa – This letter needs to go out as soon as possible, Monday would be fine, but not much later than that. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – It is up to you to respond as soon as possible. **Joel Brunsvold, Illinois, moved to send letter, Jeff Vonk, Iowa, second. Motion carried.**

Public Lands – *Scott Peterson, North Dakota Game and Fish Department*

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department hosted the Public Lands Working Committee (PLWC) on May 4-6, 2004 at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center near Washburn, ND. Once again the meeting was very productive and informative and the various discussion topics included many issues affecting public land management in the Midwest. Attendees for all, or parts, of the 2004 meeting included the following: Robert Barbee-Kansas; Pat Brandon-Kentucky; Jennifer Windus-Ohio; Bill Bean-Indiana; Daylan Figgs-Nebraska; Paul Coughlin-South Dakota; Scott Peterson-North Dakota; Dean Hildebrand-Director, North Dakota; Dan Halstead-North Dakota;

Bruce Renhowe-North Dakota; and Kent Luttschwager-North Dakota. **OLD BUSINESS - Item 1, NEPA Concerns:** During the 2001 meeting, three letters were generated to Attorney General Ashcroft, Dale Bosworth, Chief USFS and Steve Williams, Director USFWS. To date no response has been received. Rob Manes indicated that the International assigned a committee to review the Midwest Director's concern that NEPA can be a barrier to management and is used by some groups to stop management activities especially on Federal Lands. No status report has yet been received from the committee. **Action Item: The PLWC would like to reiterate that this is still a valid concern and that since the International has assigned a committee to review the Midwest Director's NEPA concerns, the PLWC is still interested in the findings of the International Committee.** **Item 2, Shooting Ranges:** Shooting ranges on public land have apparently been a discussion item at past meetings and were once again discussed at length. All states recognize the necessity of ranges and support their construction on and off public lands. The PLWC discussed the possible development of a status report on shooting ranges on public lands which would help establish recommendations and guidelines for the development and operation of shooting ranges on public lands. **Action Item: The PLWC is still waiting for feedback from the Director's on what they feel the importance of this report is. Scott Peterson will contact the North Dakota Hunter Education Coordinator to see what current recommendations/ regulations are in place and will distribute a copy of these to the PLWC members.** **Item 3, Prescribed Fire Training:** The PLWC is interested in investigating the availability of Prescribed Fire Training courses. The PLWC would further like to develop a guidance document outlining suggested training and information needs for prescribed fire planning documents. **Action Item: The International currently has information on this already but fire training is not always tailored to the states in the Midwest. Each committee member is to develop a status report on what their respective training requirements are and planning documents that they require. This is to be done by July 13, 2004.** **Item 4, Illegal Activities Training:** This issue addresses the status of state's review of staff training and implementation of period training on the topic of illegal activities, such as methamphetamine production, on public lands. **Action Item: Continue exploring possibilities for training in these areas and encourage participation by public land managers. Also encourage Director's to explore and monitor training opportunities for this type of illegal activity and provide opportunities for staff to attend this type of training where practical.** **Item 5, West Nile Virus (WNV):** This issue pertains to dealing with requests for mosquito control on public lands. **Action Item: Continue to provide factual information to the public on WNV and continue to assist with sampling and monitoring of WNV occurrence.** **Item 6, Compatible Uses of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs):** This issue pertains to how states are

dealing with the increase in requests for public use on WMAs. Some of these uses may be considered incompatible in certain instances including geocaching, horse back riding, dog training, etc... **Action Item: Jennifer Windus (Ohio) will provide the group with information from Federal Aid on their policy regarding these types of activities. Each committee member is to also send each of the other committee members an electronic copy of their state's WMA Public Use Regulations. Each of the states represented at this meeting have agreed to exchange information on their public use policy and regulations.**

Item 7, Discussion on Baiting Regulations: None of the states represented at the meeting allow baiting on their public lands with the exception of North Dakota which is currently in the process of amending their regulations to prohibit baiting on their WMAs. **No action required.** NEW BUSINESS - Budget Cutbacks and Alternative Funding: Alternative funding sources for use on WMA management and discussion on various avenues being used/or considered in other states. Secondary Uses: If secondary uses of WMAs conflicts with the primary use, we may be in violation with our Federal Aid Mandates. This applies to Nature Base Tourism activities, dog trials/training, bike trails etc... Dealing with increased pressure for competing uses of WMAs was a common theme among the states represented at the meeting. Demonstration Areas on WMAs: Nature areas, interpretive areas, what other types of activities are allowed on WMAs? Some of the states have developed some demonstration areas such as native prairie demonstration areas that do provide some self-interpretive information while also providing some educational benefits. Indiana Bat Guidelines: Bill Bean expressed concern about how Indiana Bat guidelines, laws, and regulations are enforced. Specifically how this relates to which trees can be cut and during which period they can be cut. Any tree which is three inches or greater can not be cut during maternity roosting periods. The existing regulations are effectively restricting timber management activities on WMA in Indiana. No action was identified. Discussion followed relating to other restrictions on timber management. Managing More Land Without Increase in Resources: Self explanatory. Future Meetings: Discussion on future meeting rotation. The 2005 PLWC meeting is to be hosted by Ohio, 2006 possibly South Dakota? Scott Peterson will inquire about getting an updated meeting schedule from Dean Hildebrand, ND Game and Fish Department Director (needs to talk to Dean). Meeting Attendance: One of the items of major concern by all in attendance continues to be the relatively poor representation on the PLWC by certain states. Approximately half of the states represented in the Midwest were in attendance at this meeting. We will work on updating agency email and snail mail addresses. This will be used to both send the meeting minutes from the PLWC and to strongly encourage better participation in future meetings. Need action items dealt with: NEPA concerns? Has that been addressed? Tom Niebauer – Trust Fund and Work Group of IAFWA approved by Association's annual meeting. Final Report "NEPA for federal aid" discussed with Mitch King and verbally shared with Steve Williams. There are some creative suggestions in there. Report available and I will send it to you. **Other action item is we want feed back on is shooting range issue.** We would be willing to put together guidelines for shooting ranges on public lands. Joel Brunsvold, Illinois – I am building mine and I challenge you to do yours. Glen Salmon, Indiana – There are several documents out there, talk to Bill Bean. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – There is a lot of information available and NRA has a standard procedure out there. Joel Brunsvold, Illinois – If we can help in any way, ask me. Doug Hansen, South Dakota – I think the issue here is how they can be built and operated on public land. Scott Peterson,

North Dakota – I think we need to update what is out there. Doug Hansen, South Dakota – May be issue of compatible use. Scott Peterson, North Dakota – Don't need any other action from those Directors. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – You all need to send your people to these meetings.

Law Enforcement – Bob Timian, North Dakota

Dean asked me to report on North American Game Warden Museum project. In 1988 in Winnipeg the group decided to go forth with a museum. July 21, 2004 will be celebration day to demonstrate the actual construction of this museum and education center to protect natural resources. The building will not be complete, but is well on its way. Numerous states have contributed. Midwest Law Enforcement Agencies put in \$10,000 and the ND Game Wardens have raised \$150,000. We would like to thank Dean for his support and personal commitment.

Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – I would encourage everyone to donate to that cause.

Emmett Keyser, South Dakota (powerpoint presentation) (powerpoint presentation) **[Actual presentation separate file on MAFWA website]**

Encourage you to join Violator Law Enforcement Compact, through this driver's license compact. Several of the Midwest states already belong to the compact and encourage those of you who don't to consider that. Mike Conlin, Illinois – Who should we contact? Emmett Keyser, South Dakota – Me, at Emmett.keyser@nd.state.us. Information is compiled and held in a computerized database in Utah and shared with member states and provides the opportunity to share those revocations and can match them with license drawings. John Hoskins, Missouri – Mike, for your benefit, Missouri is now housing that database instead of Utah. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – We passed that through our House a few years ago and it is a great tool. Emmett Keyser, South Dakota – Our group looks forward to establishing a better relationship with the Midwest Association.

NCN – Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin

No action items. The multi-state grants begin with conservation needs. The Committee consists of Tom Niebauer (WI), Dave Risley (OH), and Dan Zekor (MO) and we put together a grant request to fund coordinator positions for all four associations. Dean spoke on behalf of us. The primary purpose of this committee is to annually advise the Association on a recommended course of action for submitting a MAFWA recommended National Conservation Need (NCN) to the IAFWA. On the table is \$6 million and we can apply for that. See me if questions or check out IAFWA's website. Starting in January the Committee, on behalf of the President, will be contacting you for requests for NCNs. Requirements change a little each year, but don't wait until January to think of one. I saw numerous opportunities at this meeting for NCN grants. Russ Mason, IAFWA – Eric asked me to state that those grants need to be in by February. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – There was opposition to our NCN request for funding of the Coordinators, saying it was Administrative. So we did not receive funding for this year.

Legal – Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator, Missouri - John Hoskins is the liaison for this committee and they have not met yet this year, but we hope to get the report on the website after the meeting.

Fish and Wildlife Health – Bruce Morrison, Nebraska

The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Wildlife and Fish Health Committee held its second annual meeting at Pere Marquette State Park, Grafton, Illinois on May 18 and 19, 2004. Nine of the 14 states that are members of the MAFWA were represented, as were the United States Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services and the U. S. Geological Survey-National Wildlife Health Laboratory. Chronic Wasting Disease, EHD, and West Nile Virus were primary issues. APHIS will be providing funding for testing again. There are recommendations for West Nile Virus, but no action items. The last two pages of the report are asking for support of EHD Bluetongue and we are asking for support of screening tests (for their own state) and then information would be supplied. Discussed fish diseases, but need more time spent on those. Michigan will host next meeting and Director Humphries is our liaison. Ollie was in Illinois and helped tremendously with that meeting. We need to know what we need to supply to you. I have been appointed to the Wildlife Service Committee by Secretary Veneman. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – Personally and behalf of the organization you have done a hell of a job.

Deer and Turkey – Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator, Missouri - Dale Garner will be liaison for this committee. Meeting to be held in August in Iowa. Will put report on website when available.

Midwest Pheasant Study Group - Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator, Missouri - The group meets every other year and next meeting is scheduled for this October in Michigan. We will place the report on the website when available.

Furbearers – Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator, Missouri - No report available.

Conservation Enhancement Fund Discussion - Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator, Missouri
The purpose of this committee is to establish a permanent Conservation Enhancement Fund to support activities of MAFWA, which maintain and enhance the capability of all MAFWA states and provinces to develop and implement comprehensive fish and wildlife programs for game, nongame, endangered species and their habitats with a goal of \$300,000. The purpose of the Fund is to provide a reliable annual revenue stream for MAFWA program use. Doug Hansen, South Dakota – Looking at total assets, this would be in addition to the Jaschek fund? Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator, Missouri - Exactly. **Doug Hansen moved to move forward, Glen Salmon second. Motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:

The next teleconference is August 16, 2004 at 2:00 pm CDT.

Passing of the Gavel

This is a symbolic passing of the gavel since I will be in place until after IAFWA meeting.
Passed gavel from Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota, to Steve Gray, Ohio.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bylaws Changes – *Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado*

Discussed creation of a Standing Committee and proposed amendments to our current Constitution and Bylaws are as follows:

1. The allowance of electronic mail and phone calls to conduct business in certain situations.
2. Clarification that the position of Coordinator is nonvoting (similar to Recording Secretary)
3. Elimination of the term “First” when referring to the position of the “First” Vice President..
4. Requiring Technical Working Committees (5) to submit written reports electronically.
5. Requiring Technical Working Committees (5) to submit an electronic copy of their reports to the Recording Secretary as well as the President.
6. Creation of a new standing committee, the Bylaws Committee.
7. Potentially increasing the annual dues to help fund the Coordinator position (no need to raise dues as we are paying for Coordinator position with special assessment and Jaschek funds) may want to raise dues to \$500 to match the Western Association.

Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – Do we want to raise dues? *Doug Hansen, South Dakota* – Leave dues as they are. *Mike Conlin, Illinois* – In agreement. *Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota* – Will leave as is. **Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado moved to accept as proposed bylaws, except dues increase, Steve Gray, Ohio, second, motion carried.**

Formal Awards Program – *Glen Salmon, Indiana*

Glen Salmon moved to accept program as presented earlier, Steve Gray second. Motion carried.

NAWMP/NAWCA Contributions to Canada – *Randy Kreil, North Dakota*

Some states have contributed to these programs for some time and we would like to encourage you to continue to support them.

Other Business

Joint State/Federal Aid Task Force – *Glen Salmon, Indiana*

Draft Directors Orders on effective dates and use of land as match have been approved by Steve Williams for signatory route. It is important for states to make decisions regarding this at this meeting.

Clean Up - *Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator, Missouri*

Electronic mail would speed business up considerably. Please notify me of who your Executive Assistant is, if you are uncomfortable with this. Larry Nelson has agreed to take Tim Bremicker’s place on resolutions committee and as liaison to the Resolutions Committee. We still don’t have liaisons for the Furbearer Committee or the Public Lands Committee.

Preliminary Details for the 2005 Meeting - *Steve Gray, Ohio*

Luke Miller, Ohio, showed a presentation (powerpoint presentation) (powerpoint presentation) [Actual presentation separate file on MAFWA website] showing the preliminary agenda for July 11-14, 2005. The meeting would be near Lake Erie at Sawmill Creek Resort, near Huron, Ohio. There are lots of activities there, such as golf, Cedar Point, Cleveland Indians, Lake Erie Islands and fishing Walleye fishing at Lake Erie is fantastic in July and we would like to hold a sponsored fishing day before the conference.

Adjourn

Dean Hildebrand thanked everyone for reports and great conference. **Adjourned at 12:08.**

Photos



**Pitchfork Fondue at Fort Lincoln
State Park**



General Custer's Home at Fort Lincoln



Sgt. Major Mark Kennewick



Barracks at Fort Lincoln State Park



**Enjoying the food and entertainment (Sgt. Major Kennewick)
At Fort Lincoln State Park**



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Agenda

MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES
2004 ANNUAL MEETING
July 11 – 13, 2004
Bismarck, North Dakota

SATURDAY JULY 10th

4:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Hospitality Room (*Presidential Suite Room #903*)

5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Early Registration (*Front Lobby*)

SUNDAY JULY 11th

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration (*2nd Floor- Ballroom Foyer*)

7:00 a.m. – 8:00a.m. Executive Committee Breakfast Meeting (*Liberty/Manhattan Room*)
Continental Breakfast for Conference Participants (*Ballroom Foyer*)

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Strategic Thinking Session for State Directors and All Partners:
Key items to discuss include: How to Fund the Coordinator Position,
The Jasheck Fund, and the Annual Work Plan: *Dan Zekor*, Facilitator,
Missouri Department of Conservation (*Rembrandt Room*)

10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Break

10:20 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Comments from (*Steve Williams*) Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

10:45 a.m. - Noon Strategic Thinking Session (continued) *Dan Zekor*, Facilitator,
Missouri Dept. of Conservation (*Rembrandt Room*)

Noon – 1:15 p.m. Lunch catered by Radisson Hotel (*Picasso/DaVinci Rooms*) –
Sponsored by ***National Shooting Sports Foundation*** - Presentation
by *Sharon Rushton* - NSSF

1:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Opening Session and Moderator – *Dean Hildebrand*, Director, North
Dakota Game and Fish Department (*Rembrandt Room*)

1:15 p.m. – 1:20 p.m. Welcome to North Dakota - *Dean Hildebrand*, Director

1:20 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Conference Overview – *Randy Kreil*, Conference Chairman, North
Dakota Game and Fish Department

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. State of the International Association – *C. Tom Bennett*, President,
IAFWA, Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources

2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	IAFWA Staff Report – <i>John Baughman</i> , Executive Vice President, IAFWA, Washington D.C.
2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Reports <i>Robyn Thorson</i> – Region III Director, Ft. Snelling, MN <i>John Blankenship</i> – Region VI Director, Denver, CO
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Partner Session: Updates from Partners– <i>Dan Zekor</i> , Facilitator (<i>Rembrandt Room</i>) Introduction of New Federal and NGO Partners – <i>Ollie Torgerson</i> , Missouri Department of Conservation
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn

Evening Social & Pitchfork Fondue at Ft. Lincoln State Park, catered by *Best Western Seven Seas Inn* of Bismarck/Mandan, ND – Sponsored by ***Ducks Unlimited***

Buses leave for Ft. Lincoln @ 5:30 p.m. from parking lot, south-side of Radisson.

1st Bus leaves from Ft. Lincoln @ 9:00 p.m.

2nd Bus leaves from Ft. Lincoln @ 9:30 p.m.

Hospitality Room will be open after buses return from Ft. Lincoln State Park.



Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

MONDAY JULY 12th

6:45 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.	Registration
6:45 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast (<i>Liberty/Manhattan Room</i>)
7:30 a.m.	Buses leave for Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center – Washburn, North Dakota, south-side parking lot. (<i>Vans will be in the front of the Hotel @ 3:00 p.m. to transport spouses and other family members to the Interpretive Center</i>)
9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.	Farm Bill Session: Moderator - <i>Randy Kreil</i> , Conference Chairman, North Dakota Game and Fish Department
9:05 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	CRP in Crisis - <i>Steve Adair</i> , Ducks Unlimited
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	CRP and Duck Production in the Prairie Pothole Region - <i>Ron Reynolds</i> , U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bismarck ND
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	A CRP Legislative Wake-up Call – <i>Rick Young</i> , Pheasants Forever
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Quantifying the Environmental Benefits of CRP on Prairie Wetlands: Separating Acts of Nature from Acts of Congress – <i>Chip Euliss</i> , USGS, Jamestown, ND
11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	CRP Values for Nongame Birds – <i>Doug Johnson and Larry Igl</i> , USGS, Jamestown, ND
11:45 a.m. – Noon	Session Wrap-up
Noon – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch catered by Lewis & Clark Café of Washburn, ND (<i>Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center Deck</i>) – Sponsored by <i>ND Natural Resources Trust</i>

1:15 p.m.- 1:20 p.m.	Issues and Opportunities Session - Moderator - <i>Randy Kreil</i> , Conference Chairman, North Dakota Game and Fish Department
1:20 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.	Silver Carp Biology and Management - <i>Jerry Rassmussen</i> , (MICRA)
1:40 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	“Train the Trainer” – Law Enforcement Crime Scene Investigation Program <i>Dr. Richard B. Minnis</i> , Mississippi State University
2:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.	A Report from The International Association of Natural Resources Pilots – <i>Jeff Faught</i> , IANRP Vice President, North Dakota Game and Fish Department
2:20 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.	The Bowhunting Preservation Alliance – <i>Pat Ruble</i> , Director of Government Relations, BPA
2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Prairie Grouse Management Plan Proposal, <i>Jim Mosher</i> , Executive Director, and <i>Stephanie Harmon</i> , Science Advisor, North American Grouse Partnership
3:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.	Break
3:20 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.	National Fisheries Habitat Initiative – <i>Doug Hansen</i> , South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department
3:40 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.	State Wildlife Grants – <i>Paul Schmidt</i> , U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; <i>Dean Hildebrand and Mike McKenna</i> – North Dakota Game and Fish Department
4:10 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	The Missouri River- Yellowstone River Confluence Project - <i>Keith Trego and Merle Bennet</i> , North Dakota Natural Resources Trust
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Session Wrap-up
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn, buses leave for Ft. Mandan
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Social – Music by <i>Heart River Band</i> – Sponsored by <i>North Dakota Action Group</i>
6:30 p.m.	Chicken and Ribs Barbecue catered by <i>Best Western Seven Seas Inn</i> of Bismarck/Mandan, ND Sponsored by <i>Pheasants Forever</i>
9:00 p.m.	Buses and vans leave for Bismarck to return to the Radisson Hotel Hospitality Room will be open after buses return.



Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies



TUESDAY JULY 13th

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 6:45 a.m. | Breakfast Buffet catered by Radisson Hotel (<i>Picasso/DaVinci Rooms</i>)
Sponsored by <i>Delta Waterfowl</i> – Presentation by <i>Rob Olson</i> , Delta Waterfowl |
| 7:00 – Noon | Registration desk open |
| 8:00 a.m. | MAFWA Business Meeting and Moderator - <i>Dean Hildebrand</i> , (<i>Rembrandt Room</i>) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Call to Order and Roll Call 2) Approval of 2003 Annual Meeting Minutes 3) Treasurers' Report 4) Audit Committee Report 5) Jaschek Fund Report – <i>Joe Kramer</i> 6) Jaschek Guidelines Re-Write Committee Report – <i>Randy Kreil</i> 7) Investments Committee – <i>Doug Hansen</i> 8) Resolutions Committee – <i>Tim Bremicker</i> 9) Awards Committee – <i>Glen Salmon</i> 10) Approval of Affiliate Memberships |
| 10:00 a.m. | Break - Sponsored by <i>ND Chapter of The Wildlife Society</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11) MAFWA Coordinator Report – <i>Ollie Torgerson</i> 12) CITIES Report – <i>Carolyn Caldwell</i> 13) Committee Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Lands Public Lands Law Enforcement NCN Legal Fish and Wildlife Health Deer and Turkey Prairie Grouse Pheasant Furbearers 14) Conservation Enhancement Fund Discussion |

- 15) Old Business:
- 16) Passing of the Gavel
- 17) New Business:
 - Bylaws Changes – Creation of a Standing Committee
 - Formal Awards Program
 - NAWMP/NAWCA – Contributions to Canada
- 18) Preliminary Details for the 2005 Meeting

NOON

Adjourn – Lunch on your own

Strategic Thinking Session

MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES
2004 ANNUAL MEETING
Strategic Planning Session
July 11, 2004

ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLAN

GOAL 1. Improve continuity within the Association.

Action Item:

- Need to develop and implement a long-term strategy for funding the coordinator position (2003) – **PENDING DUES INCREASE DECISION AT ANNUAL MEETING IN BISMARCK**
- Need to develop a coordinators work plan; coordinators work plan should flow from directives given at the Associations annual meeting and the Association's work plan (2003) - **COMPLETED**
- Ex. Board should develop an annual Association work plan (2003) - **COMPLETED**
- Coordinator should develop annual Coordinator's work plan (2003) - **COMPLETED**
- Investigate the possibility of creating and filling a coordinator position for the Association (2002) – **ACCOMPLISHED**

New Action items:

- Develop a process for annually submitting a National Conservation Need (NCN) (2004) - **PENDING**

GOAL 2. Promote open communications among members and between the Association and outside interests.

Action Item:

- Continue working toward broader inclusion of relevant outside groups and organizations. Look for more a better ways of sharing information and identifying issues of mutual interest, and opportunities for collaboration (2003) - **UNDERWAY**
- Develop standard format for "State of the State" reports. Reports would be developed and submitted annually, ahead of the annual meeting (2003) - **UNDERWAY**
- Compile and share reports ahead of annual meeting by hardcopy of website or both (2003) - **UNDERWAY**
- Invite other agencies and organizations to present reports/briefings at meetings (2002) - **ONGOING**

New Action items:

GOAL 3. Avoid fragmentation within the Association through improved internal coordination and communication.

Action Item:

- Develop a standard message or theme (mission statement, purpose, description of role) that directors and the coordinator can carry to Midwest committees and working groups (2003) - **COMPLETED**
- Develop an official list of Midwest Association “Affiliates” with described roles and benefits; request regular updates from official affiliates at annual meeting (2003) - **UNDERWAY**
- Directors should attend committee/work group meetings when being hosted by their state (2003) – **PARTIALLY COMPLETE**
- Directors should strongly consider participating in committees/ work groups as an official liaison (2003) – **PARTIALLY COMPLETE**
- Have organizations and committees report progress at meetings (2002). - **ONGOING**

New Action items:

STRATEGIC ISSUES

Last year we identified an extensive list of “strategic issues” that generated a fair amount of after-hours discussion. Of those issues, six were identified as priority based on a group ranking. Our goal for 2004 is to further develop this strategic process by better describing and ranking the issues before our annual meeting. With the ranked issues in hand, we will take valuable meeting to discuss potential action items for the top three – five.

Top six issues of strategic interest to the Association as identified in 2003:

1. Fish and Wildlife disease and health
2. Farm Bill coordination
3. Stable funding for state fish and wildlife agencies
4. Hunter/angler recruitment and retention
5. Privatization of wildlife (e.g., high fences)
6. Private land access for hunting, fishing, etc.

STEP 1 – Brainstorm Strategic Issues 2004

Please identify what you think are the most strategic issues facing the Association over the next year? Please provide no more than 3 and include enough description that others will understand why it’s important. Avoid being too brief (e.g., Wildlife Health, Federal Aid, etc.). A few initial issues have been provided. Please send your suggested issues to Daniel.Zekor@mdc.mo.gov by June 11, 2004.

Issue: Stable funding is needed for all state fish and wildlife agencies – Tight state and agency budgets continue to put the pinch on fish and wildlife agencies, thereby jeopardizing the ability of states to manage fish and wildlife resources and provide opportunities for public use of those resources. Budget short falls are also exacerbated by declining hunting and fishing participation rates. Lower agency budgets also impact the state's ability to produce matching dollars for federal assistance programs. Stable funding at the state level is necessary to effectively meet fish and wildlife management responsibilities.

Issue: Creating and Funding Regional Association Coordinators - The escalating amount and complexity of today's conservation challenges, coupled with the high turnover rate among the top leadership in state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies, makes stability, continuity, and operational efficiency of the Midwest, Northeast, Southeastern and Western Associations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Regional Associations) more essential than at any time in the past 75 years. Regional Associations are governed by elected officers who are top level state agency administrators and, as such, have little time to devote to conducting Regional Association business. Regional Associations lack staff to provide the support for elected officers to accomplish the ever-increasing volume of work so vital to their collective interests. Peak organizational performance and effectiveness within all Regional Associations is desperately needed. A strong need exists to increase communication, cooperation, and coordination among the Regional Associations, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), and other organizations that help achieve the wildlife conservation mission. This is best accomplished through the creation of Regional Association Coordinators; however, a reliable funding mechanism is needed.

Issue: Missouri River Master Manual – Need a brief description why this important to the Association (**Rex Amack**)

Issue: Recruitment of Hunters and Anglers – Most states within the Association has experienced some degree of declining participation among hunters and anglers. This decline has a real impact on fish and wildlife agencies and their ability to manage fish and wildlife resources and associated habitats. In economic terms, a decline in participation means a loss in permit/license revenues. A decline in permit/license sales influences the annual apportionment of Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration monies to the state. Already tight state budgets are not likely to pick-up the slack through allocation of general revenue to fish and wildlife resources. Loss of funds will result in resource and habitat decline, and a decline of related facilities. In the end, resources and the public lose. Keeping people engaged in hunting and fishing enhances quality of life, furthers important traditions, and secures the future of fish and wildlife resources.

Issue: Habitat Management and Farm Programs - Need a brief description why this important to the Association (**Steve Gray**)

STEP 2 – Ranking Strategic Issues 2004

Don't do this step yet. You'll be asked to do this later. Once we have identified a list of issues, you will be asked to prioritize the full list.

- Prioritize issues: 1 = Low; 2 = Medium; 3 = High

ISSUES	RANK

STEP 3 – Developing Action Items for 2004

We'll take the top three - five issues of strategic interest for 2004 according to their rank and discuss them during the meeting on July 11. For each issue we'll develop any needed action items.

Issue #1:

Issue #2:

Issue #3

Issue #4

Issue #5

KEY QUESTIONS:

- What action should the Association take regarding these issues?
- Would any of these issues lend themselves to being developed into a National Conservation Need (NCN)?
- Would any of these issues lend themselves to the Multi-State Grant Program?

IAFWA Report

International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Washington Staff Report

*Western Association of Fish and Wildlife
Agencies Conference
July 24-30, 2004
Sun Valley, ID*

Prepared by the Washington Office Staff:

John Baughman, Executive Vice-President
Gary J. Taylor, Legislative Director
Don MacLauchlan, International Resource Director
Naomi Edelson, Wildlife Diversity Director
Len Ugarenko, NAWMP Coordinator
Eric Schwaab, Resource Director
Samara Trusso, Program Manager
David Walker, Agriculture Conservation Policy Analyst
Len Singel, AWDS Coordinator
Vacant, NBII Coordinator
Russ Mason, Science and Research Liaison
Debbie Hahn, Migratory Bird Coordinator
Jen Mock, Multi-State Conservation Grants Coordinator

Rachel Brittin, Public Affairs Director
Lanny Moore, USFWS Trust Fund Liaison
Bryant White, Trap Test Coordinator (MO)
David Chadwick, TWW Associate
Wendy Mansfield, Association Accountant
Angela Rivas Nelson, Association Secretary
Liz Skipper, Administrative Assistant
Estelle Green, Administrative Assistant
Sally Guynn, MAT Project Manager (NCTC)
Dwight Guynn, MAT Project Manager (NCTC)
Jacob Faibisch, MAT Project Manager (NCTC)
Savannah Zoeller, Production Coordinator (NCTC)
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INTRODUCTION – JOHN BAUGHMAN, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Staff actions on major programs and activities are described in detail elsewhere in this report.

Change seems to be the only constant for the Association. As of July 2004, we have seven new directors since the International meeting in September:

1. Rebecca Humphries, former Chief of Wildlife, succeeded K.L. Cool as Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on June 1, 2004.
2. Terry Cleveland succeeded Association Past President Brent Manning as the new director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Manning is now Executive Director for the DuPage County Forest Preserve in northern Illinois.
3. Dwight Landreneau replaced Jimmy Jenkins as Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
4. John Guenther was named Director of the Minnesota DNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife. This position had been vacant since Past President Roger Holmes' retirement several years ago.
5. Ryan Broddrick succeeded Robert Hight as Director of the California Department of Fish and Game.
6. Doug Austen was named Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, succeeding Pete Colangelo who retired last summer.
7. Bruce McCloskey succeeded Russ George as Director of the Colorado Division of Wildlife upon Russ' move to Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.

Mike Lapisky remains acting Director in Rhode Island.

Personnel

The Association hired its first Public Affairs Director, Rachel Brittin, effective June 1, 2004. Rachel comes to us from American Forests where she was the Communications Director. The new position is funded by a multistate grant for the next two years, and Rachel will be responsible for developing and implementing a communications plan for the Association. She will also be responsible for coordination of the annual meeting. Following the start-up period, it is anticipated that this position will be funded by cost savings on communications functions that are currently outsourced, annual meeting revenue, and new memberships.

Dr. Russ Mason from the Wildlife Services national research laboratory in Fort Collins, Colorado, was hired July 10 as the new Science and Research Liaison between the USGS/Biological Resources Discipline, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State fish and wildlife agencies. One of Russ' duties will be staff support for the Association's Science and Research Committee. Funding for this position is provided by USGS, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the states.

Four Executive Committee meetings were held since September. The Executive Committee met December 17-18 in Washington, DC. Highlights included 1) final approval of the 2004 budget, 2) adoption of the Association's first strategic plan, 3) approval of the new public affairs position, 4) directing staff to write the Secretary of the Interior in support of an MOU for operation of the Great Lakes deepwater research vessels, 5) agreement on a slight modification in the make-up of the National Grants Committee in order to aid continuity, and 6) asked staff to develop a plan to reduce reliance on multistate grants for personnel and ongoing activities. The

Executive Committee also heard status reports from BLM Director Kathleen Clarke and Fish and Wildlife Service Director Steve Williams, along with updates from most staff members. Finally, the Executive Committee hosted a farewell dinner for the Association's retiring Legal Counsel Paul Lenzini and his wife Celeste.

The Executive Committee met February 3 via conference call. The two action items were: 1) expanding the National Grants Committee from 7 to 8 people by adding the Chair of the Executive Committee as Vice Chair of the National Grants Committee, and 2) Pugh (AL), McHugh (NJ), Crawford (NV) and Haddad (FL) as Chair were named as the Management Assistance Team Steering Committee.

During another conference call meeting April 7, the Executive Committee gave the Executive Vice President permission to proceed with negotiations to consolidate and expand the Washington, DC office space. The Executive Committee also approved an increase in disability insurance coverage and approved two expenditures from the AWARE account.

During its June 10 conference call, the Executive Committee 1) heard an update on new office space, 2) approved the Association's first personnel manual, 3) gave approval to explore expanding the purpose of the AWARE account to include scientific as well as educational purposes, and 4) received updates on legal issues, legislation, the National Fish Habitat Initiative, and plans for new committee assignments.

Finally, the Association currently leases office space on the third and fifth floors and storage space on the fourth floor of the Hall of the States building. Hopefully by September 1 we will be able to sub-lease a larger suite on the seventh floor that will house the entire staff and handle existing storage needs.

LEGISLATION

Transportation Reauthorization: Reconciling the total price tag for this massive bill between the House-Senate conferees and the White House remains the most significant challenge to the bill's enactment. As a result, Congress passed yet another short-term extension of spending authority for transportation programs lasting until July 30th. Though it is still possible that the Transportation Reauthorization bill will pass and be signed by the President before the election, it is not expected until October, in which case yet another extension will be required.

The Senate-passed bill includes 90 percent of the hunting and fishing conservation community's request for funding and policy, including the Wallop-Breaux reauthorization. The House-passed bill has some, but fewer, of these provisions. IAFWA is working on both sides of the Capitol to ensure that as many of these provisions as possible are in the final bill coming out of the Senate-House conference.

Conservation Tax Incentives: The fish and wildlife and land conservation community continues its strong support for this high priority initiative, which would provide voluntary, market-based tax incentives for working farms and ranches to conserve land and habitat through the sale of fee-title conservation easements or development rights while keeping the land in the family.

Though these provisions are included in a number of charitable-giving bills, IAFWA is working to find another legislative vehicle that is more likely to see legislative action this year. The Senate Finance Committee hearing in June focused on how charitable gifts are valued and how some contributions of "tangible" and "intangible property" are purposely over, or under-valued. This abuse of this law potentially includes not only land (such as the donation of a conservation easement), but also art, patents, intellectual property, cars, boats, etc. Following the hearing,

the Internal Revenue Service issued a rule directing increased scrutiny of contributions involving transfers and purchases of easements on real property.

Some of the interest in land came about as a result of an investigative series last summer by the Washington Post, largely focusing on The Nature Conservancy. The conservation community supports reasonable reforms to address abuse, but whether the Senate Finance Committee proposes legislative reforms remains to be seen. If it does, it could delay passage of the conservation tax incentives. If the reforms are overly ambitious, they could eliminate the attraction and utility of these tools for private landowners, a consequence that is both inappropriate and unacceptable. IAFWA remains committed to passage of these incentives if at all possible in this Congress.

Appropriations Legislation: Appropriations subcommittees in the House of Representatives recently started marking up FY2005 legislation with the intent of passing many of the appropriations bills by the August recess. However, in keeping with an austere economic environment and in the absence of an approved Congressional Budget Resolution (the blueprint for discretionary spending), most bills will fund most programs at less than last year's level and below the President's budget request. Further, it is unlikely that the Senate will take Committee action on any other (than Department of Defense) appropriations bills before the August recess.

Though the appropriations process has started, most observers believe that in addition to the Department of Defense Appropriations bill, which is currently in a House-Senate conference, only the Homeland Security Appropriations bill will likely reach the President's desk before the November elections. The remaining bills will be acted on through either an Omnibus Appropriations bill by a post-election, lame-duck Congress or put off until the 109th Congress through passage of a long-term Continuing Resolution. It is not clear yet what this will mean for the ultimate funding levels in these bills.

FARM BILL

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) provides an 80 percent increase in funding for conservation programs. The additional funding means that approximately \$3 billion annually will be going to the nation's farmers, ranchers and forest land owners under a variety of programs, all of which can benefit fish and wildlife resources on private lands. To help make the promise of the 2002 Farm Bill a reality, the Association, its State fish and wildlife agency members and partner conservation organizations are now focused on the development of program rules and policy that will ensure fish and wildlife resources have co-equal status with soil and water resources in program implementation. The following is a summary of the current status of conservation program implementation.

FY 2005 Appropriations -- The House Appropriations Committee approved an agriculture appropriations bill for FY 2005 on June 23, 2004 that included large cuts in mandatory spending for conservation programs authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill. The bill slashed a total of \$427 million from spending levels authorized by the Farm Bill two years ago. In percentage terms, the largest cuts were to the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), which was reduced 29 percent from \$85 million to \$60 million and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), which had enrollment for FY 2005 capped at 175,000 acres, even though the Administration had proposed an enrollment of 200,000 acres and the Farm Bill authorizes annual enrollment of up to 250,000 acres. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was reduced 16 percent from \$1.2 billion to \$1.01 billion, while the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) was reduced 10 percent from \$125 million to \$112 million. Funding for the Conservation Security Program (CSP), designed as an uncapped entitlement program, was capped at \$194 million. The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) was not cut, but could reach its statutory spending cap

of \$254 million next year. A chart prepared by the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition which compares the authorized funding levels provided in the 2002 Farm Bill with the actions taken through the annual appropriations bill in FY 03, FY 04 and the FY 05 House bill is attached for your review. The numbers for EQIP, WHIP and FRPP may be reduced even further if the administrative transfer of funds for CRP and WRP technical assistance is repeated again in 2005. The House bill is likely to be considered on the floor sometime in July prior to Congress departing for its six-week summer break on July 23. It is unlikely that the Senate appropriations subcommittee and then the full committee will take up their version of the FY 2005 appropriations bill before Congress returns from the summer recess in September. With the delay in the Senate, it seems increasingly likely that the agriculture appropriations bill and most other appropriations bills will be bundled together into a large omnibus spending bill this fall.

Congressional Testimony on Conservation Programs -- The Association joined with 19 other sportsmen's and conservation groups in testimony before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural Development and Research on June 15 concerning implementation of the 2002 Farm Bill. The testimony was similar to that presented to the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Forestry, Conservation and Rural Revitalization on May 11 and highlighted how conservation programs are having a positive impact on wildlife habitats and are in high demand among producers. The testimony also identified major concerns regarding program implementation and the need to fully fund these programs as authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill. Information on the hearing including witness statements is available at <http://agriculture.house.gov/hearings/statements.html>.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) -- The Farm Service Agency (FSA) held the first general CRP sign-up under the 2002 Farm Bill in May and June of 2003 and accepted 2 million acres into the program. Out of the 39.2 million acre statutory authorization for CRP, 34.7 million acres are currently under contract. That leaves approximately 4.5 million acres available for enrollment until 2007 when 16 million acres now under contract will expire. FSA is holding 2 million acres in reserve for Continuous CRP, which allows sign-ups at any time and includes the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (28 agreements currently in effect in 24 states), bottomland hardwoods (enrollment capped at 500,000 acres) and the Farmable Wetlands Program (enrollment capped at 1 million acres). Enrollment in all types of Continuous CRP is expected to average about 400,000-500,000 acres annually. FSA has not yet made a decision as to whether another general sign up will be conducted in 2004. The immediate problem with CRP's unused authorization (4.5 million acres) is that with the ever-tightening budget situation, Congress will be looking for places to cut mandatory spending in the spring of 2005. A program like CRP that has not made full use of its authorization will be a tempting target for budget cutters.

Since contracts on over 40% of the acres enrolled in CRP are scheduled to expire in 2007, the CRP Working Group of the Association's Agricultural Conservation Task Force is assessing the potential wildlife resource impacts and options for ensuring the wildlife legacy of CRP is maintained and enhanced through 2007 and beyond. The Working Group will be developing a white paper on the subject from a national perspective and the results will be available for discussion and development of recommendations for consideration at the Association's annual meeting in September.

The Association submitted comments on the Interim Final Rule for CRP in July 2003. A Final CRP Rule was published in May 2004 which did not differ substantially from the Interim Rule, but which clarified that managed haying and grazing could only occur outside the nesting and brood rearing season. Despite the clarification, the Association continues to be concerned that the new Farm Bill provision allowing managed haying and grazing of CRP is being implemented in a manner inconsistent with the wildlife purpose of CRP in some states. We will continue working with FSA to ensure that a process is in place for establishing haying and grazing

periods and frequencies that incorporates the biological information on nesting and brood-rearing seasons and wildlife habitat requirements provided by the state fish and wildlife agencies. We have also expressed concern over the recent restriction of the wetland restoration conservation practice (CP-23), now part of Continuous CRP, to the 100-year floodplain and reiterated the importance of making sure the CP-23 practice applies to farmed-depressional wetlands throughout the farm belt and the prairie pothole region. The Association, along with many other conservation organizations, continues to urge USDA and Congress to find a permanent solution to the problem of providing adequate technical assistance funding for both CRP and WRP (see technical assistance funding section). We continue to emphasize the importance of establishing and managing CRP cover in ways that ensure wildlife benefits continue throughout the contract period.

In response to continuing drought conditions throughout much of the west, the Secretary of Agriculture has authorized emergency grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands in eligible counties through September 30, 2004. To be eligible, counties must be at a D3 or D4 on the U.S. Drought Monitor or they must have had a 40 percent deviation from normal precipitation. The authority to approve counties for emergency grazing during the primary nesting season has been delegated to Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Committees and the approval requires consultation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Technical Committees. If the NRCS State Technical Committee does not concur with FSA, the decision to approve emergency grazing will go to USDA in Washington. Only emergency grazing will be authorized during the nesting season. Emergency haying of CRP can be authorized outside the nesting season through September 15.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) -- The Final Rule for WHIP was published in 2002. The FY 2004 omnibus appropriations bill provided \$42 million for WHIP, which is \$18 million below the \$60 million authorized for the program in the 2002 Farm Bill. NRCS has transferred \$7 million to pay for other program technical assistance, leaving \$35 million available for WHIP financial and technical assistance this year. The Administration's FY 2005 budget provides \$60 million for WHIP, which is \$25 million below the authorized level of \$85 million in the 2002 Farm Bill.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) -- The Final Rule for WRP was published in 2002 and funding for FY 2004 is \$280 million. Enrollment for 2004 was capped in the FY 2004 appropriations bill at 189,144 acres. The proposed FY 2005 budget includes \$295 million to enroll 200,000 acres. The first nationally approved Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) was announced by the Secretary of Agriculture on June 29, 2004. The goal of the Lower Missouri River WREP project in Nebraska is to enroll 18,000 acres for a total cost of \$26 million through 2007. The project will use easement purchases and wetland restoration to create a continuous wildlife corridor that provides fish and wildlife habitat, improves water quality and increases natural flood storage capacity.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) -- Approximately 241,000 acres were enrolled in GRP in FY 2003 under a Notice of Availability of Funds in which approximately \$54 million of the \$254 million available for GRP through 2007 was obligated. Because of the limited funding going to each state in 2003, the opportunity for restoration agreements was essentially eliminated and emphasis was placed on signing up acres under the threat of conversion. The Association submitted comments on GRP in December 2003 which urged funding of restoration agreements and the recognition of plant and animal biodiversity as co-equal with the other two program emphasis areas (i.e., support for grazing operations and the threat of conversion). The Association is currently reviewing an Interim Final Rule for GRP that adopts the approach of allocating funds to states for selection of projects at the state level. The NRCS State Conservationist and State FSA Executive Director will be responsible for developing ranking criteria within broad national guidelines and with input from State Technical Committees.

Ranking criteria are to emphasize support for and balance the three statutory objectives of: protection of grassland from the threat of conversion; support for grazing operations; and maintenance and improvement of plant and animal biodiversity. The GRP has \$115 million budgeted for FY 2004, but like the WHIP Program, GRP will be donating funds (\$13 million) to other programs for technical assistance. The Administration is proposing to spend \$84 million on GRP in FY 2005, which would reach the program's funding cap under the 2002 Farm Bill.

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) -- The Final Rule was published in May 2003. Congress appropriated \$112 million for FY 2004, but like WHIP and GRP, this program is contributing \$24 million to other programs to pay for technical assistance. The Administration proposes to fund FRPP at the fully authorized level of \$125 million in FY 2005.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) -- The Final Rule for EQIP was published in 2003. Of the \$1 billion authorized for FY 2004, \$975 million was appropriated. EQIP is another of the donor programs and will provide \$76 million of its total FY 2004 appropriation to pay for other program technical assistance. In FY 2005, the Administration proposes to fund EQIP at \$1 billion, which is \$200 million short of the \$1.2 billion authorized by the Farm Bill.

Conservation Security Program (CSP) -- The FY 2004 omnibus appropriations bill provided \$41 million for CSP, but also lifted the funding cap on this entitlement program. The Administration is proposing to fund CSP at \$209 million in FY 2005. The Association submitted comments on the Proposed Rule for CRP in March 2004. We expressed concern that the Proposed Rule was focused on restricting the opportunity of CSP based upon existing budget limitations rather than implementing the CSP as envisioned by Congress and signed into law. Because the FY 2004 omnibus appropriations bill removed the funding cap for CSP, we recommended that NRCS withdraw and revise the Proposed Rule to focus on a nationwide program available to all producers that treats fish and wildlife resources as co-equal with soil and water quality and all other significant resource concerns consistent with the letter and spirit of the 2002 Farm Bill. An Interim Final Rule implementing CSP was published on June 21, 2004. USDA has decided to implement a watershed approach and use enrollment categories to focus the limited funding available for CSP. The idea is to rotate through all the nation's watersheds over the next eight years, assuming adequate funding is appropriated by Congress. Using the \$41 million appropriated for CSP in FY 2004, the first CSP sign-up will be available in 18 priority watersheds across the country from July 6 to July 30. NRCS anticipates writing 3,000 to 5,000 contracts in these priority watersheds. The 90-day public comment period on the Interim Final Rule closes on September 20, 2005. Additional information on CSP, including the "Self-Assessment" of producer eligibility and the Interim Final Rule, is available at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp.

Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) -- FLEP was funded at \$20 million in FY 2003 (out of a total of \$100 million made available under the Farm Bill) and the Forest Service planned to spend \$30 million in FY 2004. However, after the first \$20 million was allocated in FY 2003, \$50 million in out year funds was spent for fighting wildfires in 2003 and only \$10 million was reimbursed to FLEP. That left only \$40 million in the FLEP account, which was subsequently eliminated in the FY 2004 omnibus appropriations bill. Efforts to restore funding for FLEP in the FY 2005 appropriations process have not yet been successful. Attention has turned to the Senate Appropriations Committee and a future conference between the House and Senate.

Technical Service Providers (TSP) -- The 2002 Farm Bill provides funding from conservation program accounts for third parties (non-USDA) to provide technical assistance to implement conservation programs. The Interim Final Rule for Technical Service Provider Assistance, which went into effect March 1, 2003, describes the types of agreements between the NRCS and public agencies that can be used to deliver fish and wildlife technical assistance to landowners and the process for certification of state agency personnel as technical service

providers. An amendment to the Interim Final Rule for TSP assistance was published on July 8, 2003 that provides an exception to the certification requirements for state, local and tribal government entities. The amendment requires development of an MOU with NRCS and the vehicle for reimbursement to state agencies is a Contribution Agreement which requires a 50% non-federal match. All other reimbursement options will continue to require state agency certification as a TSP. In its comments on the amendment, provided to NRCS on August 8, 2003, the Association recommended application of the amendment to all types of partnerships with state fish and wildlife agencies that provide an effective and efficient means of delivering fish and wildlife technical assistance. The Administration has earmarked a total of \$40 million in technical assistance funds to go to Technical Service Providers (TSPs) this year. According to NRCS, this is a minimum number that can be exceeded to pay the cost of delivering technical assistance through third parties, including contribution and cooperative agreements with state agencies. Examples of existing MOUs and Agreements with NRCS to deliver fish and wildlife technical assistance are available at www.iafwa.org/farm_bill.htm.

Technical Assistance Funding -- To address the restrictions on the source of conservation program technical assistance funding contained in FY 2003 omnibus appropriations bill, USDA continues to use four of the programs (EQIP, FPP, WHIP and GRP) as donors for five of the programs that have no source of technical assistance funds (CRP, WRP, CSP, EQIP – Klamath Basin, and EQIP – ground and surface water conservation). For FY 2004, NRCS will again be transferring money from WHIP, EQIP, FRPP and GRP to pay for WRP and CRP technical assistance. For FY 2005, USDA is proposing a \$92 million Farm Bill Technical Assistant Account to fund technical assistance activities for WRP and CRP. You may recall that USDA proposed a similar account for all conservation programs in the FY 2003 and FY 2004 budgets. Since Congress rejected those proposals, we'll wait to see if the focus on WRP and CRP will receive a better reception in the FY 2005 appropriations process. The Senate Budget Committee has approved a budget resolution for 2005 which includes a permanent fix to the technical assistance funding problem for CRP and WRP by allowing technical assistance to come out of mandatory agriculture funds as intended in the 2002 Farm Bill. The Association supports this approach and will be encouraging a similar approach if and when the House and Senate Conference Committee considers the FY 2005 budget resolution.

**2002 Farm Bill Conservation Program Authorized Funding Levels
Compared with Actions Taken in Annual Appropriations Bills in FY03, FY04, & FY 05*
(\$ millions)**

Program	Farm Bill Level for FY 03	FY 03 Ag Approps Bill	Farm Bill Level for FY 04	FY 04 Ag Approps Bill	Farm Bill Level for FY 05	Bush Request FY 05	House Ag Approps Subcom. FY 05
EQIP	\$700	<i>Cut \$5 to \$695</i>	\$1,000	<i>Cut \$25 to \$975</i>	\$1,200	<i>Cut \$200 to \$1,000</i>	<i>Cut \$190 to \$1,010</i>
GSWC	\$45	<i>No limitation</i>	\$60	<i>Cut \$9 to \$51</i>	\$60	<i>No limitation</i>	<i>No limitation</i>
FRPP	\$100	<i>No limitation</i>	\$125	<i>Cut \$13 to \$112</i>	\$125	<i>No limitation</i>	<i>Cut \$13 to \$112</i>
WHIP	\$30	<i>No limitation</i>	\$60	<i>Cut \$18 to \$42</i>	\$85	<i>Cut \$25 to \$60</i>	<i>Cut \$25 to \$60</i>
WRP	250,000 acres	<i>Limited to 246,833 acres</i>	250,000 acres	<i>Cap @189,000 acres (= \$68 cut)</i>	250,000 acres	<i>Cap @ 200,000 acres (= \$74 cut)</i>	<i>Cap @ 175,000 acres (= \$111 cut)</i>
GRP	\$254 total for FY 02-11	<i>No limitation</i>	\$254 total for FY 02-11	<i>No limitation</i>	\$254 total for FY 02-11	<i>No limitation</i>	<i>No limitation</i>
CSP	Uncapped	<i>Capped @ \$3.770 over 10 years</i>	Uncapped	<i>Cap @ \$41 for '04; 10 yr. 3,770 cap removed</i>	Uncapped	<i>Cap @ \$209 = \$73 cut**</i>	<i>Cap @ \$194 = \$88 cut**</i>

* All 7 farm bill programs have mandatory funding from the Commodity Credit Corporation. If the annual appropriations bill is silent, the farm bill mandatory funding levels take effect. However, appropriators may also place limitations on the farm bill mandatory funding by prohibiting USDA from spending salary and expenses money on program implementation above a certain level. In so doing, they free up the difference to invest in other discretionary spending areas of their bill.

“Open Fields” Initiative -- Last November, legislation was introduced in the Senate (S. 1840) and the House (H.R. 3482) to tackle the growing problem of reduced public access to private land for hunting, fishing and other wildlife related activities. The proposed legislation, officially titled the “Voluntary Public Access and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program Act of 2003”, would authorize \$50 million annually in the form of USDA grants to state programs that offer incentive payments to farmers and ranchers who agree to allow public access on their lands under term established by each state. The bill would bolster existing state programs and encourage establishment of new state access programs, while also providing incentives to landowners to enhance wildlife habitat on their land. The list of co-sponsors for the “Open Fields” legislation continues to grow with 18 Senators and 17 Representatives now supporting the legislation. A current list of co-sponsors and additional information on the open fields is available through the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership website at www.trcp.org/access. There is strong bi-partisan support for this bill and strong support within the Senate Agriculture Committee. However, due to the few remaining "legislative days" in the 108th Congress and election-year politics, the prospects for a Senate hearing this session are dimming. Additional co-sponsors will be needed to move this legislation forward.

TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE

State Wildlife Grants: Gaining Ground in a Tough Budget -- IAFWA continues to work to secure funding for the State Wildlife Grants program, which is supporting projects in every state to keep wildlife from becoming endangered. President Bush's FY 2005 budget proposal included \$80 million for State Wildlife Grants. This represents an increase of \$20 million over the amount requested by the President last year (\$60 million) and \$10 million over the amount Congress ultimately appropriated (\$70 million). IAFWA's work with the White House, Office of Management and Budget, and Interior Department has helped build strong support in the Administration in a tight budget year.

The focus of the budget process now is on Congress. At the start of April, 112 Members of the House of Representatives and 52 Senators signed on to letters to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees supporting a funding level of \$100 million for State Wildlife Grants in FY 2005. The signers of the letter come from both parties and represent every part of the nation. Despite this strong show of support, the House of Representatives approved a Fiscal Year 2005 Interior Appropriations bill in mid-June that provides only \$67.5 million for the State Wildlife Grants program. This represents a cut below last year's funding level, a cut below the amount requested by President Bush, and considerably less than the amount requested by more than 160 members of Congress.

On June 23, the Senate's Interior Appropriations Subcommittee approved their version of the Interior Appropriations bill with \$75 million for State Wildlife Grants. While the Senate number is better than the House's, IAFWA is exploring options to secure an increase as the Senate deliberates on this bill in committee and on the floor. We also expect to work hard to secure the Senate number when this bill goes to "conference" between the House and Senate. Certainly, we will seek each state's help in securing the highest number possible. For details on what you need to do to help protect the State Wildlife Grants program from further cuts, please visit www.teaming.com.

State Wildlife Grants Implementation: Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy Development -- A provision in the legislation creating the State Wildlife Grants program requires that each state and territory develop a statewide Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy by October 2005. Drawing on existing plans, data, and expertise, these strategies will guide conservation actions and funding in every state. Although this is a daunting task and a tight deadline, there is a great deal of excitement and energy in the states around the opportunity that the strategies represent to get "ahead of the curve" and develop a vision for wildlife conservation.

Supporting states in developing their conservation strategies is a priority at IAFWA. Last year, we joined the US Fish and Wildlife Service in hosting five regional workshops for state planners. These workshops built on a series of guidance documents developed by the IAFWA Teaming with Wildlife Committee. Because many states have added additional staff specifically to work on the strategy development process, IAFWA also convened a meeting in January 2004, for new and existing strategy coordinators to share ideas and update each other on their progress.

Other resources for state strategy development include a section of the Teaming with Wildlife web site (<http://www.teaming.com>) that IAFWA guidance materials, other resources, and links and information about every state's planning effort, as well as an online bulletin board and an active email discussion list for state CWCS coordinators. Periodic state progress reports provide a means for gathering and sharing information on each state's status and practices. IAFWA has also been working to connect states with existing planning and data, including "step-downs" of priorities from migratory bird plans and other regional conservation plans, and other resources in nongovernmental organizations. IAFWA have also been attending and

participating in meetings held by the states and developing plans for securing funding to support the implementation of the conservation priorities identified in the state strategies after they are all completed next year.

IAFWA is currently planning a workshop on August 1-4, 2004, for state strategy coordinators. This workshop, to be held at the Lied Lodge and Conference Center in Nebraska City, Nebraska, will give planners another opportunity to interact with their colleagues, share ideas and approaches, and hear updates on other priority planning topics. This workshop a practical, hands-on opportunity for interaction and idea sharing among state planners.

NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN (NAWMP) COORDINATOR'S REPORT

It is a pleasure to report to you on my activities as the Association's NAWMP Coordinator. I would like to thank all of you for your assistance and support. I would also like to thank the Canadian provinces, Canadian Wildlife Service and the NAWMP partners in Canada for continuing to support the coordinator position at the International. A number of NAWMP and NAWCA (North American Wetlands Conservation Act) activities have taken place in the United States, Canada and Mexico since my last report. This report will cover some of the major items.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)

NAWCA provides funding for cooperative public-private wetland conservation projects throughout North America which support the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

NAWCA allocates to Canada and Mexico between 30 to 60 percent of available funds. Any appropriation over \$40 million is to remain in the United States.

All states have benefited from NAWCA standard and small grants programs. The program has put thousands of projects on the ground in North America, including a total of more than 16 million acres of wetlands and associated uplands in the U.S. and Canada. All states have benefited from NAWCA grants; there has been at least one NAWCA funded project in every state.

Appropriations -- IAFWA supported the President's FY 2005 budget request for \$54 million for NAWCA while asking Congress to increase that amount to the authorized funding level of \$65 million. Both the Senate and House marks for NAWCA are \$38 million.

We asked Congress to support the FWS request for \$11.4 million in FY 2005 for Joint Ventures.

We also supported increases in the FWS budget in the following areas:

- The request for \$1 million for FY 2005 to begin the aircraft replacement program,
- Recommended full funding of \$750,000 for the Webless Migratory Gamebird Program. The \$250,000 provided in FY 2005 is a very modest beginning,
- \$1 million add-on to assist states with managing depredating geese to become permanent funding; and,
- Recommended Congress appropriate an additional \$5 million to collect data and monitor 16 priority goose and brant populations across North America.

FWS budget also requested \$4 million for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Act.

Canadian NAWMP/NAWCA Initiatives

The Western Boreal Forest Initiative covers over 2 million square kilometers containing a mosaic of wetland complexes, flood plains and river deltas from the Yukon Territory to Manitoba. The region supports a significant component of the continental population for some waterfowl species of concern such as scaup and scoters. Furthermore, waterfowl produced in this region use all four Flyways. As work continues, the full importance of the Boreal Forest to other bird species is just beginning to be understood. The overall objective of this program is to conserve wetland and upland habitat based on priority areas to sustain western boreal water bird populations. Agreements have been signed with Aboriginal people, industry and Ducks Unlimited. Progress continues on expanding the program into eastern Canada, while aligning it within existing joint ventures.

While the Boreal Forest is the second most significant breeding ground in Canada, it should be noted that the focus of NAWMP activity will remain on the Prairie Provinces.

You may wish to explore the website of the NAWMP in Canada for more information, including the Canadian NAWMP report entitled "Habitat Matters" at www.nawmp.ca.

During the week of July 12, 2004 the US NAWCA and Canadian NABCI/NAWCA councils met concurrently and jointly near Calgary, Alberta. At the June 2004 US NAWCC staff meeting a presentation was made with regard to the Canadian NAWMP/NAWCA program. Prior to that meeting IAFWA coordinated an "all bird" workshop for US NAWCC staff. Presentations were given on Partners in Flight, the Shorebird and Waterbird conservation plans and the NAWMP 2004 Update.

An action plan for the recovery of pintail has been completed and distributed. The Northern Pintail Action Group has established as its highest priority the reduction of cultivated land and spring tillage in key pintail breeding areas. The Alberta NAWMP partners are using both direct habitat securement and policy initiatives to meet this priority.

The final report of the Conference on Canadian Wetlands Stewardship (held in February, 2003, in Ottawa, Ontario) has been completed. Entitled "Wetlands Stewardship: New Directions", it may be accessed at www.stewardshipcanada.ca. In addition, the "Interim Report: Synthesis of What You Said", which captures the discussion and draft conference recommendations may be found at the same website along with the second report "Wetlands Stewardship in Canada" which includes both background and invited papers.

IAFWA President's Task Force

I would like to thank all of the states and organizations who generously provide NAWCA "match" money in support of Canadian NAWMP projects. We need to continue our work on the prairies and elsewhere in Canada to provide good quality habitat to support waterfowl populations. While most duck species have recovered to well above their normal levels, some species (for example, sea ducks, pintails, and scaup) either continue to decline or they are recovering very slowly. We plan to work with you to review the original goal for state contributions that was set by the IAFWA in 1991. Since there has been a substantial increase in NAWCA funding over the past few years, we will need additional support in raising the non-federal U.S. "match" money for Canadian NAWCA grants. Without your assistance we will not be able to achieve the goals set by the NAWMP. We must not lose sight of the fact that the goals of the NAWMP have not all been accomplished. There is a significant amount of work that needs to be done in Canada to ensure the fulfillment of the NAWMP.

An IAFWA President's Task Force was formed to develop strategies to increase state contributions to Canada as non-federal U.S. match for NAWCA/NAWMP projects.

On March 18, 2004 the Task Force met in Spokane, Washington. Participants included representatives from the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyway Councils, the Southeastern, Northeast, Midwest and Western Regional Associations and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. The Task Force unanimously selected Scott Yaich, DU, Inc. as the chair and I will continue as staff. An updated paper on the non-federal U.S. match money that states have provided to Canadian NAWCA/NAWMP projects and related issues has been prepared and circulated among the Task Force members.

NAWMP 2003 Update

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee is working the 2003 NAWMP Update (now the 2004 Update). The 2004 Plan, Strengthening the Biological Foundations, is the first comprehensive NAWMP document since 1986. It will provide a new synthesis of the core elements of the 1986 Plan as well as the 1994 and 1998 updates. It will also call for a strong recommitment to the foundations of waterfowl conservation. The intention is to maintain NAWMP's core principles "and build upon, refine, and strengthen its biological foundation at the continental, regional and local scales". It is anticipated that the 2004 NAWMP Update will be signed very shortly.

NAWCA Programmatic Evaluation

The NAWCA programmatic evaluation for Canada and the U.S. has been completed. The results are very positive. A "fact sheet" was distributed by the Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, FWS and the full report may be obtained from their website. The Mexican evaluation has been completed and a report will be posted on the DBHC website in the near future.

The final report will identify benefits and challenges of the NAWCA and provide some recommendations for the future success of the Act.

Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) Task Force

The AHM Task Force was established to help provide guidance regarding strategic development and future application of AHM. Members include representatives from each flyway, WMI, DUI, USGS, USFWS and Dave Case as the facilitator. I staff this Task Force.

A report was provided to the IAFWA Executive Committee and at the Waterfowl Working Group meeting in September 2003. The Task Force held an AHM Conference on January 14, 2004 in Denver, CO. The conference was well attended by over 100 people; the majority of whom agreed it was "extremely" or "very useful". A status report, "Request for Flyway Feedback" has been prepared. It focuses on three themes:

- a) What should be the goals and objectives of harvest management?
- b) What should the set of regulatory alternatives look like?
- c) How should AHM account for species other than mallards?

The status report also contains a proposed time table.

North American Bird Conservation Initiative

The North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) continues to move forward in Canada, the United States and Mexico. All three countries have agreed to a draft Tri-national Memorandum of Understanding which is currently undergoing internal review by the appropriate departments in each country.

Silke Neve, formerly the Canadian Coordinator for the Pacific Coast Joint Venture is now the Canadian NABCI Coordinator. Saul Schneider is the PCJV Coordinator.

The IAFWA has embraced the NABCI vision. Our committees and working groups cover all bird species. The IAFWA Bird Conservation Committee has the following working groups now reporting to it: Migratory Shore and Upland Gamebirds, Partners in Flight, Waterfowl, Waterbird and Shorebirds, Resident Gamebirds, and Resident Canada Geese.

Other Matters

- a. The Canadian Wildlife Service has completed a draft "Migratory Birds Program Plan" while the US Fish and Wildlife Service has produced "A Blueprint for the Future of Migratory Birds", a draft strategic plan for the Service's Migratory Bird Program.
- b. The Mourning Dove National Strategic Harvest Management Plan has been approved. The Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan has been published.
- c. NAWCA technical assessment question 3 for the U.S. Standard Grants Program has been revised in order to improve the quality of geographic/species priority information and to establish equity among all bird groups in the NAWCA application and proposal review process. Proposals will be evaluated based upon 1) overall quality; 2) the extent of overlap among the four bird plans, and 3) the quality of the scientific basis. This will be attempted on a trial basis for this year and then reviewed by the U.S. NAWCC.
- d. IAFWA testified before the House Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans on Exotic Bird Species and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in December 2003. While the issue involved the taking of nuisance mute swans in Maryland, IAFWA also asked Congress to intervene to clarify that certain exotic species of birds are not covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- e. The EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers have reiterated the Administration's commitment to the goal of "no net loss" of wetlands in the United States. The EPA and Corps of Engineers announced that they would not issue a new rule on federal regulatory jurisdiction over isolated wetlands.
- f. Mexico is finalizing its waterfowl and shorebird management plans.
- g. A "Coordinated Bird Monitoring Technical Working Group" will be established under the IAFWA Science and Research Committee.

I will continue to work with the Chairs of the Committees and Working Groups on which I serve as the IAFWA staff contact and on other issues of importance to the IAFWA membership. I look forward to working with you over the coming year.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROJECT

The work of this project continues to be split between domestic and international projects. Approximately one half of the project time is spent looking out for our state international interests in various places, both within and without the United States, while approximately 50 percent of project time is devoted to Association projects such as committee support, administration of grant projects and other domestic and Association issues, e.g. furbearer management, shooting ranges, outreach, hunter education and the Association Newsletter. The project supervises two full-time employees and there are seasonally as many as 30 contractors at work in varying capacities carrying out the project work. For example, during the season when traps are being tested, upwards of 30 people are working collecting data, testing, etc.

International Activities -- The single largest block of project time continues to be with the significantly expanded role of the states in the CITES process. We have been building steadily on eight years of successful partnerships. The CITES Subcommittee of the International Relations Committee, chaired by Bruce Taubert (AZ) and including his CITES team of Carolyn Caldwell (OH), Noel Kinler (LA) and Cal DuBrock (PA) attended several CITES meetings in Geneva this past year. The Regional Associations' administrative grants for attendance at these events have made the whole process more effective. The Association has invested significant resources to achieve the present status.

Regional Representatives attended the Plants Committee Meeting in Windhoek, Namibia in February, the Standing Committee meeting in Geneva in March, and the Animals Committee also in March in South Africa. Progress on the use of science-driven criteria for listings under this Treaty are moving forward and after 12 years of fight are almost in place. The US will also be proposing a removal from listing for the bobcat at the request of the states.

RAMSAR -- The Association continued to be a part of the U.S. work on the RAMSAR Convention. RAMSAR, as a Convention, does not receive adequate funding, so they are forced to do what work they accomplish with meager resources. The Association has contributed significantly to supporting this effort. Don MacLauchlan of the Washington office staff represented the States. Don typically attends these meetings as a member of the US Delegation to the Conference.

RAMSAR National Committee -- Don MacLauchlan of the Association staff continues to represent the Association with the US National RAMSAR Committee, a national group of government and NGO representatives who act as spokespeople for RAMSAR during the period between conferences. Again this year the US National Committee left Washington, D.C. for its Annual Meeting. The Meeting was hosted by the Caddo Lake Institute at the National Ramsar Site in Uncertain, Texas.

Wildlife without Borders -- The Project has continued to promote this important project on behalf of its southwestern States. The project has again received additional grant funding separate from the FWS this year to support the program, a product of the Western Hemisphere Convention. The main purpose of this project is to make joint US/Mexican projects work more efficiently and more effectively. This project was able to fund attendance at this year's US/Canadian/Mexican Trilateral in Albuquerque, New Mexico for representatives of all four Mexican Border States.

The EU Fur Project -- With one exception, the work on the EU Fur Project this year has been domestic and has taken the form of the testing work itself. Gordon Batcheller (NY), Buddy Baker (SC) and Don MacLauchlan of the DC Office represented the states at a meeting of the Joint Management committee in St. Petersburg, Russia in October 2003. The meeting was

successful in that good dialogue took place and the US Trap Research program was well received. The US has offered to host next year's meeting.

Domestic Activities -- Approximately one half of this project's time is devoted to working on various projects that are associated with committee assignments. This year, working with Ms. Sheila Kemmis of Kansas, a manual for annual meetings has been developed which will be very helpful to states that host Association meetings in the future. This project also is working on the planned Outdoor Education Summit scheduled for 2004 as well as continuing efforts to improve the Association's Newsletter, "Inside IAFWA".

Grants Administration -- The project currently administers several grants. These grant projects include Trap Testing, Wildlife without Borders, the Regional Associations' CITES program, Best Management Practice Outreach, the Development of Computer Models for Trap Testing, and the CCT Project that is undertaking the development of a communications strategic plan for the Association.

Convention on Migratory Species -- This Convention works in a curious way and one that seems to offer opportunities for us to participate without being a formal party to the Convention. It was in that spirit and at the request of the International Relations Committee that we participated in the Convention's meeting in South Africa in December of 1999 and has continued to maintain the contact. The Office of International Affairs at the Fish and Wildlife Service has provided funds for the project manager to participate.

Shooting Sports -- The Shooting Range Roundtable, a discussion forum hosted by the Association, continues to be a tool to discuss and help shape Federal land use policy vis-à-vis the retention of existing and the development of new ranges on public lands. The Forum meets quarterly but also does site visits with Federal officials and Congressional Staffers.

FURBEARER RESOURCES AND BMP OUTREACH PROJECTS

We are continuing down the path to foster understanding about the important role of regulated trapping in wildlife management. Among other things, this year we are working on the development of a standardized trapper education course and a program to raise awareness about trapping best management practices (BMPs) among the user-public. Full-page advertisements about trapping BMPs were placed in trade magazines beginning September 2003 – "BMPs Supporting Trappers, Sustaining Trapping." Watch for outreach kits to be supplied to agency furbearer contacts, public affairs chiefs and hunter/trapper education coordinators. Thank you for your cooperation!

Following a successful program in 2003, professional development workshops for wildlife personnel are being sponsored by IAFWA in 2004. Fifteen workshops are scheduled throughout the US in 2004 (DE, ND, SD, ID, KS, NY, OR, PA, MO, IA, MD). The program stresses communication and addresses the benefits of regulated trapping, tools and techniques, BMPs development. The 2004 workshops have already begun (DE, ND, SD, ID, KS, NY, OR as of July 1st) and we have already reached more than 500 wildlife professionals. In 2003, we reached in excess of 700 wildlife professionals in a series of workshops in several states (OH, KY, NE and UT) and conferences (Wildlife Society [TWS] annual meeting in Burlington, VT, WAFWA, and SEAFWA). TWS also featured a half-day symposium that will highlight the diverse ways in which regulated trapping contributes to wildlife management. Invited speakers covered a range of topics including endangered species recovery, toxicology, habitat management, and human/wildlife conflicts.

We recently contracted Responsive Management to conduct an "Ownership and Use" survey of trappers in the US. This survey will probe ownership and use of trapping systems, species of interest and familiarity with BMPs. The survey is a follow-up to the 1992 survey and will provide current information on a state (where possible) and regional level, as well as providing trend information for the regions.

TRAP TESTING/BMP DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Fourteen states participated in this year's field projects to evaluate the performance of 18 trap models. Trap testing projects are focusing on several species including gray fox, opossum, weasel, raccoon, nutria, bobcat, coyote, and fisher. All trapping efforts were conducted during regulated trapping seasons (2003-2004). Trapping BMPs for western coyote, raccoon and red fox are in draft form and will be distributed to state agencies for review this summer. Documents for beaver, gray fox, and weasel are being prepared by *ad hoc* group participants.

We were successful in receiving outside funding to develop and implement an on-line furbearer harvest database. This database will streamline the process for collecting this information, improving efficiency and accuracy of the data collected. It will also provide a significant savings in time and effort that states will need to contribute to the data collection process.

The Technical Work Group met at Rockefeller Refuge (LA) in January for their annual planning meeting. Several expert trappers were invited to participate to discuss results from previous research efforts and to participate in planning for the FY05 field season. We welcome Greg Waters (GA Department of Natural Resources) as a southeastern representative. Greg will replace Greg Linscombe (LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries) as a southeastern representative to the Furbearer Resources Technical Work Group.

STATUS OF THE FEDERAL AID WORKING GROUP (WG) INITIATIVES - IPA

The Federal Aid Working Group (WG) consists of key representatives from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), and U.S. Customs responsible for collecting, processing and transferring approximately \$700 million annually in excise taxes and import duties to Federal Aid and State Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs. The WG was formed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in late 1998 (had been dormant for approximately two years) to address significant errors in reporting of funds for the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs.

On January 17, 2003, FWS Director Steve Williams and IAFWA Executive Vice President John Baughman signed an Interagency Personnel Agreement (IPA) for Lanny Moore to be transferred to the IAFWA to actively pursue a list of Federal Aid Working Group initiatives. This action was overwhelmingly supported by the American Sportfishing Association (ASA), Wildlife Management Institute (WMI), American League of Anglers and Boaters (ALAB), and others. That agreement was recently renewed through 2004. Lanny chairs the WG and conducts extensive liaison with IRS, BATF, Customs, and various U.S. Treasury offices to improve the accuracy, timing and flow of money to investments and reporting of excise taxes and import duties to FWS and the States. Further, a major part of the IPA is to conduct seminars and workshops to educate and train all involved in the source of funding for the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs.

The Working Group is actively pursuing the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) with IRS to address non-compliance and to improve excise tax agent training and related matters.

On June 4, 2004, John Baughman forwarded a letter to the Commissioner of IRS regarding the industry annual non-compliance estimated to be over \$20M and the need to move forward with the Corrective Action Plan (CAP).

On May 12, 2004, there was a Working Group meeting to address initiatives for 2004 and related matters. At that meeting the President of ATA presented comments and analysis of the archery industry which reflected an annual non-compliance with excise tax laws of \$11.6M. And that they had met with various offices regarding this issue, one being the Tax Committee.

From Jan 04 - May 04 the TTB (former ATF) offices have been aggressive in addressing non-compliance. Their documented efforts for this period reflect over \$6M in additional excise tax collections and related fines, etc. The TTB Director supports the WG initiatives and predicts significant additional collections this fiscal year.

The WG has completed 3 new displays for use in workshops and training classes and has 3 more in the works. Further, new brochures for FA have been developed and are at the printers. The WG expects to use these new brochures at ICAST and all future workshops and training classes.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between FWS, IRS, Customs and TTB has been prepared and distributed to institutionalize the WG activities and to seek formal agency support for the WG.

The WG continues to pursue additional initiatives that will improve the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs.

MULTISTATE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM

Multistate Conservation Grant Program -- IAFWA received 38 proposals submitted to the 2005 Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP). Proposals are being reviewed by IAFWA staff for eligibility, adherence to program guidelines, and will be available for review later in July by IAFWA committees/task forces and interested nongovernmental organizations through a new online review process.

NEW! Implementation of Online Review Process for 2005 MSCG Proposals -- During the 2004 North American Conference, new technical scoring and ranking criteria were selected for use in the proposal review process to provide more effective decision-making information in the selection process during IAFWA's Annual Meeting in September. To facilitate the new scoring/ranking of proposals, an online review process is being developed to increase efficiency and encourage review participation. Each reviewer will login to the website and score each proposal assigned to his/her IAFWA committee/task force. All scoring/ranking data for each proposal will be compiled into a database, sorted, and average scores for each proposal will be computed. All raw data and average scores/ranks will be provided to Committee Chairs for final proposal ranking. Final proposal rankings will be verified by Committee Chairs and returned to IAFWA for distribution to the Committee on National Grants. Ms. Mock will provide proposal review instructions and guidance for the new online review process to each IAFWA committee/task force and other nongovernmental organizations interested in participating. *The success of the online review process, aimed at increasing efficiency and providing critical decision-making information, is reliant upon the participation of IAFWA committee/task force members. Therefore, participation will be monitored, and reminders will be sent to encourage committee/task force member participation in the new online review process.* If you have any

questions about the MSCGP or the review of proposals, please contact Ms. Jen Mock at jenmock@sso.org, or at 202-624-3688.

Ongoing Projects

IAFWA's Unwanted Aquatic Species Project -- As you may know, IAFWA received a Multistate Conservation Grant to develop recommendations and implement actions regarding Aquatic Invasive Species (ANS) that would 1) identify policies or actions that would enhance coordinated and effective ANS regulations and enforcement in your region; and 2) increase the political capabilities in addressing ANS regulatory and enforcement issues for the states and at the national level. The project includes two components: a pilot effort to assess communication strategies at the state level and regional coordination workshops.

The pilot states selected for the ANS project are Arizona, Missouri, New Hampshire, and South Carolina. IAFWA's ANS team continues to work with these pilot states and to coordinate with the regional associations to schedule and coordinate workshops. In conjunction with the WAFWA conference, an IAFWA-sponsored ANS Regulation and Enforcement Workshop is scheduled on Saturday, July 24, in Sun Valley, Idaho, and a SEAFWA regional ANS workshop is scheduled for Saturday, October 30, 2004, during SEAFWA's annual meeting in Hilton Head, SC. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Eric Schwaab at eschwaab@sso.org, or at 202-624-7890.

UPDATE: 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation -- The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) held 4 Regional State Technical Committee Meetings from April-June 2004, in preparation for the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (2006 National Survey). IAFWA was represented at each of these meetings by Ms. Jen Mock, who provided background information on the MSCGP, the Development of an NCN for a National Survey, and the 2006 National Survey process. Each meeting was well attended by State fish and wildlife agency representatives, FWS Survey Branch staff, IAFWA staff, and Census Bureau staff responsible for designing, programming, and administering the National Survey. State representatives provided important guidance and suggested changes for the upcoming National Survey regarding data collected, eliminated, and reported. Additionally, new ideas for needs/products/reports were suggested by State representatives and are being explored by FWS as to cost and feasibility. Deviation in products/deliverables from the FWS' original proposal, which was approved by IAFWA, will require a grant amendment and subsequent approval from the Committee on National Grants and the State Directors to ensure that any recommended changes or modifications are acceptable.

While a draft has not been received by IAFWA and details are still being examined, FWS staff are investigating the option and feasibility of a side-by-side test during the 2006 National Survey that would use States' automated license data to supplement the Census Bureau's household survey list. The test would determine if survey results obtained from State automated license data are comparable to previous National Survey data. If the test is successful, supplementation of Census's household list with States' automated license data could save the States and the MSCGP potentially an estimated \$1-2 million on the National Survey in future years (2011). If a formal proposal and request for such a test is presented to IAFWA for consideration, the Committee on National Grants and the State Directors will determine its implementation. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Mock at jenmock@sso.org, or at 202-624-3688.

Reminder: A historical summary of the National Survey, “The National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation: A History of Partnership Between State Fish & Wildlife Agencies, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, & Non-Governmental Conservation Organizations since 1995,” was completed through a 2003 MSCG awarded to IAFWA. An electronic version of the document is available on IAFWA’s website at http://www.iafwa.org/multistate_grants.htm.

NATIONAL BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE (NBII)

The Association and the Biological Resources Discipline of the USGS extended the cooperative project between the states and the National Biological Information Infrastructure for a third year. This position is funded by USGS and is stationed part time at the IAFWA office and part time at the USGS office in Reston, VA.

Effective April 9, 2004 Sally Benjamin resigned the position as the Association’s NBII coordinator. Recruitment activities for a successor are underway, with a target completion date of August 1, 2004.

Key 2003 accomplishments included a CWD forum in June in Madison, which resulted in a common data standard for CWD, ongoing support of the sage grouse project and coordination with the Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) for the National Data Summit.

2004 efforts will focus on addressing barriers to data sharing, population of the CWD database, support for the development of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Node, including the brook trout initiative, ongoing work with OFWIM, development of a conservation needs assessment, and strategic action planning support for all active nodes.

AUTOMATED WILDLIFE DATA SYSTEMS (AWDS)

The Automated Wildlife Data Systems (AWDS) program’s main objective is to assist every fish and wildlife agency in obtaining a **Total Licensing System** and move away from manual licensing systems. An agency with a total system has one licensing system that issues licenses to its customers through all currently available automation venues (POS, Internet and Telephone). Total licensing systems give license buyers purchasing flexibility and agencies greater control in enforcing business rules, collection of data, and greater capabilities for resources management.

A new AWDS strategic plan is currently under development by the AWDS Task Force. That planning effort will include exploration of options for the future of the AWDS project following the end of the current Multistate Conservation Grant on December 31, 2004. Several options for the program will be available for consideration by Association leadership in September. This program is greatly needed to assist agencies in the ongoing development and operations of their electronic licensing programs.

State News

- April 23, 2004 – Illinois' Department of Natural Resources released an RFP soliciting bids for their automated licensing system.
- May 19, 2004 – California's Department of Fish and Game released a Request for Information soliciting detailed information from the vendor community about the types of licensing systems they offer and to solicit interest in bidding for their system. The department will release an RFP this summer.
- May 19, 2004 – Oregon's Department Fish and Wildlife also released a Request for Information requesting information from vendors with the capability of providing Point-of-Sale and Internet Licensing Systems.
- May 26, 2004 – Utah's Division of Wildlife Resources released an RFP for the continued automation of their Big Game Draw System.
- June 1, 2004 – Kansas' Department of Wildlife and Parks closed the opportunity to solicit bids for their Total Licensing Project.
- June 25, 2004 – Representative Ron Kind (D-WI) introduced HR 4685, 'The Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2004'. This is legislation AWDS has been working on for the past 10 years.
- Summer/Fall 2004 – Look for New Jersey's Division of Fish and Wildlife to release their RFP for their AWDS project.

To read more about fish and wildlife agency progress, visit the 'What's New' section of the AWDS Web site at www.iafwa-awds.com/whatsnew.htm.

NEW!! -- Automated Wildlife Data Systems has created an e-mail marketing template for use in an email marketing campaign. The template focuses on the kick-off of summer, but it is customizable for any time of the year. Boating and safety tips and descriptive wording are included to get your customers out angling and boating. Also included are hyperlinks for you to connect them to your Internet Licensing Systems.

Templates are fully customizable and created to give state agencies the ability to personalize a marketing effort. Customizing instructions are available to download with the templates to complete the package. IAFWA will provide technical assistance and product support. More templates will be developed over the summer. States with special needs can make a request and have a template designed for them. To preview and download this template, visit the new 'Marketing Strategies' section of the AWDS Web site at <http://www.iafwa-awds.com/emailmarketing.htm>.

Currently, there are 17 agencies that have a total licensing system in place, 27 that are partially automated or working toward a total licensing system and 6 are either writing procurement documents, planning or have no movement toward automation. Matrixes detailing the status of automation in the agencies are available on the AWDS Web site by visiting the Media Room at <http://www.iafwa-awds.com/mediaroom.htm> and looking for the Agency Status PDFs. For more information contact Len Singel at lsingel@sso.org or 202.624.5968. To learn more about the AWDS program's services offered to fish and wildlife agencies, visit its web site at www.iafwa-awds.com.

AGENCY INFORMATION DATABASE

Annually, the Association receives requests for information on our member agencies' "vital" statistics (i.e. Annual Budgets, Revenues, Land Area Managed, Harvest Level of Game Species, etc.) and in many cases we cannot fulfill these requests very accurately, or to do so involves contacting agencies and collecting the information on demand. This is a very inefficient way for IAFWA to do business. In addition, lacking this information, we are unable to proactively promote the breadth and depth of responsibilities and activities undertaken by our members.

To position us to aggressively promote the accomplishments of our members, to update our business practices and to improve the quality and accuracy of services to our members, we are creating an interactive, web-based database that will make readily available the vital statistics of our member agencies on our web server – IAFWA's Agency Information Database (AID). AID will be accessible from the IAFWA web site and available to everyone.

Once AID is live, we will be poised to represent our members more effectively and efficiently, and respond to requests for information promptly and accurately.

Benefits at a Glance

- The first web-based, multi-nation database for this information
- Members can compare and contrast their agency with their sister agencies in the nation, region or smaller subset of states
- Enable IAFWA to more adequately represent our members and their interests
- Available for use by many audiences

Current Status -- We are working with the Organization of Wildlife Planners to fine-tune the survey instrument and methodology to be employed for collecting this information from our members; and we have sent an RFP to three well qualified companies to solicit bids and possible solutions for database design and development. AID will be funded through our Automated Wildlife Data Systems program, and administered and maintained by this program's coordinator, Len Singel. Existing grant funds are programmed to support this activity.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has hired its first public affairs director, Rachel Brittin. She joined IAFWA in June and is already working on a new strategic communications plan that will position the Association and the state wildlife agencies as the experts on state fish and wildlife management issues. She will also work on the coordination of the IAFWA annual meeting and a variety of internal communication programs such as the IAFWA newsletter and website www.iafwa.org. You can contact Rachel at rbrittin@sso.org or by phone at 202/624-7744.

MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE TEAM (MAT)

The Management Assistance Team (MAT) provides state fish and wildlife agencies expertise in the form of consulting, employee training, agency and program evaluations, and other related services in the area of organization and human resources development, management systems, change management and agency effectiveness.

- Provided meeting facilitation services for the Coordinated Bird Monitoring Working Group.
- Provided meeting facilitation services for the 2-day meeting of the Eastern Brook Trout Initiative.
- Developed new workshop, "Conflict Management" with scheduled workshops for Wyoming Game and Fish and Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.
- Completed 8-month management review of Wildlife Division, Administrative Services, Warden Service, and Information and Education for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.
- Provided onsite consulting for Alabama and North Carolina.
- Provided support for the IAFWA led Conservation Education Summit to be held at NCTC in December 2004.
- Provided support for development of the Conservation Leadership Institute.
- Upcoming commitments include Management Assessment of the Massachusetts Office of Environmental Affairs Office of Law Enforcement, Train-the-trainer in Effective Supervision for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, two training sessions for directors and commissioners at WAFWA.

For more information on MAT and their services offered to state fish and wildlife agencies, please contact MAT at 304-876-7988, info@matteam.org.

MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION

State All-Bird Conservation Workshops -- One of the most exciting developments in migratory bird conservation has been the completion of 19 highly successful All-Bird Conservation workshops. These workshops, funded by a Multistate Conservation Grant and supported by IAFWA staff, have provided outstanding opportunities for state agency personnel and their bird conservation partners to learn about regional and national bird initiatives, identify common interests, and develop plans for bird conservation projects. Workshops are also focusing on state and regional bird conservation issues and projects in order to provide input to the state wildlife plans. An extension was received until December 31, 2004 to accommodate those states that want to have workshops in 2004. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries held an All-Bird Workshop on the 30-31 March 2004 in Richmond, VA. Approximately 150-200 people attended the workshop. It was a great success culminating with three discussion groups based on the Bird Conservation Regions of Virginia (i.e., piedmont, coastal plain, and Appalachians). The state agency is already thinking about a second, follow up workshop because of the success. Approximately seven workshops are being planned for the remainder of 2004.

US NABCI -- The U.S. NABCI Committee held its mid-winter meeting January 22- 23, 2004 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The major topics of discussion included the FWS Migratory Bird Strategic Plan, FWS Migratory Bird Program budget shortfalls, State Wildlife Grant strategies, bird monitoring, and Joint Ventures.

The Committee was enthusiastic about the USFWS Strategic Plan and praised the USFWS for an open and deliberative process for developing priorities in the Migratory Bird Program. The US NABCI Committee gave its general support to the current bird monitoring efforts presented by Jon Bart, US Geological Survey but asked for USFWS and USGS leadership. A major point in the bird monitoring discussion was the separation of short-term, regional bird monitoring work from long-term national work. The Joint Venture Coordinators developed a report at the request of the US NABCI Committee that describes Joint Venture function, priorities, and out year funding needs for Joint Ventures to successfully implement bird and habitat conservation in all priority habitats. The report will be provided to the Bird Conservation Funding Coalition for further review and discussion.

Partners in Flight -- Partners in Flight's *North American Landbird Conservation Plan* for the U.S. and Canada that includes estimates of population sizes and objectives for high priority landbirds and habitat suites was printed and is being distributed. Discussions are underway with the National Coordinator, the Management Steering Committee, and PIF working groups to provide technical support to state bird conservation planning in regards to national landbird priorities and objectives. Through IAFWA landbird population estimates and objectives for each state are being provided. Other efforts to assist states include a workshop that was held in Port Aransas, TX in February 2004. The workshop discussed the validity of landbird population estimates and objectives and how to translate them into on-the-ground habitat objectives for use by the states and Joint Ventures.

Waterbird Conservation for the Americas/Shorebird Conservation Planning -- The remaining waterbird regional plans are in different levels of completion. Efforts are underway to expand the geographic reach of waterbird conservation including support to Caribbean aquatic bird conservation. Shorebird national and regional conservation plans are complete. The shorebird community is in the process of implementing the conservation plans. The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan Workshop and Council Meeting were held in March 2004 in Fort Collins, CO.

Migratory bird contacts for the USFWS, PIF, the shorebird plan, the waterbird plan, Joint Ventures and Audubon's Important Bird Areas program have been compiled and disseminated to the state planners and state biologists. The contacts can provide information on the applicable plan or program for development of the state wildlife strategies.

Bird Monitoring -- Bird Monitoring as a concept began in the Western Working Group and then was taken on by NABCI's Monitoring Working Group. Jon Bart, USGS, presented the concept at IAFWA's 2003 Annual Meeting. The Bird Conservation Committee and IAFWA's Business Meeting supported the concept. Some states asked Jon Bart specifically to provide assistance in developing regional bird monitoring priorities and management issues for inclusion in state wildlife plans.

Jon Bart has provided assistance to states to begin developing regional bird monitoring priorities. For example, a workshop was held on January 6-7, 2004 in New Jersey to review the coordinated bird monitoring approach and identify regional management issues that short-term monitoring programs can help address. Six management issues were identified as the most critical. The states will be coordinating monitoring to address the management issues.

Under IAFWA's Science and Research Committee a working group was developed to provide recommendations on specific technical and operational issues within coordinated bird monitoring. There are nine members from the USGS, USFWS, and the states. The working group will convene in April and complete a report for the IAFWA's annual meeting in September 2004.

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT INITIATIVE

Following through on action initiated by the Fisheries & Water Resources Policy Committee and confirmed at the business meeting in Madison, staff has worked closely with the Fish and Wildlife Service and other partners to advance the concept of a National Fish Habitat Plan. An initial regional stakeholders meeting was held in Kansas City, MO in conjunction with the Midwest Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies meeting in December of 2003. Strong support for the concept was voiced at the stakeholders meeting. Additional regional stakeholders meetings, cosponsored by the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council and the Association were conducted in Spokane in March and Ocean City, MD in April. A final meeting is planned for Sun Valley, ID in July. The SFBPC will transmit a stakeholder report in late summer of 2004.

The Association is also cosponsoring a workshop at the American Fisheries Society Meeting in August, 2004 to investigate criteria for effective measurement of aquatic habitat health. This process will support the National Initiative through the development of objective progress measures.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Association has joined with a number of like minded conservation organizations to develop the concept of a National Conservation Leadership Institute to train future leaders in fish and wildlife conservation. A concept has been developed, which envisions an annual opportunity for state, federal and private fish and wildlife professionals to attend a top rate leadership development program. Developed to help conservation organizations meet the challenge of continued leadership as current leaders retire from the workforce, the Institute will combine leadership and management development training with exposure to the history and current challenges of fish and wildlife conservation in North America. Key 2004 milestones include further concept development and approval by the partners, which occurred in January, 2004, and identification of funding sources and detailed course development. A dinner, hosted by the partners was held on May 21, 2004 to promote the concept and enlist additional partners and supporters. Planning and Fundraising continue for a planned winter, 2005 initial session.

FEDERAL-STATE AQUACULTURE DRUG APPROVAL PROJECT

Coordination of this important cooperative program will continue. While state level funding and a multi-state conservation grant have now expired, meeting the goal of gaining approval for use of eight important drugs in public aquaculture requires close oversight and coordination. Supplemental funding was secured from federal partners for the national coordinator for ANAD applications for years 2004 and 2005, to complete work on the initial group of selected drugs, and continue ongoing coordination with federal agencies and private organizations involved in the process and development of long range plans to advance state interest in aquaculture drug use.

PROCEEDINGS

The Association staff continues its efforts to eliminate the backlog of proceedings publication. The 1997 *Proceedings of the Association's Annual Convention* were recently mailed to all members. The 2001 *Proceedings* are being compiled and published for distribution this summer and the 2003 *Proceedings* will be compiled and printed for distribution early in 2005.

IAFWA AND USGS SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP

The Association continues to work closely with USGS in developing state research needs and securing commitment from USGS and other federal agencies to meet these research needs. The Association and USGS just completed a memorandum of agreement through which the USGS will fund a full-time science liaison position to be housed at the IAFWA Washington office. As noted previously, Dr. Russ Mason has accepted the position and will begin work in early July. Plans are underway to expand the Agreement to include the USFWS as a third party.



USFWS Report

Steve Williams, Director, Washington, DC (from minutes)

Thanked North Dakota for their efforts at putting on conference. Apologize for needing to leave early, going to Calgary for Wetlands Council Meeting. Feel like this is my real home Association meeting. The first meeting I came to there were only about 25 people at that meeting and think the action you will take at the business meeting is great. Introduced Robyn Thorson, John Blankenship, Mitch King, Bob Bright from USFWS. Paul Schmitt is coming in later also. Endangered species: moving to delist wolves in northwest; moving forward to delist bald eagles; and in Region 6 and Region 1 dealing with issue to list sage grouse. We have to make a decision by December 29. Eleven states fall within sage grouse range. Separated migratory birds and state wetland restoration programs. On migratory birds, working on setting season restrictions for waterfowl. On small wetland easement program, we have done about 3,000 easements. Matt has pushed through a policy and got it approved by the Secretary of Interior. We have run out of money that was appropriated because we are putting those on the ground faster. Reprogramming request for waterfowl survey funding. Sportfish and Wildlife Restoration new coordinator is Mitch King. We see positive results coming out of states and USFWS. On fisheries, continuing to work on step-down plans on strategic plan. Looking for enhanced funding in 2005 budget. Difficult times in fish hatcheries and trying to impress on Congress the importance of these hatcheries. Working with BOR on mitigation hatcheries, and then plan to go to COE. Excited about National Fish Habitat Initiative and the role we can play in that with the states. National Wildlife Refuges, close to finalizing three policies, the product at the end will be much improved. Recognize that even though we own and manage 500 plus refuges that each of them lie within state borders. Hope to hire someone as a national liaison with the states on how we manage the refuge system. We have hired coordinators. This year 10 new refuges open for hunting as well as wildlife viewing. Law Enforcement in the Department of Interior is working on providing full time law enforcement officers on refuge property. Having difficulties in southeast and you (states) may be approached at some point to provide law enforcement on wildlife refuges. We will be graduating a new class of Law Enforcement special agents in September. We had requests for review of law enforcement plan, which we are doing. Reported at previous meetings that USFWS and USGS are coming together on research efforts (USFWS has the need and USGS has the research capability) and we have seen success and hope to sit down at the table as equal partners. Have a dual commitment to make it work. Also, working together with NRCS to provide better conservation in this country. There has been a fair amount of discussion about the states and using some of them as examples. Fiscal year 2006 federal budget is in a tight squeeze. How do we put together a budget that has a group focusing dollars on the core mission: federal aid; critical activities, migratory, fisheries, law enforcement, endangered species, sport fish and wildlife restoration, and national wildlife refuges.

Robyn Thorson, Region 3 Director, Ft. Snelling, MN (from minutes)

Prepared a folder for Great Lakes – Big Lakes region - Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation plans; information on cormorants; fire and wildlife management; and other topics and could be of enormous value to you. The Deputy Regional Director is now Charles Wooley, since Marvin Moriarty is now the Northwest Region Director. The new regional chief of Federal Aid program is Bob Bryant. The Duck Stamp competition winner this year is again from Minnesota. A staff person from the Middle Mississippi Refuge, part of Mark Twain unit, has just been selected for the Olympic archery team - John Magera. President's executive order on Great Lakes announced May 8, will meet to address nine elements (same as Great Lakes Governor's have). Emphasized two things, separate from natural resources, relationships are everything (we listen), plan to have meetings with my leadership team and yours so that we can work together; tell our story, increasingly urban population, need to tell story in medium the public would receive best. Did not have meetings this winter, but received special assignment, the Missouri River (biological opinion due Nov/Dec; Corps of Engineers low water; and court case). Personally thanked John Hoskins of Missouri for his help on court case. Midwest is split between two regions, Region 3 and Region 6.

John Blankenship, Region 6 Director, Denver, CO (Deputy Director) (from minutes)

Involved in Midwest when I was in Minnesota, last time I can remember coming was when the meeting was in Nebraska and we went to the zoo. In November the Missouri River changed over to Region III. The court case that just came out of the district court in Minneapolis, the state won, but the river lost. "MRRIC" is the new program that will put together master manual. Two new appeals were filed to that court case yesterday. Sage grouse issue is a big deal (spotted owl of the Midwest). Western Association did a paper, but had no conclusions. Plan to do structured management team decisions and then meet together. The decision is extended to July 30. High Plains partnership, \$5 million, involving 11 states, NRCS, WMI, The Nature Conservancy and several other NGOs, budget has been cut to \$1 million this year. Platte River agreement in the works, EIS is on the streets. Eastern segment DPS on wolves is going to be delisted, western unit not so fortunate. Hope to have a cooperative agreement with Idaho and Colorado and 10J rule. Looking at some lands that might be better off transferred to the state. The Service is looking at transferring Kirwin Refuge (BOR in Kansas), the workshop is the end of July and the strategy workshop is the end of August. We haven't done this for quite a while (transferred control of a refuge). We are supporting the fishing initiative for 2005/2006. Mitigation hatcheries died out for a while, four in Midwest, Hodgekiss in Colorado, Garrison and Valley in North Dakota. I will be retiring September 1.

Non Governmental Organization (NGO) Reports

NGO Reports (from minutes)

- 1) Pheasants Forever, Rick Young – 100 plus employees, biologists help chapters raise money and spend money. We focus on habitat projects (30,000 a year); legislative projects which CRP is the biggest, Dave Nomsen should be here to talk about that tomorrow. Solicit our chapters to raise dollars for legislative issues, Leopold Education program, and mentor hunts. Kicked off campaign for build a wildlife area, raised \$250,000 to buy a wildlife area in Wisconsin, plan to transfer ownership to DNR.
- 2) American Sportfishing Association – No report.
- 3) MICRA, Doug Nygren, Chair from Kansas – MICRA includes 28 states in the Mississippi River Basin and other partners (federal and Indian Nations). Jerry Rasmussen is the agencies full time coordinator. Started out being a paddlefish organization, have a paddlefish/sturgeon committee did a tagging which was very successful, and also have a sauger committee, freshwater mussel committee and aquatic nuisance committee.
- 4) National Shooting Sports Foundation, Sharon Rushton – Vote your sport campaign going on right now, has it's own website or go through NSSF website. Trying to get people to register to vote to help keep your sport. Also, could use help on Step Outside program.
- 5) Ducks Unlimited, Bob Hoffman (also Gildo Torri with him) – Not new to Midwest, Dick Pierce was here religiously until his retirement. Great partnership is putting more water and ducks on the ground. Changing how we deliver our projects, our marsh program is one example. Added over 200,000 acres of upland and wetland habitat this past year. Confluence focus area on Missouri, Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, conserving acres within those areas. Charitable giving laws are being reviewed and that concerns us. Upper Mississippi lock and dam issue providing for updating the system in legislation. Great Lakes extremely important to us, also have legislation there. Taking an active role in these efforts to be sure they benefit habitat and waterfowl.
- 6) Izaak Walton League of America – No report.
- 7) The Nature Conservancy, Claudia Emken – The Nature Conservancy is a private conservation organization with 1 million members nationwide. We are about protecting habitat, most people think of us as a land purchasing agency, which is true, but we are a science-based organization. Conservation by Design is our mission plan and we are a non-confrontational agency. Recently went through a reorganization and our new Midwest region encompasses almost the same area as you do. Some of the issues we are working on would be the upper Mississippi River monitoring study and the ecosystem restoration. Also, helped with our input with the ecosystem part of the bill but are not involved in the lock system. We work very closely with the COE, good partners, but don't work fast. Also, working on flood plain issue in Illinois. We have training available for prescribed burns and work on invasive species.
- 8) National Wild Turkey Federation – No report. NWTF did send notice that they budget \$2,000 per year for regional meetings.
- 9) Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation – No report.
- 10) Wildlife Management Institute – No report.

Other Governmental Agency Reports

U.S. Geological Survey is the only other governmental group present and their reports are given in CRP session of the program, under “Other Speakers”.

Photos



**Dean Hildebrand, Director
North Dakota Game & Fish
Midwest Association of Fish
and Wildlife Agencies President**



Dan Zekor, Facilitator, Missouri



Steve Williams, Director, USFWS



**Ollie Torgerson,
MAFWA Coordinator, Missouri**



**C. Tom Bennett, Commissioner,
Kentucky, IAFWA President**



John Baughman, IAFWA



**John Blankenship, Region 6 Director
USFWS, Lakewood, Colorado**



**Robyn Thorson, Region 3 Director
USFWS, Ft. Snelling, Minnesota**



Dan Zekor, MO; Ollie Torgerson, MO; Jeff Ver Steeg, CO; Jeff Vonk, IA



Doug Hansen, SD; Scott Hassett, WI; Lauri Osterndorf, WI; Rex Amack, NE



Rebecca Humphries, MI; Joe Kramer, KS; Keith Sexson, KS

Other Speaker Presentations

Steve Adair, Ducks Unlimited
Midwest CRP
(Complete PowerPoint presentation is on the website,
“Farm Bill 2007 – The Looming Crisis in the Prairies”)

Notes taken from presentation

Nationwide CRP cap was 45 million acres in 1985, 39.2 million acres in 2002. Provides landscape-level conservation of soil, water and wildlife habitat. Currently there are 34.1 million acres across the nation, with large acreages in ND, MT, SD, KS, TX, and OK. Duck population levels are driven by events on breeding grounds, such as nesting success. Pheasants increased from 1.4 to 6.1 million birds in SD and are 40 percent higher in Iowa. Of grassland songbirds in CRP, 5 of 12 species would decline in ND if CRP is greatly reduced. Some concerns are that CRP has caused decline of farms and rural communities. In SD 1.5 million acres, NE 1.2 million acres, KS 2.9 million acres, IN 0.3 million acres in CRP. Some people believe CRP is not part of working lands (showed examples of people who have made it work) and believe that CRP environmental benefits are local. That is not true, there are large economic impacts from waterfowl hunting and wildlife viewing. National average was 48 percent acceptance in 2003, lower than in 1997 (67 percent). In three key states, ND, SD, MT (prairie pothole region) acceptance levels have dropped dramatically. The minimum score for the last sign up was 269 points and a lot of past acreages did not get in. Compared average EI on those three states and EI was higher than in the past. Wetlands have been taken out of the equation for CRP sign up, which takes away points. Also, national priority areas do not get extra points. Wildlife quality (100 pts) water quality (100 pts) erosion factor (100 pts) enduring benefits (50 pts), drive the sign up. Many acres will expire in those three states and we will lose 84 percent of 4.1 million acres in 2007. We would need to retain 57 million acres or 54 percent of cropland, and that is not going to happen. There is a continuing loss of grasslands in the prairie pothole region, 62 percent, or 56 million acres has been converted to cropland. CRP has reached critical mass in prairie pothole region. The EBI and eligible practices need to be re-evaluated to prevent CRP loss. Demand remains strong from producers, but declining grain stocks, growing deficit, misconceptions, and competing interests threaten the program. Need to push for reauthorization in 2007 to get greater wildlife benefits for the Farm bill conservation programs.

Ron Reynolds, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
CRP and Duck Production in the Prairie Pothole Region
(Complete PowerPoint presentation is on the website,
“CRP and Duck Production in the Prairie Pothole Region”)

Notes taken from presentation

I can shed some light on this discussion, CRP is just part of a program. ND and SD prairie pothole region (PPR) covers 7 percent of the area and 21 percent of breeding ducks in the traditional breeding waterfowl survey units. The U.S. attracted three times the Canadian PPR of breeding duck pairs. Limiting factors – births, decline in puddle duck nest success from 1930s to 1980s. Nest failure due to depredation associated with changes in land use. Deaths – Nest period is risky, half of female deaths is during breeding for mallards. Nest success #1, hen survival 19 percent, duckling survival is 14 percent. USDA passed CRP and resulted in over 4.5 million acres in PPR of ND, SD and MT. Criteria for successful nesting cover programs: characterized by nest success higher than other major cover types; more attractive to nesting hens than competing cover; distributed to be accessible by a large portion of nesting hens. From 1992 to 1997 the Region 6 HAPET office lead a study of impact of CRP on duck production in PPR. Used four square mile plots as study sample base. Searched 30,000 acres of CRP, looked at 10,700 duck nests and applied our results to peak CRP. Results: 23 percent higher than other major nest cover types; CRP most preferred for nesting hens (undisturbed); due to magnitude and distribution of CRP available to 30 percent of hatched nests came from CRP; overall nest success in all cover types was higher during CRP period vs. pre-CRP periods; nest success positively related to percent of grass cover on landscape. Five species were studied: shoveler, blue-winged teal, gadwalls, mallards, and pintails. Bottomline: 12.4 million (2.1 mil/yr) success rate. After 1997, if current spatial distribution of CRP can be made available; assume nest success hasn't changed; look at size/distribution of breeding ducks (survey every year). Extrapolate findings – estimate 24.8 million additional ducks fledged. We have annual surveys in temporary, seasonal, and semi-permanent wetlands, can carry more ducks on CRP as opposed to croplands. Changes in CRP sign up, high duck population increase of 11 percent, low duck population if decrease of 78 percent in CRP. Several items are no longer used in EBI signup. Wetlands are the primary feature that attract ducks. Need to protect the wetlands, swampbusters is also a good incentive. If we lose swampbuster we will see large areas being drained. HAPET worked with NPWRC to look at mallard pair/wetland regression and came up with a model. Present size and distribution of duck population is 4,249,823 duck pairs using model, will see 38 percent decline if shallow wetlands are removed. Several groups out there are working on protecting wetlands. We need more money and effort to go into the program, protect what we have. Other wetland wildlife and grassland wildlife is also dependant on those areas. Need to maintain over 5 million acres of CRP with wetlands in PPR; maintain swampbuster; secure 1,400,000 additional wetland acres; secure 10.4 million additional acres of grasslands, can expect to lose 6.2 million ducks annually, or 68 percent of average duck harvest from 1998-2002 if unsuccessful.

Dave Nomsen, Pheasants Forever
Federal Farm Conservation Programs Critical to our Success
(A CRP Legislative Wake-up Call)
(Complete PowerPoint presentation is on the website,
“Federal Farm Conservation Programs Critical to Our Success”)

Notes taken from presentation

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is the most successful federal program and is critical to PF success. But it isn't just CRP, it is also the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Security Program (CSP) and Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP). CRP is flagship program. In the summer of 1994, attended a meeting in Washington and the thought was, “not an acre, not a dollar, the days of CRP are over”, and things looked grim, but we are in a more tenuous position now than we were then. In the past months, from December 4 to June 15 we have sent out several press releases and activities. President Bush and USDA Secretary Veneman met with PF. Several negative articles have appeared in 2003 including articles from the Salina Journal (KS); The Washington Post; Los Angeles Times; The Hawk Eye (IA); and American Corn Growers Association. Also we queried several states and received responses from J. Unsworth, Idaho Fish and Game; Joel Brunsvold, Illinois DNR; Richard Bishop, Iowa DNR; Gene Merriam, MN DNR; D. Childress, MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks; and John Cooper, SD Game and Fish; all giving positive comments on the benefits of CRP to wildlife. Currently we are trying to raise \$1 million at PF to help push CRP by educational publications and mailings; lobbying; congressional hearings; coalitions; and program implementation. In one of my last meetings at the White House, we asked them to come up with a statement regarding CRP. Farm Service said all options, including no CRP, should be covered, but we should have stated how successful this program is.

Dave Walker, IAFWA – Tremendous partnership in Washington with NGOs. Another aspect of CRP that deals with acres currently enrolled is the cap and the budget reconciliation process. Have 34.7 million acres enrolled, cap is 39.2 million acres. Don't expect to see a budget resolution this year from Congress, but we are anticipating significant instructions to mandatory side of the program. The authorizing committee is going to looking at the 45 million acres as a place to cut. Need to communicate accomplishments of CRP and show benefits and also of these other programs. Congress is going into a six week recess and people need to talk to their representatives at that time. The Conservation Environmental Effects Project is looking at quantifying efforts. Looking at soil and water quality benefits of these programs and how wildlife is coming along. There is an effort to update information that is out there, such as NRCS document, FSA entering into agreement with Wildlife Society to update. Urge states that have active research efforts to forward information to me. Want updated by February to be available for this next process. We are making headway and hope to see accomplishments soon. Working with several different agencies to get this done and to see that wildlife has a share in these efforts.

Chip Euliss, U.S. Geological Survey
Quantifying the Environmental Benefits of CRP on Prairie Wetlands;
Separating Acts of Nature from Acts of Congress
(Complete PowerPoint presentation is on the website,
“Quantifying the Environmental Benefits of CRP on Prairie Wetlands:
Separating Acts of Nature from Acts of Congress”)

Notes taken from presentation

Recognize unique combination of grass and water is largely the reason for the large waterfowl population. Acts of Nature: landscape formation (structure, weather, erosion/deposition); landscape position (elevation, slope, aspect); geomorphic processes (soils, hydrology, water quality); climate (precipitation, evaporation, temperature). Prairie wetlands hydrological functions all comes from the sky not from the ground. Recharge wetlands are temporary, gets water from sky, but lose it to the ground, holds water for short periods of time and are as fresh as drinking water; flow through wetlands have surface and ground water trickling through, which is importing and exporting salt, water is as fresh as drinking water or as salty as the ocean and are seasonal and larger and deeper; discharge wetlands are surface water driven, have salt imported into system, but no export and are extremely salty, even more than the ocean. Prairies are important to ducks and other wildlife. A great variety of wetlands in this part of the world which attracts a great diversity of wildlife species. Through the prairie pothole region (PPR) there has been severe drought, especially in the 1980s. A drought changes the water quality and with a deluge of water, what is growing in the water changes and brings different types of wildlife. We are trying to encourage people to place the study results in the right spatial time. The Wetland Continuum is a publication that is coming out today and shows hydrologic relation to atmospheric water. Acts of Congress have made impacts on this. Also, 80 percent of wetlands are exposed to land use or agricultural practices, burning, or grazing. Several factors affect the wetlands. Ecosystem function of prairie depends on synergistic processes, uplands and wetlands; a single wetland can undergo dramatic changes; wetland processes can be influenced, but not completely altered; processes influencing wetlands are interrelated. We need to look at the whole thing. Ecological fit – the idea that the health and sustainability of ecosystems depends on how well Acts of Congress are coordinated with Acts of Nature. Goal: long term sustainable productivity and health of nation’s ecosystems; improved criteria for selection of ecological fit. We are looking at the impact of USDA and USDI programs on functions performed by restored wetlands in the PPR. Building on a sample of wetlands used in 1997, by the end of the summer we will have collected data on over 500 wetlands. Ecosystem services: biodiversity; water quality; sediment reduction; flood water storage; carbon sequestration; are pushed by ecosystem processes and acts of nature and Congress. About 2.4 percent annual immersion of CO₂ can be stored in an annual wetland.

Larry Igl. U.S. Geological Survey
CRP Values for Nongame Birds
(Complete PowerPoint presentation is on the website,
“CRP Values for Nongame Birds”)

Notes taken from presentation

Completed 15 year study of CRP and included all breeding birds not just nongame birds. In pre-settlement times three things affected the landscape: burning, drought, and ???. Since settlement there have been several factors that affect the landscape. Grassland birds can survive in just about any type of landscape. Populations are declining, more than any other species. Eastern meadowlarks are declining 2.9 percent per year since 1966. (showed several other species). Woodland species are increasing. From the North American Breeding Bird Survey 1966-2002 – Declines in 18 species is significant and increases in 2 species is significant. Converting highly erodible cropland to grassland. CRP three reasons. Background: In four states we have been studying: MN, MT, ND, SD 29% of CRP occurs. In 2007 lose about half of CRP acres. Study of grassland bird populations (samples). Most studies done in the past only cover small amounts of time or are restricted to one place, or studies one type of species. NPWRC CRP study initiated in 1990, is ongoing, four states with nine counties total, 30-40 fields/county, 300-370 fields/yr are studied. Covered a variety of practices using a modified transect study. In the early part of the program a paper was published by Doug Johnson and Jay Hestbeck, 73 species of birds used the CRP in 1993, now 130 species. In 1995, Doug Johnson and I produced a paper which asked what would happen if the CRP was converted back to cropland, it showed three species would increase, but most would decline. Study also has to deal with the changes in temporal dynamics, wet/dry cycles. Compared species densities from beginning of the study 1990/1991 to current 1999/2003, and it showed that irruptive species change locations with the change of wet/dry cycles. Also, looked at area sensitivity such as habitat fragmentation, and there are 15 species in 303 fields. A sister study done between 2001 and 2003 were on CRP seeding mixtures, 128 study areas (added IA). Looked at emergency haying and grazing during years of drought and deluge and compared species one and two years after haying. Future and current evaluations: 1) effects of haying and grazing; 2) landscape features; 3) introduced versus native plantings; 4) temporal patterns; 5) tree encroachment into idle CRP fields. Ultimately you want to show that CRP is having some benefit on nongame birds and it does appear to be reversing the decline of some species.

Jerry Rasmussen, MICRA
Silver Carp Biology and Management
(Complete PowerPoint presentation is on the website,
“Bighead and Silver Carp in the Mississippi River Basin”)

Notes taken from presentation

Bighead Carp introduced in 1972 from China, now in 23 states, typically spawn at river confluences April to June and produce 280,000 to 1 million eggs. Silver Carp introduced in 1973 from China, typically spawn at river confluences May to June producing 145,000-4,300,000 eggs. Concerns with include: reproductive potential; grow up to 12 inches a year; compete for food; disrupt commercial fisheries; threaten fishermen, boaters and water skiers with physical injury. Distribution in Mississippi Basin is spreading fast, one bighead carp caught in Texas 90 pounds. These fish were brought in by fish farmers in the south to control plankton and remove excess waste in catfish rearing ponds, but escaped captivity and the floods in the 1990s provided the spawning habitat needed. In 1999/2000, Mississippi River backwater fish kills was 97 percent bighead and silver carp. There was 5.5 tons in 1994 and 55 tons by 1997 in commercial fish catches. The fish prefer temperature ranges similar to those preferred by yellow perch, salmon, trout, goby and ruffe. Duane Chapman has been studying these fish, at 36 degrees, guts are filled with food, both fish remain active all winter. Three bighead carp have been reported from the Great Lakes (Erie and Ontario) and a fourth in a fountain in downtown Toronto. It was felt that they are being shipped here as food for Asian ethnic origin people. This causes concern among scientists and fishery managers, because they believe they are buying two, eating one and setting one free for Karma. Fish are entering from the Illinois River going towards the Great Lakes. Prevention is the answer, but something should have been done long ago. Need to tighten importation laws, develop and maintain clean species lists, educate the public about releasing new species; increase fines and penalties for intentional illegal releases; increase regulation on fish farming industry – use Lacey Act; increase regulation of baitfish collection by fishermen (look very similar to gizzard shad); prevent escape through man-made waterways by installing organism barriers, improving water and waste treatments, modify navigation systems; separate watershed through hydraulic pressure; and control (destroy captive stocks, develop pheromones and attractants, develop harvest methods, develop commercial markets, and develop rapid response measures). It is controversial to create a commercial market which would make it an economic issue. Spending millions on control, DNRs, hunters and fishermen paying the bills, should be those who created the problem or taxpayers. Illinois seems to be one of the most impacted areas.

IAFWA Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Communication Strategies

Project Update and Workshop Invitation - June 2004

Project Overview

The Fisheries and Water Policy Committee of the IAFWA was awarded a 2003 Multi-state Conservation Grant for a 3-year project to help address ANS issues. This project is unique in that it involves the cooperation of multiple partners including the IAFWA, the Four Regional Associations, Four Pilot State Fish and Wildlife Agencies and their respective in-state partners, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The focus of this project is to help states increase their capacity to address Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) issues within their state through the development of comprehensive communications strategies and collectively help the Regional Associations and the IAFWA develop a stronger voice and greater capabilities when addressing regional and national ANS efforts. To carry out the project, a contract has been awarded to Southwick Associates, Inc. on behalf of D.J. Case and Associates, S.R. Enterprises, Silvertip Productions, all of whom will work closely with the IAFWA and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Objective I: Pilot State Communication Programs

IAFWA is working with a pilot state from each of the four Regional Associations to implement a comprehensive communications plan to increase awareness of ANS threats and potential damages, to promote prevention steps that could be taken by recreational users, to assess results and make recommendations available to other state agencies.

Progress to date

1. The Advisory Panel selected one pilot state from each regional association: Missouri, New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Arizona. Several states are considering using the process to reinvigorate interagency ANS teams and initiate *State ANS Management Plans*.
2. The IAFWA Project Team provided guidance for each state in how they wanted to engage in this project with respect to staying in-house or involving external partners.
3. The IAFWA project team conducted 40 interviews and met with all four states locally to define the scope and focus of the ANS issue in their respective states, to identify associated target audiences, and to begin developing the communications strategies.

Teams from each pilot state have selected priority issues and target audiences, including:

- recreational boaters, anglers, and duck hunters
- bait dealers
- hobbyists and suppliers of aquarium pets and backyard ponds
- policy makers
- seafood businesses and consumers
- urban residents who are not outdoor enthusiasts
- water suppliers and users via canals and irrigation districts

Next steps

1. Each state is in the process of developing or finalizing their strategies and any associated partnerships and materials.
2. All actions will be evaluated using a combination of survey and tracking techniques.
3. Many of the pilot states have realized the synergistic value of the USFWS *Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!* campaign, and are choosing to incorporate it into their communications strategies. As part of the partnership, the Service will be expanding the website to include state - specific information and supporting messages.
4. A project webpage will be developed to provide information on the pilot state efforts for review by other state fish and wildlife agencies in the region.

Objective II: Regional Coordination Workshops

Four regional workshops will be held to increase coordination between state fish and wildlife agencies, state and federal law enforcement, regional entities, and federal agencies responsible for regulating ANS. This task serves all states, focusing on regulatory and law enforcement aspects of ANS management, and other potential issues. To support and maintain workshop activities and subsequent work, an electronic list serve will be developed to allow agencies and organizations to regularly discuss regional ANS issues.

Progress to date

1. Confirmed conference dates for regional workshops.
 - Northeastern Fish & Wildlife Conference, April 28, 2004, Ocean City, Md.
 - Western Fish & Wildlife Conference, July 24, 2004, Sun Valley, ID.
 - Southeastern Fish & Wildlife Conference, October 30, 2004, Hilton Head, SC.
 - Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, December 12, 2004, Indianapolis, IN.
2. IAFWA invites attendance by ***all state directors and fisheries chiefs, ANS coordinators, law enforcement, other agencies, and NGOs*** that have an interest in ANS.
3. The contractor team continues to work with states ahead of each regional meeting to invite participation and set a preliminary agenda for the workshop.

In Ocean City, MD, workshop participants prepared a preliminary list of issues and actions for further examination and comment from stakeholders in the Northeast Region, including but not limited to:

- Funding to states for ANS management plans, implementation, outreach, and enforcement.
- Emphasize prevention through screening/risk assessment and restricted species lists.
- Effective communication of status and support for proposed federal legislation.
- Clearinghouse of state restricted species lists for internet sales and other interstate commerce.
- Taxonomic training on exotic species for law enforcement officers and other first responders.

Next steps

1. Continue email and telephone contact with directors, fisheries chiefs, and others they identify in anticipation of each region's workshop.
2. Conduct workshops in the regions and develop and implement action plans

Advisory Panel and Contractor Team

The IAFWA Advisory Panel oversees this project to ensure that all activities are in the best interest of the states, have the greatest potential to be replicated later in other states, and will enhance ANS activities at the regional and national levels. Members represent each of the four IAFWA regions. The implementation team combines the necessary skills to provide effective support to the advisory panel, pilot states, and regional workshops.

Project Implementation team

Rob Southwick (Southwick Associates, surveys, project administration)
Gwen White and Phil Seng (D.J. Case & Associates, project managers and facilitators)
Jim Wentz (list serve, website)
Sharon Rushton (communication materials)
Joe Starinchak (USFWS, advisory role)

Advisory Panel and IAFWA staff

Larry Riley (AZ), Chair
Mike Stone (WY) Mike Conlin (IL)
Bill Reeves (TN) Gary Isbell (OH)
Judy Stokes (NH)
Eric Schwaab (IAFWA)
Jen Mock (IAFWA)
Doug Hansen (IAFWA)

Gwen White of DJ Case and Associates is the lead contact for pilot states and regional associations workshops. Tel. 317-931-0908; gwen@djcase.com

ANS Regulations and Enforcement Workshop
Southeast Region, October 30, Hilton Head, SC
--- Draft Agenda ---

- 8:30 Introduction, expectations, and desired outcomes – Phil Seng
- Welcome from fisheries
 - Welcome from law enforcement
 - Discuss expectations for workshop and project follow-up
- 9:15 Background information and major issues (define the scope of the issues)
- Background for the project – Joe Starinchak
 - Injurious species listing process presentation (federal perspective) – Kari Duncan
- 10:00 Preliminary identification of issues – Gwen White
- Add or modify preliminary issues list
 - Define the charge for breakout sessions
- 10:30 Break (prioritize issues as a group to guide development of action items in breakouts)
- 10:45 Breakout: What regulatory and policy actions that would address these issues?
- 12:00 Lunch (on your own; facilitators will summarize discussion)
- 1:00 State and federal law enforcement presentation – FWS Law Enforcement
- 1:30 Breakout: What enforcement actions that would address these issues?
- 2:15 Break
- 2:30 Group discussion: Reports from breakouts on high priority actions
- Prioritize actions as a whole group
 - Identify issues to be elevated
- 3:30 Action plan formulation
1. What issues need to be elevated and to whom do these issues need to be addressed?
 2. How can the Regional Association (WAFWA) organize to influence these issues?
 3. Who will be responsible for implementing these actions?
 4. Who will take the lead in articulating these issues to other decision-makers?
 5. What would motivate continued involvement in this process?
- 4:30 Adjourn
- For more information or to RSVP, contact: Gwen White, 317-931-0908, gwen@djcase.com

Preliminary List of Southeast Region Issues

6/5/04

The issues below have been identified in preliminary discussions with the Southeast contacts and particularly in discussions held at the Gulf of Mexico ANS Panel meeting on April 1, 2004, in Mobile, AL. Participants will clarify, expand, and prioritize these issues in an online survey, then identify potential actions during the workshop. For the online survey, go to:
<http://www.djcase.com/survey/IAWFA/SEAFWAANSpre.htm>

A. Regulation and policy

1. Internet sales and other interstate commerce can't be controlled at the state level.
2. Clarify definitions regarding nuisance, exotic, or invasive species in the regulations and state management plans and on which class of species most states are placing their management and regulatory efforts.
3. Need more capacity to do species risk assessments as new NAISA requires assessment prior to listing and would facilitate a proactive approach to listing.
4. Emphasize the relative efficiency of screening and prevention approaches (e.g., restricted species lists) as opposed to control and management.
5. Adjacent states have different illegal species lists, which is especially critical for boundary waters.
6. Need to develop regional "Model Legislation" for state use with their legislatures.
7. International cooperation is an issue for Gulf of Mexico (Mexico, Caribbean nations).
8. The Gulf of Mexico ANS Panel is building a database of all agency and organization positions addressing ANS for use in a rapid response situation. Could be useful for LE as well.
9. Necessary to include both marine and freshwater in ANS deliberations, as a number of species are appearing in euryhaline environments (e.g., Asian carp in shrimp trawls; Rio Grande cichlids in estuaries). On traditional fisheries issues, marine and freshwater programs are somewhat separate.
10. Potential for involvement of external organizations, including NGOs and industry, in promoting ANS policy agendas.
11. Need more economic impact data to develop support for regulation and enforcement.
12. Develop understanding and support for federal ANS laws, such as reauthorization of NAISA and other proposals.
13. Position ANS as a resource management issue rather than a water pollution issue.
14. Enhance regional organizational structure for addressing ANS, including representatives of Regional Associations and IAFWA on regional ANS Panels.

B. Enforcement

1. Need to support development of taxonomic expertise for proper regulatory and enforcement responses, including development of a list of taxonomists.

2. Develop agreements among the state agencies to coordinate who will take enforcement action and under what laws to improve coverage and avoid redundancy.
3. States need more formal mechanisms for contact with federal enforcement agents and agencies on ANS regulatory issues.
4. States need to understand jurisdiction of federal laws and enforcement agents and use of federal laws such as the Lacey Act.
5. Heighten awareness of Law Enforcement and Attorneys General to cross-boundary regulatory issues and regional consistency.
6. Need an "informational clearinghouse" on what is allowed or prohibited in the various states, so enforcement and regulators could keep current on regulations.

Dr. Richard B. Minnis, Mississippi State University
“Train the Trainer” – Law Enforcement Crime Scene Investigation Program
(Complete PowerPoint presentation is on the website,
““Train the Trainer” – Law Enforcement Crime Scene Investigation Program”)

Notes taken from presentation

MSU has been a center for teaching wildlife forensics to COs since 1985 and is an internationally acclaimed program. Concerns include: improper collection, packaging and handling evidence (funded by USFWS Forensic Lab); and need equipment and training on how to use it (responses from MD State Police, MS DWFP COs). Training consists of a 3 ½ day course on crime scene forensics as it applies to Conservation law enforcement, it is tailored to issues and set up to train trainers to go back and train other employees. Several topics are covered in the course. It is a hands- on course, the participants receive classroom instruction; crime scenes are constructed; officers break into 5 teams; work scenes over the 3 ½ days; work each aspect; complete full documentation; and one scene is conducted at night. Benefits of the program include: receive basic crime scene kit worth \$150; provide lecture materials; practical crime scene experience; practice with documentation; exposure to resources available; minimize common crime scene mistakes. There are two options for states or organizations, the classes can be conducted at MSU for \$595 per officer (with kits); or local training at \$695 per officer (with kits). It is \$150 less if kits are not included.

Jeff Faught
ND Game and Fish Pilot
IANRP Vice President

The International Association of Natural Resource Pilots

The IANRP is a group of pilots who utilize aircraft in the field of renewable resources. Their aviation specialties are varied and include aircraft use for forestry, wildlife, and fisheries applications, plus enforcement of natural resource regulations. Each individual has a wealth of knowledge in their particular field, and through the Association they can share their experience and knowledge with others.

Association Objectives

- A.** To Promote the recognition of the importance of sound aviation practices in resource management, with safety as the paramount factor.
- B.** To encourage and develop the educational, social, and economic Interests of aviation in resource management.
- C.** To exchange information on operational techniques and procedures.
- D.** To utilize member experience to develop and distribute reference materials of interest to the Association.
- E.** To coordinate, research, and promote new techniques and equipment.
- F.** To take all action necessary to further the use of aircraft in natural resource management.

We are around 250 strong with members from around the world.

IANRP on the world wide web at www.ianrp.org

IANRP quarterly news letter

IANRP Email discussion list called Con-Aero which is maintained UND Aerospace (University of North Dakota)

Annual Seminar/workshop hosted by agencies around the country

Short video that shows what we do and the importance of aviation to our industry.

**IANRP Script from video (for copy of video contact Jeff Faught, ND Game & Fish Dept.)
[Contact Jeff in ND for copies of the video]**

Mention a Game and Fish Department, a Department of Natural Resources or a Fish and Wildlife Service the first thing they usually think of is an agency full of biologists, scientists, technicians and of course law enforcement personnel. What they probably don't think of are pilots and pilots have become an integral part of natural resource agencies across the United States. Their duties run the gamut of conducting aerial surveys of mule deer from the rugged North Dakota Badlands to delivering a payload of trout to a remote lake in the Colorado Mountains. The International Association of Natural Resource Pilots (IANRP) is an organization dedicated to utilizing aircraft in the field of renewable resources. Their aviation specialties are varied and include aircraft use forestry, wildlife and fisheries applications, plus enforcement of resource applications. As we enter a new millennium, most states have recognized the need for aviation. North Dakota Game and Fish Department, for sake of example, has had a pilot on board since the 1940s. The agency recognized the fact that most people aren't aware of the pilot's role in natural resource enhancement, so it produced a short video piece on white-tailed deer counts from the air. Any deer hunter will tell you it is much easier to spot deer with snow on the ground. Biologists also need that white back drop to spot deer from the air during their winter aerial surveys. "Animals have a great ability to hide themselves in trees, shrubbery and especially cattail marshes and so you need a uniform snow cover to accurately see those animals." Each year there is adequate snow cover Game and Fish biologists fly over the same monitoring blocks counting all the deer they see. They don't count every deer in the state, but the survey does provide a good indication if whether a local deer population is going up or down. "This year has been good in terms of snow cover; we are going to successfully fly nearly all of our deer survey areas this year. Once the planes are back on the ground biologists combine aerial survey data with other reports for a more complete picture of herd health. "That information is coupled along with our hunter survey results and field observations by landowners, sportsmen and our wardens to give us a formula we use to monitor deer populations over time." Kreil says, this multi-person approach is more precise and also makes it easier to manage the herd long term. "Let's say if you were running along with a 70 percent hunting success rate and it drops to 60 percent you know you probably have fewer deer. Aerial deer surveys are more of a check and balance to that to see if the aerial surveys show the same trend over time." It is important for wildlife crews to know how many deer there are in each monitoring block. The end result is the number of deer licenses Game and Fish can issue next fall. Tom Jenson in the North Dakota Outdoors. *Produced by ND Game & Fish Dept.*

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has went a step further in it's tribute to it's pilot staff, they directed their creative services division to produce an excellent piece on how diverse the INARP has become and it's role within the DNR.

Flying with the DNR Aviation Unit

From the air the earth spreads out like a patchwork quilt of the natural world. Here in the realm of the birds a person can see the land, the forests, the rivers, the lakes and the wildlife with a new perspective. From the earliest days of human flight people noticed that connections and relationships between the different parts of the natural world were easier to see high above the earth. This unique view of the world has become an essential tool in Minnesota for managing natural resources. To meet this ongoing need for aerial observations, since 1947 the Minnesota

Department of Natural Resources has pilots and a small fleet of aircraft to support its natural resource and law enforcement responsibilities. In addition, the DNR sometimes contracts for additional pilots and aircraft for special projects. The aircraft operated by the DNR range from a small American Champion Scout to Bell Jet Ranger OH58 helicopters to CL215 firefighter airplanes. This variety offers the DNR different aircraft features to best fit the needs of specific projects being flown by the DNR pilots. For example the American Champion Scout with its narrow fuselage and single rear seat allows for a passenger to easily look out both sides of the aircraft for aerial surveys. The Bell Jet Ranger OH58 helicopters serve as slow moving, or stationary, platforms for wildlife biologists to find animals that would be difficult or impossible to locate on the ground. But these well equipped aircraft are only half the picture. The DNR pilots bring a wealth of specialized skills that are critical to doing the work successfully. The aviation unit is made up of full time pilots who are conservation officers and natural resource personnel. Other DNR staff members serve as standby pilots who can be called upon if needed. The pilots and aircraft are located in Bemidji, Brainerd, Grand Rapids and New Ulm. Besides being experience flyers, DNR's pilots know game and fish laws, boating regulations and other natural resource rules. When they take to the air they bring along years of knowledge and understanding of the state's forests, waters and wildlife. In order to do their work these conservation officer and natural resource pilots fly craft equipped with radios to connect the with general, emergency and law enforcement channels. Often they carry radio telemetry for tracking radio transmitter collars on wildlife. To map the data being collected the airplanes and helicopters are hard wired to fly with global positioning satellite equipment. This information can be downloaded directly to a laptop computer onboard to create a database of information while in flight. In a state with over 15,000 lakes, natural resource managers sometimes need to get to water bodies far from the nearest road or airport so the aviation units keeps floats on one of it's Cessna 185 planes in the summer so it can land on lakes. In the winter skies are installed allowing DNR staff to do work on lakes year around. Because aerial photography is an effective way to document changes in natural resources, DNR aircraft have bases for mounting specialized cameras. Each DNR pilot is equipped with film, digital and video cameras for doing inspections and surveillance. As part of their law enforcement duties DNR's flying peace officers do night surveillance flights when there are reports of poachers shining deer and other wildlife. Using night vision binoculars the pilot can scan for the poacher's lights. Once the poachers are spotted, the pilot radios the conservation officers on grounds and directs them to the location of the offenders (showed arrest of violator). The violator of hunting laws unwittingly falls prey to the skills of the flying conservation officer. Even though most of the pilots are conservation officers, their work isn't limited to law enforcement; they fly missions in support of programs across the Department of Natural Resources. They assist with fighting wildfires in Minnesota. The aviation unit's twin engine 310 serves as lead aircraft for the forestry planes and helicopters that are assigned solely to spotting and fighting fires, such as the opposing CL215. These powerful planes can drop down on a lake, scoop up 1400 gallons of water in ten seconds and then drop that load of water to help extinguish a wildfire. The lead plane is essential to safely coordinating the flights of several airplanes and helicopters dropping water on a blaze. This observer plan also gives the fire crews a bird's eye perspective on the fires' progress. The DNR pilots serve as high flying taxi drivers, when they are needed, to transport DNR staff or state officials. When biological research calls for the capture and transportation of four-legged passengers, contract

pilots and aircraft with these unique skills are hired by the DNR. But the aviation unit joins in the work by flying airplanes with wildlife biologists to locate the animals to be captured. For this moose study a contract helicopter fires a capture net and the moose is then placed in a sling and flown to a waiting DNR biologist. Following a medical check and some data gathering, the moose is fitted with a radio transmitting collar and released. In Minnesota, fishing is recreation for half of the population so it is valuable cargo the DNR pilots are asked to carry when they stock fish in remote lakes that can't be reached by stocking trucks. These tiny walleye fry began their lives in a DNR fish hatchery, an aviation unit Cessna 185 that is outfitted with floats and dump tanks will transport them. Delivering them safely to a lake that is too small for a landing is a difficult job that requires the unique experience of a DNR pilot. Drop them from too high and they won't survive the exposure to air and cold temperatures, drop them while flying too fast and they won't survive the impact, but the pilot's experience and skill makes this special delivery successful and sets the stage for more fishing stories in the future. Besides helping start new fish populations, the DNR aviation unit does fisheries surveys of the current ones. Transmitters strapped to musky and other larger fish are used by fisheries managers to track the movement of fish populations. While the fish can be tracked from boats in the summer, during the winter researchers fly aerial surveys to pick up the signals from the transmitters. By determining where the fish move, fisheries managers can locate important spawning and habitat locations that need to be protected. For counting gray wolf populations, wildlife managers make use of the DNR helicopter to accomplish this task that would be very difficult on the ground. These data are used to track population levels and distribution for this endangered species. DNR aircraft also do annual counts of other wildlife to track population trends. In March they fly along the Mississippi to count the eagles gathered there. Flights are also done statewide to tally the numbers of herons, swans and other waterfowl. Moose, beaver, turkey, otter and deer are also the subjects of population surveys flown by the DNR pilots. They even count boats and ice fishing houses to track trends in recreational use. In some cases DNR aircraft become search planes to help find lost people. Other types of aerial observations can include inspections of lake aerator systems to make sure that the warning signs for thin ice are properly placed. The illegal operation of weed rollers, which destroy important lake plants, can be easily spotted from the air by the trained eyes of DNR pilots. Obviously, there is no shortage of variety in the daily work of the DNR aviation unit as these pilots carry equipment and personnel aloft, they are also bringing along their own experience and special skills. These pilots are lucky to have offices with some of the best views around. They also count themselves fortunate to play an important part in the enforcement, research and management work done by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources because from their vantage point they see wonders of nature worth protecting from horizon to horizon.

The International Association of Natural Resource Pilots is an organization with some lofty objectives – to promote the recognition of the importance of sound aviation practices in resource management, with safety as a paramount factor; to encourage and develop the educational, social, and economic interests of aviation in resource management; to exchange information on operational techniques and procedures; to utilize member experiences to develop and distribute reference materials of aviation interest to the Association; to coordinate, research, and promote new techniques and equipment; and to take all action necessary to further the use of aircraft in natural resource management.

A Report from the Bowhunting Preservation Alliance

By

Pat Ruble, Director of Government Relations

The Bowhunting Preservation Alliance (BPA) is a foundation established by the Archery Trade Association (ATA) to foster participation in bowhunting. BPA has no members, doesn't publish newsletters or magazines and doesn't hold fund raisers. Funding for its activities comes entirely from the archery and bowhunting industry. Staff and contractors like me are all covered by the ATA.

I was hired last March as BPA's Director of Government Relations. My primary role is to work with agencies, basically the state fish and wildlife agencies, to implement projects and programs directed at recruiting and retaining as many bowhunters and archers as possible. We also want the agencies to know we will work to support all hunting and conservation, especially through the IAFWA's committees.

We will do this by providing seed money and helping to recruit third parties who are willing to contribute resources for things like archery range development, archery and bowhunting in the schools programs and management of urban/suburban deer herds through bowhunting.

The mechanism to make these things happen will be familiar to state wildlife agency staff. The NWTF's MOU for its Superfund activities was used as the model for our MOU with the states. Similarly, our Project Specific Agreements were patterned after DU's Site Specific Agreement.

We will also be using a third document, a Work Plan, which will identify projects and programs that the agencies and BPA agree would be good to implement over a three to five year period. I will touch base with the agencies early in their annual planning and budget preparation process to review the Work Plan, decide which items will be implemented during the upcoming year and determine who will do what to get them going so resources can be earmarked in both the agencies' and BPA's budgets.

Our approach will be to start slowly with a fairly small number of states to develop and implement a comprehensive system for the state. Once a complete program is in place with our initial state partners, we'll move to other states as resources allow. We felt this would be preferable to signing 50 MOU's, getting everyone fired up and then only be able to deliver minimal resources to each partner. We don't want to get in a situation in which we're a mile wide and an inch deep.

Yet, while starting slowly, we are seeking states who are working hard to recruit and retain hunters and shooters. We do want to invest our dollars, time and efforts where they will pay off – our industry support base wants results.

We signed the first MOU with the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Arizona, Minnesota and Michigan are in various stages of completing preparation of MOU's. We will add other states, as resources allow, based on a number of items which really aren't all that cut and dried. We'll consider things like the agency's willingness to use Section 4 and Section 10 federal aid dollars on projects, their willingness to put projects in areas of highest need, their willingness to work with third parties like schools, cities, counties, and nonprofits, the amount of archery industry in the state and the potential for projects to increase and retain bowhunters and archers.

The archery and bowhunting industries have very similar objectives to the state wildlife agencies when it comes to bowhunting-get participation rates as high as possible and keep them there. I look forward to working with the state agencies to address these objectives.

North American Prairie Grouse Management Plan Proposal

Jim Mosher, Executive Director, Stephanie Harmon, Science Advisor
of North American Grouse Partnership
and Rick Baydeck, University of Manitoba

Notes taken from presentation

Jim Mosher, NAGMP - This program is four years old and has been run by completely by volunteers, until February of this year when I agreed to become Executive Director. The partnership is comprised of talented grouse biologists interested in preserving grouse and their huntable status. When discussing listing of peregrin falcon, we decided grouse could be next and this organization was formed. USFWS provided a grant, which our Board matched, that got us off the ground. We recently received a second grant that we still need to match to get a study going. Stephanie Harmon of the USFWS and Rick Baydeck, of the University of Manitoba are here to speak about the program.

Stephanie Harmon, USFWS – We need to connect dots to see why, and how, we plan to obtain our goal. Grouse are in trouble throughout North America (NA). Lesser Prairie Chicken (LPC) is an ESA candidate; Greater Prairie Chicken (GPC) is listed as a species of concern; Attwater's Prairie Chicken is ESA listed; Sharp-tailed Grouse is petitioned, but not listed; Gunnison Sage Grouse is an ESA candidate; Greater Sage Grouse has the momentum going because of grassland issues. There are eleven grouse species in all and this plan will be a policy document to support self-sustaining and harvestable populations of all grouse species throughout NA. We can take a listed species as long as there is a benefit to that species. Wrote draft document or prospectus with several component efforts including the needs: prairie grouse need vast landscapes (20,000 acres); requires cross-jurisdictional coordination (facilitated plan like NA Waterfowl Mgmt Plan); plan must support all bird conservation; plan must help coordinate existing state, federal, provincial, and private efforts (including Farm Bill); other grassland species will benefit from grouse conservation. Grasslands species are the most endangered. Need continental grassland inventory database (need to quantify amount of threat and areas – lose native grassland to western red cedar every day); fund for standardized, comprehensive, long-term grouse population monitoring (lek surveys work if done during right part of day in robust populations, show trends); coordinate implementation of existing programs that affect grasslands (CRP can help areas recover if using native grass); political and regulatory authority to protect (GRP does not allow for wind turbine development); conservation incentive funding.

Rick Baydeck, University of Manitoba, Canada – Pleased with populations in Canada. Season starts in 59 days and can take 6 birds per day of sharp-tailed, ?, ? in a 3-day hunting season, a total of 18 birds. Canada supports NAGMP because finally an effort to coordinate provincial plans and initiatives; prairie restoration complements PHJV and trilateral grassland strategy; Forestry and Mining interests are encouraged by having a place at the table; Sharptails Plus, and other sporting groups have rallied behind the effort; restoration and management of populations; ecosystem-based habitat management strategies; development of Grouse Management Partnerships; standardized protocols for range-wide monitoring; landscape level planning; population and habitat research. Recommendations – standardize and upgrade surveys;

consistent harvest monitoring; establish key linkages between habitat and population variable; and research. Habitat – Ecosystem-based, large landscape approach; restoration; ??

Website to review plan is: www.grousepartners.org/plandraft

Notes for July 12, 2004

MW Assoc. of Fish & Wildl. Agencies
Bismarck, ND

N.A. Grouse Management Plan: Prairie Grouse Plan

Jim Mosher, Executive Director
N.A. Grouse Partnership
&
Stephanie Harmon, Science Advisor
N.A. Grouse Partnership

We are here to provide an update on the progress in development of the North American Grouse Management Plan [NAGMP]. The Plan is intended to be a living document that we expect will be amended, with leadership from state and federal agencies, from time to time as conditions change, and hopefully as management successes are achieved.

The Plan is a broad landscape look at the status of and challenges faced by North American grouse species. As with any plan, outcomes are dependant on implementation of on-the-ground management. The Plan will help guide development of management projects, set priorities, facilitate coordination across boundaries and bring together, in strategic ways, funding from multiple sources. It is thus analogous to the NA Waterfowl Management Plan, seeking to focus protection and restoration of important habitats. Like the NAWMP it will serve to benefit the full suite of species that occupy the same habitats. It is NOT a prescriptive management document for implementing species-specific conservation/management actions. Rather, it is intended that each species will be addressed separately in detailed range-wide fashion as adjunct to and within the context of the Plan. A key outcome will be the coordination and integration of new and existing state and federal management actions, so that habitats are improved across entire ranges.

The Resident Game Bird Committee of IAFWA has reviewed drafts of the Plan at least twice – most recently in Spokane. It has been widely distributed for comment, as was requested by the Committee, and sent for review specifically to several Joint Venture committee members. It is noteworthy as well that Canadian representatives have played an important role in its development. Rick Baydack of the University of Manitoba has been a significant contributor and is also a member of the Grouse Partnership Board.

Funding to complete development of the Plan is being provided by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation with private matching funds largely from within the Board of the Grouse Partnership.

As I noted, the details of species-specific planning will be elements of the Plan. We are pleased that the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation views this effort as a national priority and has approved \$100k for development of the Prairie Grouse component of the Plan on a one-to-one

match. The federal funds will come from BLM and NRCS. We hope you will continue to support this effort and provide that required match. I have begun a search for a project manager, and we hope to be underway before year-end.

We are here to share with you the plans for developing the prairie grouse portion of the NAGMP, and answer any question you may have about this project.

- Description of the P. G. Plan
 - What does it look like in outline
 - States role is critical in providing input, guidance and assurance that the plan recognizes individual states discretionary management authority
DISCRETION, SOVEREIGNTY, RIGHTS, ETC. HERE]
 - What is the schedule for completion
 - How will it relate to other ongoing planning processes
 - Esp. the state conservation plans
 - NALBCPlan
 - JVs and the 'wal-to-wall concept?
 - NABCI
 - BLM and FS LRMPs
 - These are state trust species and we intend that the plan will be a useful document for you, especially given the cooperative approach to its development. We expect it will also serve the interests of other public and private land managers, including the Forest Service's significant role in rangeland management in northern plains states.
 - Related efforts are in the works for Ruffed and Spruce Grouse.
- Your cooperation in sharing of data, review of progress and finalizing the prairie grouse plan is critical to its success, and your prior enthusiastic support, as expressed formally at your meeting in Springfield, MO, of this effort is very much appreciated. Turning the plan into high quality habitat and healthy wildlife communities is ultimately your challenge – we're here to help.

Questions?

THE ONLY OTHER ISSUE THAT COMES TO MIND HERE IS THAT MANY OF THE PARTICIPANTS MAY NOT BE AWARE OF THE LANDSCAPE-LEVEL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH PRAIRIE GROUSE. IT MAY BE WORTH A FEW MINUTES TO DIPLOMATICALLY REMIND THEM THAT THEY CAN'T REALLY MANAGE A POPULATION OF GPC OR LPC ON A FEW THOUSAND ACRES, OR EVEN A FEW TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ACRES...THE NEED BEING ADDRESSED HERE IS THAT OF MANAGING THESE SPECIES ACROSS JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES. YOU MIGHT ALSO WANT TO HIT ON THE "KEEPING GAME POPULATIONS HUNTABLE" ANGLE FOR THIS GROUP.

National Fisheries Habitat Initiative

(Complete PowerPoint presentation is on the website,
““Train the Trainer” – Law Enforcement Crime Scene Investigation Program”)

Notes taken from presentation

Think fish habitat and then apply what the previous speakers said to this. The powerpoint presentation was put together by Eric Schwaab. What is the National Fish Habitat Initiative? National protection of fish habitat by implementing strategy that brings national focus, broad strategies and adequate funding. Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council was asked by IAFWA to come up with a recommendation “A Partnership Agenda for Fisheries Conservation (2002)”. USFWS adopted a leading role, but several partners are involved. Aquatic habitat is being lost or destroyed and without intervention will continue at an ever-increasing rate and will have dire consequences. Since 1900, 123 species have gone extinct, we have to address our habitat. In 2001, 82 million Americans spent \$108 billion on recreation, fishing alone was almost \$36 billion. We think that if we continue to piecemeal this at regional and local levels it won’t have the effect needed and we can deal more effectively with national issues. We need to work on water quality and quantity issues, quantify habitat needs, increase and broaden public support and track progress and achieve measurable results. Hope this can provide a framework to promote collaboration; leverage funding sources; enhance relationships; and create ongoing national congressional recognition of the problem. We looked at the NA Waterfowl Management Plan to use for a model. We can develop a national plan that has national focus; capitalizes on existing mechanisms, incentives and explore new strategies; measure progress; ????. Start with a national view that rolls down to regional and local plans where dollars, technical assistance trickles down and information trickles back up to the national plan. Incentive programs could include tax breaks, easements, etc. We could provide technical assistance where needed. Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council advises USFWS on conservation issues and has held four stakeholder meetings and the fifth meeting will be held next week in conjunction with the Western Association meeting, they will then put together a report. IAFWA has taken an interest in the plan and Eric Schwaab represents the state interests. American Fisheries Society (AFS), and USFWS (lead federal partner) are some of the other partners. Website is www.fishhabitat.org

Eric Schwaab, IAFWA – Can get access to this program and a white paper we have developed. Show economic and social perspectives of this plan. Over-fishing is the fisheries management we are going to face in the 21st century. Dealing with watersheds is a lot of what this plan is about nationally. The AFS workshop is on August 22, at their annual meeting in Madison and we need strong state participation. It will be extremely critical to the success of this initiative.

Paul Schmidt, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plans
(Complete PowerPoint presentation is on the website,
“State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plans”)

Notes taken from presentation

A key partnership opportunity for the USFWS and state Fish and Wildlife agencies. Director has a vision, a plan where states become major partners in wildlife conservation on national basis; USFWS will help provide knowledge and expertise as requested by states; USFWS employees informed about state planning process and are knowledgeable in the roles that the Service can play in the development and implementation of strategies/plans (CWCSs). The blueprint for wildlife conservation will be national and will provide the impetus for additional Congressional support; and will increase potential for sustaining healthy populations and keep species off of the endangered species list. In 2001, there was a glimpse of this in the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program, commitment to develop a strategy by October 2005 to be eligible; In 2002, 2003 and 2004, State (and Tribal) Wildlife Grants Program strategy also due October 2005. There are eight essential elements to make this happen. IAFWA and Teaming with Wildlife have carried the ball on this. In 2003 and 2004, created Conservation Wildlife Teams to help states, now have 13 people on team, Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota is your representative and Mike McKenna has also been at the workshops. Ron Regan is on the team and I am the head of the Team. This is like a football team and the states are the quarterbacks, it is not just for the states, but the resources within those states. We work across state lines, provide resources and contacts with field service staff at regional, field or national levels. The National Acceptance Advisory Team (NAAT) is to review the 56 CWCSs to see they meet the eight critical elements and submit them to Steve Williams. If any state fails, it is a failure by the USFWS also. Development Assistance Teams were formed to sustain the Teaming with Wildlife Work Group and work with state, federal and NGO partners during the next 15 – 18 months. The National Acceptance Advisory Team (NAAT) charter is now complete and we will be attending the one-year-out conference in Nebraska in August.

Mike McKenna, NDGF – The key thing is to look at documents and generate questions for review.

Notes for the Midwest (Paul Schmidt, USFWS)

The State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies/Plans

- The Director has confirmed to IAFWA the Service's desire and intent to assist the States in any way possible with their Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan development.
- We see ourselves as true partners with the State fish and wildlife agencies in the development and later implementation of these important wildlife conservation plans
- Strategies/plans should be based on the needs of wildlife in the State, not merely on what the State fish and wildlife agency thinks it is capable of doing.
- Through this collaborative process, many other partners will need to work closely with the State fish and wildlife agency to implement portions of the conservation actions developed.
- Coordination with other agencies and organizations is key (e.g., marine fisheries/NOAA, NRCS, Forest Service, USGS, Dept. of Defense, National Park Service, State forests and parks depts., State depts. of agriculture, Farm Bureau, etc.).

Development Assistance Teams (DATs)

- The Service established DATs in each Regional Office at IAFWA's Teaming with Wildlife Committee encouragement to help provide advice upon request and to otherwise facilitate development of the Strategies/Plans.
- We are encouraging cross-border and regional collaboration to the extent possible.
- It is essential that each State have at least one representative (ideally their strategy coordinator) at the August 2-4 national "one-year-out" workshop in Nebraska. This will be a great opportunity to talk, collaborate and find out what's working across the nation.

The National Acceptance Advisory Team (NAAT)

- The National Advisory Acceptance Team's (Team) role is to review and make recommendations to the Director for acceptance of each State and insular territory's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy by October 1, 2005.
- The Team will ensure that each Strategy contains the eight essential elements required by Congress.
- The Team met for the first time in Spokane on March 17 and a second time in Minneapolis on June 18 and 19. The eight FWS and 5 State members of the NAAT have accepted this responsibility very seriously and understand the importance of their actions to national wildlife conservation.
- The Team has completed a Charter to describe its responsibilities and intentions

- The Team's current tasks include;
 - a. Scheduling its review work to be performed during the next 15-18 months;
 - b. Completing a Strategy Review Guide for the Team; and
 - c. Adopting a review/decision making Team process to be followed.
- Team members plan to attend the national one-year-out workshop in Nebraska, and this will be a good opportunity for State Strategy/Plan coordinators to speak with several of the NAAT members.

National Advisory Acceptance Team members:

Paul Schmidt, Assistant Director for Migratory Birds and State Programs, Chair

Ron Regan (VT) – IAFWA Representative, Vice-chair

Dean Hildebrand (ND) – Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Jeff Koenings (WA) – Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Ed Parker (CT) – Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Noel Holcomb (GA) – Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Chris McKay (Region 1) –Assistant Regional Director (ARD) for Migratory Birds and State Programs

Nancy Gloman (Region 2) – ARD for Migratory Birds and State Programs

John Christian (Region 3) – ARD for Migratory Birds and State Programs

E.J. Williams (Region 4) – ARD for Migratory Birds and State Programs

Sherry Morgan (Region 5) – ARD for Migratory Birds and State Programs

Paul Gertler (Region 6) –ARD for Migratory Birds and State Programs

Doug Alcorn (Region 7) – ARD for Migratory Birds and State Programs

Charter for the National Advisory Acceptance Team

June 18, 2004

The National Advisory Acceptance Team's (Team) role is to review and make recommendations to the Director by October 1, 2005 for approval, conditional approval or disapproval of each State and insular territory's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. The Team will determine whether or not each Strategy satisfactorily addresses each of the eight essential elements required by Congress under the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program and State Wildlife Grants program legislation.

The Team consists of a representative from each of the four regional Fish and Wildlife Agency Associations and the Assistant Regional Director for Migratory Birds and State Programs from each of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's seven Regions. The Service's Assistant Director for Migratory Birds and State Programs serves as the chair of the Team with a representative of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies as the vice-chair.

The Team has agreed to:

- Provide timely feedback to the State, following review of the State Strategy.
- In the case of conditional approval or disapproval, provide an opportunity for the State to address any identified deficiencies.
- Use consensus as the model for making recommendations. In cases where consensus cannot be reached by Team members, informed consent will be sought (the willingness of a few members to "go along with" the majority of members' suggested course-of-action). Majority/minority opinions or recommendations will be avoided.
- Allow an alternate, designated by a team member, to be used primarily for information gathering purposes and providing advice to Team members. Alternates are not allowed to participate in group decisions regarding the approval, disapproval or conditional approval of Strategies.
- Meetings will be limited to members, alternates and designated support staff*, unless a Team decision is made in advance of a specific meeting. Team members are strongly encouraged to attend all meetings and use alternates only when absolutely necessary.

National Advisory Acceptance Team members:

Paul Schmidt, Assistant Director for Migratory Birds and State Programs, Chair
Ron Regan (VT) – IAFWA Representative, Vice-chair
Dean Hildebrand (ND) – Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Jeff Koenings (WA) – Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
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Paul Gertler (Region 6) – ARD for Migratory Birds and State Programs
Doug Alcorn (Region 7) – ARD for Migratory Birds and State Programs

***Support Staff**

Kris La Montagne (Region 9) – Chief, Division of Federal Assistance
Tim Hess (Region 9) – Division of Federal Assistance
Genevieve Pullis (Region 9) – Division of Federal Assistance
Naomi Edelson – IAFWA
Dave Chadwick – IAFWA

National Advisory Acceptance Team (NAAT) Review Reference Guide for the Members

Congress identified eight required elements for a state Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, with the expectation that “species in greatest need of conservation” will be identified, while addressing the full array of wildlife and wildlife-related issues.

The NAAT believes it must make an affirmative finding that all of the eight required elements are satisfactorily fulfilled in order for an “approval” recommendation to be made to the Director of the

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Director). Strategy reviews will first occur at the regional level, by NAAT member-teams, prior to full discussion and voting by the entire NAAT.

Below follows a template the NAAT will use as it reviews the Strategies. There are eight major topic headings which correspond to the eight elements prescribed by Congress. Under each element heading is a series of statements to help NAAT members think about whether or not the requirements of a particular element have been satisfactorily addressed. These statements, in effect, are examples of what the NAAT expects may be helpful in evaluating the merits of a Strategy. Strategy authors may want to offer additional reasons or factors as to why they believe they satisfactorily meet the requirements of a particular element, above or beyond the examples provided.

The NAAT is making this template available to the States and Territories with the assumption it will offer Strategy authors some measure of basic guidance about what types of information should be found in a Strategy in order to provide for an approval outcome for any given element. In addition, the NAAT trusts this level of detailed guidance will help to assure all stakeholders of the forethought given to the review process - - one which is intended to provide for a high level of integrity and consistency in making recommendations to the Director.

The NAAT expects that Strategies will describe or identify sources of information, as well as critical information gaps, and plans for acquiring critical information for species in greatest need of conservation. The NAAT will consult the “Guiding Principles” developed by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies when reviewing the Strategies. While this guide includes language regarding expectations that sections of the Strategies will provide sufficient information, the NAAT has not described or quantified the level of information expected as each State or Territory will have different levels and sources of information available. The NAAT generally expects that Strategies will provide clear explanations of how information was used to reach conclusions. Strategies should explicitly draw logical connections between the problems that affect priority species and habitats, the conservation actions proposed to address those problems, and the indicators and monitoring approaches that will be used to measure the success of the conservation strategy.

It is anticipated that the Strategy will include an executive summary, synopsis or appendix that highlights where in the document reviewers can find information about each of the elements.

☐ Yes ☐ No **1st Element. Information on the distribution and abundance of species of wildlife, including low and declining populations as the State fish and wildlife agency deems appropriate, that are indicative of the diversity and health of the State's wildlife.**

- A. The Strategy indicates sources of information (e.g., literature, data bases, agencies, individuals) on wildlife abundance and distribution consulted during the planning process.
- B. The Strategy includes information about both abundance and distribution for species in all major groups to the extent that data are available. There are plans for acquiring information about species for which adequate abundance and/or distribution information is unavailable.
- C. The Strategy identifies low and declining populations to the extent data are available.
- D. All major groups of wildlife have been considered or an explanation is provided as to why they were not (e.g., including reference to implemented marine fisheries management plans). The State may indicate whether these groups are to be included in a future Strategy revision.
- E. The Strategy describes the process used to select the species in greatest need of conservation. The quantity of information in the Strategy is determined by the State with input from its partners, based on what is available to the State.

☐ Yes ☐ No **2nd Element. Descriptions of locations and relative condition of key habitats and community types essential to conservation of species identified in the 1st element.**

- A. The Strategy provides a reasonable explanation for the level of detail provided; if insufficient, the Strategy identifies the types of future actions that will be taken to obtain the information.
- B. Key habitats and their relative conditions are described in enough detail such that the State can determine where (i.e., in which regions, watersheds, or landscapes within the State) and what conservation actions need to take place.

☐ Yes ☐ No **3rd Element. Descriptions of problems which may adversely affect species identified in the 1st element or their habitats, and priority research and survey efforts needed to identify factors which may assist in restoration and improved conservation of these species and habitats.**

- A. The Strategy indicates sources of information (e.g., literature, databases, agencies, or individuals) used to determine the problems or threats.
- B. The threats/problems are described in sufficient detail to develop focused conservation actions (for example, “increased highway mortalities” or “acid mine drainage” rather than generic descriptions such as “development” or “poor water quality”).
- C. The Strategy considers threats/problems, regardless of their origins (local, State, regional, national and international), where relevant to the State’s species and habitats.
- D. If available information is insufficient to describe threats/problems, research and survey efforts are identified to obtain needed information.
- E. The priority research and survey needs, and resulting products, are described sufficiently to allow for the development of research and survey projects after the Strategy is approved.

☐ Yes ☐ No **4th Element. Descriptions of conservation actions determined to be necessary to conserve the identified species and habitats and priorities for implementing such actions.**

- A. The Strategy identifies how conservation actions address identified threats to species of greatest conservation need and their habitats.
- B. The Strategy describes conservation actions sufficiently to guide implementation of those actions through the development and execution of specific projects and programs.
- C. The Strategy links conservation actions to objectives and indicators that will facilitate monitoring and performance measurement of those conservation actions (outlined in Element #5).
- D. The Strategy describes conservation actions (where relevant to the State’s species and habitats) that could be addressed by Federal agencies or regional, national or international partners and shared with other States.
- E. If available information is insufficient to describe needed conservation actions, the Strategy identifies research or survey needs for obtaining information to develop specific conservation actions.
- F. The Strategy identifies the relative priority of conservation actions.

☐ Yes ☐ No **5th Element. Descriptions of the proposed plans for monitoring species identified in the 1st element and their habitats, for monitoring the effectiveness of the conservation actions proposed in the 4th element, and for adapting these conservation actions to respond appropriately to new information or changing conditions**

- A. The Strategy describes plans for monitoring species identified in Element #1, and their habitats.
- B. The Strategy describes how the outcomes of the conservation actions will be monitored.
- C. If monitoring is not identified for a species or species group, the Strategy explains why it is not appropriate, necessary or possible.
- D. Monitoring is to be accomplished at one of several levels including individual species, guilds, or natural communities.
- E. The monitoring utilizes or builds on existing monitoring and survey systems or explains how information will be obtained to determine the effectiveness of conservation actions.
- F. The monitoring considers the appropriate geographic scale to evaluate the status of species or species groups and the effectiveness of conservation actions.
- G. The Strategy is adaptive in that it allows for evaluating conservation actions and implementing new actions accordingly.

☐ Yes ☐ No **6th Element. Descriptions of procedures to review the Strategy/Plan at intervals not to exceed ten years.**

- A. The State describes the process that will be used to review the Strategy within the next ten years.

☐ Yes ☐ No **7th Element. Descriptions of the plans for coordinating, to the extent feasible, the development, implementation, review, and revision of the Plan-Strategy with Federal, State, and local agencies and Indian tribes that manage significant land and water areas within the State or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of identified species and habitats**

- A. The State describes the extent of its coordination with and efforts to involve Federal, State and local agencies, and Indian Tribes in the development of its Strategy.

- B. The State describes its continued coordination with these agencies and tribes in the implementation, review and revision of its Strategy.

☐ Yes ☐ No **8th Element. Descriptions of the necessary public participation in the development, revision, and implementation of the Plan.**

- A. The State describes the extent of its efforts to involve the public in the development of its Strategy.
- B. The State describes its continued public involvement in the implementation and revision of its Strategy.

July 15, 2004

Keith Trego, North Dakota Natural Resources Trust
The Missouri River – Yellowstone River Confluence Project
(Complete PowerPoint presentation is on the website,
“The Missouri River – Yellowstone River Confluence Project”)

Notes taken from presentation

The partnerships and coordination that went into doing long-term conservation work in this state has been a huge hurdle because of state laws. We got approval last Friday, from the Governor’s office, to do this acquisition. Includes cultural, historical and many other aspects. We have only six people on the Trust. State law says that Wetland Reserve Programs (WRPs) can only be 30 years, but can be forever everywhere else.

Merle Bennet, ND Natural Resources Trust – In 1806, L&C made their return trip, one surveying Yellowstone drainage, one the Missouri drainage and met up at the confluence in McKenzie County, a few miles inside the North Dakota line. A few years ago a landowner decided to sell a large chunk of land in this area. In 1866, Fort Buford was established, supply fort for Battle of Little Big Horn, Fort Union established in 1883, surrendered to army in 1886. We took a look at all of the wildlife resources in this area, prime paddlefishing and the best habitat for endangered pallid sturgeon, sicklefin chub and sturgeon chub. Also, people come from all over to hunt whitetails in this area. Piping plover and least terns, which are on the endangered species list also are in this area. The ND State Historical Society completed a \$2 million visitor center on the north bank of the confluence. The Och’s property is the property we looked at purchasing first, and then the Neu property. They are both in the area of the visitor center and a boat ramp. The Neu property is 490 acres, including 55 acres of wetland, 360 acres of woodland/grassland and 75 acres of cropland. Started looking for funding because of the value of the land, spoke to Conservation Fund folks and also agreed to help with the purchase of the Och’s property. USFWS helped get Section 6 money and NRCS helped with the Wetland Reserve Program (the existing landowner signed up for the WRP program and will transfer that to us when we purchase the ground), and that provides 75 percent of cost-share on restoration; and special allocation of \$1 million. American Foundation for Wildlife, a North Dakota fund raising group, provided project funds and can hold the title for acquisition. North Dakota Game and Fish provided a nonfederal match for Section 6 monies, and will accept land in fee title which will eventually be turned over to them. In ND we have to go through local and state government to get approval, agencies such as the County Water Board; County Commissioners; local Legislators; Natural Areas Acquisition Advisory Commission and the Governor. Last November the Neu land purchased. The Ochs property is 997 acres, with 110 wetland acres, 655 woodland/grassland acres, and 232 cropland acres. The land is under option to purchase and we got approval from the Governor on Friday. We hope to get this soon and have looked at a few other small pieces of land in the area. It took a long time to come up with a fair price on the Ochs property, use unmatched dollars on Neu purchase as match, and obtained partners for additional nonfederal dollars. NAWCA grants have been best money, offering a 1:1 nonfederal match. There are 16 partners and contributors in all, the largest partnership ever. We have leveraged \$2,028,048 in federal funds and protected 1,487 acres of prime property.

Photos



Statue of Lewis & Clark in front of Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center



**Pat Ruble, Ohio,
Bowhunter Preservation Alliance**



**Jim Mosher, Maryland
North American Grouse Partnership**



Fort Mandan



Kirk Nelson, SD; Eric Schwaab, IAFWA; Dave Walker, IAFWA, Scott Hassett, WI



Gathered inside Fort Mandan



Ron Reynolds, USFWS; Dale Garner, Iowa; Clare Renner, ND; Paul Schmidt, USFWS



Heart River Band



**The Ver Steeg family (Nathaniel, Jeff, Barbara, Andrew), CO (foreground)
Casey Mutzeberger, ND (background left side of table)**

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Roll Call

Roll Call

Member State Representatives

Rex Amack, Nebraska
C. Tom Bennett, Kentucky & IAFWA Pres.
Mike Conlin, Illinois
Steve Gray, Ohio
Douglas Hansen, South Dakota
John Hoskins, Missouri
Rebecca Humphries, Michigan
Joe Kramer, Kansas
Randy Kreil, North Dakota
Lauri Osterndorf, Wisconsin
Larry Nelson, Minnesota
Glen Salmon, Indiana
Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado
Jeff Vonk, Iowa

Other State Representatives

Richard Bishop, Iowa
Joel Brunsvold, Illinois
Marion Conover, Iowa
Dale Garner, Iowa
John Goss, Indiana
Scott Hassett, Wisconsin
Ken Herring, Iowa
Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota
Emmett Keyser, South Dakota
Terry Little, Iowa
Luke Miller, Ohio
Bruce Morrison, Nebraska
Kirk Nelson, Nebraska
Ron Payer, Minnesota
Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin
Doug Nygren, Kansas
Dave Risley, Ohio
Keith Sexson, Kansas
Terry Steinwand, North Dakota

Conference Staff

Sheila Kemmis, Recording Secretary, Kansas
Clare Renner, Registration, North Dakota
Barb Schell, Registration, North Dakota

Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator, Missouri

IAFWA Representatives

John Baughman, Exec Dir, Washington, DC
J. Russell Mason, Washington, DC
Paul Schmidt, Washington, DC
Eric Schwaab, Washington, DC
Dave Walker, Washington, DC

USFWS Representative

Steve Williams, Washington, DC
John Blankenship, Lakewood, Colorado
Robert C. Bryant, Ft. Snelling, Minnesota
Stephanie Harmon, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Mary G. Henry, Denver, Colorado
Jerry (Mitch) King, Snellville, Georgia
Ron Reynolds, Bismarck, North Dakota
Robyn Thorson, Ft. Snelling, Minnesota

Guest Speakers

Steve Adair, Ducks Unlimited
Rick Baydack, University of Manitoba
Merle Bennett, ND Natural Resource Trust
Ned (Chip) Euliss, U.S. Geological Survey
Jeff Faught, ND Game & Fish Dept.
Larry Igl, U.S. Geological Survey
Mike McKenna, ND Game & Fish Dept.
Richard Minnis, MS State University
James Mosher, NA Grouse Partnership
Jerry Rasmussen, MICRA
Pat Ruble, Bowhunting Preservation Alliance
Keith Trego, ND Natural Resources Trust
Dan Zekor, Facilitator, Missouri

Guests

Janet Hoskins, Missouri
Daniel Kemmis, Kansas
Delores Kemmis, Kansas
Merton Kemmis, Kansas
Clare Chesnavage, Virginia

Sandy Nelson, Minnesota
Susan Niebauer, Wisconsin
Beth Williams, Massachusetts

Other Organization Representatives

Carolyn Caldwell, MAFWA CITES Rep.
Claudia Emken, The Nature Conservancy
Jay Hestbeck, Northern Prairie Wildlife
Research Center (USGS)
Robert Hoffman, DU, Michigan
Phil Mastrangelo, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Jeff Nelson, DU
Rob Olson, Delta Waterfowl
John Paulson, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Jim Ringelman, Ducks Unlimited
Sharon Rushton, NSSF
Gildo Tori, DU, Michigan
Gary Vequist, National Parks Service
Howard Vincent, Pheasants Forever
Michael Worthen, USDA-APHIS
Rick Young, Pheasants Forever

***North Dakota Staff (who were registered
and helped on conference)***

Craig Bihrlé
Bruce Burkett
Scott Elstad
Jacquie Ermer
Dan Halstead
Bill Jensen
Mike Johnson
Brian Kietzman
Richard Kroger
Arnold Kruse
Greg Link
Kent Luttschwager
Casey Matzenberger
Jack Olin
Colin Penner
Scott Peterson
Brian Prince
Bruce Renhowe
Dale Repnow
Roger Rostvet

Genevieve Thompson
Bob Timian
Kelly Wike
Jeb Williams

*Thanks to above individuals and all other
North Dakota staff who helped with
Conference.*

*If we inadvertently left anyone off this list we
apologize.*

2003 Annual Meeting Minutes

**Association of Midwest
Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA)
Annual Meeting
Doubletree Hotel - Omaha, Nebraska**

(The following papers and presentations are attached in the Exhibits Section)

Agenda (Exhibit A)

Saturday, July 12, 2003

The Midwest Association State Directors met at 3:00 p.m. to approve the June 3, 2003 minutes, rotate the officers, discuss the Jaschek account and the MAFWA website (June 3 and July 12, 2003 minutes - Attachment 7).

Everyone met for supper at Rick's Café Boatyard restaurant on the Missouri River waterfront.

Sunday, July 13, 2003

At 8:30 a.m., President Rex Amack, welcomed all of the Midwest Association State Directors, Non Government Organizations (NGOs), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) to the conference.

Coordinator Ollie Torgerson gave report on his work for the past year (Exhibit B). Became first coordinator September 1, 2002. Missouri Department of Conservation hired me back half time, after my retirement, with part of my duties to do this job. My role is to increase the visibility of the MAFWA. I also carry out directives of the President and Executive Committee and work with the IAFWA and the other three regional associations. In addition, I aid the host state, secretary/treasurer and recording secretary in planning the annual meeting. Traveled extensively during my first year, 230 hours and eight meetings, which will increase this year. Thanked speakers and nine directors present at this meeting, a record turn out. Hope to start an Association website and open up the Association to more NGO partners.

Dan Zekor, Missouri, facilitated the Strategic Thinking session with the assistance of Justin Boner, Nebraska (Exhibit C). Dan Zekor, Facilitator - What issues should the Association devote time and energy to over the next year and in what priority? Need to come up with 10 or 12 top issues and prioritize them. The discussion continued from last year's session facilitated by Dynamic Solutions in Missouri which began with three organizational and administration needs. Discussed the three goals set last year.

1) *Improved continuity within the Association*, was the first item of discussion and whether the creation of the coordinator position was making progress; needed additional guidance; or new actions. President Rex Amack - President of the Association in 1992/1993 and it was hard to get the conference going. Coordinator has been working with the Association and getting members interested. The key is getting someone to do those things. He traveled a lot and visited new Directors when appointed, which is hard to do when you are an Agency Director. I feel the Coordinator was very successful. Doug Hansen - Echoed Amack's thoughts. His expectations were met and exceeded. Kirk Nelson - How does Baughman (IAFWA) see the Coordinators helping him in his job? John Baughman, IAFWA Executive Vice President - They are a

tremendous help and the teamwork is great. There is more communication going both ways. Felt that we couldn't give more support than we are already doing, but it is nice to have someone to track items from year to year. He stated that he gave his wholehearted support to the Coordinator positions. Brent Manning, IAFWA President - At the regional level the outreach to new Directors was great. Sharing proactive strategies; data and information; icon influence of hunters, for instance; threatened and endangered (T&E) species issues; cost of non game; all are absolutely necessary, but whether this should be handled at the Regional Coordinator level or hire someone at IAFWA level, unclear at this point. Dean Hildebrand - Organization at regions, legislative coordination for critical issues very important, in other words, politicking at the local level. Joe Kramer - If each Association has a Coordinator, is there a potential for grants from IAFWA to aid the Associations in covering the costs? Brent Manning, IAFWA President - If we can show the public influence we have, and what we can do, we could get private monies. Joe Kramer - It is critical to establish. We need to take steps forward not backwards. Brent Manning, IAFWA President - We are part of a big business and belong to several organizations. We need to toot our own horn so they know who we are. If we do that, we could possibly get permanent funding. John Hoskins - How do the Southeast and the Western pay for their Coordinators? Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator - The Southeast pays through dues, Brantly gets about \$8,000 a year for about 20 hours a week of work. They also sell proceedings to make money. Kruckenbergh, in the Western, spends 20 - 40 percent of his time on Association business. Wyoming pays his expenses, except for a token payment from the Western for travel to the Western meetings and half of his travel to the IAFWA annual meetings. The Northeast is planning on paying McDowell through a dues increase. Brent Manning, IAFWA President - There appears to be a critical need for funding. Doug Hansen - There are several new faces around the table. *Zekor had everyone introduce themselves.* John Hoskins - Ollie has been working half time for Missouri and has shown a dramatic increase in productivity (HA HA). Glen Salmon - As effective as he is, with one quarter of his time spent on Association business the next 2-10 years. We need consistency and need to find a secure funding source. Is Missouri going to keep up the payments? John Hoskins - It is OK for one more year, but it depends on who the Coordinator is in the future. Richard Bishop - We have a higher level of attention and communication. Ollie has done a tremendous job keeping things flowing. Lost attendance in the past due to lack of communication. Have to keep issues of importance on our table or Directors will not continue to come. We need to keep them interested and form a tighter group by building camaraderie, teamwork and not lose sight of where we need to go. John Hoskins - We need to justify travel at home when we do something outside our state boundaries. Need to keep agendas with meat in it. Keith Sexson - The Western involves Commissioners in their annual meetings. Is that something we want to do? Afraid of where they may go with these things, but they would be more supportive and knowledgeable when they go back to their states. It is important to act regionally because things don't just stay within our state boundaries. Kansas also belongs to the Western. John Baughman, IAFWA Executive Vice President - Funding this position with multi-state grant money is something we are already doing with CITES. There is a process to go through to work with regions and put a Coordinator in place. We would still need some Association or state money, especially when it comes to lobbying. Communication needs to be better on committees and policies will bring continuity. Doug Hansen - Beyond Missouri, how much will the salary be? Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator - It depends on what you want the Coordinator to do, hours and level of job depends. Right now I receive \$38 an hour, Brantly receives \$8,000 a year. Dan Zekor, Facilitator - Need to work out the duties, term, etc.

2) *Promote open communications between Association and outside interests*, by inviting other agencies and organizations to present reports/briefings at the meetings. President Rex Amack - Touched on communication already, federal to state, and state to state. Bigger playing field, have

procedures and protocol in place to be able to move on items. Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator - Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) always has been involved and the USFWS is getting more involved. Need more involvement with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)/APHIS coordination regionally. We are also getting new interest from NGOs like the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) and federal agencies. Canadian members can not get to these meetings because of lack of travel approval. Other Associations are also fighting getting their Canadian members. Richard Bishop - The USFWS is an important part and regional Directors should continue to come. Would like to see this a high priority and we are glad to see Steve and Robyn and would like to see that continued. Robyn Thorson, USFWS - Important to USFWS also. Sharing information is important to us and I plan to be here at all of these in the future. Tom Hauge - We need to involve the Migratory Bird world, and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) should be here on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) issues. The Forest Service should also be here as several states have wooded regions. There are a lot of groups not hot-wired to this Association, such as the Midwest Law Enforcement and Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference people, and they should be connected. Bobby Acord, USDA/ APHIS - We have two regions, east and west of the Mississippi River and I think our regional coordinators could be here. The diseases you mentioned are important to us. Dan Zekor, Facilitator - It seems there are other groups out there we need to invite in.

3) *Avoid fragmentation within the Association through improved internal coordination and communication*, by having organizations and committees report progress at meetings. Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator - We have new reports from USFWS and USDA/APHIS this year. We have not done real well with hard wiring with our committees. Maybe we should name a Director to liaison with each committee. In the Western, Directors chair and run the meetings. The question is who should go and interact with these committees? Some groups are good and some have no communication whatsoever. We are not getting good cross communication. Also, we may want more committees in the future. Keith Sexson - Right now field people are attending these meetings and we need to hard wire them to the regional or federal level. It is a good idea to have a conduit to this body. Roy Grimes - It is hard for groups to bring stuff back to their Directors. Doug Hansen - Had a research group 10 or 12 years ago and had the exact same discussion, each reported, others grandfathered out (LE, etc.). We need to let them know that we have a desire to be more effective, not power grab. George Burgoyne - That would add value to the committees also. If we are just one additional report we want them to make, they won't be interested. Doug Hansen - Directors could take away travel rights if they don't comply. Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator - Committees are sanctioned in the Western and that protects travel to the meetings. We should make it clear that this is not a power grab. Glen Salmon - There is no one to let them know who to report to. The Coordinator would be a good connection. Tom Hauge - We need to have structure or value to the meetings. No one knows what we do. The Deer and Turkey Working Group is a good example of that, no one understands what those field guys do either. In one way the Association could improve their public image if we could amplify their work and get it out there. John Hoskins - Networking and sharing of technical knowledge is the greatest benefit. Sometimes strategic and policy level items need to be brought forth and they can't do anything about that and need our help. Tim Bremicker - We need to ask the groups to make a presentation and see what they are doing and what we can do to help them. Marion Conover - We could help them and could broaden our interest and focus also. Steve Williams, USFWS - It would be a good point to charge those groups with issues. Jeff Ver Steeg - Some of the groups we created and new groups need to submit a mission statement to us. Some of the groups have no direct ties to us. Steve Williams, USFWS - Nebraska was charged to tackle an issue to bring groups together in a non-threatening way. Jeff Ver Steeg - The Private Land and Farm Bill groups are good examples. Steve Riley - There is frustration at the group level when

you have to go back to the Directors for policy issues. We have been on our own for years, before we came to the Midwest. We require the host state to be present and we need Directors to send people to these meeting from all states.

Break

Bruce Morrison gave away more door prizes.

Jeff Ver Steeg - Do we need an action item to have Directors attend these group committee meetings when they are held in their state? Randy Kreil - Also we need Directors to offer to help and ask them to send someone to meetings.

Dan Zekor, Facilitator - We need to develop an annual Association wordplay. Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator - There needs to be specific targets, like what do we want to get done next year, for example - establish a website to make the Association more visible and more action oriented.

Dan Zekor, Facilitator - Consensus? Roy Grimes - Funding for Coordinator. President Rex Amack - Executive Committee could develop and present to business meeting on Tuesday. Tom Hauge - We need to reflect and work on this and present it to IAFWA. Dan Zekor, Facilitator - States need to prepare and share annual reports like the Western. Roy Grimes - The Southeast also does that. Tom Young - We used to do that. Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator - I shared the Western reports with you by email to give you an idea of what we might be looking for. Richard Bishop - How detailed do you want them? Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator - However long you want. Rex Amack - "Brag and Steal". Jeff Ver Steeg - We did reports orally to begin with, then started running short of time and just put them in the proceedings only. Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator - We could post them on the website. Tim Bremicker - We are more regionally based now, not as distinct and separate as we used to be. There are more integrated issues which are easy to identify. Glen Salmon - There could be an advantage to breaking down into categories like budget, etc. Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator - Maybe we could come up with an outline for reports. Dan Zekor, Facilitator - Other new issues? Tom Hauge - We need to align the Fish and Wildlife Conference with the Midwest Association. Maybe change calendar or time of gatherings to work in a business sense. Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator - When is the best time? Spoke with the Executive Committee, maybe we should meet in December and meet with Fish and Wildlife Conference. We could have problems with publishing. Richard Bishop - The Midwest in the winter is not a good time to travel, if we changed the time of the meeting. Steve Williams, USFWS - Besides it is the beginning of deer season. Glen Salmon - It could end up being a numbers game. Three biologists could go to the Midwest, we couldn't send any more.

Tom Young - The benefit in the Southeast is that committees can meet directly with Directors there and have the advantage of technical people and Directors. Roy Grimes - Directors meet twice a year. Tom Young - Why doesn't the Midwest meet in December? Roy Grimes - Timing. There needs to be enough time ahead of the IAFWA meeting to bring items to that meeting. Tom Hauge - Such as action items and resolutions. John Baughman, IAFWA Executive Vice President - Committees are putting out notices right now. The timing is really good the way it is now.

Brent Manning, IAFWA President - Historically, resolutions go to committee, maybe not best way to handle those. If coming from Regional Associations, should be heard on floor at Executive Committee meeting at IAFWA. Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator - Should we have another strategic thinking session in North Dakota? It means coming in on Saturday again. We could meet on Sunday morning and keep Saturday or change back. Keith Sexson - This is an organizational mode that can't occur overnight. It will take another round or two to put everything in clear focus. Glen Salmon - It is frustrating. We like to do it, used to do it and then dropped off. We need to meet annually to keep things up front, wheels fall off if there is no

discussion. Randy Kreil - Ollie brought up having a Director-only retreat at the Executive Committee meeting on Saturday. George Burgoyne - The extra time is worthwhile, it takes so much effort to get here. The turn over of Directors is great, sometimes last year's assistant is this year's Director. Randy Kreil - We could keep Saturday and walleye fish. Doug Hansen - That meeting adds legitimacy and credibility. Glen Salmon - Is Ollie comfortable with the direction he is getting? Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator - On board for 10 months, have gotten good direction from the President and Executive Committee, but I represent you also. Would like to keep the Executive Committee meetings going throughout the year because we are building relevance. We need Baughman to be comfortable also, form good synergy. We have never been this well connected before. Dean Hildebrand - We need agenda items for next year, hot topics. Talk amongst yourselves and capture those Tuesday and we will have those in North Dakota. Dan Zekor, Facilitator - What about the Director representation at each meeting to get connection? Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator - The Western Directors chair the committees. We don't want to take over and I can be our representative on some of them. Directors can get ownership by attending. I can't, and shouldn't, do it all. It makes a big difference when Directors contact committee chairs. Also, we need to get reports 30 days before the annual meeting and submit them to Sheila. We don't need to threaten or change the way they do things, just get involved. Tom Hauge - I could act as representative to the Fish and Wildlife Conference, introduce ourselves to some of these groups. Do we want to have an introductory packet for new directors, develop a profile of the Association? Richard Bishop - We could compare with the Western. We are focused, but we need to realize that other people in the organization fit the bill other than just Directors. Keith Sexson - May not be Director or Secretary, but representative of this body. Link has to be made with committees. Lauri Ostendorf - I am new and don't know the details, but the process is good. On issues, there is no decision made? George Burgoyne - Yes, on annual reports, electronically. Dan Zekor, Facilitator - Review at business meeting: Directors of Host State; closer affiliation with committees; what do we say, what message do we deliver. Look at the brainstorm top six issues identified in Missouri. We need to list and prioritize what we want to see.

1. Stable long term funding for states, based on Missouri plan (Tim Bremicker, Minnesota);
2. Natural Resources Education for children (Kirk Nelson, Nebraska);
3. Solidify existing issues (Roy Grimes, Kentucky);
4. Farm Bill Coordination (Keith Sexson, Kansas);
5. Invasive species (Marion Conover, Illinois);
6. Hunter/Angler recruitment and retention (Tim Bremicker, Minnesota);
7. Fish and Wildlife disease and health training (Keith Sexson, Kansas);
8. Privatizing wildlife; high fences (Richard Bishop, Iowa);
9. Economics of hunting and fishing; need for data sharing (Roy Grimes, Kentucky);
10. Managing success e.g., geese, deer, turkey (Richard Bishop, Iowa);
11. Access to private lands for hunting, fishing, wildlife recreation (Keith Sexson, Kansas);
12. Competing demands for water resources (Doug Hansen, South Dakota);
13. Threatened and endangered species (Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado);
14. Federal aid (George Burgoyne, Michigan);
15. Marketing (Keith Sexson, Kansas);
16. Partnerships - NGOs, etc. (Tim Bremicker).

Dan Zekor, Facilitator - A representative from each state needs to prioritize these items (see Exhibit C). George Burgoyne - Why don't you just write it up on the board and we can go up and prioritize individually. Tom Hauge - Hard wiring would be hard. Dan Zekor, Facilitator - Need to capture ideas in advance of next years meeting.

President Rex Amack - We need to move on with reports. I commend Bobby Acord for sitting in on this meeting.

IAFWA

Brent Manning, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies President - (Exhibit D) I need to leave to attend another meeting so I am stepping out of agenda order to present my report. Favorite quotes from Yogi Berra, "You gotta be careful, if you don't know where you're going, 'cause you might not get there." or "When you come to the fork in the road...take it!" It is hard to make predictions. Who would have predicted deer and elk population increases. The biggest challenge for us is maintenance of tradition of public hunting and fishing. We have to work to keep our roots planted. Constituents expect it, we know it, and we need to do it. I am happy to see Scott Hassett here and would like to thank him for hosting the IAFWA meeting this year. The average tenure for most state Directors is three to eight years, so we need to make a lasting impression. We must move from a single species focus to a landscape focus, considering multiple species, multiple habitats and make a connection between them. Species don't recognize state boundaries. Also, education and outreach was dropped when money was tight, and it is the last thing brought back. The importance of IAFWA and professionalism in the ranks. We are all that stand between extirpation or extinction of many species. One final quote, from Teddy Roosevelt, "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who know the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

USDA/APHIS

Bobby Acord, Regional Director - This has been the busiest year, especially with Homeland Security and reorganization (Exhibit E). We lost 2,600 Ag. Quarantine Inspectors to the Bureau of Customs for border protection and invasive species are coming through our ports of entry. Also, the Animal Damage Disease Center on Plum Island, New York was transferred to that department. The Homeland Security Council has caused more work than the department can handle. Ag. food security and safety have been designated as part of U.S. critical infrastructure. Yellow, orange and red, means a lot of work for us regarding food safety, animal health, etc. States are the first responders in animal health. Because of Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis (BSE) in Canada we are worried about closure of border. We are having difficulty getting a decision. Products have been categorized such as meat, hides, etc., as low risk. We hope a decision will be made next week because there is a meeting Monday with the President. Wildlife Services (WS) programs \$5.2 million in 2003, expanding wildlife disease control. There is a problem with backyard farming of exotic species. The rabies program might benefit the Midwest because it is pushing the barrier to Alabama. The wolf control program will get \$1 million of the money for Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. On CWD surveillance program, there has been no increase and all of the dollars being spent are going to Wisconsin. There were 37 states in the CWD program collecting 90,000 samples being tested at 26 labs. Two tests have been approved, but there may be a few more before the season begins. We are viewing food safety test, none at this time. The solution needs to fit the risk. Hope to have the farm survey in place by the end of

the year. State wildlife agencies and farm service organizations are working together better than in the past. Questions included: Is there a CWD live test? Bobby Acord - One, but not practical because animal needs to be tranquilized. Research has been prioritized and we had different groups working on different problems. Is the live test very far off? Bobby Acord - A couple of years yet. Cost to create? Call Dennis Slate, Rabies Program Manager, New Hampshire.

USFWS

Steve Williams, Director - Continue to appreciate the support. Your participation at meetings is incredible (Exhibit F). I would like to recognize the new Region 6 Director, Robyn Thorson. Current priorities of the Service are: 1) Fisheries additional dollars for national fish hatchery system (\$6 million); 2) Strategic bird plan, North American migratory bird meeting scheduled with Canada and Mexico at 2004 meeting; 3) Form liaison partnership, six people from the Service will work to build partnerships with state, federal and NGOs. Partnerships for many years, but not using all the sources we have, need to institutionalize cooperation with groups; 4) Science Excellence Initiative because integrity has been called in question working with USGS. Need to integrate our research needs with their capabilities, with closer coordination at regional and DC level. Asked regions to get involved with local coop units. 5) Refuge policies, seven policies, three on the streets with four more being developed. They are integrated and work well together as we refine them; 6) New way to talk about refuge land acquisition transitions. Need to stretch dollars for easements within boundaries of adjacent lands (rounding out acreage); and 7) Native species issues including critical habitat designation. Scope out issues before package development and find new ways of coordinating with states on threatened and endangered species (Section 6). Plan to reauthorize Endangered Species Act (ESA), two hearings to date, critical habitat and section 7 consultations. Court orders on critical habitat are eating our lunch, the system is broken and we need to figure out a way to fix it. Asking for budget increase for 2004 and 2005 to keep this from becoming a continuous problem. CWD is a concern, and I want to thank Bobby Acord, Bruce Morrison and John Fischer for the incredible job they are doing for you. Also, Gary Taylor, USGS, just put out a report on their website called "biology". In the 2004 budget request we have asked for \$3.1 million for CWD. Another problem in the Midwest is invasive species such as the bighead and silver carp and possibly the Asian carp. The Service will spend \$2.3 million on the native Fish Passage Program. We are setting up an online national database to prioritize barriers and we plan to involve landowners, farmers and ranchers in conservation efforts. We need to balance issues, get hunter and angler support on conservation efforts to preserve our heritage. I look forward to coming back next year. Randy Kreil - On acquisition, have concern about consolidating the Department of Interior, all under one direction? Steve Williams - Problems in oversight and supervision. Locations of folks not decided yet, maybe under the Assistant Secretary. Marion Conover - Dam removal barriers to native fish. Is it advisable in some areas because of invasive species? The process is not working to keep invasive species out of this country. I am talking about species not found in North America, we should not even bring them into the country. State Directors need to consider this, we need federal help, but not too much. Steve Williams - We have a committee, a forum to express your views on the IAFWA. Thanks for putting the meeting together and for helping us celebrate the Refuge system at DeSoto.

President Rex Amack - We need to move Robyn Thorson's report to tomorrow morning because we are running very late. Also, will discuss the Strategic Thinking results. I would like to introduce John Fisher, Southeast Coop Wildlife Disease Study; Don Young, Ducks Unlimited CEO; and Jeff Nelson, Ducks Unlimited. Tim Bremicker - I would also like to introduce Mark

Holsten, the Minnesota Deputy Commissioner. Mark Holsten - Thanked everyone for the chance to come to the meeting.

Left Doubletree for DeSoto Wildlife Refuge for lunch and to participate in Fish and Wildlife Service Centennial celebration.

DeSoto Notes from Larry Klimek, Refuge Manager (Exhibit R).

Returned from refuge and departed for the Missouri River Boat River City Star Cruise Ship for a social, supper and a cruise.

Monday, July 14, 2003 (Summary)

(The following papers and presentations are attached in the Exhibits Section)

WELCOME

Rex Amack, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Director - Welcomed everyone to the 70th MAFWA meeting. New people present, Jeff Vonk, Mike Conlin, Chuck Pils, Bob Hoffman, Terry Little, Dale Garner, Steve Riley, Mace Hack, Mark Brohman, Larry Hutchins, Ted Blume. Introduced John Baughman.

SPEAKERS

IAFWA

John Baughman, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Executive Vice President - Thanked Nebraska for hosting. Last time I was here was last year with U-Haul on my move east, and in 1996 for IAFWA. Don MacLauchlan and Sheila Kemmis are writing guidelines for planning IAFWA meetings. Handed out IAFWA Washington Staff Report (Exhibit G). The IAFWA office is a tremendous asset, in a great location, and is one of the things that make the IAFWA so successful. Working through the committee structure and direct involvement makes all the difference in the world. Tom Bennett sent out committee nominations last week, be sure and get your staff signed up. There are some slots open for chairing some committees and would like Directors in those chair positions. Turn over is one of the biggest things we face, we could have 21 plus or minus 2, with less than two years of experience, so we can't wait for experience, they have to jump in and get their feet wet. Leadership development training coming up. Communication (Ollie's position), things are coming along fast, but we need to be able to get in touch with Regional Associations. Legislation, "don't feed the bears bill" moved up to vote tomorrow. Big problems there, being marketed if we don't ban bear baiting, it is being painted as unethical hunting of bears. States are doing a remarkable job on conservation of bears in their states. Need to be sure that we get involved in this issue to keep the federal government from coming in and taking over individual species. Hunting with hounds, etc., could be next. State wildlife grants, \$75 million, chance for more money yet, floor amendment offered in House to up all those programs. They have grown, but not where we want them to be. Stay involved in the planning effort. I heard three things about plans 1) will cause federalization 2) generate mother of all plans 3) financial 50 percent matching. Seven simple elements in that law. Make them work for you, don't worry about the federal government. You can use in-kind match for the funding, I don't think it will be anything to be afraid of. Working on some multi-state plans. May have some workshops on creating the match. Wallop-Breaux amendment (motor boat

fuel tax) may not be done until 2005. Compromise will make boating safety a permanent appropriation and all of the accounts would be on a percentage basis. Also, 4.8 cents tax still going to general fund and trying to get it into the boating fund (\$110,000,000). Tackle box 3 percent was dropped. High end rod and reel distributors are trying to get a cap on tax. Archery people trying to raise cap to 30 pound draw instead of 10 pound draw. Custom gun makers also trying to get a deal. We have to be in opposition to those types of features. Need to look at this whole tax bill and clean it up. Other legislation in report, multi-state grant programs. Encourage states to look at draft guidelines, but would like states to look at them to help people. Friday is Bob Miles' last day, and Rick Kearney left to go to the Biological Resources. Hiring another staff person for research, paid for by USGS. On CWD, we do have the multi-state grant for research on that. Send in an invoice and make a description of what you are doing in each state to receive \$6,000 plus, also an aquatic grant. Doug Hansen - Committee reviewing CITES position, not just regional. Need to resubmit next year to keep that position going. Regional associations need to keep on top of grants we need to apply for.

USFWS

Robyn Thorson, Regional VI Director - (report moved from yesterday) (Exhibit H). In position for three months. I am a listener and plan to run the region that way. Bring greetings from Sam Hamilton. I am the Coordinator for eight states in the Midwest. Refuges, endangered species, federal aid, migratory birds, etc. I have to learn a lot more so my speech will be brief. Thanks for help on the 100th celebration yesterday and all over the country. There is a centennial blanket being made and each state Governor will receive one. Changes in appraisals, Department of Interior is looking to coordinate efforts by consolidation. Changes are also happening in land acquisition. Bill Hartwig is the chief of that now. It is a work in progress. Development in Montana, rights of tribes, to request management from Indians because they have a reservation that surrounds a refuge. Ralph Morgenweck is the one working on this. Fisheries committee (Doug Hansen), working with each of the different states on the fisheries plan. Fisheries Conservation Stakeholder Plan. I no longer oversee law enforcement in my region, coordination with states. Migratory birds, NAWCA grant, lower this year. Strategic plan, is doing what fisheries plan did. Look at where we are going (Paul Schmidt head of this in Washington) with migratory birds. Will be sending out review for states to look at and then planning a conservation forum for January. Federal aid positions are reasonable and we need to listen to each others comments. I am a lawyer by trade. On the road a lot because best way to learn is to meet you and see plans on the ground. I plan to come to these meetings unless otherwise directed by my boss. Approach job with no surprises, we will keep you informed. Challenge to leaders to maintain conservation heritage for hunters and anglers, recruitment and retention important. Work with USDA and Forest Service, I would be happy to assist you in encouraging them to attend. Pleased to be here. John Hoskins - Nationalized law enforcement structure? Robyn Thorson - Organizing seven regions, after 9/11 headquarter law enforcement under Secretary and Bureau chief in DC will oversee that. Have refuge based law enforcement officers. Reviewing plan.

Other Speaker Presentations

Ernie Niemi, ECO Northwest - Recreation and Economics (Exhibit I). "The sky is falling" scenario and what we have learned in Pacific northwest (NW). Emotions - fear of logging road restrictions, President quote, Sociologist quote (prediction of gloom) Senator (prediction of fear). Underlying reasoning is that each state natural resource industries has an economic base in rural communities. The sky did not fall in the timber industry; harvest down; timber employment

down; total employment up; and per capital income up. In NW, take natural resources, dominant commercial use (jobs) and intrinsic values (environment). Timber in NW, agriculture here, ranching in other areas. Trade off is quality of life (household) location, competing commercial uses (other jobs). When one industry goes down another one will come up. In 1960s people followed jobs, since then people came first and jobs followed (sorting by quality of life). First, paycheck where you work; second, paycheck is living near things that you enjoy doing. Half of economy based on jobs first, half on people first. Need audience participation, how many want 20 percent income increase (all), how many would move to NY to get it? (none). Gross domestic product (GDP) and jobs from national forests (federal lands), 75 percent recreation, timber, minerals, range, wildlife and fish and other a small percentage (pie chart). What is missing is other services, carbon sequestration, clean water, etc. Same for rivers, state lands, refuges. Sources of wealth: natural resources, human resources, produced resources. North America is first (bar graph). Make mother nature healthy and let her work for you. Case: Klamath Basin - Old view: Irrigators vs. Fish; Reality: Farm income as percent of total - 1980: 6 percent, 1998: 0.5 percent; Tradeoffs: salmon fishery, hydro power, tribal interests, quality-of-life amenities. Competition is growing and we don't have a system to regulate that competition. Become economic development planners if you can show that you can produce jobs with resources. Eight lawsuits out there right now, one is a \$1 billion suit from a potato farmer who said because he didn't get water he lost his crop. Case: Snake River Dams - Old View: Salmon vs. economy; Reality: breaching would generate 13,000 construction jobs, long-run job loss 1,081 jobs; recreation job gain 2,000 and potential net benefits will be \$2.6 billion. Dams will not be removed in our life time. Reality is that nothing will ever replace the timber industry. Quality of life is important to jobs, no one has ever tallied it. In years to come you will see companies held accountable for environmental damages. Challenges for resource managers: 1) manage competition: demand as well as supply; 2) accelerate the definition, development, and implementation of win-win options; 3) clarify the distinction between the rights and the responsibilities of property ownership.

Break

Bruce Morrison, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and John Fischer, Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) - CWD facilitated discussion.

Bruce Morrison - National CWD plan (powerpoint - Exhibit J) Congressional hearing, Bobby Acord and Steve Williams formed national plan, 75 professionals involved completed June 26, 2002. Plan: communications (professional and public); scientific & technical information dissemination; diagnostics (3 tests available right now); disease management; research; and surveillance. Bobby and Steve appointed National Implementation Committee (10 people from various organizations). Plan done in short time by conference calls and email. Three year estimate: \$41.8 million; \$34.8 million; and \$31.7 million; for \$108.3 total, not officially adopted yet. Last year only got \$14 million, working on getting funding, state and federal agencies jumping through hoops to get money. Accomplishments: 46 states surveillance; national data base to track disease; 18 new research projects to look at aspects; National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) developing professional training module (January/February first training); congressional legislation introduced. May 9, \$27 million from House Bill, Senate Bill provides \$24.5 million. Also, two other bills introduced (my opinion waste of time) - HR2430 and HR2431 introduced by Wisconsin congressman.; congressional task force has been formed. National data standards have been developed; certified more vet labs (now 18); quicker tests; controlled import and export of captive cervids; media guide for CWD developed by National Wildlife Federation (NWF); techniques manual has been developed. Available at www.cwd-

info.org Continue work at national level to: obtain outside funding; long term monitoring and surveillance; continued research; continued cooperation among states, tribes and agencies; complete disclosure of information to public; tracking of all captive and wild cervid movements; training of appropriate persons. States must continue to play role of ringmaster to maintain attention of congress and others. Gary Taylor has been very helpful. Thanks for staff help and Bobby and Steve.

John Fischer - (powerpoint - Exhibit J) "Chronic Wasting Disease of Deer and Elk: Technical and Research Update", 15 member states. Human health concerns, no evidence of transmission to human, remain alert; diagnostics, two tests available, new live test, intense interest in captive cervid and cattle industries, another new test under development. Gene Thera company, test for marker in red blood cells, covers all TSEs not just CWD. Susceptibility study, read what is out there. Deer/cattle oral inoculation; contact trial; transmissibility; pathogenesis studies ongoing. Studies in Ames, Iowa by USDA-ARS-NADC on deer to cattle, 4 of 13 animals inoculated show brain lesions, also testing additional species. Other research efforts throughout the states. Captive cervid epidemiology: Saskatchewan, 40 infected herds, 38 traced to one source herd in South Dakota in 1989, all depopulated at cost of \$15 million U.S. dollars. South Dakota 2002, single source herd. Half of infected herds linked to two herds, Colorado and South Dakota. Surveillance 2002/2003 147,000 deer and elk nationwide, SEAFWA 19,363 animals, 331 target profile animals, no positive animals, 8,940 samples in 11 states, 13,000 next year. Information from Wisconsin, July 2003, 207 positive deer to date, core area 7 percent prevalence - difference between males and females; and yearlings, bucks and does. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8 and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) deer and elk rendering are sources for information. Roy Grimes - Environmental study being done where? John Fischer - Beth Williams and Mike Miller and others. Roy Grimes - Potential problems with deer lure sales, etc. John Fischer - Possible, but not probable, deer urine samples provided to be tested. Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator - Frustrated at lack of national surveillance program. Bruce Morrison - Captive one APHIS working on, in federal agency, first of the year. Randy Kreil - Carcass importation and exportation, no regulation, managed by Governor proclamation. Could this group work on standardizing a proclamation for this? Bruce Morrison - Several states have passed, but could be an assignment to Midwest Health Committee or Task Force. All states might not agree with it. Also talk to other Associations about getting health committees started, if they don't already have one. Jeff Ver Steeg - In your state, if someone harvests a Colorado CWD animal, we need to know who to contact to let them know about that animal. Bruce Morrison - Same goes for Nebraska.

Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator - Meeting December 18, at Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, on emerging research. Need someone that could come talk at that conference. (Bruce will supply names.) Talked to Beth Williams and Akins. Doug Hansen - Brief update on EPA's guidance on lab waste disposal. Jeff Ver Steeg - Headed towards zero tolerance on CWD generated by publicity and have heightened the level of paranoia, but don't know where it will end up. We want moderation. I will keep you posted. Bruce Morrison - We are waiting on the new EPA directive. Jeff Vonk - Any federal money available for Wisconsin to build a high fence along their border? Scott Hassett - We will work on that (HA HA).

David Walker, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Steve Riley, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission - Farm Bill Report and facilitated discussion. Steve Riley - Last farm bill had a lot of goodies (Exhibit K). Technical service providers, agreements with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide services, concerns that NRCS may divorce themselves from some things and move farther away from that. Hope to strengthen our relationship with NRCS. New language for new contracts, option on old contracts.

Crop Reduction Program (CRP) management access program, Nebraska - 10 percent legumes added each year. Concerns are removing wildlife by doing away with their habitat. Need support from agencies to keep up with local policies. Some programs have great promise but don't know how we are going to keep ahead of this. Constant effort to keep NSA and NRCS informed.

David Walker - Thank Midwest for money and staff time to support my position. Highlight items in staff report. Handout of allocations for four state programs (Exhibit K). CRP \$1.5 billion this year. A significant amount of money is being spent. Wildlife is purpose or co-benefit of program. Make sure USFWS at table when state decisions are being made. CRP first sign up, number 26, completed June 13, 2003, 2 ½ - 3 million acres, anticipate 2.8 million acres to be signed up. Two million acres for continuous CRP. Sent in comments recently, appreciate help from staff, especially new working group, received last Monday.

Rob Manes, Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) - Added option can pursue spring grazing of CRP, South Dakota and Missouri pursuing. Important that Director level contact occur with state NRCS.

Steve Riley - One thing occurring is producers that don't have equipment any more and will be required to disk and interseed. We are recommending that people hire a contractor to do this so that the interseeding is happening on an even basis.

David Walker - New programs: grassland reserve program (GRP), no program, but money allocated. Ranking criteria will be coming out and will be posted on the NRCS website. States need to be discussing the ranking criteria and make comments. Forest Land Enhancement program (FLEP) - \$20 million this year, rule out and we will be sending out comments. Conservation Security program (CSP) - \$3.9 million this year, no rule until later this fall.

Rob Manes, WMI - GRP, varies from state to state being able to protect 500 acres of grass compared to protecting 5,000 acres of virgin sod. This week is the time to be pounding home your points on this issue.

David Walker - State participation on these programs is very important. Wildlife habitat enhancement program (WHEP), final rule, \$39 million, \$21 million for research. Environmental reserve equality program (EREP), \$695 million, \$107 million donated to other programs this year. The final rule is out and technical assistance concerns in Congress with funding and how it was resolved this year. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) had to follow the Justice Department where the money could come from. Congress not happy with approach, taking money from some of these other programs to pay for Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and CRP programs. Ongoing issue that we need to have resolved, recommendations floating around in DC have been to cut the acreage and we don't want that, so we need to find ways to get technical assistance dollars. Technical Service providers, certification problems, states not have to go through certification programs, but would need Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and requires a 50 percent match. Thanked states for providing the input.

Rob Manes, WMI - Another opportunity for leadership, state committee interests, need to speak out and get non government folks to those meetings to get assistance from them.

Tim Bremicker - What about swampbuster and sodbuster level of compliance?

David Walker - Will get website link and send you information. Findings were that NRCS had problems enforcing those programs.

Kirk Nelson - Midwest put forward fee to support your position, what is the current status? NCN for this year or last year?

David Walker - This year, submitted grant proposal for two more years. Decision will be made at meeting in Madison.

Richard Bishop - Grassland program, one big pool or allocations to regions?

David Walker - 75 percent to states based on a formula.

John Baughman, IAFWA - So much money available here and agree with Rob about support from outside agencies of these things. Most states have problems with staffing.

Steve Riley - Tremendous amount of effort goes into this. In Nebraska, Amack made this a priority and we set up teams within each of our districts and tried to find people who knew people and get with landowners and NRCS personnel who have never worked with these types of things. We need to make this a high priority. Need a lot more people who are knowledgeable. May start at state level, but needs to also happen at county level.

Rob Manes, WMI - Private land programs,

biologists are planning food plots and working with landowners, challenge them to target farm bill because there is so much money on the table here. If this should go away in 2006, you need to get as many programs on the table as possible. Some states, like Kansas have put biologists in the NRCS offices. Steve Riley - North Dakota just started a new program, Missouri and Iowa also have programs. Need to look at the needs and best fit them. Roy Grimes - In Kentucky we were able to hire some people to take advantage of this money. Now we need to put this on the ground. Rob Manes, WMI - WMI just did a survey to what John asked about. On the website. Steve Riley - Will talk about that a little more tomorrow in Private Lands Report. Good history now of collaborating with the states. John Hoskins - Has anyone done a MOU with NRCS for technical service? Conlin and Sexson said they have one, but not yet signed. Walker said copies of those contracts would be good to provide to other states. We have a technical assistance working group and several others. Staff coming to Madison to get involved in those working groups.

Group Photo at 11:45 followed by lunch (Exhibit L).

Jodi Valenta, NSSF - Gave short talk at lunch (Report K) on: 1) Article in Field and Stream magazine - "The Future of Hunting" by Bob Marshall - we can assist states in changing these trends; 2) The Hunting Heritage Partnership, 26 states submitted 66 proposals; Report on major findings from NSSF reports facts and figures: a) more women participate in target shooting than any other shooting activity, including hunting (don't ignore these other shooting sports); b) there has been an increase in the number of female bow hunters age 7 or who older participated in bow hunting more than once this past year; c) 1990-2000, unintentional deaths from firearms declined 45 percent; d) firearms are involved in less than one percent of all accidental deaths in the U.S.; e) unintentional deaths from firearms accounted for only three percent of all firearm-related deaths; f) since 1975, the annual number of firearm accident deaths among children has been decreased by 84 percent; g) only 776 deaths were caused by the accidental discharge of a firearm; h) the most popular shooting sport among all shooting sports is target shooting, followed by hunting; i) sporting clays are the fastest growing shooting sports. Roy Grimes - Did sporting clays increase because of bird declines? Jodi Valenta - I don't know. 4) Step Outside program is a good family program; 5) applied for multi-state grant with Responsive Management for a study on "The Future of Hunting and Shooting Sports:..."; and 6) magazine survey clipping from The Washington Times by Gene Mueller - "While the anti-hunting movement screeches loudly about the "rights" of animals, a much quieter American hunter population that hovers between 17 and 20 million has taken steps to ensure the protection and even the survival of wildlife species. Had it not been for the cooperation of hunters, self-imposed limits, even asked-for curtailment of the hunting of several waterfowl species over the years, the survival of canvasback duck, the Canada goose and others might be in doubt. Ditto for wild turkey, bighorn sheep and pronghorn antelope." "When was the last time you asked how much money PETA, the Fund for Animals or the U.S. Humane Society has spent to save a wildlife species? If any money was ever spent, it would be a pittance compared to that expended by hunters. But, friends, do they ever shout, holler and pound their chests." - This is fantastic press. NSSF would like to continue our partnership with states, especially the Midwest. Don't hesitate to call me with new ideas. Showed artwork from National campaign which we would like to run in state agency magazines, but because of no budget we can provide CD copies only, no artwork. President Rex Amack - "Lead in the air, hope in the heart." Thanks Jodi and NSSF for providing this lunch today and for speaking to us.

SPEAKERS (continued)

Gary Moulton, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission - Lewis and Clark (L&C) Celebration (Exhibit M). (Nebraska magazine provided in packet, has an article on journal entries on information provided by Dr. Moulton). Living legacy, notebook diaries, kept meticulous records. Celebration possible because of these records - 1 million words (natural history) and they drew maps and collected plants. All of these items are actively enjoyed items from the expedition and are being studied all of the time. April 12, 1805 L&C pulled up to a camp on the Little Missouri River in North Dakota after wintering at Fort Mandan. These men ate tremendous amounts of meat (especially buffalo) on their journey. Entered Great Plains in June, 1804. One of the Privates wrote that the herd of buffalo he saw was more than he had ever seen in his life combined. The herds ranged from 30,000 to 70,000 buffalo. Using the journals, Martin and Souter, got information on habitat, etc., L&C also noted that the numbers of game were less where the river was close to Indian tribes, game sink (Mandan and Assiniboine tribal area). Animals moved to game park (several tribes surrounded this area), tribes hunted in small groups only and then got out of the area before they were attacked by other tribes. Most all of Montana, now into Shoshone area, another game sink. Strong literature on L&C natural history. Lewis studied plant history and learned some Latin and preservation techniques. Lewis was write notes on tags on the plants and supposed to only list short information, but he wrote such full descriptions of the plants, even the ones he did not collect, that they could also be identified. Sent back 60 specimens in the spring (to Philadelphia). Only 30 remain, starting with number 31, don't know where the first 30 went. Started collecting again and when he got to head waters of the river he stashed plants he had collected. When he returned they were destroyed because water had seeped into the site. Around 3/4 of plants collected came from the Rocky Mountains and Pacific NW, Great Plains plants were not available. Collected 240 plants total, 11 of those are currently at Q Gardens in England. Tease, at Syracuse University, did a study of lipids, carbon 12 and 13 analysis on the plants and gave a snapshot of habitat compared to modern day plants. Clark did most of the study and mapmaking with crude and unreliable instruments. On field maps (day by day maps he made each day). He used about a one inch grid and what he did was back osmose reading and noted the physical landscape. Used a compass and then guessed or used dead reckoning. Also, used sextant to mark longitude and latitude. He did that for 4,000 miles out and 4,000 miles coming back. For the most part he made route maps or trail maps and when he got back he used a ghost writer, made a grand map and published it. It was not changed until 1850. His estimates are, for the most part, right on. Clark plotted the Missouri River, 29 maps for that area for St. Louis to Fort Mandan. Modern map makers are trying to redo the maps using the original maps, but maps are missing from St. Louis to Omaha and the others are copies only. Maximilian's copies of the maps are all that survive from Omaha to Fort Mandan. Clark's course and distance readings was all he had, in place of the maps, from St. Louis to Omaha. Martin Plamonden's (Vancouver) modern map has 153 maps to take the place of 29 maps, finishing his third volume now. Chuck Pils, CITES Representative - Comment on buffalo. It is controversial whether Indian tribes had much impact on their demise. Gary Moulton - Indians were environmentalists, but were human beings, when times were good they took just the heart, hide, whatever. Mark Brohman - How many animal specimens survived? Gary Moulton - None, some fossils, hides, etc. Can not find the actual, L&C exhibits. L&C had a museum at that time, but they sold to PT Barnum and then some of it was lost in a fire. The rest is lost and scattered or cannot be identified as L&C exhibits.

Noelyn (Butch) Isom, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission - Automated License Systems facilitated discussion (Exhibit N). Point of sale (POS) or internet point of sale (IPOS) for federal

migratory bird stamp. Roy Grimes - Louisiana is currently selling federal stamp? Terry Little - No not at this point, Nebraska is the only one right now. Louisiana should have it available by first of September. John Hoskins - Traditional point of sale, can print with terminal, not the actual stamp, will need the actual system. Terry Little - They don't print a stamp, just a line that says point of sale stamp or permit. Butch Isom - From the "IAFWA Washington Staff Report". Automated Wildlife Data Systems (AWDS) program assists fish and wildlife agencies in education, development, implementation and improvement of automated license data systems while developing techniques and standards to enable agencies to share and utilize data for administration, enforcement, resource management, customer service and marketing. Originally initiated in 1997, continued through April 2000 and revived again in 2001. There are currently 48 states that have some form of license automation or are in the process of automating their licensing system. Twenty seven states are using POS technologies, while 38 are using IPOS and 25 are using Telephonic systems. Also, a majority of states use at least two automation methods to issue licenses (see report for state licensing methods). Could not get POS through Nebraska Game & Parks, did get IPOS, but that couldn't have happened if the point of sale hadn't failed. No comparison in cost to internet sales and PC sales. In spring of 2000, old system did not work very well, slow and did not issue to the people we needed to. We had to figure out something to fix this. We were told it would cost \$400,000 to \$500,000 and \$35,000 to get an analysis done. Went back to INS and they told us it would cost about \$2.5 million. Went to a company in California and they put a process together for us for nothing, we both took a chance. We wanted to issue applications and permits on same system and they said they could do it and it would only cost \$16,000. The biggest difference is the system could be changed in an hour at no cost to us. Tried phone system, but don't see any need for it, or see it surviving. Background report: 1998 - 23 sold online; 1999 - 6,295; 2000 - 23,843; 2001 - 98,146 (new system); 2002 - 125,299; and 2003 - 64,102 as of July 1, projected 163,000. This year 60 percent of big game applications and permits are done online. Estimated, for each license sold, \$1.95 - \$2.95 saved per permit. Still have vendors and have a data entry company to put in that information, so we have a complete database, this is the 3rd year. It costs \$2,100 a month for the system management fee. Jeff Vonk - Do you have a phase out for your paper system? Butch Isom - Yes, dropping some agents because of noncompliance to sending in timely records. Decision up to Rex and the department. My recommendation would be that in three years time we no longer have agents (vendors). WalMart doing it and they love it. They put in all of their own computers and flat screen monitors. Their main concern was security of their own system. Jeff Vonk - WalMart does the permit, I don't have to go to a Kiosk? Butch Isom - Right. Randy Kreil - How are you handling HIP registration? Butch Isom - Not in this system yet, BASS Pro does it for us. Randy Kreil - How do they do that? Butch Isom - Go on line or call. When you click on a permit type at WalMart, it shows who bought, date sold, clerk who sold it, time, etc. Keith Sexson - What is vendor fee on top of a license? Butch Isom - We drafted legislation, when we failed to get POS, they get \$1 a permit, split with Great Lodge. Glen Salmon - How much was credit card charge? Butch Isom - Don't know, originally going through Cybercash, based on per item. Cost is minimal, don't have to print books, or enter data, so system is constantly saving us money. Jeff Vonk - Who pays the credit card costs? Butch Isom - We do, except WalMart does their own. In the beginning we didn't have to verify card number and to be sure they have money. Don't charge their card if they are not drawn, so there are no refunds. Law Enforcement reports designed, wildlife designed there report, all departments had a hand in the final reports. With email addresses we can market deer hunters, etc., and send them the information electronically. It cost us four cents a piece to send the information out, we could do it but it would tie up our servers. We also get reports back from the company. Roy Grimes - Could you use same information to get them to do some action for you? Butch Isom - Maybe in the future. We really

protect that because we don't want to lose these people. Doug Hansen - What was the percent applying on line? Butch Isom - 69 percent. Also, had 85 percent of spring turkey permits applied for during the season because they get their turkey and can apply again. Licenses can be printed at home on your own computer. If the animal requires a tag, keep permit issued and put it in the animal's ear.

Jerry Rasmussen, Coordinator MICRA, IA - Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS). Handout for definitions of: Alien species - ; invasive species - ; aquatic nuisance species (ANS) - ; cryptogenic species - ; naturalized species - ; native species = ANS (Exhibit O). Showed silver carp jumping on video, serious problem with recreational users as well as fisherman. Need an aggressive approach to getting these fish. They are plankton feeders. Brought into this country by channel cat fisherman in the south. (Powerpoint presentation - Exhibit O) Source - country and mechanism of introduction - Europe, Asia, North America, South America, Central America, Australia, New Zealand, Middle East, Atlantic Ocean: Fish culture/farming; ship/barge; canals, etc. What can we do? ANS task force formed in 1990, Great Lakes panel and NW panel, now added NE, Mississippi River Basin and Gulf of Mexico. (List of people signed up for committee). Panel plans on meeting twice a year. Plan to interrupt pathways where ever we can. Revolving door in Chicago that needs to be addressed. Will see billboards, signage, electric barriers, canal closures, pamphlets and books. Doug Hansen - Commend you for your efforts. Mentioned team that has been put together that will work with the states and bring the expertise and training needed. Jerry Rasmussen - Panel is excellent. Tom Hauge - If this was an oil spill we would be going after the firm that brought it in. Is this something the legal committee needs to look at so that these industries take responsibility? We are talking about a billion dollars worth of damage from this. Jerry Rasmussen - We could see the salmon fishing disruption in the Great Lakes. This is certainly not over. Iowa is putting in a \$2 million barrier. Mike Conlin - Also, putting together a rapid response plan. Tom Hauge - Need organized effort to recover damages. Jerry Rasmussen - Will see some because of silver carp and white perch. Marion Conover - System is broke and we need to fix it. Need to be listed as injurious before they get into this country. It is too late now to stop carp and it is serious business. Need to take a look at the program to take out dams, etc. Don Gabelhouse - Comment on fish bypass system? Jerry Rasmussen - Good program, needs to be done heads up and intelligent. Chuck Pils, CITES Representative - Everyone should be aware that we are not the only ones that have non native injurious species. Jerry Rasmussen - We all need to do better.

Break

Roy Grimes, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources - National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Described program, explained why states are interested, summarize, and explain how to get started. (Powerpoint presentation - Exhibit P) Gave figures on Kentucky license sales. Losing more hunters than gaining young hunters. Canned program, instruction in "Olympic-style" target archery, exceeds national physical education (PE) standards for 4-12th grades, teacher training put together by US Olympic Archery governing body, utilizes equipment that works for students and teachers. Before this program, why not more schools: safety (archery safer than every ball sport played in schools); lack of equipment (put together package of equipment, costs 50 percent of retail price); no place to practice or compete (meant to be taught in gym); teachers lacked archery training (8-12 training offered). Kentucky pilot program started in 22 schools in 2001 in PE classes. Every school has a curriculum, so Department of Education wrote this for us. This is also a life skill. Schools have to agree to have one other teacher trained (cost \$20 for materials). Equipment must fit every kid in the class, use a modern compound bow

(four companies make this bow - Genesis Compound Bow); use full-length aluminum arrows for safety; use Olympic-style bull's eye targets, core is \$25 full target is \$165; and use archery box/bow rack (cost \$100 for materials). Want to encourage more youth to be active in the outdoors; archery to become a High School team sport choice; number of shooting enthusiasts to grow rather than decline, 55 percent of target archers are also bowhunters. This is a two-week archery curriculum. Of 1,600 kids surveyed, 89 percent enjoyed class, 62 percent never shot a bow; 73 percent don't own a bow; 49 percent want to own a bow; most want to use their new life skill; 59 percent want to be target archers; 38 percent are interested in bowhunting. Many schools have even started after school archery clubs. After one year, 120 counties have schools, we had 110 schools enrolled last year, after July 18, and we will have over 150 schools this year. People from every state have inquired about this program. In 2003, was the first Kentucky state championship, with 651 student archers. Awards were given. Next year the tournament will be on March 18, 2004 in Louisville, Kentucky. Not a negative thing has been said, after 18 months, about this program. If teaching this program in 30 states, 30 million students will learn to archery shoot every year, if we match Kentucky's success. We recommend that each state starts a pilot program: this minimizes cost, promotes quick start, learn as you go, demonstrates interest & "do ability", and create success story. A 10-school pilot program will cost approximately \$26,000 to equip schools. Money can be found: Federal section 10; grants (NRA, Step Outside and private sector); sportsman's clubs & chapters; education grants - 21st Century, After School Alliance, etc. There are eight steps to get started: 1) grassroots shooter development fit mission; 2) identify money; 3) identify key staff; 4) recruit 10-15 pilot schools; 5) order equipment kits; 6) organize and conduct teacher training; 7) deliver equipment; and 8) schedule future teacher training to meet demand. Get more information from www.genesisbow.com/nasp Rob Manes, WMI - Suggest IAFWA funds. John Baughman - Video is really good. (Other handouts - Exhibit P).

Mark Humpert, Nebraska Game and Fish Commission - State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plans (powerpoint presentation - Exhibit Q). Seven guidelines provided by USFWS to be given to states. Met three times now. Took guiding principles and that became the basis for regional workshops. Agenda identified things that were in the guiding principles which were sent from IAFWA to each state Director. Had another meeting in June to form sub-workgroups to go over the ideas that came from regional workshops. These will be for recommendation only. Formed 10 sub-workgroups and plan to meet again in August to go over recommendations to bring to meeting in Wisconsin. We are going to come up with a format that everyone could use to get consistency. Need to role all state plans into one national plan. Two co-chairs of program.

Tim Bremicker, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Brought forward three draft resolutions: Missouri River Enhancement and Monitoring; Ban on Importation of Ruminants and Ruminant Parts from Canada; Importation of Exotic Animals and Possible Wildlife Disease Ramifications (see Report D).

Someone asked Steve Williams a question about the non-resident waterfowl hunting issue. Steve Williams - In regards to limiting non-resident waterfowl hunters from coming into a state. I don't know if that is an issue for Clint Riley or the Federal Aid Task Force. We would need to sit down with our legal department to assess if that is legal from the federal aid standpoint.

Richard Bishop - I would like to invite everyone to view the CONCEP video called "The Wounding Problem: three causes and three solutions" regarding wounding loss. It is an excellent hunter education tool. We can meet in this room after we return from the Park.

Left the Doubletree Hotel for a tour of the Henry Doorly Zoo (Wildlife Safari Park) and then arriving at the Riverview Lodge at Eugene T. Mahoney State Park for supper and socializing. Everyone enjoyed the tour and activities at the State Park. Events were hosted by the Nebraska Game and Fish Commission. Arrived back at the hotel at 9:00 p.m.

Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies Business Meeting

Tuesday, July 15, 2003

(Summary of the business meeting taken from notes and reports)

(The following items are attached in the Reports Section)

CALL TO ORDER

Rex Amack, MAFWA President, Nebraska - Called the business meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Asked for additional agenda items.

ROLL CALL

Joe Kramer, Secretary/Treasurer, Kansas - Called roll call: Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin were all present (Report A). We have a quorum, 14 out of 14 states are present. None of the three Canadian Provinces were present.

MINUTES

Rex Amack - Need a motion to accept the minutes from last year. **Motion made by Doug Hansen, and second by Mike Conlin.** No discussion. **Motion carries.**

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Joe Kramer, Kansas - (Report B) Total assets as of July 1, 2001 - \$230,526.95. We had receipts of \$4,700.00 for annual dues; \$900.00 for the Missouri conference; \$5,250.00 received so far from Nebraska registrations; and \$7,306.05 in interest; for a total of \$21,356.05 in receipts. Disbursements included: \$2,324.67 for Missouri conference expenses; \$474.06 to pay Sheila for her expenses in Missouri; \$80.32 to pay Parson's Jewelry for plaque engraving; \$11.32 for receipt books from Bolen's Office Supply; \$287.15 to buy plaques from the Trophy Shop; and a loss of \$970.08 in Merrill Lynch, if we were to sell our stock now. Assets include \$7,797.76 in checking; \$22,534.30 in savings; \$159,534.44 in the five CD accounts; and \$40,660.45 in the Merrill Lynch account (we put in \$50,000 and need to consider moving this upon maturity this year or hold out until we gain our money back and then move the money into something a little safer like CD's). Total income from the investments from 1996 to present, not including Merrill Lynch profits or losses, is \$70,116.87, which is primarily money we have made off the CD's. Income that has been invested off of this trust was some CITES money in 1997, Teaming With Wildlife in 1998, CARA in 1999, and IAFWA in 2002 and those funds amounted to \$40,638.83, with the remainder being spent for day to day expenses. Total investments remaining for use, as outlined in the draft, \$22,534.30, of which \$10,000.00 was spent this fiscal year, but was not taken out of the savings yet. Rex Amack called for approval of the Treasurer's report. **Dean Hildebrand moved to accept the Treasurer's report and Keith Sexson second.** Discussion? Jeff Vonk - Audit Committee would like to move money in Merrill Lynch Fund. Dean

Hildebrand - Direct Treasurer to look at no-load fund to get some recommendations. Rex Amack - Come back to that under Audit Committee and accept Treasurer's numbers. **Motion carries.**

Audit Report

Dean Hildebrand Game and Fish Department - The Audit Committee (Randy Kreil, George Burgoyne and Jeff Vonk) met and reviewed the records provided by Treasurer Kramer. Like to change Merrill Lynch monies to a different fund (Report C). **Dean Hildebrand moved to review the Merrill Lynch monies, Jeff Vonk second.** Discussion? John Hoskins - That is a poor return. Dean Hildebrand - Need more investment advice. Work with Rex and the Committee to remove that and take care of it. Accept Audit Committee report? **Motion carries. All in favor of accepting the Audit Report.**

Resolutions Committee Report

Tim Bremicker, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Three resolutions handed out yesterday (Report D) - 1) Missouri River Enhancement and Monitoring program (MOREP). Kirk Nelson - \$12 million a year, administered through Corps agencies. IAFWA would look favorably upon it if Midwest passes it. Mike Conlin - Funded for three year commitment? Kirk Nelson - Three years but concept is for whatever amount of time it takes to get the answers for the river. Doug Hansen - "Be it further resolved" should be after the "Now, therefore.." paragraph. Tim Bremicker - Will change. **Jeff Vonk moved to accept amended motion, Doug Hansen second.** Discussion? Jeff Vonk - Support concept. Rex Amack - Delegation supports this concept, paralysis by analysis. Think this would have an opportunity in Congress. Timing good, with all of the focus on the river over the next five years. All approve? **Motion passes. Will be drafted and sent to IAFWA.** 2) The Ban on Importation of Ruminants and Ruminant parts from Canada. Bruce Morrison - Requesting USDA to expedite a review. If action taken by this Friday at White House, no action will be needed, but if not, we need to take this action. Discussion. **George Burgoyne moved, Keith Sexson second.** Motion includes no action needed if action taken by Friday. **Motion carries.** 3) The Importation of Exotic Animals and Possible Wildlife Disease Ramifications. Bruce Morrison - Exportation, consolidate, review, scandalize, and enforce regulations and want records maintained of animal disease. This resolution will hit the pet industry right in the face. Several other resolutions are being passed by other animal health groups. Basically for exotic pets, all regulations lined out and enforced. George Burgoyne - Mark those guys bringing those in also. Rex Amack - Number one issue is Fish and Wildlife health disease. Keith Sexson - When they jump to humans all types of excitement takes place. In light of invasive species this needs to be dealt with. **Keith Sexson moved, John Hoskins second. Motion carries.**

Awards Committee Report

Glen Salmon, Indiana Department of Natural Resources - Presented awards to past president, Rex Amack, Nebraska; Kirk Nelson, Nebraska, for his supporting role; thanked Nebraska staff for their supporting role in getting things accomplished and Chuck Pils, Wisconsin, for his CITES work (Report E). Thanked Sheila Kemmis for helping get work done.

Legal Committee Report

Ollie Torgerson presented in place of Jane Smith, Missouri Department of Conservation - Handed out memorandum which included their agenda (Report F). No action needed from this report. States need to better support this committee. Need a director to take this group under their wing. **Hoskins volunteered to step up as our person because he is head of the legal committee of the International.** Joe Kramer - Point of order that committees need to meet 30 days prior to this annual meeting and submit report. **Dean Hildebrand moved we accept report, support John Hoskins, George Burgoyne second.** Sexson look at Midwest states where they meet. Discussion. **Motion carries.** Rex Amack - We do not have in house legal council, but the new Attorney General just reorganized his office and we have a representative on natural resources so we should have a better opportunity in the future to send someone.

Private Lands Working Group Report

Steve Riley, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission - We also need a director to report to. We have no action items. Usually we have farm bill issues that we have had to pass through the Ag Task Force in the past. In strategic thinking session, number two and four issue fall into this group to deal with. Passed around a four page report (Report G). Touched on high points and identified road blocks: communication; maintenance on long term programs; lack of flexibility; landowners get mixed messages from different people; and perceived conflict among agency objectives. Questions? Tim Bremicker - Very strict travel kept us from attending this meeting, not lack of interest. Richard Bishop - Several things we have discussed over the years, regulations in some states not conducive in other states. Rob Manes - Echo what Richard said, reiterate that where state committee and field office technical guide is what tailors these programs to meet your needs. You stand to influence your state, field office technical guide is best place to keep in touch with NRCS. David Walker - There is a working group for field service. Steve Riley - Took advantage of those working groups and I assigned someone from my staff to each one. Tim Bremicker - Publically acknowledge work of our public lands group. Take advantage of farm bill better than in the past, thanks. Rex Amack - Thank you. **Sexson volunteered to be the liaison on this committee for Midwest as he does with the International.**

David Walker, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies - Carbon Sequestration (CS) (Report G). Involved with farm bill, discussed at North American, put together a white paper and now have a final draft. Will be going out to folks in the future. Guidelines on how to determine how they are going to count activities and see if they qualify for CS and can enhance fish and wildlife interests. Great opportunity, but could also have some problems. Discussion of benefits associated with these projects and are covered in these guidelines. Working with Department of Ag. and Department of Energy and making this available to staff on the hill. Follow up to Bremicker's question yesterday, report name "USDA needs to better insure..." (report # GAO84188). Tim Bremicker - Indication of how many acres are lost? David Walker - Would have to look at the report. Rob Manes - North America look at conservation compliance, most have no consequences if there is no compliance, difficult to address. Example - Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota loss, 1985 to 1997, lost 210,000 acres of cropland converted to native grassland. Jeff Vonk - NRCS identifies, refers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) for action, in 1992 farm bill, excuses allowed for inadvertent, given a year to comply. Part of deal is every time you find a problem and it is washed away by the next agency, you need statutory change to tighten that loophole. Rob Manes - Open public meetings, but county conservation groups do not

show up at those meetings. Jeff Vonk - Groups enrolled are confidential so you don't have a list. Rob Manes - There is a lack, or gap, in which groups are tied to compliance. Jeff Vonk - No will power in NRCS to go out and enforce this program. Look at state agency, uses a technical service provider to go out and take care of that, especially because of confidentiality. Rob Manes - NRCS states they are not trained to deal with that. Jeff Vonk - Need oversight. Rob Manes - Good issue for private lands working group to pursue and come back with recommendations, knowing they will come back with some problems. Tim Bremicker - If we are not backed up by swampbuster than what is left? **Tim Bremicker moved to refer to private lands group to come up with some recommendations for us.** Richard Bishop - What are you asking them to do? Tim Bremicker - Look at compliance issues for swampbuster and sodbuster and find barrier or problem and come up with recommendations. **Jeff Vonk second.** Rob Manes - We just did a cursory analysis. David Walker - Formed five new working groups: Technical Assistance; Field Office Technical Guide; Environmental Quality Initiatives; CRP; and Conservation Compliance Work Group. This last group could make a recommendation to the work group for the Madison meeting. Rob Manes - Riley would it be feasible to develop a list of issues to send to IAFWA work group? Steve Riley - Yes we could. Who is chair? David Walker - I don't know. Steve Riley - We could touch on it again in front of this body next year. David Walker - Look at ways to strengthen compliance as it deals with next farm bill. Rob Manes - Recommendations from farm bill, wildlife community resolve not even big enough to melt that boulder. This will be a long and difficult struggle. Jeff Vonk - Agree with that statement. Need to get authority for organization outside USDA and NRCS is great, but we need a third party or someone else. Steve Riley - We will keep the ball rolling. I will have something by tomorrow. All in favor? **Motion carries.**

Public Lands Management Working Committee Report

Daylan Figgs, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission - (Report H). Four topics for working groups. After 2001 meeting, sent out three letters to Attorney General, US Forest Service and USFWS. No response from those letters. IAFWA formed a committee to look into this matter. We need to know what further actions we need to take and what exactly you would like us to do? We would like to put together recommendations and guidelines for the development and operation of shooting ranges. A similar report that we would like to put together is prescribed burning. We would like to form a committee to look at this issue a little further. Last item I would like to talk about is addressing illegal activities. Just by the isolated nature of these public lands makes them candidates for illegal activities. Something else we would like to work on. We discussed a variety of other topics that are in our notes. With that I would like to address any questions or comments. Doug Hansen - It would appear that the Directors of the states would need to implement those reports. Ollie Torgerson - Do you have a representative from every state assigned to your committee? **Tim Bremicker agreed to be the liaison Director to work with the Public Land Working Committee.** John Hoskins - Item 2, Do you have access to the information from the organization? Somewhat knowledgeable of that information from that working group with shooting ranges. Glen Salmon - What would be acceptable use of that? Tom Young - Control burn field biologists are having a difficult time with this because of private landowners. We are going to do some training, but for the private landowner. He has been preparing his private lands and is now ready to burn. Richard Bishop - Partner in my farm burned off part of our land and there was an explosion Tom Young - Seasonal grasses established and now they can't burn Jeff Vonk - Providing formal training and obtaining the safety equipment needed to protect these people. Richard Bishop - The USFWS has money available. Dean Hildebrand - In our state a group of folks, on reservations, are trained to pick up and go

wherever they are needed and we have taken advantage of that. We could bring these professionals in and have the where-with-all to do this, a one-stop shopping center. Tim Bremicker - Extensive burn in Minnesota three years ago about 80,000 acres. I would be willing to share that model with the public lands group. Get a better handle on what is available. Rex Amack - Small as your group was, you were very aggressive and the report was turned in thirty days in advance. **Ollie Torgerson moved to accept report. Keith Sexson second. Discussion? Motion passes.**

Wildlife Health Committee Report

Bruce Morrison, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission - (Report I). Met in May, approximately 45 days before this meeting you received your report from us. Had fourteen people in attendance representing eight states and two federal agencies. Put this as number one on strategic thinking items. Recommend we keep myself as chair. 1) periodic newsletter; 2) white paper; 3) EPA; 4) compilation of wildlife disease outbreaks; 5) compilation of wildlife disease training; and 6) white paper West Nile Virus management. Since meeting and report you received earlier, in this report, monkey pox issue. The resolution you passed will be addressed here. Several different agencies have the authority to enforce the same act. BSE note, which brought on the ruminant resolution. Only other thing to report CWD compilation in handout. The reason SARS came on because the Asians were eating wildlife with connected disease. Cattle egrets spreading disease in the south. Next meeting is in May of 2004, Illinois will host. Chuck Pils - See article on federal proposal to combat monkey pox? Bruce Morrison - Fifty state conference call today at noon. Ollie Torgerson - On the import/export resolution, should we ask the committee to direct group to do this? **Glen Salmon moved to follow through with resolution. Mike Conlin second. Discussion? Ollie Torgerson** - Liaison with committee? **George Burgoyne stated he would. Motion to accept report, Keith Sexson, Steve Gray second. Motion passes.**

Rex Amack - Two other groups not giving reports today, Midwest Deer and Turkey and Midwest Pheasant group. Don't remember if these two groups were supposed to come up with a singular product and dissolve, or continue. Randy Kreil - We have been connected for years and have been very active. Ollie Torgerson - Formed in 70s. Also have a Midwest furbearers committee, don't know if they are affiliated with us. Need to make a formal connection with that group. Rex Amack - What about Midwest Law Enforcement Association? Sheila Kemmis - They have 28 member states and are bigger than us. Keith Sexson - Prairie Grouse Working Group? Jeff Ver Steeg - In 1995, we attempted to list all of those groups. Randy Kreil - Seems to me it might be worth the efforts of the Directors to get their arms around all of these groups and talk about committees and coordination of these committees. Steve Riley - History of Private Lands, got together and got sanctioned by this body because we got into policy level and needed to move issues forward in a more formal process. Pheasant Group did not feel they were about policy, just information exchange, said they didn't want to do that, wanted to be about science and techniques only. Need to consider what their charge is. Joe Kramer - One of other issues that has came up is criticism of not dealing with fishery issues, yesterday good presentation on aquatic nuisance, comes out of MICRA, need to get those groups back. There are 26 fish chiefs that created that group. Doug Hansen - Support for any kind of fishery exposure to this group. Take advantage of those that exist. Rex Amack - Reflecting Saturday's discussion and how Western works and their commitment to committees. It might be prudent to set how many committees we want to work with and how many directors we want. Association is taking on a whole new life compared to when we met in 1995 in Galena, IL. Richard Bishop - Agree with Kreil, bring

committees together. We could request a committee report even if they have no action they can give a short report at least for acknowledgment. Pheasant group spawned from this group and Ollie attended deer and turkey meeting for years. Rex Amack - Morrison head of health committee, not much fish discussed. Dale Garner - Two fish guys on that committee and some was discussed. Ollie Torgerson - Several committees, pull list from 1995 and go over them. Pheasant group still meeting? Steve Riley - Yes. Ollie Torgerson - I will contact Pheasant, Deer and Turkey, Law Enforcement, Furbearer, etc. Need to know we exist and let them know they can bring action items to us and we can take it to the IAFWA. If that turns out pretty good then we can ask in North Dakota for Directors to liaison with them. Don't want 18 or 20 committees like Western, but need to become more visible. Doug Hansen - Also, Missouri River group. Ollie Torgerson - Do they have a coordinator? Doug Hansen - Yes. Randy Kreil - Primary objective of 2004, Monday we would need to deal with committees. Keith Sexson - What about strategic thinking on Sunday? Dean Hildebrand - Address issues on strategic thinking chart. Think of terms of addressing these committees. Use this as the wick we keep dipping in the wax to build the candle. If anything crops up or if you have suggestions, drop me or Randy a note and we could go over that. Randy Kreil - Sunday strategic thinking session could go over issues of how you want to deal with how the committees are going to react. John Hoskins - This should be a significant agenda item. Ollie laying out what will need to be done for next year and that could be the Sunday morning.

Break

CITES Report

Chuck Pils, CITES MAFWA Representative, Wisconsin - (Report J) (powerpoint presentation) Went to Chile in November, 2002. Explained CITES (Conference on International Threatened and Endangered Species) powerful tool. Misconceptions on how CITES group works. Attending CITES Plants Committee meeting in August, in Geneva, Switzerland, the last one I will attend. We are considered an NGO and cannot vote. 77 resolutions and 170 decisions in effect. Almost becoming unmanageable in what they are allowing. 1) designate; 2) prohibit; and 3) confiscate. Scientific Authority. Three appendices: I. Species threatened with extinction, no trade prohibition; II. Species threatened with extinction, but trade controlled; III. Species that are protected by at least one country, which has asked for help in controlling trade and does not have to be discussed and approved at Conference of Parties (COP). COP is only body that can decide on contents of appendix I and II and meets every 2-3 years. Argued half a day on improving labels for caviar, and how it affected paddlefish. U.S. species on the Appendix III list are the alligator snapping turtle and map turtles. Appropriate to get more information, but the process is so slow. Thanks for support and chance to work with you. I will be in Madison.

Carolyn Caldwell, Ohio Department of Natural Resources will be the new CITES representative starting in Madison (Report J - letter and resume).

NGO Reports

Rob Manes on phone, will come back to him.

OLD BUSINESS

(The following items are attached in the Appendix Section)

Bylaw Revisions

Jeff Ver Steeg, *Colorado Department of Wildlife* - (Appendix A) Adding Coordinator and Recording Secretary. Colorado back. Increase dues for affiliated NGOs. Increase to \$2,500. (See memo) Decided in 1993 to follow the alphabetical rotation and added that to the bylaws. Mike Conlin - What are advantages of that change of making the president not the rotation person. Ollie Torgerson - I brought up, because we need someone who will be interested, need leadership by desire and ability, keep rotation of meeting alphabetical. That is the concept, pretty well received in strategic thinking. Mike Conlin - If state is hosting and their director is not an officer or involved it seems that they would not come. Seems like it would get the director involved. Ollie Torgerson - Southeast does it the way we are proposing. Not sure how Western does it. Doug Hansen - It is done how we do it now. Steve Riley - Two meetings a year, host state, summer meeting is president, but winter meeting is in a different state. Joe Kramer - Goal of Midwest have as an exception. If language allowed that we could have it either way. Ollie Torgerson - But what if it goes to a state where the Director does not want to? Rex Amack - Could have some problems if the Director of a state wants to do it and the nominating committee didn't appoint them. Tim Bremicker - Saw it as a positive step to be pushed into being president when I was new and Minnesota was the host. I would support what Rex mentioned by offering it to a Director and then if he declines, put it to the nominating committee. Jeff Vonk - First right of refusal. Would you give the Director the right to refuse to host also? Jeff Ver Steeg - We can isolate some of these and discuss and vote separately. Some can be dispensed with easily. **Jeff Vonk moved to recommended items 1-7 on memo from Ver Steeg, George Burgoyne second.** Discussion? Ollie Torgerson - Under duties, three proceedings, if we go to internet could reduce that number, change three to just say "copies". Rex Amack - Amendment to remove? **Accepted as friendly amendment by motion maker.** Other discussion? Article 8 is fiscal year are we leaving that out. George Burgoyne - The motion involves the seven items listed on the cover letter. All in favor? **Motion carries.** Jeff Ver Steeg - Election and nomination of officers. George Burgoyne - It is worth a little more discussion and thought, think there is value to having this thrust on you, like Tim, was more involved. Only change would be to not pass the gavel until after the IAFWA meeting. Rex Amack - I agree. Doug Hansen - Would that take a motion? Dean Hildebrand - Change 30 days to 90 days or whatever, after IAFWA. George Burgoyne - Yes. Rex Amack - Problem would be that after this meeting, Dean would be on the Executive Committee. George Burgoyne - September meeting would be a problem. Rex Amack - We need to maybe wait until next year. Jeff Vonk - This goes back to rotation and the original question. George Burgoyne - With his experience that little difference, he feels that his knowledge would help. No matter when we change this there could be a problem. We are passing resolutions to be brought forward to the fall meeting and it would be logical for Rex to carry those forward from this meeting. Doug Hansen - To adjust bylaws, change to 30 days following IAFWA instead of MAFWA and that would cover that cycle. That takes care of the length of term, but not the selection. Doug Hansen - I would defer that because we now have a Coordinator to work with the new person and I think there is value to getting immersed right away and don't see the need. **Mike Conlin and George Burgoyne agree. George Burgoyne moved to follow IAFWA, Doug Hansen second.** Discussion? Jeff Ver Steeg - Question of order, new article under 9, written copy of bylaws. Dean Hildebrand - You have the authority to do that now. Jeff Ver Steeg - Would not be until next year. Doug Hansen - Could we agree to do that now? Jeff Ver Steeg - Can do. Dean Hildebrand - Page 2, clean this up a little, strike out part after 30 days after IAFWA. Take out "one year out". **Friendly amendment.** George Burgoyne - Article One "The term of the office shall commence 30 days following the adjournment ..." Discussion? **Motion carries.** Doug Hansen - Do we need vote of affirmation that it starts

immediately, **Doug Hansen moved, Burgoyne second.** Rex Amack - Notify IAFWA that we have changed our bylaws. Add that Coordinator contacts IAFWA. Discussion? **Motion carries.** Rex Amack - Thanks Jeff for all of your work. Glen Salmon - Training is important at IAFWA that they take full advantage of new director.

Coordinator Contract Position

Ollie Torgerson, Missouri Department of Conservation - (Appendix B - Draft Contract) Contract drafted up with Missouri Department of Conservation to provide my services to remain in effect to August 30, 2004. We will have to make a decision next year about how we go forth from there. John Hoskins - It needs to be a business meeting item next year to decide where we go from there. Ollie Torgerson - Randy, that needs to be a strategic thinking item, how we are going to deal with this. Rex Amack - Discussion? **John Hoskins moved, Mike Conlin second to approve contract.** Discussion? **Motion carries.**

Rob Manes, Wildlife Management Institute, Kansas - (Report K) (Wind Energy Development). For centuries, wind energy has been harnessed to power agriculture and industry. It offers an emission-free source of electricity to power homes and industry and lacks some of the obvious environmental detriments of traditional energy sources. Early wildlife concerns focused on avian collisions with wind generator blades, towers, support structures and power lines. Habitat fragmentation from roads, transmission lines, and maintenance activity is also a concern because that could inhibit the use of otherwise suitable habitat by a number of bird species. By 2010, several million acres of land could become occupied by wind power facilities, potentially rendering unsuitable important habitat for species sensitive to landscape fragmentation. Impacts on prairie grouse-greater sage grouse, Gunnison sage-grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, lesser prairie chicken, and greater prairie chicken is of great concern. How wind power production affects birds, mammals and wildlife is somewhat unknown, but there exists sufficient information to demand a deliberative approach to the issue. An extensive radio telemetry study was done in southwest Kansas by Dr. R.J. Robel which revealed that lesser prairie chickens avoid otherwise suitable habitat near human intrusions. The study, conducted over a six year period, showed that prairie chickens avoid a one-mile radius around wind turbines. Many sites targeted lie directly in untilled landscapes. Grassland birds at southwest Minnesota site, significantly lower within 180 meters of each wind turbine, whether running or not. Sage grouse avoid tall structures that could serve as perches for predatory birds. Other avian species also show tendencies to abandon otherwise suitable nesting habitat, such as waterfowl and wading birds in the Netherlands. Collision-related bird and bat deaths unlikely to be significant, but at ill-designed, ill sited facilities, such as Altamont Pass, California, could result in significant impact to very rare species populations. Conflicts can be avoided or minimized through open dialog between the stakeholders, including energy developers, wildlife professionals, landowners, consumers, wildlife advocates, policy makers and others. The dialog must resolve issues rather than protect interests. Both clean, reliable energy and healthy ecosystems are essential to the quality of human life. Mark Holstein - One component is bio-diesel. Rob Manes - We can't ignore the native impact. I have also passed out a hand out on the High Plains partnership, which I will not go over at this time. Rex Amack - Thank you Rob.

Coordinator Report

Ollie Torgerson, Missouri Department of Conservation - Looking at the Sunday Strategic Thinking draft I have come up with a work plan (Report L). Things I will get done include: 1)

Notify committees that they need to send report electronically 30 days in advance; 2) Myself and John Baughman meet with new Director Brunsvold; 3) Affiliate with NSSF, ASF, DU and others; 4) Invite USDA/APHIS two regional directors to our meetings; 5) Invite Randy Moore, Regional U.S. Forest Service to meetings; 6) Invite three MICRA people; 7) Get National Conservation need approved at March North American meeting, to be voted on in 2004; 8) Update logo (new design); 9) Formal contract with committees, start networking; and 10) Get state of State reports established again. This will keep me busy. I will work closely with Joe and Sheila, and Dean and Randy. Jeff Ver Steeg - It is great to have a bird dog. John Hoskins - Ollie has great connection.

Website Development for MAFWA

Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator, Missouri - (see Report L) - We need a formal motion on website development. **Mike Conlin moved for endorsement of outlined plan, Steve Gray second.** Jeff Vonk - Is Ollie charged with maintaining the website? Ollie Torgerson - Yes. Along with IAFWA and linking with other Associations. We will not only help ourselves, but others as well. Jeff Vonk - I just want it clear that someone has that responsibility. Ollie Torgerson - I will work with contractor to design so reports can be entered automatically. **Motion carries.**

NEW BUSINESS

Doug Hansen - I would like to contract with Rob Southwick to develop an aquatic species program (Appendix C). Want a pilot state not already involved to meet by January 2004. George Burgoyne - Michigan is interested in getting more information. John Hoskins - Missouri too. Rex Amack - Nebraska also. Dean Hildebrand - North Dakota also. Doug Hansen - Aware of activities of Sport Fishing Boating Council, would like to pursue concept of National Fisheries Habitat Plan. Not sure what it might look like, the working group is looking at it. We are holding a meeting in Region 3 and inviting all of you to attend. Also, Regional Directors have been participating.

Tom Young - I started coming to these Association meetings in 1985 and the only face in the room that was here then, was Mike Conlin. This will be my last meeting after 30 years in Kentucky. I wanted to tell all of you how much it has meant to me to be involved, especially with waterfowl. I will miss all of you. My dream is of connecting people by starting a National retirement club that could maybe meet once a year. We could become lobbyists or travel back and forth on Association business. I have a guy in Kentucky would start a webpage for me. Please send me your business cards or call Kentucky Game and Fish and they will know how to get in touch with me.

Jeff Vonk - I am the Chair of the Wildlife Resource Policy of IAFWA. If anyone has items for my committee, please let me know.

Joe Kramer - The Association knows and should recognize Tom Young's years of service with a plaque for his 18 years of service.

Tim Bremicker - On behalf of the Resolution Committee, we would like to extend our gratitude to Nebraska and would like to see the Midwest continue to make strides. Thank you.

Richard Bishop - I would like to echo that sentiment and thank Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska for putting us back on track.

Passing the Gavel

Rex Amack passed the gavel to Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota. Dean Hildebrand - You have put the bar very high. Thanks Ollie. I will be going to the Western meeting and I would like to see the Associations compliment each other. Think we should put retirees on our website and we will do our best to get that done. Would like to thank Nebraska for all their work and invite everyone to North Dakota, there may be some logistical challenges. **After discussion, set meeting for July 10-13, 2004 in Bismarck, North Dakota.** Have a safe trip and God Bless.

Doug Hansen moved to adjourn, Mike Conlin second at 11:50 a.m.

Treasurer's Report



Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies



TREASURER'S REPORT 2003/2004 (FY 2004) Transactions (As of June 30, 2004)

Total Assets beginning July 1, 2003 (corrected value)		\$230,776.89
Minus Estimated Value of Merrill Lynch as of July 1, 2003*	<u>40,660.45</u>	
Working Assets beginning July 1, 2003		\$190,116.44

Receipts

Annual Dues (FY 2004).....	\$4,500.00	
Affiliate Annual Dues (FY 2004/2005).....	550.00	
Nebraska Conference Registration.....	5,672.70	
North Dakota Conference Registration.....	8,250.00	
Interest - Checking/Savings/CD's.....	<u>6,900.32</u>	
Total Receipts	\$25,873.02	
Total Available Assets		\$215,989.46

Disbursements

Nebraska Conference Expenses.....	\$8,883.99	
Nebraska Conference (Sheila) Expenses.....	103.00	
North Dakota Conference Expenses.....	1,000.00	
Parson's Jewelry (plaque engraving).....	133.58	
Coordinator Expenses.....	2,862.93	
Website Development (Chris Durrill).....	550.15	
UPS (mail proceedings).....	137.04	
Dan's Safe & Lock (padlock for sound equipment box).....	6.00	
Uhlik Music (sound box).....	49.96	
DJ Case (sponsor Adaptive Harvest Mgmt conference).....	<u>500.00</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$14,226.65	
NET ASSETS, JUNE 30, 2004		\$201,762.81

Accounting of Assets, June 30, 2004

Cash in checking account.....	\$12,807.46
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Cash in savings account.....	29,420.91	
Cash in CD accounts.....	<u>159,534.44</u>	
Total Cash Assets		\$201,762.81
Estimated Value of Merrill Lynch.....	<u>44,819.54</u>	
ASSETS, JUNE 30, 2004		\$246,582.35

* In past years we have shown the projected value of the Merrill Lynch fund right in the receipts and disbursements, but this year have decided to remove those and show actual cash assets and assets with the estimated value of the Merrill Lynch (if sold on June 30, 2004) added in separately.

Total of Merrill Lynch as of June 30, 2003 (includes \$65.00 annual fee)	\$40,660.45
Total of Merrill Lynch as of June 30, 2004 (includes \$65.00 annual fee)	\$44,819.54

Audit Committee Report

Audit Committee Report

Audit Committee consists of Randy Kreil, North Dakota; Jeff Vonk, Iowa, and Rebecca Humphries, Michigan (who replaced George Burgoyne). The Audit Committee reviewed the report and accepted it and the final balance of \$246,582.35. Rebecca Humphries, Michigan, moved, Keith Sexson, Kansas second to approve.

Jaschek Fund Report

Jaschek Fund Report

A brief history of Jaschek fund for those of you who are new to the Midwest meetings. Walter Anton Jaschek left roughly \$209,000 to the Association and also left Audubon and Ducks Unlimited each \$209,000. He did not have a lot of heirs, had a niece that did not end up with the money. Steve Miller, Wisconsin, tried to find out more about the gentleman, but was unsuccessful. Need to try to put together a brochure or something about this. He lived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and lived in a modest house worth less than \$50,000. The Midwest Association has used the funds for CARA, Teaming with Wildlife, and has helped do the work that we do. Currently we have five CDs and they are only making about 2 percent, a couple of them are still making about 4 percent, but when they roll over we will probably not get the higher percentage. The cash in the savings account is the interest of the fund. Also, the checking account is healthy, but only reflects dues collected (none of the Jaschek money is in this account). We have been with Merrill Lynch for over five years and the money could come out at any time without a penalty. As you see it is down by about \$6,000 from the original \$50,000 invested there. Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota – That money made this organization much more successful. There are a lot of suggestions of what can be done with the money, but I feel we can increase affiliate membership dues, state membership dues, and increase registration rates to raise additional funds. Joe Kramer, Kansas – The board previously decided to lock in the principle and only spend down the interest.

Executive Director Position

MAFWA COORDINATOR PROPOSAL

Rationale

1. It is the desire of MAFWA to build on the energy, activity and involvement that have been displayed during the past 2 years.
2. An experienced Coordinator will be critical to maintaining continuity and momentum for MAFWA during the next 2-year transition period.
3. Several member states have expressed their willingness to pay a special annual assessment of up to \$2,500, in addition to regular dues, to adequately fund the MAFWA Coordinator position.
4. It is the adopted purpose and use of Jaschek Trust investment income to support the activities of MAFWA.

Proposal

Offer a services contract to Ollie Torgerson with the following terms and conditions:

Salary - \$33 per hour worked (includes what MAFWA would typically contribute as employer share if FICA tax – 7.65%). Hours to be billed monthly and not to exceed 1,000 hours per year. Cost = \$33,000.

Travel expense – MAFWA to pay agreed upon travel expenses for Coordinator. Budgeted amount = \$5,000. **TOTAL COST OF CONTRACT = \$38,000**

Annual Performance Review – To be conducted by committee of past president, president, and incoming president.

Funding Plan

	Option 1 (\$1,500)	Option 2 (\$2,000)	Option 3 (\$2,500)
<u>Revenue</u>			
State Assessments (assume all 14 states participate)	\$21,000	\$28,000	\$35,000
Jaschek Trust unobligated investment income subject to MAFWA use according to adopted guidelines	<u>\$17,000</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$ 3,000</u>
Total	\$38,000	\$38,000	\$38,000

CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

This contract is made and entered into by and between Ollie Torgerson, a private individual, hereinafter referred to as “the Contractor”, and the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, an Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (C) (6) Federal Tax Exempt Organization (Employee Identification Number 31-6034979), hereinafter referred to as “the Association”.

A. The Contractor agrees to perform the following services:

1. Function as the official “Coordinator” for the Association managing day to day affairs including mail, e-mail, telephone and correspondence management.
2. Serve the Association President and Executive Committee and carry out assignments delegated by them including those contained in the Association’s annual work plan.
3. Advise the Association President and Executive Committee.
4. Track deadlines, write and distribute newsletters, manage web sites, network with Association members, partners and affiliates, edit minutes, prepare meeting agendas, attend meetings, participate in teleconferences.
5. Recruit new affiliate members.
6. Travel to member states to meet new conservation leaders as they come on board to introduce them to the Association and encourage their active participation.
7. Assist the host state organize the Association’s annual convention and participate in this meeting.
8. Organize strategic thinking and planning sessions of the Association.
9. Network with Association committees and working groups.
10. Coordinate Association functions with those of the other three regional associations and with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA).

11. Attend the IAFWA Annual Convention, the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Executive Meetings of the Association and IAFWA, and other meetings as directed by the President and/or Executive Committee.
12. Provide such other services as may be mutually agreed upon by both parties.

B. The Association shall be responsible for the following costs:

1. The Association shall pay the Contractor:
 - a. \$ 33.00 per hour ~~plus associated _____% FICA taxes~~ for up to 1,000 hours of work per year for 2 years,
 - b. The cost of all travel of the Contractor for trips related to Association business including attendance at the annual meeting of the Association, the annual meeting of IAFWA, the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Executive Committee meetings of the Association and IAFWA, and other travel as directed by the President and/or Executive Committee,
 - c. The cost of office operations not furnished by a member state (such as supplies, postage, clerical services, etc.).

C. Agreement Cancellation and Modification

1. This agreement may be canceled not less than thirty days after notification by either party to the other. Charges for services rendered or costs incurred, as provided herein, shall be payable until the effective date of cancellation.
2. This agreement may be modified by the agreement of the parties hereto.

D. Authorization for this contract was properly granted in accordance with the Association's Constitution and By-laws at the regularly scheduled Director's Business Meeting held on July 13, 2004, in Bismarck, North Dakota. The effective date of this agreement is September 1, 2004.

Approved: _____ Witness: _____
Ollie Torgerson, Contractor Doug Hansen, South Dakota

Date: _____ Witness: _____
Joe Kramer, Sec/Tres Kansas

Approved: _____ Witness: _____
Dean Hildebrand, President, Midwest Steve Gray, Ohio
Association of Fish and Wildlife
Agencies

Date: _____ Witness: _____
Rex Amack Nebraska

Jaschek Guidelines Re-Write Committee Report

Jaschek Guidelines Re-Write Committee Report

Randy Kreil, North Dakota - As we began the process of rewriting the guidelines we were on hold until we were sure what we were going to do with the Coordinator position and now we know so we will begin the rewrite.

Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies Original Guidelines for the Use of the Anton Walter Jaschek Fund July 18, 2000

The Anton Walter Jaschek inheritance was an unexpected and unique gift given to the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 1996. The sum of money was considerable for an organization like the AMFWA. This gift affords the AMFWA the potential for long term financial participation in a variety of issues. The Association can utilize this fund for many activities rather than request contributions from individual states, thus helping to keep annual dues modest, and selected requests for other financial needs limited.

As determined by the Executive Committee, the principle of the Jaschek Fund will be invested in securities to provide long term stable income growth. Only the annual interest earned on the fund will be utilized for funding appropriate projects in a given year. The principle will remain invested and protected from expenditure to assure a steady source of investment income for future project use.

Purpose and Use of the Fund

The purpose and use of the Anton Walter Jaschek fund shall be to support activities of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies which maintain and enhance the capability of all Midwest Association States to develop and implement comprehensive fish and wildlife programs for game, nongame, endangered species and their habitats.

1.) Activities that shall be given priority consideration are as follows:

- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.

2.) Activities for which the Jaschek Fund will not be used include:

- Habitat projects.
- Fish and wildlife surveys and research not directly related to obtaining information or evaluating past programs pertaining to enactment of national legislation (i.e. Farm Bill, Clean Water Act, CARA).
- Books and publications not resulting from workshops, conferences or symposia sponsored by AMFWA.
- Buildings and interpretive exhibits.

3.) Other activities not specifically described herein may be considered if they have a direct relation to any or all of the items included in (1) above.

Procedures for Requesting, Awarding and Distributing Grants from the Jaschek Fund

Annually, Joe Kramer, the Secretary/Treasurer, shall inform the President and the Executive Committee of the amount of earnings from the Jaschek Fund that are available for distribution. Any current commitments for funding for the coming year, already agreed to by the AMFWA, will be deducted and itemized.

1.) Requests for Funding

- Requests shall be considered on an annual basis.
- Requests shall be submitted to the President of the AMFWA no later than April 1 of each year.
- Requests shall include:
 - the name, address, phone number and affiliation of the requester;
 - a description of the activity and how it fulfills the purposes of the Fund in (1);
 - the total cost of the activity;

- the amount of Jaschek Funds requested;
- date when the Jaschek Funds are needed;
- how the requestor will report back to the AMFWA on the use of the funds and success of the project or activity.

2.) Awarding the Grant:

- The President shall forward copies of all grant requests to the full Executive Committee of the AMFWA by April 20.
- The Executive Committee shall meet, via phone conference call, prior to June 1 and develop a joint recommendation on grant funding priorities, utilizing the Jaschek Fund guidelines.
- The President shall forward the recommendations of the Executive Committee to all members of the AMFWA no later than 30 days prior to the summer meeting of the AMFWA.
- The AMFWA shall give final approval or modify the recommendations of the Executive Committee at the Business meeting of the AMFWA.

3.) Distributing and Evaluation of Grants:

- On behalf of the President, the Secretary/Treasurer shall notify the grant recipients of the AMFWA action within 30 days.
- The Secretary/Treasurer will arrange for the funds to be sent to the requestor.
- Successful grants recipients shall be requested to provide a report back to the AMFWA on the use of the funds as requested by the President.

Investments Committee Report

MAFWA INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT
JULY 13, 2004

Committee Charge

Review the complete Jaschek portfolio and make recommendations.

Committee Members

Doug Hansen, Chm.; Jeff Vonk; Joe Kramer

Background

The Jaschek Fund was established in 1996 as a result of a gift of \$209,534.44 from the Anton Walter Jaschek estate.

Previous Executive Committee and MAFWA actions have provided that the principle amount of the Jaschek Fund be invested in securities to provide long-term stable income growth. Also, only annual interest earned on the fund could be utilized for appropriate projects in a given year.

The decision was made to invest approximately 25% of fund assets (\$50,000) with Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc. (Merrill Lynch). This investment was allocated to Merrill Lynch Fundamental Growth B and Balanced Capital mutual funds (\$40,000), and Merrill Lynch Ready Assets money market fund (\$10,000).

The balance of the fund (\$159,534.44) was invested in Certificates of Deposit with a staggered maturity dates.

Performance to Date

Since 1996, the short-term investments in CD's have earned MAFWA approximately \$77,000 in interest income. The base amount invested in CD's has been maintained at \$159,534.44. Interest earnings have been transferred to savings or checking accounts to be utilized as directed by the membership. Currently, interest is being earned at a rate of approximately \$7,000 per year. Highest yearly income from interest has been approximately \$9,000.

The \$50,000 investment in the Merrill Lynch portfolio has a current value of \$44,819.54 as of 06/25/04. This consists of \$12,113.54 in the money market account and \$32,706 in the long-term equity investments (mutual funds).

Committee Findings and Recommendations

1. The first question an investment advisor asked was whether our organization had an Investment Policy Statement. We have made some very basic investment decisions. However, these do not meet the real test of a more formal and specific Investment Policy Statement.

Recommendation: The Investment Committee recommends that MAFWA establish and adopt an Investment Policy Statement that would provide guidance to any investment committee or investment advisor, now and in the future as MAFWA participants come and go. It would clearly define MAFWA's investment principles, goals, and strategies so that all members would be aware of how their financial assets will be managed.

2. The Jaschek Fund is a financial asset that is larger than most fish and wildlife agency directors have time or knowledge to manage effectively for desired return and acceptable risk. There are investment advisors who provide this service for a fee. They actively manage your assets to achieve your desired financial goals, based upon your investment policy that they will assist in developing.

Recommendation: The Investment Committee recommends that MAFWA transfer its Jaschek Fund to an investment management group that offers a more active investment service. This service would provide asset allocation guidance, at least semi-annual reviews of investment performance, and account rebalancing to meet investment goals. They would also achieve optimum returns on short-term bonds and CD's through their network of contacts with banks and bond dealers. Timing of the transfer would be based upon recommendations of investment advisor with selected investment group. Decision on selection of the investment group with which to manage funds should be expedited as much as possible.

Resolutions Committee Report

Resolution 1

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA)

***Summer Meeting July 13th, 2004
Bismarck, North Dakota***

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SEPARATE BUDGET LINE ITEMS TO DISTINGUISH MISSOURI RIVER ENDANGERED SPECIES COMPLIANCE , INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, and BANK STABILIZATION EFFORTS

WHEREAS: The Missouri River and its historic floodplain have been significantly modified in the past 50 years to serve a diversity of important human needs including flood control, navigation, hydropower generation, municipal and industrial water supply, and irrigation; and

WHEREAS: These modifications have profoundly impacted 552,000 acres of riverine and floodplain habitat for many dependent species, resulting in three being federally listed as endangered or threatened (least tern, piping plover, and pallid sturgeon) and numerous other species of native fish (sturgeon chub, sicklefin chub, flathead chub, silver chub, speckled chub, plains minnow, western silvery minnow, blue sucker, and lake sturgeon) which could potentially become listed because their life cycle needs are not being adequately met; and

WHEREAS: The Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project was first authorized by Congress in Section 601(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662) to restore 48,100 acres of habitat lost in the past and since this acreage has been achieved and Congress has authorized an additional 118,650 acres in 1999 through Section 334(a) of the Water Resources Development Act and

WHEREAS: The 2002 National Research Council report entitled *The Missouri River Ecosystem, Exploring the Prospects for Recovery* stated that “Degradation of the natural Missouri River ecosystem is clear and is continuing” and

WHEREAS: The December 2003 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Biological Opinion on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Master Manual found jeopardy to the pallid sturgeon and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers subsequently submitted a fiscal year 2005 Budget Justification Sheet for \$69 million titled “Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Recovery, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota” and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers intends to combine Corps responsibility to protect threatened and endangered species in the Missouri River Basin with infrastructure needs

and mitigation responsibility related to the Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project (BSNP) as authorized by the Water Resources Development Acts of 1986 and 1999; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers makes no programmatic distinction between these three distinct purposes (endangered species compliance, infrastructure needs, and BSNP mitigation) and

WHEREAS: There is danger of funds from the successful mitigation project (ecosystem based) being usurped into an endangered species (single species) compliance effort for pallid sturgeon through the 2005 Budget Justification Sheet submittal;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota on July 13, 2004 hereby unanimously supports separate line item budgeting to distinguish between endangered species compliance, infrastructure projects, the BSNP mitigation efforts and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the *Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Missouri Department of Conservation; Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks; Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department* fully endorse this separate budget line request and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be distributed to interested citizens, members of state Legislature's, Governors, Congressional Representatives and Senators, and other appropriate federal officials with budget approving responsibilities.

July 19, 2004

The Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
108 Army, The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Secretary Woodley:

The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) is a fourteen state proponent of sound conservation measures which contribute or result in the perpetuation of public trust natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of all citizens. These resources are extremely valuable to the high quality of life enjoyed here in the Midwest.

Because many physical, biological, and chemical processes and attributes of the Missouri River were changed years ago before they were truly understood, this great river is not completely functioning like it should for the long term sustainable aspects of a viable riverine ecosystem. The hope is that by making the system more sustainable, it will be capable of increasing its goods and services (more consumptive and non-consumptive outdoor recreation pursuits) for future generations, and consequently more economic return to local communities and states.

During the Missouri River Master Manual process, the National Research Council recommended that Congress enact a decision making organization through a Missouri River Protection and Recovery Act (p143). This has not been done to date and it appears that the Corps of Engineers is attempting to meet some of its endangered species obligations through the budget process. The preference of states involved with the long term Missouri River Mitigation Project (Ecosystem based) is for its funding to be kept separate until Congress enacts the recommendations of the National Research Council. The enclosed resolution for separate line item budgeting for the mitigation project was passed by the MAFWA on July 13th. Recovery of threatened and endangered species should not be at the expense of improving sustainability of the entire system that supports all other species.

Sincerely,

Dean Hildebrand
Chair, MAFWA

enclosure 1

Resolution 2

MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

**SUMMER MEETING, JULY 13, 2004
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: The North Dakota Fish and Game Department has so efficiently and enthusiastically organized and conducted the 2004 summer meeting of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

WHEREAS: Director Dean Hildebrand, Randy Kreil and supporting staff have worked together making all the states representatives welcome;

WHEREAS: The members of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies wish to express their gratitude for all the collaborative efforts of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies acknowledges the hard work and gracious hospitality of Director Hildebrand and his staff and hereby passes this resolution in a showing of great appreciation.

Resolution 3

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT NATIONAL SCREENING PROCESS FOR EXOTIC INTRODUCTIONS INTO THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS introductions of invasive aquatic species are ravaging fisheries resources of the United States;

AND WHEREAS the MAFWA has identified invasive species, including Asian carp, as issues in the annual strategic plan for 2004 (dated July 11, 2004);

AND WHEREAS prevention of the introduction of invasive species is the best solution to the enormous problems posed by additional invasive species;

AND WHEREAS it is important to identify future threats under federal importation laws and procedures:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that MAFWA urges the IAFWA to pursue the implementation of a national exotic species screening process and clean species list as described in the attached letter from MICRA to the IAFWA.



February 12, 2004

Gary Taylor, Legislative Director
International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
444 North Capitol St., NW, Suite 544
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I am writing on behalf of the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association (MICRA) in regard to our growing invasive species problem. MICRA is requesting that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) develop and support a legislative initiative that will establish a "screening process" prior to importation into the U.S. of any nonindigenous species of aquatic flora and fauna. In other words, MICRA is asking for federal legislation which will establish "clean species lists".

The aquatic nuisance species problem has become an especially "hot media topic" over the past year or so. The finding of the snakehead in various waters across the U.S. (Maryland, Wisconsin, etc.), and the spread and ultimate naturalization of Asian carp have brought this issue to a head. It seems that the importation and escape of nonindigenous species from aquaria and aquaculture operations is out of control, and the need for improved species screening and establishment of clean species lists has surfaced during many recent discussions.

MICRA's Executive Board debated and supported this need at their December meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, and then submitted the issue to the full MICRA membership for a vote. The need for action on this issue was overwhelmingly supported by 27 of our 28 member states, with only the state of Mississippi failing to register a vote. We think that this vote clearly indicates that the states are ready for such legislation.

While such a screening process is currently included in the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA, S. 525 and H.R. 1080), we are concerned that NAISA is too cumbersome and will likely remain "bogged down" in Congress for an indefinite period of time. We feel that we simply can't wait for NAISA to move forward, and that separate legislation is needed now.

Consequently, we are asking that you forward this request to the IAFWA Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee for consideration at their March meeting in Spokane. We are in the process of extracting the species screening language from NAISA, and placing it in the form of

separate legislation for your consideration. We will forward that document to you under separate cover within the next few days.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (620) 672-5911 or our Coordinator, Jerry Rasmussen at (309) 793-5811. Thanks for any assistance you can provide on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Nygren". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Doug" and last name "Nygren" clearly legible.

Doug Nygren, Chairman

cc: Doug Hansen, Chairman, IAFWA Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee
MICRA Delegates
MICRA Executive Board



February 19, 2004

Gary Taylor, Legislative Director
International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
444 North Capitol St., NW, Suite 544
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Taylor:

This letter is a follow-up to my February 12, 2004 correspondence regarding MICRA's request that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) develop and support a legislative initiative establishing a "screening process" prior to importation into the U.S. of any nonindigenous species of aquatic flora and fauna. Attached please find a copy of the draft legislation promised in that correspondence.

MICRA's draft (The Clean Species Listing Act of 2004) is based on language which is included in the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA, S. 525 and H.R. 1080) currently before Congress. Our members feel that the MICRA draft is a good start toward solving an important part of the Nation's invasive species problem, but that some additional adjustments in language may be needed. Specifically, MICRA's discussions to date have related to appropriations and the adequacy of fines provided for in the legislation.

Perhaps forthcoming discussions within the IAFWA can, in part, address the following issues:

1. Can this legislation be implemented without special appropriations?
2. If not, which agencies (USFWS, USGS/BRD, etc.) will need special appropriations and how large should they be?
3. Are the fines provided for in NAISA large enough to discourage intentional violation of the Act?
4. If not, what level of fines are needed to effectively discourage violation?

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (620) 672-5911 or our Coordinator, Jerry Rasmussen at (309) 793-5811. Thanks for your assistance on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Doug Nygren, Chairman

cc: Doug Hansen, Chairman, IAFWA Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee
MICRA Delegates
MICRA Executive Board

A Bill

The Clean Species Listing Act of 2004

108th CONGRESS
2nd Session

S. XXX/H.R. XXXX

The Clean Species Listing Act of 2004

To amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to establish a “screening process” prior to the importation into the U.S. of any nonindigenous species of aquatic flora and fauna.

IN THE SENATE/HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES

XXXXXXXX XX, 2004

XX
XX
XX

A BILL

To amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to establish a “screening process” prior to the importation into the U.S. of any nonindigenous species of aquatic flora and fauna.

Be it enacted by the Senate/House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Short Title. -- This Act may be cited as the “Clean Species Listing Act of 2004”.

(b) Table of Contents. -- The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I – THE CLEAN SPECIES LISTING ACT OF 2004

TITLE II – COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

TITLE III – AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SECTION 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that --

- (1) invasive species can cause devastating declines in local, regional, and national species diversity;
- (2) aquatic invasive species continue to be introduced into waters of the United States;
- (3) aquatic invasive species damage infrastructure, disrupt commerce, out compete native species, reduce biodiversity, and threaten human health;
- (4) the direct and indirect costs of aquatic invasive species to the economy of the United States amount to billions of dollars per year;
- (5) in the Great Lakes region, approximately \$3,000,000,000 has been spent in the past 10 years to mitigate the damage caused by a single invasive species, the zebra mussel;
- (6) recent studies have --
 - (A) demonstrated that, in addition to economic damage, invasive species can cause enormous ecological damage; and
 - (B) cited invasive species as the second leading threat to endangered species;
- (7) over the past 200 years, the rate of detected marine and freshwater invasions in North America has increased exponentially;
- (8) wetlands suffer compound impacts from --
 - (A) terrestrial infestations (such as Nutria);
 - (B) aquatic infestations (such as Hydrilla); and
 - (C) riparian infestations (such as Purple Loosestrife);
- (9) the rate of invasions continues to be unacceptable;
- (10) infestations by aquatic invasive species often spread and cause significant, negative regional, national, and international effects;
- (11) prevention of aquatic invasive species is the most environmentally sound and cost-effective management approach because once established, aquatic invasive species are costly, and sometimes impossible to control;
- (12) consistent national screening criteria are needed to evaluate the potential risk of nonnative aquatic species prior to introduction into the U.S; and
- (13) it is in the interest of the United States to prepare and publish a list of “clean species” which can be legally imported into the U.S.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1003 of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4702) is amended to read as follows:

SEC. 1003. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

- (1) Aquatic ecosystems in the United States. -- The term “aquatic ecosystems in the United States” means freshwater, marine, and estuarine environments (including inland waters and wetlands), located in waters of the United States.
- (2) Director. -- The term “Director” means the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
- (3) Great lake. -- The term “Great Lake” means --
- (A) Lake Erie;
 - (B) Lake Huron (including Lake Saint Clair);
 - (C) Lake Michigan;
 - (D) Lake Ontario;
 - (E) Lake Superior;
 - (F) the connecting channels of those Lakes, including --
 - (i) the Saint Mary's River;
 - (ii) the Saint Clair River;
 - (iii) the Detroit River;
 - (iv) the Niagara River; and
 - (v) the Saint Lawrence River to the Canadian border; and
 - (G) any other body of water located within the drainage basin of a Lake, River, or connecting channel described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (F).
- (4) Great lakes region. -- The term “Great Lakes region” means the region comprised of the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.
- (5) Indian tribe. -- The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).
- (6) Interstate organization. -- The term “interstate organization” means an entity that --
- (A) is established by --
 - (i) an interstate compact approved by the Congress;
 - (ii) an Act of Congress; or
 - (iii) an international agreement to which the United States is a party;
 - (B) (i) represents 2 or more --
 - (I) States (or political subdivisions of States); or
 - (II) Indian tribes;
 - (ii) represents --
 - (I) 1 or more States (or political subdivisions of States); and
 - (II) 1 or more Indian tribes; or
 - (iii) represents the Federal Government and 1 or more foreign governments; and
 - (C) has jurisdiction over, serves as a forum for coordinating, or otherwise has a role or responsibility for the management of, any land or other natural resource.
- (7) Introduction. -- The term “introduction” means the transfer of an organism to an ecosystem outside the historic range of the species of which the organism is a member.
- (8) Invasion. -- The term “invasion” means an infestation of an aquatic invasive species.
- (9) Invasive species. -- The term “invasive species” means a nonindigenous species the introduction of which into an ecosystem may cause harm to the economy, environment, human health, recreation, or public welfare. The term “invasive species” does not include game species (e.g. trout, salmon, bass, etc.) that have been traditionally introduced by state game and fish agencies to improve fish populations, fishing or recreation.

- (10) Invasive Species Council. -- The term “Invasive Species Council” means the interagency council established by section 3 of Executive Order No. 13112 (42 U.S.C. 4321 note).
- (11) Nonindigenous species. -- The term “nonindigenous species” means any species in an ecosystem that enters that ecosystem from outside the historic range of the species.
- (12) Organism in trade. -- The term “organism in trade” means an organism of a species or subspecies that has a documented history of being commercially imported into the United States in the period beginning on January 1, 1990, and ending on January 1, 2004.
- (13) Organism transfer. -- The term “organism transfer” means the movement of an organism of any species from one ecosystem to another ecosystem.
- (14) Pathway. -- The term “pathway” means 1 or more routes by which an invasive species is transferred from one ecosystem to another.
- (15) Planned importation. -- The term “planned importation” means the purposeful movement of a species into the territorial limits of the United States.
- (16) Regional panel. -- The term “regional panel” means a panel convened in accordance with section 1203.
- (17) Species. -- The term “species” means any fundamental category of taxonomic classification, or any viable biological material, ranking below a genus or subgenus.
- (18) Task force. -- The term “Task Force” means the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force established by section 1201(a).
- (19) Undesirable impact. -- The term “undesirable impact” means economic, human health, aesthetic, or environmental degradation that is not necessary for, and is not clearly outweighed by, public health, environmental, or welfare benefits.
- (20) Waters of the United States. --
- (A) In general. -- The term “waters of the United States” means the navigable waters and territorial sea of the United States.
 - (B) Inclusion. -- The term “waters of the United States” includes the Great Lakes.

TITLE I – CLEAN SPECIES LISTING ACT OF 2004 - SCREENING PROCESS FOR PLANNED IMPORTATIONS OF LIVE AQUATIC ORGANISMS.

Subtitle B of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4711 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

SEC. 1105. SCREENING PROCESS FOR PLANNED IMPORTATIONS OF LIVE AQUATIC ORGANISMS.

(a) In General. -- Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the “Clean Species Act of 2004”, no live aquatic organism not in trade shall be imported into the United States without screening and approval in accordance with subsections (c) and (d).

(b) Guidelines. --

(1) In general. -- Not later than 30 months after the date of enactment of the Clean Species Act of 2004, in consultation with regional panels convened under section 1203, States, tribes, and other stakeholders, the Invasive Species Council (in conjunction with the Task Force) shall promulgate guidelines for screening proposed planned importations of live aquatic organisms into the United States that include --

(A) guidelines for minimum information requirements for determinations under subsection (c); and

- (B) guidelines for a simplified notification procedure for any additional shipments of organisms that may occur after completion of an initial screening process and determination under subsection (c).
- (2) Purpose. -- The purpose of the screening process shall be to prevent the introduction or establishment of aquatic invasive species (including pathogens and parasites of the species) in waters of the United States and contiguous waters of Canada and Mexico.
- (3) Factors. -- In developing guidelines under this subsection and reviewing and revising the guidelines under subsection (j), the Invasive Species Council and the Task Force shall consider --
 - (A) the likelihood of the spread of organisms by human or natural means;
 - (B) organisms that may occur in association with the organism planned for importation including pathogens, parasites, and free-living organisms;
 - (C) regional differences in probability of invasion and associated impacts;
 - (D) the difficulty of controlling an established population of an aquatic invasive species in the wild; and
 - (E) the profile established under section 1108(b).
- (c) Categories.-- The screening process shall --
 - (1) require the identification, to the maximum extent practicable, to the species level and, at a minimum, to the genus level, of live aquatic organisms; and
 - (2) designate --
 - (A) species with high or moderate probability of undesirable impacts to areas within the boundaries of the United States and contiguous areas of neighboring countries, to which the organism is likely to spread; and
 - (B) species with insufficient information to determine the risk category based on guidelines issued pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(B).
- (d) Evaluation. --
 - (1) In general. -- Not later than 180 days after the date of promulgation of guidelines under subsection (b), in consultation with regional panels convened under section 1203, States, tribes, and other stakeholders, a Federal agency with authority over an importation into the United States of a live organism not in trade and proposed for importation into the United States shall screen the organism in accordance with guidelines promulgated under subsection (b).
 - (2) Delegation and authority. --
 - (A) In general. -- Subject to subparagraph (B), if no agency has authority described in paragraph (1) or an agency delegates the screening to the Director under subsection (h), the Director shall screen the organisms in accordance with subsections (a) and (b).
 - (B) United States Fish and Wildlife Service. -- The Director may restrict or prohibit the importation of an organism in trade if --
 - (i) no other Federal agency has authority to regulate the importation of the organism in trade; and
 - (ii) the Director determines, based on an evaluation that is consistent with the screening requirements promulgated under subsection (g), that the organism in trade has a high or moderate probability of an undesirable impact to an area within the boundaries of the United States or a contiguous area of a neighboring country, to which the organism may spread.
 - (3) Multiple jurisdictions. --
 - (A) In general. -- Subject to subparagraph (B), if more than 1 agency has jurisdiction over the importation of a live organism, the agencies shall conduct only 1 screening process in accordance with the memorandum of understanding described in subsection (f) (in consultation with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrator).

- (B) Cultured aquatic organisms. -- The Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct screening of organisms imported to be cultured.
- (e) Requirements. -- A Federal agency of jurisdiction, or the Director shall --
- (1) restrict or prohibit the importation into the United States from outside the United States of any species that is described in subsection (c)(1);
 - (2) prohibit the importation of any species described in subsection (c)(2), unless the importation is for the sole purpose of research that is conducted in accordance with section 1202(f)(2); and
 - (3) make a determination under this subsection not later than 180 days after receiving a complete request for permission to import a live aquatic species.
- (f) Memorandum of Understanding. --
- (1) In general. -- The Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the agencies of jurisdiction regarding the screening requirements of this section.
 - (2) Contents. -- The memorandum of understanding shall contain, at a minimum --
 - (A) a description of the relationship between and responsibilities of the agencies of jurisdiction, including a process designating a lead agency in cases in which multiple agencies may have jurisdiction over the screening of an aquatic species;
 - (B) the process by which the Director will delegate screening duties to and receive delegation from other agencies of jurisdiction; and
 - (C) the process by which agencies of jurisdiction and the Invasive Species Council will coordinate and share information Required for the screening of species.
- (g) Screening Requirements. -- The Director shall promulgate screening requirements consistent with the guidelines promulgated under subsection (b) to evaluate any planned live aquatic species importation (including an importation carried out by a Federal agency) from outside the borders of the United States into waters of the United States that is (1) not otherwise subject to Federal authority to permit the importation; (2) or delegated to the Director by another agency of jurisdiction under subsection (h).
- (h) Delegation to Director. -- Any agency with authority over the planned importation of a live aquatic organism may delegate to the Director the screening process carried out under this section.
- (i) Catalog of Organisms in Trade. -- Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Clean Species Act of 2004, the Director of the United States Geological Survey and the Director of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, in cooperation with agencies with jurisdiction over planned importations of live organisms, shall --
- (1) develop and, as necessary, update a catalog of organisms in trade; and
 - (2) include the list in the information provided to the public pursuant to section 1102(f).
- (j) Review and Revision. --
- (1) In general. -- At least once every 3 years, the Invasive Species Council, in conjunction with the Task Force, shall use all research and information available to review and revise the screening, guidelines, and process carried out under this section.
 - (2) Report. -- The Invasive Species Council shall include in its report to Congress required pursuant to section 1201(f)(2)(B) --
 - (A) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the screening processes carried out under this section;
 - (B) the consistency of the application of the screening process by agencies; and
 - (C) recommendations for revisions of the processes.
- (k) Prohibitions. --
- (1) In general. -- It shall be unlawful to import an organism described in subsection (d), (e), or (g).
 - (2) Penalties. --

(A) Civil penalty. -- Any person that violates paragraph (1) shall be liable for a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

(B) Criminal penalties. -- Any person that knowingly violates paragraph (1) is guilty of a class C felony.

(l) Fees. -- The head of any agency that has jurisdiction over a planned importation of a live organism subject to screening under this Act may increase the amount of any appropriate fee that is charged under an authority of law to offset the cost of any screening process carried out under this section.

(m) Information. -- A Federal agency conducting a screening process under this section shall make the results of the process available to the public (including international organizations).

(n) Regulations. -- The Director may issue regulations to implement this section.

(o) Effect on Other Laws. -- Nothing in this section or any regulation promulgated under this section supersedes or otherwise affects any other provision of Federal or State law.

TITLE II – COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

Coordination With Other Programs.--Section 1202(c) of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4722(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following --

(3) Recommendations for lists. --

(A) In general.--The Task Force shall annually recommend to Federal agencies of jurisdiction such additions of aquatic invasive species as the Task Force determines to be appropriate for inclusion on --

(i) any list of species of wildlife under the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.) (including regulations under such Act); or

(ii) any list of noxious weeds under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.) (including regulations promulgated under that Act contained in part 360 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations)).

(B) Process. -- The Task Force may use the screening process developed pursuant to section 1105 to identify species pursuant to subparagraph (A).

TITLE III--AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Section 1301 of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4741) is amended to read as follows:

SEC. 1301. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) In General. -- Except as otherwise provided in this section, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008.

(b) Establishment of Clean Species Lists. -- There are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008 --

(1) \$1,000,000, to be used by the Invasive Species Council to establish screening guidelines under section 1105(b); and

(2) \$3,500,000, to be used by the Director to promulgate and implement screening requirements under section 1105(g).



April 6, 2004

Gary Taylor, Legislative Director
International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
444 North Capitol St., NW, Suite 544
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Taylor:

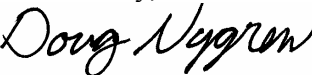
Attached are copies of two letters "express mailed" to you and Doug Hansen on February 12 and 19 regarding MICRA's interest in having the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) develop and support a legislative initiative establishing a "screening process" prior to importation into the U.S. of any nonindigenous species of aquatic flora and fauna. MICRA's members had hoped that the IAFWA Water Resources and Policy Committee would address this issue at their March meeting in Spokane.

Unfortunately, Doug Hansen informed me in Spokane that you did not receive either of these letters, and so the issue did not get on the agenda. MICRA feels strongly about the need for clean species lists, so to ensure that this letter does not get lost in the mail, I am sending it by "return receipt mail". As you will note in my February 12 letter, 27 of our 28 state members voted in favor of developing such legislation.

Our concern is that the current NAISA is so large, cumbersome and expensive, that it will likely lie in Congress for some time before being passed. In the meantime, nuisance species will continue to slip into the country under current weak legislation, and we simply can't stand by and allow that to happen.

By comparison to the other measures proposed under NAISA, development of "clean species lists" is relatively straightforward and inexpensive, and would likely receive broad support in Congress. So unless we see some movement on NAISA this summer, MICRA will request that the IAFWA Water Resources and Policy Committee again place this issue on the agenda at their fall meeting.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (620) 672-5911 or our Coordinator, Jerry Rasmussen at (309) 793-5811. Thanks for any assistance you can provide on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Doug Nygren, Chairman

Enclosures

cc: Doug Hansen, Chairman, IAFWA Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee
MICRA Delegates
MICRA Executive Board

Awards Committee Report

Midwestern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Awards

Excellence in Conservation Award

This award will recognize the agency that has shown excellence in conservation through a specific project. Each member agency would select one project completed in the awards year that exemplifies the goal of fish and wildlife conservation.

Each member state/providence in order to be considered for the award must submit a nomination entry. Each agency should outline one project highlighting the exceptional conservation efforts of such project and submit it to the awards committee.

A perpetual plaque would be awarded to the winning agency and would remain with that agency until the next awards ceremony where the next winner would take custody of the plaque until the following year. Each year the winning agency will have their name and year they won engraved on the plaque.

Conservation Education Award

This award will recognize the agency that has shown an above and beyond effort to try to incorporate education into a management program. This will be given to the agency that has initiated the most unique and original educational opportunity for the public.

Each member state/providence in order to be considered for the award must submit a nomination entry. Each agency should outline one project highlighting the educational aspects of such project and submit it to the awards committee.

A perpetual plaque would be awarded to the winning agency and would remain with that agency until the next awards ceremony where the next winner would take custody of the plaque until the following year. Each year the winning agency will have their name and year they won engraved on the plaque.

“Spirit of the Shack” Achievement Award

This award will be given to the individual who exemplifies the ideals of the great conservationist and educator, Aldo Leopold, and who has contributed to conservation in a superior way. This individual should epitomize stewardship and dedication to fish and wildlife conservation.

Nominations should include candidates name, title, member state/providence, a description of the work that qualifies this person for this award including specific projects or accomplishments relevant to the award specifications, also included should be the name and title of the person making the nomination.

A plaque will be given to the recipient of this award stating that is was given by the MAFWA, that it is the ”Spirit of the Shack” Achievement Award, the name of the recipient and the year awarded.

Midwest President’s Award

This award would be very similar to the award above only that this would be directed at an NGO or political individual. The Midwest President will select the recipient of this award, not the awards committee.

A plaque will be given to the recipient of this award stating that is was given by the MAFWA, that it is the Midwest President's Award, the name of the recipient and the year awarded.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

This will be awarded to the individual who in the past year has shown superior leadership, initiative, and dedication in their duties. This person should personify achievement, public service, education, and above all natural resource conservation.

Nominations should include candidates name, title, member state/providence, a description of the work that qualifies this person for this award including specific projects or accomplishments relevant to the award specifications, also included should be the name and title of the person making the nomination.

A plaque will be given to the recipient of this award stating that is was given by the MAFWA, that it is the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award, the name of the recipient and the year awarded.

Wildlife Biologist of the Year

This award will go to the individual who has shown an unparalleled initiative towards the better understanding of wildlife and their conservation.

Nominations should include candidates name, title, member state/providence, a description of the work that qualifies this person for this award including specific projects or accomplishments relevant to the award specifications, also included should be the name and title of the person making the nomination.

A plaque will be given to the recipient of this award stating that is was given by the MAFWA, that it is the Wildlife Biologist of the Year award, the name of the recipient and the year awarded.

Fisheries Biologist of the Year

This honor will be awarded to the individual who has shown an unparalleled initiative towards the better understanding of fishes and their conservation.

Nominations should include candidates name, title, member state/providence, a description of the work that qualifies this person for this award including specific projects or accomplishments relevant to the award specifications, also included should be the name and title of the person making the nomination.

A plaque will be given to the recipient of this award stating that is was given by the MAFWA, that it is the Fisheries Biologist of the Year award, the name of the recipient and the year awarded.

Selection Process

To select the winners of these awards an awards committee should be formed. It should consist of 5 or 6 members appointed annually by the President in consultation with the EXCOM. The committee will make recommendations for final approval to the President and the EXCOM for potential recipients of the abovementioned awards. The lone exception to this selection

process will be the MAFWA President's Award, which will be selected by the association's President.

Announcement Process

The Chair of the Awards Committee will forward to all Association members an "Announcement for Nominations" request no later than March 15th of each year, with a deadline for submittal of May 1st. The document will include all information required for submittal of qualified applications for each award. All nominations and information, including sharing of application with awards committee members will be done electronically.

Estimated Costs

The estimated cost for one basic 8"x10" plaque would be \$30 and that includes the engraving (see fig. 1). For something a little bit fancier the price for the same size would be \$63 (see fig. 2). The estimated cost of a larger (11"x15") perpetual plaque, with 24 individual plates would be about \$117 (see fig 3). That includes the engraving on the head plate and the engraving for the first individual plate. If we wanted the MAFWA's logo engraved on any of these plaques the factory has to quote the price of that depending on the logo. Total costs if all seven awards were given out in one year would be roughly \$400.00.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2

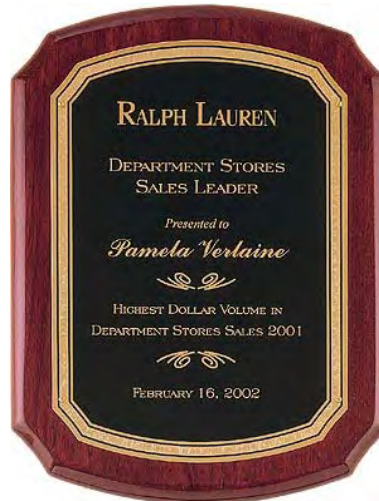


Fig.3



Affiliate Memberships

Affiliate Members

Existing Affiliate Member since 2001/2002

- 1) Wildlife Management Institute (WMI)

New Affiliate Members 2004/2005

- 2) American Sportfishing Association (ASA) contact Gordon Roberts
- 3) Ducks Unlimited (DU) contact Robert Hoffman
- 4) Izaak Walton League of America (IKES) contact Bill Grant
- 5) Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association (MICRA) contact Jerry Rasmussen
- 6) National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) contact Sharon Rushton
- 7) National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) contact James Earl Kennemer
- 8) Pheasants Forever (PF) contact Rick Young
- 9) Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) contact unknown
- 10) The Nature Conservancy (TNC) contact Claudia Emken

New Application for Membership 2004/2005

- 11) The Bowhunting Preservation Alliance (BPA) contact Pat Ruble

Interested in Membership 2005/2006

- 12) North American Grouse Partnership (NAGP) contact Jim Mosher

Coordinator Report



REGIONAL COORDINATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

July, 2004

This constitutes the second annual report of my activities on behalf of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA). As a matter of history, I retired from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) in September, 2002, and was re-employed on a 2 year, half time contract to serve as Special Assistant to the Director and the first Coordinator of MAFWA. By way of an annual strategic thinking process, the Directors and Voting Representatives of MAFWA construct an annual work plan for the Association which becomes the work objectives and targets which I am to accomplish. A copy of the 2003-4 MAFWA work plan is attached as is a copy of my duties as your coordinator.

One of the major jobs I was to perform was to develop a multi-state conservation grant (MSCG) request and associated national conservation need (NCN) to fund "coordinator" positions of all four regional associations of fish and wildlife agencies using federal aid money. This was completed, reviewed and edited by the other three regional associations and submitted to the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA). Subsequent action by IAFWA left the grant request unfunded.

Another major objective of MAFWA is to increase the involvement of Directors, federal agencies representatives, and non-governmental agencies (NGOs) in the Association. I spent considerable time writing, networking at meetings and telephoning appropriate individuals in an effort to increase their direct involvement in the Association. In December, nineteen letters of invitation to affiliate with us were sent to sister conservation organizations, with eight follow-up letters sent in February. Nine NGOs have applied for affiliate membership increasing to ten the number of affiliates of MAFWA. Eleven of our fourteen sitting state agency Directors are expected to attend our 2004 annual meeting (a record). In addition, a record number of federal agencies will be represented at the annual meeting this year.

Another key work target is to establish a web site for MAFWA. By way of a budget authorization of \$2,000, I hired Chris Durrill, a web designer, who with oversight, direction and help of Kirk Keller, MDC web master, developed our web site. Mr. Keller has spent his personal time constructing a system which can be used by the other regional associations and IAFWA

using a common server so all associations can operate more economically and interactively. It has taken longer than anticipated to get the site functional due primarily to Mr. Keller's time schedule and difficulty he is finding perfecting automatic uploads to the web site. His assistance is greatly appreciated. We soon will have a professional, functional and modern web site.

Creating "State of the State" annual reports for posting on our web site is another objective for this year, but due to the delayed launching of our web site this has not been accomplished. However, CO and MO have developed reports which can be viewed on the site.

MAFWA desires to have better communication and interaction with its various technical working groups. One desirable way of doing this is to have MAFWA Directors and Voting Representatives become the "official MAFWA liaison" with each group so our committees have a direct contact person. To date, seven Directors have volunteered to become committee liaisons, but we need an official contact person for the Midwest Pheasant Study Group, the Midwest Furbearer Group and the Prairie Grouse Technical Council. I attended the Midwest Wildlife and Fish Health Committee for the above purpose in April representing Director Becky Humphries, who is our official liaison to this committee.

I assisted President Dean Hildebrand and North Dakota Wildlife Chief Randy Kreil and their staff members organize and plan our annual conference. I traveled to Bismarck in January for this purpose. (I trust this meeting and future conventions serve as examples of MAFWA becoming a stronger, more focused and effective organization.)

I assisted the President organize and carry out Executive Committee (EXCOM) meetings and actions and attended the IAFWA annual conference in Madison, WI and the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Spokane, WA representing both MDC and MAFWA.

A third strategic thinking session is called for in our 2003-04 work plan. Dan Zekor and I obtained input from the Directors and Voting Representatives to frame up this year's session. Because our MSCG grant request failed to gain approval, funding the coordinator position will be a strategic thinking work item.

Designing a new permanent fund proposal also is a work objective and Past President Rex Amack and I crafted the Conservation Enhancement Fund proposal for action at our annual meeting. It is hoped that over time our association can build a larger permanent fund to enhance the Jaschek Fund.

Finally, an official MAFWA logo to accompany our masthead seems to be a good idea. A decision on this is slated for our annual business meeting.

It has been a productive year for MAFWA and an enjoyable one for me. Working closely with President Hildebrand, Randy Kreil and the EXCOM has been a pleasure. I hope we can continue the relationship in the future.

MAFWA WORK PLAN 2003-04

1) CONDUCT A THIRD STRATEGIC THINKING SESSION IN JULY, 2004

-EXCOM WILL DEVELOP THIS SESSION WITH ASSISTANCE FROM DAN ZEKOR AND OLLIE TORGERSON

-SURVEY DIRECTORS IN ADVANCE OF THIS SESSION TO NARROW OUR FOCUS AND BECOME MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT ITEMS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE (DAN ZEKOR WILL CONDUCT THIS SURVEY)

2) BROADEN INVOLVEMENT OF DIRECTORS AND OUTSIDE GROUPS, E.G. NGO'S, FEDERAL AGENCIES, ETC., IN MAFWA ACTIVITIES

-EXCOM AND COORDINATOR SHOULD PERSONALLY NETWORK WITH THE ABOVE GROUPS INVITING THEIR INVOLVEMENT

-ESTABLISH A DIRECTOR LIAISON WITH EACH COMMITTEE OF MAFWA

3) LAUNCH A MAFWA WEB SITE

-COORDINATOR TO CONTRACT WEB DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (BY FALL, 2003) TO ESTABLISH A WEB SITE PRIOR TO THE 2004 ANNUAL MEETING

4) DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO ENHANCE THE JASCHEK FUND

-AMACK AND TORGERSON TO DRAFT A PROPOSAL FOR ANNUAL MEETING

5) REVISE THE JASCHEK FUND GUIDELINES

-KREIL (CHAIR), HANSEN AND KRAMER TO REVISE FOR APPROVAL AT ANNUAL MEETING (DRAFT DUE ONE WEEK PRIOR TO MARCH, 2004 EXCOM MEETING)

6) DEVELOP A MERRILL-LYNCH WORK PLAN

-HANSEN (CHAIR), VONK AND KRAMER TO FUNCTION AS "INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE" TO MAKE RECOMMENDATION FOR ANNUAL MEETING (DRAFT DUE ONE WEEK PRIOR TO MARCH, 2004 EXCOM MEETING)

7) DEVELOP A NCN FOR COORDINATOR FUNDING

-TORGERSON TO DRAFT FOR REVIEW AND FILING PRIOR TO FEBRUARY, 2004 DEADLINE

8) COORDINATE AND DEVELOP ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA WITH ND

-EXCOM AND COORDINATOR TO WORK WITH HILDEBRAND AND KREIL

9) DEVELOP “STATE OF THE STATE” REPORTS FOR POSTING ON WEB SITE

-MAFWA VOTING REPS TO POST 30 DAYS PRIOR TO ANNUAL MEETING

10) DECIDE AT ANNUAL MEETING IF AN OFFICIAL LOGO FOR MAFWA SHOULD BE DEVELOPED TO ACCOMPANY OUR MAST HEAD

CITES Report

**Notes taken from “CITES UPDATE” submitted by Carolyn Caldwell dated July 13, 2004
Issues of Importance to the MAFWA [Actual report can be found on the website]**

Deletion of *Lynx rufus* from Appendix II of CITES

The United States has submitted a delisting proposal for the *Lynx rufus* from Appendix II of CITES for the Convention of the Parties (COP) 13 in Bangkok, Thailand in October. The bobcat was listed on Appendix II because it looks so much like the other more rare spotted cats that there is the potential for “laundering.” The bobcat was only one of the many “look-alike” listings that were made in the early days of CITES. Many listings were fostered by protectionists with the ultimate goal of eliminating trade in otherwise secure populations.

Bobcats are legally harvested in 38 U.S. states as well as regions of Canada and Mexico. Bobcat harvests in North America have varied due to changes in pelt value and fur harvest intensity for other species. Although bobcat harvests increased during 1976-1984, recent harvest levels in the United States have been comparable to those observed prior to CITES listing. Woolf and Hubert (1998) concluded that, based on harvest-associated data, it was unlikely that bobcat populations were reduced during high harvest years; rather, these populations were thought to have remained stable.

Cal DuBrock, NEAFWA CITES Representative has been the principal author of the delisting materials. To view the complete proposal visit the CITES website @ <http://www.cities.org/eng/cop/13/props/E13-P05.pdf>

Work Group on CITES Implementation – Furbearers

A work group formed in 2003 consisting of IAFWA International Relations, Furbearer Resources, and Law Enforcement Committee Members and the USFWS to undertake an in-depth study of the Appendix II Export Program specifically related to furbearers (i.e., river otters and bobcats). Gordon Batcheller with the NY Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources serves as chair. Both otters and bobcats listed in Appendix II as “look alike” species require tagging for export and an annual USFWS determination of a “no detriment” finding. In addition, extensive documentation is required for states applying for export authority.

States were surveyed to solicit their opinion on the current process and methods for improvements. Based on recommendations of the work group members, tags produced for 2004-05 will have no year designations for 28 states and 7 tribes and year designations will still be produced for 16 other states. The group will continue to work to streamline the export process and resolve issues of concern voiced by the states.

USA Considers Listing of Alligator Snapping Turtles & all Species of Map Turtle in Appendix III

Information on all state herpetofauna regulations is being compiled by the IAFWA to appropriately advise the CITES Secretariat of the USA’s intention to list the alligator snapping turtle (*Macrocllemys* [*Macrochelys*] *temminckii*) and all species of map turtle (*Graptemys spp.*) in Appendix III. This information will be used by the USFWS’s Division of Management Authority to make a legal acquisition finding for any permit applications received for wild specimens. The Appendix III approach doesn’t change any management responsibilities and relies on extant regulations and authorities in the states, hence the importance of accurate state information. The

United States has never had any Appendix III listings. Appendix III is an export trade monitoring system. Species can be added and removed by the range state at any time.

Multi State Grant Application Submitted for CITES Team

On June 10th, a Multi State Grant application was submitted on behalf of the four regional association presidents by Don MacLauchlan to assure that through Regional Fish and Wildlife Association's representation, all 50 state fish and wildlife agencies have the ability to monitor and participate in meetings of the various international conventions and protocols where state competencies are threatened, and to represent member agencies in those meetings. Participation and protection of state members' interests in CITES are principal concerns.

The Associations have been represented in CITES meetings regularly over the last eight years. During the last few years, a representative has followed all CITES notices and attended the Conventions of the Parties as well as the Animals and Plants Committees.

In addition to direct participation in CITES meetings, the CITES Team has fostered a positive relationship with the USFWS personnel who administer CITES and provide a unified voice on behalf of the state wildlife agencies.

IAFWA CITES Technical Subcommittee's Mission

To advocate for state management of fish and wildlife at various CITES meetings by promoting a worldwide understanding of the critical role of the states in North American resource management and positively influencing global decisions that effect state management programs.

Meetings Attended on Behalf of the MAFWA

- * IAFWA Annual Meeting, September 2003; Madison, Wisconsin
- * North American & Natural Resource Conference, March 2004; Spokane, Washington
- * CITES: Animals Committee Meeting, March 2004; Johannesburg, South Africa

CITES Team: Roles & Responsibilities

- Ensuring State's Authority is Maintained
- Keeping the State Wildlife Directors Informed
- Serving as a Liaison Between the States & USFWS
- Providing Objective Input on CITES Issues
- Identifying & Recommending Ways to Improve CITES and its Implementation

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Caldwell
Wildlife Management & Research Group
Division of Wildlife, ODNR
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Columbus, Ohio 43224
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Committee Reports

Prairie Grouse Technical Council Report

Prairie Grouse Technical Council Report

The North American plan is a prospectus and the larger plan will be comprised of other species. We believe WMI is beginning to move on Grouse. At March meeting awarded a \$200,000 proposal on prairie grouse (\$100,000 with \$100,000 match). In kind contribution would be greatly appreciated, but we need cash also. There are a number of Western states also involved and they will also be hearing from us. I know a lot of you are putting together your state conservation plans and I hope to get grouse in those plans. I have one last copy of 2003 annual report for Ollie and we would like an application from Midwest for membership. (See Sage Grouse report in CRP section of agenda).

Midwest Private Lands Working Group Annual Report

MIDWEST PRIVATE LAND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT

July 2004

The 14th annual meeting of the Midwest Private Land Wildlife Management Group (Group) was held May 25-27, 2004 in Bismarck, North Dakota. The meeting was well represented with 52 participants registered. Midwest states attending the meeting included Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, and South Dakota. Michigan and Wisconsin were not represented this year. A broad host of other conservation agencies and organizations were also in attendance. They included: Ducks Unlimited (DU), Pheasants Forever (PF), International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), Northern Great Plains Joint Venture (NGPJV), North Dakota Natural Resource Trust (NDNRT), USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Following opening remarks and a warm welcome to the participants by North Dakota Game and Fish Department director, Dean Hildebrand, the Group jumped right into business with each state giving a brief report on new private land initiatives, opportunities, and program updates from the past year. Written reports from each state will be included in the final meeting proceedings which are being prepared.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has such a tremendous role in wildlife habitat conservation in Midwest states and the program's reauthorization is rapidly looming on the horizon. Consequently, much of the meeting's agenda was devoted to various aspects of this program such as: reauthorization strategies, 2007 contract expirations and associated ramifications, cover management provisions, primary nesting season and haying/grazing challenges, and appropriate acreage allocations. Dave Nomsen of Pheasant Forever moderated a panel on Tuesday afternoon, consisting of Bill Baxter, Nebraska; Greg Link, North Dakota; Bill Smith, South Dakota; Luke Miller, Ohio; Dan Figert, Kentucky; Rick Warhurst, DU; and Dave Smith, California titled 2007 CRP Contract Expiration – Implications for the Midwest. The panel once again demonstrated a unanimous demand for CRP acres with diverse habitat features to address differing needs amongst states. The discussion continued to reinforce the fact that "one size does not fit all" when it comes to this program. In addition, the Group had a special evening work session to discuss and debate specific strategies to gain CRP reauthorization and ensure adequate acreage allocations. The next day, Randy Renner (DU) and Bill Smith (South Dakota) presented the challenges related to maintaining proper primary nesting season dates for both managed and emergency CRP haying and grazing, while Kevin Willis (USFWS) and Keith Trego (NDNRT) laid out the challenges presented by managed haying and grazing of CRP.

Other agenda topics were Technical Service Provider (TSP) agreements and an overall status report on all 2002 Farm Bill conservation programs. Mike Mitchner, Kansas, and Brad McCord,

Missouri, gave example of TSP agreements in their states to start a group discussion on emerging opportunities for other states. Dave Nomsen (PF) and Dave Walker (IAFWA) provided an excellent run-down of the Farm Bill programs and related aspects: issues/recommendations, success stories, and preparations of the next Farm Bill.

The Group was treated to a tour of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center plus a showcase of central North Dakota's private land initiatives on Wednesday afternoon. The Painted Woods Pheasant Forever chapter hosted the Group to a reception and banquet in Wilton before heading back to Bismarck.

On Thursday morning, the last day of the meeting, Senator Kent Conrad made a personal visit to lay out the goals and background of the "Open Fields" legislation he is sponsoring. He asked Group members to contact their state senators and representatives to encourage them to sign on. The business meeting was conducted for the remainder of the morning, bringing the conference to a close shortly before noon.

Discussions during the business meeting included: recommendations to be presented to the Midwest Directors, other important items of information for the Directors, and the tentative plans for next years Private Lands Wildlife Management Group meeting in Ohio.

Recommendations generated at the business meeting to be forward to the Midwest Directors are as follows:

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Encourage each MAFWA state fish and wildlife agency, via letter, to support at least one FTE solely dedicated to Farm Bill programs and associated coordination - *(See Attachment 1 – draft Farm Bill FTE letter).*

Background

Agriculture lands comprise a great majority of the landscape of Midwestern states. Hence, both the Commodity and Conservation Titles of the Farm Bill have a tremendous influence on states' ability to manage wildlife populations and their habitats.

The Farm Bill is a very complex topic and needs full-time attention, especially since there is far more money available for wildlife conservation in the Farm Bill programs than in our state wildlife programs. Very few states have full-time staff devoted solely to Farm Bill issues. Many states Farm Bill specialists also have research, management or hunting access program duties, which are full time positions too. As a result, Farm Bill related work often has to take a lower priority when it conflicts with other duties. If we are to keep the Farm Bill wildlife conservation programs well funded, then a major effort is ahead of us and we need staff within each state working on the issue full-time. For these reasons, the Group recommends each Midwest state fish and wildlife agency be encouraged to dedicate a FTE to Farm Bill coordination.

Recommendation 2: Secure non-federal, long-term funding for an IAFWA position devoted to Farm Bill implementation and policy development – *(See Attachment 2 – draft IAFWA FB Position letter)*.

Background

In 1999, the directors of the MAFWA realized this need and encouraged and supported the funding of a full time position dedicated to this effort through IAFWA. This position is currently held by Dave Walker who has fulfilled these duties in a very capable and professional manner. Recently, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Multi-State Grant was secured to fund this position for an additional two years. However, Multi-State grants are not appropriate to provide long term funding for this position and cannot be used to lobby Congress. Consequently, the Group suggests that non-federal, long-term funding be made available to ensure the future of this key IAFWA position.

Recommendation 3: Encourage each MAFWA state fish and wildlife agency, via letter, to support “Open Fields” Legislation - *(See Attachment 3 – draft “Open Fields” letter)*.

Background

In 2003, Republicans and Democratic members of Congress introduced a bill that would provide \$50 million to states to encourage private landowners to voluntarily make their land accessible to the public for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation activities. This legislation is called the "Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program of 2003" or “Open Fields” initiative. Officially titled S. 1840/H.R. 3482, it could, if fully realized, open up as much as 10 million new acres of private land to the public each year, greatly enhancing the experiences of all involved.

The majority of all private land access programs are found in the Midwest and Western states. This funding could be used to expand and improve upon these programs, but would free up additional state funds for other habitat projects within these states. States considering new access program would be given a “leg-up” to commence funding and explore the possibilities of opening more land for outdoor use. Therefore, the Group would like to see each Midwest Association state be encouraged by the President to proactively support “Open Fields” legislation.

Recommendation 4: Encourage USDA Secretary Ann Veneman, via letter, to conduct the next regular CRP Signup in the current program year. Also encourage each MAFWA state fish and wildlife agency to write a similar letter to Secretary Ann Veneman – *(See Attachment 4 – draft CRP 29 letter)*.

Background

On April 8, 2004, President Bush reaffirmed his administration's commitment to CRP with conservation leaders at his Texas ranch, and he recognized the need for action in support of CRP within the next 3-6 months. Following the 26th general CRP sign-up, indications from USDA and the administration suggested there would be another general sign-up before the 2007 Farm bill. A sign-up was expected this spring. In fact, many state wildlife staff along with state USDA staff participated in FSA training for a sign-up this spring, but no sign-up was announced. The Group believes it is very important USDA moves forward with a commitment to CRP by having another general CRP sign-up in 2004 and, therefore, suggest the Midwest Association President contact Secretary Veneman in this regard.

Recommendation 5: MAFWA President send a letter to the WMI Board expressing the Midwest Association's support. - (*See Attachment 5 – draft WMI Support letter*).

Background

The Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) has been a guiding force, striving to improve and support the professional foundation of wildlife management across this nation since 1911. The Midwest Association has benefited greatly from WMI involvement as a conservation partner. Some of the key issues and efforts that have seen significant contributions from the institute in the Midwest include the Conservation Titles of the last four Farm Bills, support of the many Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units, and implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, to name a few.

For the first time in many years, the Midwest region is without a field representative from WMI. This raises particular concern as we approach development of the next Farm Bill, a period where we need a strong presence and voice from every conservation partner we have. Because WMI is such a valued partner to the MAFWA, the Group believes a letter of support from the Midwest President is warranted.

Informational Items

In addition to these recommendations, the Group identified other needs, issues or activities that warranted the Group's effort and attention over the next year or two as we move toward developing a new Farm Bill. The following are being forwarded to Director's attention strictly as informational items:

- 1) As we approach the next Farm Bill, it is important to work for the full cadre of conservation programs we currently have. We will be looking to the MAFWA Directors to support and promote reauthorization of the full Conservation Title of the Farm Bill. The Group will forward such a resolution for consideration of the MAFWA Director's at next years meeting.

- 2) The need to seek out existing economic data or studies demonstrating the benefits and savings provided to taxpayers by CRP and other Farm Bills programs.
- 3) The Group identified the need to start building broad-based coalitions focusing on constituent support for Farm Bill programs, especially CRP (ag commodity groups, agri business, ag banking, community and civic leaders, etc.) Designing and implementing a formal process for developing these forums and building collaborative support will be an action item for next year's meeting. WMI assisted states in this effort in preparation for Farm Bill 2002; however, WMI may be lacking the staff or the dollars to accomplish this task for the 2007 Farm Bill. Consequently, states need to begin laying the tracks to make this effort a priority in the up-coming year.
- 4) Going into the last two Farm Bills (1996 and 2002), the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI), with the help of states, compiled and publish a regional needs assessment report called "How Much is Enough". As we again begin to gear up for another Farm Bill, having such an assessment available to help communicate the value and need for various habitats and associated conservation programs for each of the four regions is critical.
- 5) The Environmental Benefit Index (EBI) has been a very essential tool in targeting CRP acreage allocations across the nation for priority species and habitats. The EBI has evolved and changed with ever successive CRP Signup. The Group continues to monitor and evaluate these changes and their associated results on the landscape. The Group is concerned about the EBI's recent shifting away from some critical habitats such as our nation's wetlands and hopes to address the concern by suggesting appropriate adjustments and modifications.
- 6) CRP's two tier of cover maintenance and management: Mid-contract Management and Managed Haying and Grazing are a double edged sword. If implemented and conducted correctly as a management tool for the desired habitat condition (appropriate practice, timing, duration and frequency for the target habitat objective and climate regimes) these provisions can be beneficial. However, if the management guidelines or prime nesting season dates are manipulated on a national or state level to simply provide CRP cover as a forage base, the effects can be devastating and can negate the value and purpose of this tremendous habitat program. The Group sees a need for a nationwide document providing an evaluation and review comparing nesting season dates, frequency, duration, and impacts (i.e. quality hunting cover, need for residual grass cover, etc). Directors should anticipate a joint policy reminder from the USFWS, IAFWA and FSA regarding the intent of Managed Haying and Grazing
- 7) Encourage FSA to issue a directive recommending county committee evaluation of individual county rental rates. Because this is a nationwide issue, IAFWA's Agricultural Conservation Task Force will be involved in pursuing this objective.

- 8) The Farm Bill Network, a webpage and email list financially supported by the states, was an effective communication tool during development of the 2002 Farm Bill. The FB-Net email list has been discontinued because of lack of use and maintenance funding. The need for a list serve to facilitate communication among partner groups and Farm Bill supporters (similar to FB Network) is vital. The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership may be an option.
- 9) The USFWS's Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) has become an effective grant program to states for enhancing and protecting critical species habitat on private land. Support for continuation and expansion of LIP with primary delivery through existing state fish and wildlife agency's private land programs is necessary. Directors should promote and encourage the proper dialog and coordination between their T&E species coordinators, non-game managers, and private lands managers to ensure effective delivery and competitive application.
- 10) Directors should encourage their fisheries and aquatic resource related staff to support and become more involved in LIP and USDA Farm Bill programs implementation.

Next PLWMG Chairman and Meeting Location

Next year's Private Land Wildlife Management Group meeting will be held just outside of Huron, Ohio along Sawmill Creek. Luke Miller will be the chairman of the Group for 2005.

In closing, thank you for your time and consideration of the Group's recommendations and your continued support of the Midwest Private Land Wildlife Management Group.

July < date >, 2004

MAFWA State Fish & Wildlife Director
«AddressBlock»

Dear Director :

Currently, interim rules or final rules are in place for most conservation programs authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill. While some Farm Bill programs target only cropland, others also target private rangeland and forestland. For example, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) pays landowners a cost-share and annual rental payments to plant permanent cover on highly erodible croplands and marginal pasturelands. The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) pays landowners for permanent 30-year or 10-year restorations on drained wetlands. The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) pays landowners a cost-share for establishing wildlife habitat on private lands. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides cost-share for producers to install environmentally-friendly practices on private land. The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) pays landowners an easement payment or annual rental payments not to convert grazing lands to other uses. The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) pays landowners an easement payment not to convert agricultural land to non-agricultural purposes. The new Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) replaces the Stewardship Incentives Program and Forestry Incentives Program and provides cost-share for management of privately-owned forestlands. The newly formed Conservation Security Program (CSP) will reward producers for good stewardship in selected watersheds across the country. As you can see, there are numerous beneficial programs available to address many of the resource management concerns found throughout the Midwest.

Despite the gains made in the 2002 Farm Bill, the next Farm Bill might not have as much funding for wildlife conservation. The federal budget is tight and it will be harder to keep the present levels of funding for conservation programs. Basically, the wildlife community will have to work hard to keep the programs we have and work even harder if we are going to expand these successful fish and wildlife programs. For that reason, I am asking you to allocate one full time employee (FTE) dedicated solely to Farm Bill coordination and implementation. The Farm Bill is a very complex topic and needs full-time attention, especially since there is far more money available for wildlife conservation in the Farm Bill programs than in our state wildlife programs.

Very few states have full-time staff working solely on Farm Bill issues. Many states Farm Bill specialists also have research, management or hunting access program duties, which are full time positions too. As a result, Farm Bill related work often has to take a lower priority when it conflicts with other duties. If we are to keep the Farm Bill wildlife conservation programs well funded, then a major effort is ahead of us and we need staff within each state working on the issue full-time.

Sincerely,

Dean Hildebrand
President, Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
North Dakota Game & Fish Department
100 North Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501

July < date >, 2004

MAFWA State Fish & Wildlife Director
«AddressBlock»

Dear Director :

The 2002 Farm Bill has brought great success to the conservation community. The Wetlands Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, and Environmental Quality Incentive Program have all received increased funding to address natural resource protection and needs across the United States. Additionally, new programs like the Grasslands Reserve Program and the Conservation Security Program hold great promises. Each of these programs brings great opportunity but also has required increased time and attention to make sure fish and wildlife resources are treated as co-equal to other natural resource benefits and are fully integrated into policies, procedures and guidelines for program implementation. This work must start in Washington.

In 1999, the directors of the MAFWA realized this need and encouraged and supported the funding of a full-time position dedicated to this effort through IAFWA. This position is currently held by Dave Walker who has fulfilled these duties in a very capable and professional manner. Recently, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Multi-State Grant was secured to fund this position for an additional two years (2004 and 2005). However, Multi-State grants are not appropriate to provide long-term funding for this position and cannot be used to lobby Congress. We encourage the Directors to begin considering a more permanent non-federal funding solution to keep this important position in place as reauthorization on the next Farm Bill approaches.

Additionally, the IAFWA has provided funding to contract long time farm bill lobbyist Ray Evans. Ray has provided immeasurable direction and advice to the states concerning all issues surrounding federal farm legislation since the inception of the CRP in the 1985 Farm Bill. He is also recognized in Washington as someone who can bring his experiences to the table during negotiations involving Farm Bill programs now and in the future.

We would like to thank both Ray Evans and Dave Walker for their continued efforts and success working on our behalf. We recommend the continued financial support of both individuals by the Directors.

Sincerely,

Dean Hildebrand
President, Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
North Dakota Game & Fish Department
100 North Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501

D July < date >, 2004

MAFWA State Fish & Wildlife Director
«AddressBlock»

Dear Director,

Providing quality hunting access and outdoor recreation opportunities to our constituents throughout the United States should be of utmost importance to state agencies. These opportunities, especially on private land, are shrinking annually due to population growth, development of open spaces, and loss of farmland on the landscape. Hunters must travel further for a day in the field and public wildlife areas grow more crowded, thus making the outdoor experience less enjoyable. We are also seeing trends where landowners increasingly deny access or turn to leasing arrangements in order to meet financial demands. Landowners are requiring more options for alternate sources of income at a time when markets are tough.

In 2003, Republicans and Democratic members of Congress introduced a bill that would provide \$50 million to states to encourage private landowners to voluntarily make their land accessible to the public for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation activities. This legislation is called the "Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program of 2003" or “Open Fields” initiative. Officially titled S. 1840/H.R. 3482, it could, if fully realized, open up as much as 10 million new acres of private land to the public each year, greatly enhancing the experiences of all involved.

The majority of all private land access programs is found in the Midwest and Western states. This funding could be used to expand and improve upon these programs, but would free up additional state funds for other habitat projects within these states. States considering new access program would be given a “leg-up” to commence funding and explore the possibilities of opening more land for outdoor use.

It is for these reasons that the representatives of the Midwest Private Lands Working Group encourage your support of the “Open Field” legislation. We were honored that this bill’s sponsor, Sen. Kent Conrad, came to this group’s meeting in Bismarck in May to provide us with an update on this legislation. Attached is a copy of his speech.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dean Hildebrand
President, Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
North Dakota Game & Fish Department
100 North Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501

Attachment: Senator Conrad’s speech

Remarks of U.S. Senator Kent Conrad Before the Private Land Management Group Midwest Game and Fish Conference

Bismarck, North Dakota

May 27, 2004

Thank you, Keith (Trego), for that introduction, and thanks for all that you do on behalf of natural resource issues in North Dakota. You're a tremendous leader for our state.

My thanks as well to John Schulz of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department for the invitation to speak to you today.

One thing that unites us all is growing population pressure. I find people hunger for open spaces and the opportunity to experience nature.

Let me begin by reading an excerpt from a Letter to the Editor published just a couple of weeks ago in the Dickinson (North Dakota) Press newspaper:

As a lifelong resident and avid sportsman, I have witnessed many changes in hunting access in my state, some good, some bad.

The Conservation Reserve Program has been one of the good changes I have witnessed. The PLOTS [Private Land Open to Sportsmen] program is another...Even with all the above going for us, small town Main Street is not thriving. Why?

I can only give one hunter's opinion, and that is land access.

And he goes on to describe his great frustration as increasing amounts of land are purchased and closed off because of commercial hunting operations and other trends, leaving the casual, weekend hunter - the dad and son, for example - with fewer opportunities to engage in a cherished pastime.

In a similar vein, for much of last year, newspaper headlines across North Dakota confirmed that one issue has emerged as among the most controversial that we have seen in the state in some time. That issue has to do with who can hunt in this state, and under what conditions.

As one state senator said during the 2003 session of the North Dakota legislature: "In all my years in the legislature, I haven't gotten so many calls as [on] this one."

One article in a North Dakota paper last year began with the declaration that, "No bill has stirred more passion in people than Senate Bill 2048, which deals with capping the number of out-of-state hunters." One state legislator termed the debate over the bill, "civil war between residents of North Dakota fighting over hunting ground." And all this is occurring right here in North Dakota, a state known for its endless horizons.

In response to this growing problem, I have been working with a number of my colleagues in the United States Congress - as well as farm, conservation, and sportsmen's groups - to develop a voluntary and incentive-based approach to addressing the "supply side" of this issue.

Our proposal is a voluntary landowner incentive program. I call it the "Open Fields" legislation. Under the bill, USDA would provide \$50 million per year to state programs that offer incentive payments to farmers and ranchers who agree to allow public access on their land, under terms established by each state.

In designing the "Open Fields" program, our aim has been to build on what works - to grease the wheel, rather than re-invent it. For example, as many of you know firsthand, several states

already have programs designed to increase the amount of private land available to the public. Unfortunately, these programs are generally modest in scope and suffer from limited funding. Our legislation is designed to give these struggling state programs a needed shot in the arm and to encourage other states to start their own program.

Make no mistake about it, wildlife-related recreation is a major force in shaping our economy. In 2001, 82 million Americans participated in wildlife-related recreation, and they spent an estimated \$108 billion in the process. That's big business by any definition, and it's a slice of the national economy that is increasingly important to our rural communities and small businesses. This program will be good for farm income, good for conservation, good for our struggling rural communities, and a positive force in strengthening the bond between producers and the general public.

Finally, there are broader policy reasons to move in this direction. For example, it is likely that future world trade agreements are increasingly going to limit the ability of the United States and other major agricultural producing countries to support our farmers in a way that is considered to be trade, or market, "distorting." In other words, U.S. policymakers are likely to find it more and more difficult to provide government farm support in a way that is tied either to production or to prices. Instead, we will have to find so-called "green box" means of supporting farm income - payments that are not based on bushels produced or current commodity prices. That's clearly the direction that the European Union is heading, and we had better take notice. "Open Fields" would fit neatly in the current green box definition, and should be one of the many tools available to support farm income well into the future, even as the WTO limits our farm policy options.

I'm especially pleased that our legislation has already received the support of a large cross-section of farm, sporting, and conservation organizations, as reflected on this chart [SEE CHART]. Just two weeks ago, I got a call from the Sierra Club, informing me that they were also endorsing the bill. It's rare in Washington to see a list of supporters that is so diverse, which I think reflects both the depth of concern for the problem, as well appreciation for our incentive-based approach to addressing it.

I'm also pleased to report that we're now up to 17 sponsors in the United States Senate, and 13 in the House. And again, note the bipartisan nature of the cosponsors.

Anything that you can do to help us add to these lists would be greatly appreciated.

Again, thanks for the invitation to be here, and I'd be happy to take any questions you might have.

July < date >, 2004

The Honorable Ann Veneman
United States Department of Agriculture
Whitten Building, rm200-A
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Veneman:

I write to express the sincere appreciation of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) for your continued support for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The CRP is a key element of achieving sustainable fish and wildlife resources in the fourteen states with membership in the MAFWA.

On April 8, 2004, President Bush reaffirmed his administration's commitment to CRP with conservation leaders at his Texas ranch, and he recognized the need for action in support of CRP within the next 3-6 months. Following the 26th general CRP sign-up, indications from USDA and the administration suggested there would be another general sign-up before the 2007 Farm bill. A sign-up was expected this spring. In fact, many state wildlife staff along with state USDA staff participated in FSA training for a sign-up this spring, but no sign-up was announced.

The MAFWA believes it is very important USDA moves forward with a commitment to CRP by having another general CRP sign-up in 2004. Another sign-up in 2004 would:

- demonstrate to producers USDA's commitment to CRP,
- test EBI changes contained in the CRP final rule in a smaller sign-up before 2007,
- make full use the acres authorized for enrollment in CRP under the 2002 Farm Bill.

Full use of authorized acres is the most compelling reason for USDA to hold a 2004 sign-up. During the 26th sign up in 2003, USDA received offers totaling 4.1 million acres, but only 2.0 million acres were accepted. This "reserve" of unobligated acres could suggest to some a lack of producer interest, making the program an easier target for a mandatory spending cut, especially in light of tight federal budgets. The 26th sign-up clearly shows there is a strong demand for CRP by producers. A 2004 sign-up would demonstrate USDA's commitment to CRP as well as make full use of CRP acres authorized by statute.

The CRP is the most successful agricultural/natural resource program ever implemented by USDA. Wildlife and fisheries staffs in our member states are committed to assisting your staff with continuing this legacy of success. I look forward to your response and thank you for your time and attention regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Dean Hildebrand
President, Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
North Dakota Game & Fish Department
100 North Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501

cc: James Little, FSA Administrator
MAFWA State Fish and Wildlife Directors

July < date >, 2004

Wildlife Management Institute Board

Dear Sirs,

The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies would like to voice our strong support for the Wildlife Management Institute. Over the years, the association has enjoyed considerable support and assistance from the institute.

The guidance of Rollie Sparrow and the local leadership of Keith Harmon, Terry Riley and Rob Manes have all been critically important to wildlife management in the Midwest. Some of the key issues and efforts that have seen significant contributions from the Institute in the Midwest include the Conservation Titles of the last four Farm Bills, support of the many Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units, and implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, to name a few.

As you know, for the first time in many years, the Midwest region is without a field representative from WMI. This is a tremendous loss for wildlife management in our region. It is our sincere hope and request that the Institute will act expeditiously to fill this vacancy.

It would be hard to overstate the value we place on the Institute and the quality field representation we have enjoyed. Our wildlife and our people are counting on you.

Sincerely,

Dean Hildebrand
President, Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
North Dakota Game & Fish Department
100 North Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501



July 16, 2004

Bush-Cheney '04, Inc.
C/O Tim Adams
Domestic Policy Director
P.O. Box 10648
Arlington, VA 22210

Dear Mr. Adams:

The Directors of 14 state fish and wildlife agencies, as members of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA), are asking both Presidential Candidates to state their positions on several Farm Bill conservation programs affecting fish and wildlife resources. The purpose of this letter is to request the candidate's formal response to the following questions:

1. What is your vision for each of the programs identified below?
2. What level of program funding or acreage enrollment do you support for each of the programs identified below?
3. Do you support the "open-fields" {S.1840, H.R. 3482} legislation?
4. Do you support increased funding for the Conservation Title of the next Farm Bill?

The 2002 Farm Bill increased the acreage caps for both the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). Funding for the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) were also increased and new programs including the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), the Conservation Security Program (CSP), and Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) were created.

Farm Bill conservation programs play an integral role in the economic vitality and general well being of this nation's farmers, ranchers, and forest owners. In addition, they have improved conservation on private lands by enhancing and protecting wildlife habitat, water quality, and soil conservation and contribute significantly to this Nation's legacy of wildlife related outdoor recreation.

The President of the United States will play a crucial role in determining the success of conservation programs authorized by Congress through Farm Bill legislation. The MAWFA, along with hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreational users, have keen interest in the candidate's views regarding Farm Bill conservation programs and policies. Given the importance of these programs to the nation's conservation legacy, we and our conservation partners will be fully engaged in the coming debate over reauthorization of the Farm Bill.

The answers provided to the questions above will be shared with every state conservation agency in our region. We also encourage George Busch to share his views at the annual meeting of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) which will be held during the last week of September in Atlantic City, New Jersey where the candidate's message will be received by the Nation's top Fish and Wildlife Administrators representing all 50 States.

The MAFWA members I represent look forward to receiving a written response to the questions posed above by September 15, 2004 so that the candidate's views on the conservation provisions of the Farm Bill can be shared with the agencies charged with the management of this nation's fish and wildlife resources and their conservation partners at the IAFWA annual meeting.

Sincerely,

Dean Hildebrand
President, Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
North Dakota Game & Fish Department
100 North Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501

cc: International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Midwest Association Directors



July 16, 2004

Kerry for President, Inc.
C/O Heather Zichal
Environment and Energy Director
901 15th Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington DC 20005

Dear Ms. Zichal:

The Directors of 14 state fish and wildlife agencies, as members of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA), are asking both Presidential Candidates to state their positions on several Farm Bill conservation programs affecting fish and wildlife resources. The purpose of this letter is to request the candidate's formal response to the following questions:

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5. What level of program funding or acreage enrollment do you support for each of the programs identified below?
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private lands by enhancing and protecting wildlife habitat, water quality, and soil conservation and contribute significantly to this Nation's legacy of wildlife related outdoor recreation.

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The answers provided to the questions above will be shared with every state conservation agency in our region. We also encourage John Kerry to share his views at the annual meeting of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) which will be held during the last week of September in Atlantic City, New Jersey where the candidate's message will be received by the Nation's top Fish and Wildlife Administrators representing all 50 States.

The MAFWA members I represent look forward to receiving a written response to the questions posed above by September 15, 2004 so that the candidate's views on the conservation provisions of the Farm Bill can be shared with the agencies charged with the management of this nation's fish and wildlife resources and their conservation partners at the IAFWA annual meeting.

Sincerely,

Dean Hildebrand
President, Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
North Dakota Game & Fish Department
100 North Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501

cc: International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Midwest Association Directors

Public Lands Management Working Committee Report

Public Lands Working Committee
May 4-6, 2004

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department hosted the Public Lands Working Committee (PLWC) on May 4-6, 2004 at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center near Washburn, ND. Once again the meeting was very productive and informative and the various discussion topics included many issues affecting public land management in the Midwest.

Attendees for all or parts of the 2004 meeting included the following:

Robert Barbee-Kansas
Pat Brandon-Kentucky
Jennifer Windus-Ohio
Bill Bean-Indiana
Daylan Figgs-Nebraska
Paul Coughlin-South Dakota
Scott Peterson-North Dakota
Dean Hildebrand-Director, North Dakota
Dan Halstead-North Dakota
Bruce Renhowe-North Dakota
Kent Luttschwager-North Dakota

A review of topics along with discussion points and any pertinent actions are outlined below.

Additionally, the PLWC conducted a field tour of some of the Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in Central North Dakota including the Mallard Island WMA, Harmony Lake WMA, and Hille WMA. Each of the three WMAs featured some unique development and management opportunities and challenges.

More specifically, Mallard Island visit featured a cooperative wetland creation project with DU on an 2500 acre island which normally offers a predator free environment. However, due to unprecedented low water levels on Lake Sakakawea, the island is now connected with the mainland and the newly constructed wetland project will be hampered by these low water levels until such time the water levels once again reach a level which would be considered normal operating level. The Mallard Island tour also featured a discussion on Salt Cedar invasion and control on public lands along the shoreline of Lake Sakakawea.

The Harmony Lake WMA visit featured a 637 acre tract that was once surface mined for lignite coal. Harmony Lake was reclaimed and developed for public use and transferred to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department by Coteau Mines in 2003. Some of the wildlife and fishery features on Harmony Lake include a created fishing pond with boat ramp and fishing piers and some outstanding native grass plantings. Harmony Lake demonstrates what can ultimately be

done when wildlife conservation interests work hand in hand with a major mining company to achieve a common goal.

The Hille WMA visit featured a 2967 acre tract that was also once mined for lignite coal. Unlike Harmony Lake however, mining was done on the Hille WMA using a series of underground mining shafts. Over the past several years, the land above these abandoned shafts has begun to settle and has created several sink holes, some of which are very large. These sink holes have created a serious management challenge for the ND Game and Fish Department from a public safety standpoint and has resulted in the closing of these lands to public use for at least an interim period.

OLD BUSINESS

Item 1, NEPA Concerns: During the 2001 meeting, three letters were generated to Attorney General Ashcroft, Dale Bosworth, Chief USFS and Steve Williams, Director USFWS. To date no response has been received. Rob Manes indicated that the International assigned a committee to review the Midwest Director's concern that NEPA can be a barrier to management and is used by some groups to stop management activities especially on Federal Lands. No status report has yet been received from the committee.

Action Item: The PLWC would like to reiterate that this is still a valid concern and that since the International has assigned a committee to review the Midwest Director's NEPA concerns, the PLWC is still interested in the findings of the International Committee.

Item 2, Shooting Ranges: Shooting ranges on public land have apparently been a discussion item at past meetings and were once again discussed at length. All states recognize the necessity of ranges and support their construction on and off public lands. The PLWC discussed the possible development of a status report on shooting ranges on public lands which would help establish recommendations and guidelines for the development and operation of shooting ranges on public lands.

Action Item: The PLWC is still waiting for feedback from the Director's on what they feel the importance of this report is. Scott Peterson will contact the North Dakota Hunter Education Coordinator to see what current recommendations/regulations are in place and will distribute a copy of these to the PLWC members.

Item 3, Prescribed Fire Training: The PLWC is interested in investigating the availability of Prescribed Fire Training courses. The PLWC would further like to develop a guidance document outlining suggested training and information needs for prescribed fire planning documents.

Action Item: The International currently has information on this already but fire training is not always tailored to the states in the Midwest. Each committee member is to develop a status

report on what their respective training requirements are and planning documents that they require. This is to be done by July 13, 2004.

Item 4, Illegal Activities Training: This issue addresses the status of state's review of staff training and implementation of period training on the topic of illegal activities, such as methamphetamine production, on public lands.

Action Item: Continue exploring possibilities for training in these areas and encourage participation by public land managers. Also encourage Director's to explore and monitor training opportunities for this type of illegal activity and provide opportunities for staff to attend this type of training where practical.

Item 5, West Nile Virus (WNV): This issue pertains to dealing with requests for mosquito control on public lands.

Action Item: Continue to provide factual information to the public on WNV and continue to assist with sampling and monitoring of WNV occurrence.

Item 6, Compatible Uses of WMAs: This issue pertains to how states are dealing with the increase in requests for public use on WMAs. Some of these uses may be considered incompatible in certain instances including geocaching, horse back riding, dog training, etc...

Action Item: Jennifer Windus will provide the group with information from Federal Aid on their policy regarding these types of activities. Each committee member is to also send each of the other committee members an electronic copy of their state's WMA Public Use Regulations. Each of the states represented at this meeting have agreed to exchange information on their public use policy and regulations.

Item 7, Discussion on Baiting Regulations: None of the states represented at the meeting allow baiting on their public lands with the exception of North Dakota which is currently in the process of amending their regulations to prohibit baiting on their WMAs.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Cutbacks and Alternative Funding: Daylan Figgs asked about possible alternative funding sources for use on WMA management. Discussion on various avenues being used/or considered in other states.

Secondary Uses: If secondary uses of WMAs conflicts with the primary use, we may be in violation with our Federal Aid Mandates. This applies to Nature Base Tourism activities, dog trials/training, bike trails etc... Dealing with increased pressure for competing uses of WMAs was a common theme among the states represented at the meeting.

Demonstration Areas on WMAs: Nature areas, interpretive areas, what other types of activities are allowed on WMAs? Some of the states have developed some demonstration areas such as native prairie demonstration areas that do provide some self-interpretive information while also providing some educational benefits.

Indiana Bat Guidelines: Bill Bean expressed concern about how Indiana Bat guidelines, laws, and regulations are enforced. Specifically how this relates to which trees can be cut and during which period they can be cut. Any tree which is three inches or greater can not be cut during maternity roosting periods. The existing regulations are effectively restricting timber management activities on WMA in Indiana. No action was identified. Discussion followed relating to other restrictions on timber management.

Managing More Land Without Increase in Resources: Jennifer Windus expressed Ohio's concerns over purchasing more land to manage while budgets and manpower to manage these areas are not growing. Discussion followed on various ways to take some of the pressure off including prioritization of activities, contracting field services such as weed control and food plot establishment, utilizing seasonal employees, and others.

Future Meetings: Discussion on future meeting rotation. The 2005 PLWC meeting is to be hosted by Ohio, 2006 possibly South Dakota? Scott Peterson will inquire about getting an updated meeting schedule from Dean Hildebrand, ND Game and Fish Department Director. If this is not available, we may have to try other avenues.

Meeting Attendance: One of the items of major concern by all in attendance continues to be the relatively poor representation on the PLWC by certain states. Approximately half of the states represented in the Midwest were in attendance at this meeting. Scott Peterson will work on updating agency email and snail mail addresses. This will be used to both send the meeting minutes from the PLWC and to strongly encourage better participation in future meetings.

Association of Midwest Law Enforcement Officers Report

**SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH & PARKS
Division of Wildlife**

2003 LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Presented to:

**The Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
And
The Association of Midwest Fish & Game Law Enforcement Officers**

TRAINING ISSUES

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Division of Wildlife, has one of the most rigorous and comprehensive law enforcement training regimens in the state. In addition to attending the 12-week Basic Law Enforcement Academy, every new officer is required to complete a 13-week field-training program before being assigned a duty station. It is only after successfully completing the field-training program that the new *Wildlife Conservation Officer* is eligible to receive his or her federal deputy game warden credentials from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.



Each officer must also attend a wide variety of annual and semi-annual training classes throughout their career as determined by training topic and department training policies. Some examples include firearms, defensive tactics, search and seizure, hazardous materials, first aid, officer professionalism, federal fish and wildlife law, emergency vehicle operations, and terrorism/homeland security issues.

The training section is also in the process of recruiting firearms and defensive tactics instructors from among the conservation officer ranks in order to fill existing vacancies. To aid in the recruitment process, each instructor receives \$100 for each class taught. We are also reviewing and redrafting a number of existing policies and procedures to bring about consistency between state law enforcement agencies. The department is currently reviewing the "Reno Model," which is based on the field-training program currently being used with great success by the Reno, NV Police Department. It is highly likely the Reno Model will ultimately replace our current field training program standards

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

The law enforcement budget for the past fiscal year was \$3.6 million. This is a fairly significant increase from the previous year's budget. A good portion of the monies was obligated to purchasing new patrol vehicles and an upgraded high-band radio communications system with mutual aid capabilities. The increase also reflects the hiring of two full-time wildlife criminal investigator positions. The investigators were hired during the summer of 2002, and both have been busy settling into their new positions. The investigators, both of

whom were former conservation officers, are Scott Mikkelson of Belle Fourche and Jeff McEntee of Mitchell. Officer Mikkelson has assumed primary responsibility for overseeing investigations in the western half of the state while Officer McEntee will be concentrating his investigative efforts in eastern South Dakota.

Another staff change involved the hiring of four conservation officer supervisors, one for each of the four Wildlife Division Administrative Regions. These positions directly oversee the daily work activities of conservation officers and have greatly improved the supervisor/employee ratio that previously existed. This will allow the regional supervisors to focus more of their time and attention on other equally important administrative duties.

The Wildlife Division is staffed with 57 conservation officers with an overall compliment of 88 sworn officers. This figure includes supervisors, assistant supervisors, Pierre enforcement staff, and park rangers.

We continue to have a relatively high turnover rate, and filling vacant positions has been a real challenge. Generally speaking, qualified individuals are not difficult to find. The challenge has been finding and hiring quality candidates. Low starting pay and a relatively open job market have compounded this problem. Funding levels have remained fairly stable due to continued good license sales.

MAJOR ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

Officers are involved in a variety of enforcement projects. In particular, our officers are spending more time dealing with the ever-growing number of private shooting preserves, bait dealers, and other commercial hunting and fishing industries. Their efforts are designed to increase compliance with applicable laws and regulations in order to lessen the impact these operations have on wild populations and public, non-commercial hunting and fishing activities. Having two full-time wildlife criminal investigators on board has allowed us to provide more regulatory oversight into these commercial operations, and several covert investigations are currently underway. The department, working in close cooperation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, recently completed a two-year covert investigation into the commercial hunting industry; primarily licensed shooting preserves where intelligence reports indicated that certain preserves were heavily involved in “raptor population reduction activities.” Covert officers were also able to verify a number of Federal Lacey Act violations as well as numerous violations of state law. Initial federal indictments have been handed down, and the department is settling in for what could be a rather lengthy prosecution process. Formal requests and subsequent justifications for spin-off investigations are currently being drafted for review and approval by department administrative staff.

Officers are kept busy during the summer months working recreational boating enforcement. The number of personal watercraft (PWC) registered in the state continues to grow, and a significant portion of our officers’ boating enforcement efforts are directed at these specialty craft. We have also initiated BUI checkpoints on lakes where unsafe and/or reckless operation is a continual problem. This is the fourth year officers have been actively enforcing boat numbering requirements to increase compliance with state and federal numbering laws. Over the past 10 years, our state has seen a slow but steady decline in the readability of boat numbers, and we are optimistic our efforts will improve compliance.

UNIQUE BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS

The department has also been working in close cooperation with the State of Nebraska to standardize paddlefish regulations in the border waters near Gavins Point Dam. Paddlefish are a truly unique and precious resource and the cooperation shown thus far between states will help ensure that paddlefish populations will remain stable and available to conservation-minded anglers for years to come.

NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

We are continually experimenting with remote surveillance equipment and other high-tech electronics. Officers also have access to night vision equipment, digital radios, bearcats, remote-operated camera devices, metal detectors, GPS units, and digital cameras. The department has expanded its use of wildlife enforcement replicas to include robotic animals.

Another important component of our wildlife law enforcement program was the purchase and statewide integration of a computerized criminal intelligence network. The intelligence program, CrimeNtel, was developed by CI Technologies and is available to our officers through either a Windows or Web-based version. Unlike other states that have adopted CrimeNtel as their intelligence system of choice, law enforcement supervisory staff decided to make the program available to every officer in the state. The system has already produced results and is used regularly by our two wildlife investigators to justify, plan, and coordinate special investigations. We also provided direct access to the system to our federal counterparts in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, who have read-only access to all intelligence submissions via the Web-based version. Three new features were added to CrimeNtel in 2003. Each officer's submission must first be reviewed and approved by a supervisor before the intelligence information is published on the system. In addition, officers with the Client version are now capable of linking Word documents and digital photographs to a specific piece of criminal intelligence.

The department also added "Autotrack" and the "UJS Query Interface System" to its law enforcement toolbox. Autotrack is recognized as the nation's top people-search database, and its integration has revolutionized our fraudulent license investigations. Similarly, the UJS Query Interface System allows our officers direct access to a subject's complete misdemeanor and felony arrest record in South Dakota with the added feature of providing real-time warrant information.

Work has begun on a new and improved criminal case disposition system. The new system will be configured in an Access database and will capture all GFP related criminal violations via automatic download provided by the state's Unified Judicial System. Each officer will be able to inspect and send his or her disposition reports electronically, thereby eliminating the antiquated paper system. In addition, the new system will make it much easier to generate an annual law enforcement program report, as each field in the program can be queried.

The law enforcement supervisory staff is also developing a uniform system to capture and display written warnings issued to game and fish violators. The data base will allow the agency to get a more detailed picture of a person's true wildlife-related criminal history, which

should prove valuable for criminal investigations, pre-sentence investigations, and sentencing recommendations.

Another project that is taking shape is the development of a uniform case management system. We are in the beginning stages of development and don't have much to report at this time. We have been contacting other states to get some idea how they manage their statewide law enforcement case reporting system.

STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ISSUES, LEGISLATION, LEGAL CHALLENGES AND COURT DECISIONS IMPACTING NATURAL RESOURCE LAW ENFORCEMENT

We had one significant court decision rendered in 2003 that has far-reaching impacts on hunting and fishing in South Dakota. The case involved access to and use of navigable waters, provided the body of water was not classified as meandered. The case went all the way to the State Supreme Court, which essentially overturned a lower court's original decision that private waters were indeed private, even if the public could access the water from a public place such as a road right-of-way. This is a very complicated and emotional issue for both the landowners and non-landowner sportsmen and women. A portion of the case was remanded back to the circuit court for additional review and consideration, so it may be some time before a final decision is rendered.

There is yet another lawsuit that has been filed in an effort to stop small game hunting within road rights-of-way. The plaintiff, who also happens to own and operate a large private shooting preserve, is challenging the long-held tradition of road hunting on the grounds it is a dangerous activity and should therefore be eliminated.

Another major change in 2003 was the on-going implementation of the provisions of the Title VI Lands Transfer Act. This federal legislation transferred the management and control of all Corps of Engineers lands that lay within the boundaries of the Cheyenne River and Lower Brule Indian Reservations to the respective tribes. Cheyenne River, which is adjacent to Lake Oahe, and Lower Brule, which is adjacent to Lakes Sharpe and Francis Case, now have full control of these areas down to the water's edge. The State, in turn, has full authority and control over the recreational use of the waters that adjoin these reservations. The respective tribes still have limited legal authority and may only enforce its rules and regulations on registered tribal members. Any non-tribal persons caught violating a tribal game and fish regulation must be referred to the US Attorney's Office for possible prosecution.

The Act also transferred a number of Corps lands and boat ramps along the Missouri River to the jurisdiction and management of the department, which, in turn, has placed significant pressure on the law enforcement section of the Division of Wildlife. With the assistance of the Division of Parks and Recreation and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Division of Wildlife has assumed a greater role in the protection of endangered terns and plovers along the Missouri River corridor. Our officers are also expected to play a greater role in the protection of historic cultural resources on the transferred lands. The department has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with a number of signatory agencies, which clearly defines each agency's role in the protection of these rare and precious resources.

A Short Summary of the 2004 Legislative Session:

About the only good news to come out of the 2004 Legislative Session was passage of a bill authorizing the department to enjoin the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. Anti-department factions who tried their level best to gut the department in one fashion or another introduced virtually every other department-related bill.

The worst example was ***House Bill 1258***. House Bill 1258, an Act to restrict the entry of conservation officers onto private land without first securing permission from the owner or lessee, was (narrowly) defeated in the Senate after passing the House by a large margin. Passage of the bill would have had a devastating impact of the department's ability to properly manage and protect the state's wildlife resources. Because the bill failed to contain a good faith clause or exception, its passage would have created an untenable situation for our officers by exposing them to needless and potentially dangerous criminal and civil liabilities. The bill, or some variation thereof, will likely resurface during the 2005 Legislative Session.

COST SAVING INITIATIVES

The agency has plans to apply for federal grants to purchase laptop computers and other law enforcement equipment. We are also looking into federal grants that would be used to offset the cost of equipment used primarily for homeland defense. In addition, the State of South Dakota has implemented a Megatrak Fuel System whereby State employees using state vehicles may obtain gasoline at a significantly lower per gallon rate than retail gas stations. This move has saved the State, and the department, hundreds of thousands of dollars in fuel expenses.

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

South Dakota has a large and very profitable baitfish industry. In fact, South Dakota fathead minnows have been nicknamed "South Dakota Toughies" by many in the out-of-state minnow trade due to their reputed endurance and quality. This lucrative industry draws a diverse group of people, some of who are unable to resist the temptation to cut corners and circumvent the law. As a result, our officers in eastern SD often find themselves spending an inordinate amount of time investigating the illegal baitfish trade.

The department has again compiled a comprehensive annual law enforcement program report. The report summarizes our wildlife law enforcement program for Calendar Year 2003, and it should be available in print and on the department's Internet site no later than July 15, 2004.

A number of our officers again assisted local law enforcement during the August Motorcycle Rally in Sturgis, SD.

NCN Report

MAFWA NATIONAL CONSERVATION NEEDS COMMITTEE OPERATING PROCEDURES

June 30, 2004

On July 13, 2004, President Dean Hildebrand Created the MAFWA National Conservation Needs Committee. The Committee consists of Tom Niebauer (WI), Dave Risley (OH), and Dan Zekor (MO). The primary purpose of this committee is to annually advise the Association on a recommended course of action for submitting a MAFWA recommended National Conservation Need (NCN) to the IAFWA.

NCNs are a fundamental part of the IAFWA's administrative process for soliciting proposals under the Multi-state Conservation Grant Program. Grant proposals submitted and subsequently funded under this program must address one or more NCNs.

In January of each year, the IAFWA staff solicits NCNs from Committees **and Regional Associations**. Proposed NCNs are typically submitted to the IAFWA in February for consideration by the National Grants Committee during the North American Fish and Wildlife Conference.

Operating Procedures:

1. Upon announcement of the IAFWA staff solicitation for proposed national fish and wildlife conservation needs, the committee will convene via conference call to review the specific requirements and deadlines for developing and submitting NCNs.
2. Working with the Association's coordinator and through the current President, a general call for NCN proposals will be made to the MAFWA membership. Appropriate guiding information and instructions (e.g., NCN format & criteria) will be provided along with a deadline.
3. The committee will review any/all proposals and work with the author for completeness.
4. Proposed NCNs will be compiled and sent on to the President with a Committee recommendation and associated rationale. Only one NCN may be advanced from the Association.
5. The President will make the final decision whether to forward an NCN from the Association and which NCN if multiple proposals have been made.
6. The President will advance the selected NCN to the IAFWA staff by the given deadline, to be included with all NCNs for consideration by the National Grants Committee.

Legal Committee Report

No Legal Committee Report, meeting scheduled for later this year. John Hoskins, Missouri is the Midwest Liaison to the committee.

Fish and Wildlife Health Committee Report

MIDWEST WILDLIFE AND FISH HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT
JULY 13, 2004
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

The Midwest Wildlife and Fish Health Committee met for the second time on May 18 and 19, 2004 at Pere Marquette State Park in Grafton, Illinois. There were 18 individuals in attendance, representing 9 states and 2 federal agencies. The coordinator for the Midwest Association was also present. The detailed minutes of that meeting were mailed to Midwest Directors in June of 2004. The state of Michigan has agreed to host the 2005 meeting in May of that year.

The major issues of discussion were Chronic Wasting Disease and West Nile Virus.

Chronic Wasting Disease:

All states in the Midwest Association continue testing for CWD in cervid populations. The good news is that no new state detected CWD during the 2004 testing season. USDA-APHIS-VS will provide grants for CWD testing, monitoring and management again during the federal 2004-05 fiscal year. Additionally, USGS has provided additional funding for CWD research being conducted in Wisconsin, Nebraska and Colorado.

West Nile Virus:

Concern continues to be expressed over the impact of WNV on game bird and raptor populations in the Midwest. Research being conducted at the National Wildlife Health Lab in Madison, Wisconsin and the National Wildlife Research Center in Fort Collins, Colorado should provide some answers.

The Committee submits the following recommendations to the Directors of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies concerning West Nile Virus.

It is the recommendation of the MAFWA Wildlife and Fish Health Committee and each member state consider instituting the following actions reference coordination of West Nile Virus response with state agriculture and human health agencies.

- 1) All states conduct mosquito pool surveillance for WNV on Public wetlands.
- 2) When establishing, restoring or enhancing public wetlands, introduce mosquito predators.
- 3) Conduct mosquito predator surveys on public wetlands.
- 4) Provide information on wetlands, mosquitoes and WNV to the public.
- 5) Support state, federal and university research on impacts of WNV on game bird and raptor populations.
- 6) Do not use larvicides until mosquito experts have confirmed that the species of mosquito present is one that carries WNV.
- 7) Emphasize the fact that current science does not support spraying wetlands for WNV control.
- 8) As a part of the recommended EHD survey, WNV titers be tested for also.

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease/Bluetongue Virus

Several states reported an apparent increase in EHD/Bluetongue deaths during 2003-04. Although it is assumed that this virus complex causes the deer deaths, scientific surveys are few and far between. It is the recommendation of the MAFWA Wildlife and Fish Health Committee that the states of the Association conduct coordinated, systematic surveys of EHD/Bluetongue infection levels in resident deer herds in cooperation with the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study. The study would also look at WNV infection in the blood samples collected. A proposal for this study is attached.

Two additional issues were discussed as important issues for the Committee to look into. These issues will be studied in detail between now and the next Committee meeting with a full discussion on possible recommendations for the states to be developed at the 2005 meeting.

Baiting and Feeding:

The relationship of baiting and feeding as related to wildlife disease transmission and prevalence was identified as an issue that the Committee should look into. This issue will be a major item of discussion at our next meeting. Recommendations for the Midwest states will be developed.

Fish Diseases:

The importance of fish diseases was discussed and a brief overview of the National Fish Disease Survey was given. The next meeting will have a time block set aside for the discussion of fish diseases and the development of possible recommendations.

**WILDLIFE AND FISH HEALTH COMMITTEE
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES**

**Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease and West Nile Virus
Survey Proposal**

The health of deer populations is a significant concern for public resource agencies. Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and West Nile Virus (WNV) are viral diseases of increasing importance to wildlife in the Midwest. EHD can cause mortality in both White-tailed and Mule deer. The factors and forces that influence the distribution, severity and frequency of die-offs have not been documented. It may be hypothesized that mortality events are associated with deer populations possessing no acquired immunity to the disease. Preliminary investigations in Kansas and Nebraska suggest that deer with antibodies to EHD are unevenly distributed across those states, and that their distribution may be associated with the environmental conditions favorable to the vector and virus. Changing environmental conditions may allow for greater transmission of the virus into naïve populations.

A survey of the sero prevalence of hemorrhagic antibodies in deer across the Midwest would map the protection of populations and delineate the vulnerability of others. Location of deer when collected would also allow some inference related to habitat and exposure.

WNV can cause mortality in both birds and humans. The presence of this virus in the Midwest is important to both wildlife biologists and human health agencies. The ability to track this virus in a mammalian species was lessened with the advent of a vaccination for horses. Additional screening of deer serum for WNV across the Midwest would help delineate the exposure of another mammalian species besides humans.

A uniform, and coordinated region wide disease monitoring survey would yield far better information than individual states conducting their own surveys at different time periods. A deer serum bank from such a large geographical region would be valuable for other potential diagnostic screenings and applications.

Survey Design

Participating states would be requested to collect at least 200 but no more than 400 blood samples during the fall deer season. The location of each sample (miles North/South and East/West from a city) would be used to generate maps relative to habitat features. The serum would be separated and frozen in cryogenic tubes (2-3ml) for shipping. Serum samples would be sent to the Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study for analysis. The samples would be screened for the presence of hemorrhagic and West Nile Virus antibodies and serotyped. Results would be summarized and reports and maps generated. The study would be conducted from 3 to 5 years for the most meaningful results.

Cost

The cost would depend on the number of tests the serum is subjected to. Participating states would be looking at a yearly expense of between \$2,400 and \$4,800 for just EHD/BTV screening. If WNV screening were added to the project, the cost per state would increase to between \$3,000 and \$6,000 per state per year. Sample collection, shipping and handling would be the responsibility of each state.

MIDWEST WILDLIFE AND FISH HEALTH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

WEST NILE VIRUS

These recommendations are submitted to help guide the state wildlife agencies in their cooperative efforts with state agriculture and human health agencies in surveillance for West Nile Virus.

- 9) All states conduct mosquito pool surveillance for WNV on Public wetlands.
- 10) When establishing, restoring or enhancing public wetlands, introduce mosquito predators.
- 11) Conduct mosquito predator surveys on public wetlands.
- 12) Provide information on wetlands, mosquitoes and wetlands to the public.
- 13) States support state, federal and university research on impacts of WNV on game bird and raptor populations.
- 14) Do not use larvicides until mosquito experts have confirmed that the species of mosquito present is one that carries WNV.
- 15) Emphasize the fact that current science does not support spraying wetlands for WNV control.

Deer and Turkey Working Group Committee Report

**No Deer and Turkey Committee Report, meeting scheduled for later this year. Dale
Garner, Iowa is the Midwest Liaison to the committee.**

Pheasant Study Working Committee Report

MIDWEST PHEASANT STUDY GROUP

7TH MEETING



**IOWA 4H-CAMP
LUTHER, IOWA
OCTOBER 6-9, 2002**

MIDWEST PHEASANT STUDY GROUP 7TH MEETING REPORT

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List of Participants**

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Indiana*
Iowa
Kansas
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
North Dakota
Ohio*
South Dakota
Wisconsin***

* states not represented at this years meeting

AGENDA for 7th Group Meeting

Future of the Pheasant in North America

October 6 - 9, 2002

Iowa 4H-Camp

Luther, Iowa

Sunday, October 6th

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Check-in - *Elm Lodge*

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Social, Libations, and Appetizers - *Elm Lodge*

Monday, October 7th

7:00 AM - 7:45 AM Breakfast - *Linden Lodge*

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM Welcome and housekeeping (Bogenschutz/Stephens/Vonk)
- *Elm Lodge*

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Past Pheasant Mgmt/New Opportunities (Al Farris)

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM Pheasant Economics/CARD (Kathy Kling/Bill Clark)

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM NRCS/WHMI research needs (Mark Lindflott/Bill
Hohman)

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM Break

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM IAFWA Upland game working group/NABCI coordination
(Al Farris/ John Schulz)

10:45 AM – 11:15 AM Opportunities in the New Farmbill (Dave Nomsen)

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM Group discussion Farmbill/Joint Research (Bogenschutz)

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Lunch - *Linden Lodge*

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Field Trip - Iowa Private Lands Program (Ken
Herring/Andy Robbins/Josh Gansen) CCRP, FWP, PF
Buffers Program

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Tour Stonehaven Farms Shooting Preserve (Jim Cownie)

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Dinner - *Stonehaven Lodge*

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Return 4H Camp

Tuesday, October 8th

7:00 AM - 7:50 AM	Breakfast - <i>Linden Lodge</i>
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Iowa Eagle Lake Research (Rolf Kolford/Bill Clark)
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	South Dakota Pheasant Telemetry Results (Tony Leif).
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Climate Change and Pheasants (Randy Rodgers/Bogenschutz)
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Woody Cover and Pheasants – What’s Needed (Kurt Haroldson)
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Break.
10:15 AM – 10:45 AM	Midwest Pheasant Model (Kurt Haroldson/Dale Tessin)
10:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Panel Discussion - Opportunities for coordinated research/research needs, population model, invertebrates? (Bogenschutz/Lindflott/Hohman/Clark/Leif)
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch - <i>Linden Lodge</i>
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Field Trip - Iowa Public Lands & DNR/PF Seed Harvest Teams (Scott Peterson/Bill Johnson)
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM	Dinner (4H Camp) - <i>Linden Lodge</i>
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Social and Group Discussions - <i>Elm Lodge</i>

Wednesday, October 9th

7:00 AM - 7:45 AM	Breakfast - <i>Linden Lodge</i>
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Group Business Meeting/Evaluation/Next Host (Bogenschutz) - <i>Elm Lodge</i>
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Open Discussion
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Break.
10:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Wrap up/Adjourn

**MIDWEST PHEASANT STUDY GROUP
ANNUAL REPORT
OCTOBER 6-9, 2002**

The group held their 7th annual meeting at the Iowa 4H-Camp located near Luther, Iowa. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources hosted this year's meeting. The camp provided a quiet and inexpensive location to host this year's meeting with food, lodging, and meeting facility all located on site. States in attendance included Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Wildlife Habitat Management Institute (WHMI), Iowa State University – Dept. of Animal Ecology, and Iowa State University – Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) were also present.

Meeting began with the arrival of visiting biologist Sunday evening with libations and venison summer sausage to take the edge off everyone's long drive. Todd's wife and new baby daughter even made an appearance to brighten the evening.

On Monday morning, October 7th, the meeting officially started with a welcome to Iowa by Richard Bishop, chief of the Wildlife Bureau. The theme for this year's meeting was "Future of Pheasants in North America." Al Farris former pheasant biologist and administrator for the Iowa Fish and Wildlife Division kicked off the meeting theme with a review pheasant management in Iowa. Al also reviewed the structure the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) and its relationship to the regional Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA). Al also described the old Midwest Pheasant Study Council and why it was disbanded in the late 1970's.

Next Kathy Kling, of Iowa State University CARD, presented information on economic values of wildlife and how these values can be measured. She demonstrated how this information could be beneficial to species like pheasants using a case study of wetlands in Iowa. Next Bill Hohman of the Wildlife Habitat Management Institute (WHMI) explained to the group the Institute was a product of the 1996 Farmbill and his role is to provide wildlife technical information to NRCS field staff. Bill noted that if the Midwest states were interested in joint research related to the Farmbill the request should come through the state NRCS biologists for his agency to be involved. Dave Nomsen could not attend due to an illness. Al Farris and John Schulz wrapped up the morning with a review of the IAFWA's different committees (Federal Lands, Ag. Programs, Wildlife Health, Federal Aid, All Bird Conservation) and the resident gamebird group, which is a subcommittee of the All Bird Conservation committee. Al noted with the disbanding of the Midwest Pheasant Council there is no technical arm supporting/advising the resident gamebird subcommittee of the IAFWA. The resident gamebird subcommittee is chair by John Frampton of South Carolina and is composed mostly of biologist from the Southeast Quail Study Group. Al stated our group could make a very important contribution to the resident gamebird group and suggested that our group pursue this through the MAFWA, John Frampton, or perhaps Bruce McCloskey of Partners in Flight. The morning wrapped up with a discussion of North American Bird Conservation Initiative and discussion of Midwest Pheasant Study Group becoming officially sanctioned by the MAFWA. There was no consensus on sanctioning by the MAFWA or becoming involved with the resident gamebird subcommittee. Larry David

(IL) noted that the group made and passed a unanimous motion at the Illinois meeting to provide the MAFWA president with a meeting announcement, meeting summary, and list of attendees.

Monday afternoon was a field trip to view Iowa's upland game habitat developments on private lands. Tour included stops to view general CRP, buffer strips, and the farmable wetlands program. The day ended with a tour and dinner at Stonehaven Farms Shooting Preserve, a private put and take hunting preserve.

Tuesday morning began with a review of waterfowl/songbird/predator research on newly acquired PPJV lands in northern Iowa. Tony Leif followed with male pheasant breeding behavior results from radio telemetry in SD. Iowa and Kansas then reviewed some data showing changes in temperatures and rainfall patterns in their respective states and discussed potential impacts of these changes on pheasant populations. Lastly Kurt Haroldson (MN) and Dale Tessin (IA) discussed efforts in MN and IA to develop a pheasant model to manage pheasant habitat. Much discussion followed regarding a model and the importance of winter, nesting/brood-rearing, and dispersal periods. Discussion concluded with several states agreeing to move forward discussing the development of a model via e-mail.

Tuesday afternoon was a field trip to view upland wildlife management practices on public lands in Iowa. Participants saw an older upland management plan on Brushy Creek Recreation Area and new management ideas on Harrier Marsh WPA. Participants also saw the native forb seed productions plots and the harvest of native grasses with a rice head stripper combine. Native grass and forb seed will be used to enhance upland habitats on Iowa public wildlife areas.

The meeting wrapped up on Wednesday morning with each state giving an overview of their current populations, programs, and research. Meeting concluded with discussion of the next host state. Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan have not hosted. Michigan tentatively agreed to host in 2004, if approval is denied then Nebraska offered to host in 2004. Todd informed the members that he would have the meeting report completed by December and encouraged everyone to share it with their respective representative on the MAFWA. Todd will send a copy to the current MAFWA president. Todd thanked everyone for their participation and attendance. Participants departed at 10:00.

Todd Bogenschutz, Iowa DNR
2002 Chair, Midwest Pheasant Study Group

BYLAWS
MIDWEST PHEASANT STUDY GROUP
ORGANIZATIONAL GUIDELINES OF THE MIDWEST PHEASANT STUDY GROUP

OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide an informal forum for common management problems concerning the pheasant and associated upland game (where applicable) in Midwest upland/farmland habitats.
2. Stimulate an exchange of information between states on survey techniques, harvest regulations, research, and habitat management.
3. Provide an opportunity to define and set priorities for common research needs and to minimize duplication of efforts among the member states.
4. Provide an opportunity to develop cooperative research projects that one state could not address by itself.
5. Act as a source of detailed information on pheasants in the midwest (and other applicable states) for the public and other resource agencies.

ORGANIZATION:

The Midwest Pheasant Study Group shall consist of representatives from the member states who, as wildlife biologists, are directly responsible for research and management of pheasants and associated upland game birds. States invited to join the Group are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Other states are encouraged to participate.

OFFICERS:

The next offices of chairperson and secretary shall be filled by biologists from the state selected to host the next meeting. Their term of office shall be from their selection until completion of all responsibilities for their Group meeting. Officers will be selected by the host state with recommendations made by the group. Their responsibilities will include organizing the meeting to be held in their state, selecting a meeting site and dates, arranging for lodging and meeting rooms, formulating an informal program, publicity and meeting announcements to member states, and publication of a meeting summary and updated biologist directory.

COMMITTEES:

Committees may be selected to investigate specific problems and make recommendations to the entire group. Committees will be selected by the chairperson after reviewing requests for committee action submitted by the membership.

MEETINGS:

At each group meeting the date and host state for the next meeting will be decided. Meeting sites will be rotated among member states on a volunteer basis. If no volunteer comes forward, the first member state (proceeding alphabetically) that has not yet hosted a meeting, or the member state with the longest elapsed time period since it last hosted a meeting, will be

chosen if agreeable to that state. Meetings will generally be 2-3 days in duration with meeting costs kept to an absolute minimum. A general theme shall be selected for each meeting; site chosen should enhance the selected topic. Field trips are encouraged to investigate management practices and/or research projects.

Notice of arrangements for the meeting shall be distributed to member states at least 4 months in advance to allow time for securing out-of-state travel authority and preparation of presentations/status reports.

MEETING AGENDA:

The program shall be informal with ample time for open discussion. Each state shall submit a written report on hunting regulations and harvest, population surveys and trends, new research and management projects, university research, and any other topic that the state representatives deem important. Also, the chairperson may invite guest speakers to present reports on the selected theme of the meeting or other topics which may be of interest to the group. Short field trips may be utilized to point out areas of special interest to the group.

ATTENDANCE:

To enhance an atmosphere of total participation and exchange of ideas, the attendance shall be limited to 40 persons. The chairpersons will be responsible for limiting the size of the meeting to this number. Forty seats will be allocated in a manner that allows the 11 non-host states to send a maximum of 3 individuals apiece, the host state is allowed 5 seats and 2 seats will be available for national-group representatives such as Pheasants Forever and Quail Unlimited. If pre-meeting registration indicates that some states will not send their full allotment, the chairperson can delegate unfilled seats to the host state or to states requesting extra attendance. Persons invited by the host state to participate in the program would not be counted towards the allotment.

BUSINESS MEETING:

The agenda will include a short business meeting. Topic of discussion will include selection of the next host state, date of the next meeting, future topic(s) of interest, selection of officers, committee reports, and any other information pertinent to the operation of the group.

MEETING SUMMARY AND MINUTES:

The secretary of the group shall be responsible for preparing a summary of topics discussed at the meeting to persons attending and any other organization or agency making a request. The meeting summary shall contain a synopsis of information presented and items covered at the business meeting, including committee reports. Any written reports submitted at the meeting shall be included as well as a list of persons attending the meeting and their addresses. Group chair will provide a copy of the meeting summary to the president of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies^a. Duplication of status reports and related material to be placed in the meeting summary shall be the responsibility of member state representatives and adequate copies must be turned in at the meeting. Funds for distribution of the meeting summary and other materials will be furnished by the host state.

Revised 9/29/93

^a *Amendment to the bylaws voted on and pass unanimously at the 1996 Illinois meeting.*

List of Attendees

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APPENDIX

State Updates

Furbearers Study Group Report

No report and no Liaison assigned to this group.

Photos



Joe Kramer, Secretary/Treasurer, KS



**Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA welcoming
Bob Hoffman, DU, as new affiliate member**



**Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator welcoming
Claudia Emken, The Nature Conservancy as new affiliate member**



**Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator
welcoming Doug Nygren (representing) MICRA as new affiliate member**

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Conservation Enhancement Fund Discussion

CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT FUND

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA)

Objective: To establish a permanent Conservation Enhancement Fund (Fund) to support activities of MAFWA which maintain and enhance the capability of all MAFWA states and provinces to develop and implement comprehensive fish and wildlife programs for game, nongame, endangered species and their habitats.

Goal: \$300,000

Purpose: The purpose of the Fund is to provide a reliable annual revenue stream for MAFWA program use. Activities that shall be given priority for funding are those that:

- 1) support 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;
- 2) support reauthorization of existing national legislation such as the Farm Bill, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act, for the purposes of maintaining and/or strengthening these types of legislation;
- 3) support MAFWA participation in CITES;
- 4) support the cost of an official “coordinator” for MAFWA (salary, expenses, office equipment purchase, repair and maintenance, supplies, printing, postage, etc.); and
- 5) other activities not specifically described herein if they have a direct relation to items 1-4 above.

Procedures: Contributions to the Fund will be solicited from members, affiliates and supporters of MAFWA. Proceeds will be invested and protected from expenditure to assure a steady source of investment income for program use. The Investments Committee of the MAFWA shall oversee the fund and make recommendations to the Executive Committee on its management. The Secretary/Treasurer shall carry out directives of the Executive Committee on Fund management and funding of approved activities.

CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT FUND

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA)

There are many ways to make a gift to the MAFWA Conservation Enhancement Fund (Fund).

Included here are descriptions of the most common. To best meet your personal circumstance and your financial and philanthropic goals, MAFWA encourages you to consult your financial and legal advisors in regard to all charitable gifts.

Cash gifts. The simplest method of giving is by personal check. Pledges may be paid over three to five years.

Appreciated Securities. When you make a gift of long term appreciated securities, you avoid tax on the capital gains and receive an income tax deduction equal to the fair market value of your securities.

Real Property. A residence or other real property may be given as an outright gift, or you may prefer to give your property to the Fund but retain the right to occupy it for your lifetime.

Pooled Income Fund. Gifts of \$5,000 or more to the Pooled Income Fund are invested together with gifts of other donors, and the income earned each year is shared among the participants. At your death, your portion of the fund is transferred to the Fund. You incur no capital gain on the transfer of appreciated long-term securities to the Pooled Income Fund. You also receive a charitable deduction for a portion of your gift and a lifetime income.

Bequests. A provision for the Fund in your will allows you to make a substantial contribution without diminishing the assets available to you during your lifetime. Since charitable bequests to the Fund are deductible from your taxable estate, significant tax savings are possible.

Charitable Remainder Trusts. You can use an irrevocable trust to provide yourself or a loved one with a fixed annual income or an income that varies with the value of the trust. Part of the trust qualifies for an income tax deduction. At the death of the last income beneficiary, the assets of the trust are distributed to MAFWA Conservation Enhancement Fund.

Charitable Gift Annuities. For a minimum contribution of \$10,000, donors receive guaranteed quarterly income payment for the rest of their lives. Gift of cash, stock, real estate, or other appreciated property may be used to fund a gift annuity. Donors who establish a gift annuity receive a substantial charitable tax deduction, defer capital gains tax, remove appreciated assets

from their estate, and receive a portion of their income tax free. Upon the donor's death, the remaining principal is added to MAFWA Conservation Enhancement Fund.

Life Insurance. When you give a life insurance policy to the Fund, the present cash surrender value of the policy is deductible as a charitable contribution. If you continue to pay premiums after your gift, they also are deductible. When you buy a new policy to benefit the Fund, the premiums often may be paid up over three to five years and are deductible as a charitable contribution. Other ways to make a gift through life insurance are to name the Fund as beneficiary or to assign your annual dividends to the Fund.

MAFWA NATIONAL CONSERVATION NEEDS COMMITTEE OPERATING PROCEDURES

June 30, 2004

On July 13, 2004, President Dean Hildebrand Created the MAFWA National Conservation Needs Committee. The Committee consists of Tom Niebauer (WI), Dave Risley (OH), and Dan Zekor (MO). The primary purpose of this committee is to annually advise the Association on a recommended course of action for submitting a MAFWA recommended National Conservation Need (NCN) to the IAFWA.

NCNs are a fundamental part of the IAFWA's administrative process for soliciting proposals under the Multi-state Conservation Grant Program. Grant proposals submitted and subsequently funded under this program must address one or more NCNs.

In January of each year, the IAFWA staff solicits NCNs from Committees **and Regional Associations**. Proposed NCNs are typically submitted to the IAFWA in February for consideration by the National Grants Committee during the North American Fish and Wildlife Conference.

Operating Procedures:

7. Upon announcement of the IAFWA staff solicitation for proposed national fish and wildlife conservation needs, the committee will convene via conference call to review the specific requirements and deadlines for developing and submitting NCNs.
8. Working with the Association's coordinator and through the current President, a general call for NCN proposals will be made to the MAFWA membership. Appropriate guiding information and instructions (e.g., NCN format & criteria) will be provided along with a deadline.
9. The committee will review any/all proposals and work with the author for completeness.
10. Proposed NCNs will be compiled and sent on to the President with a Committee recommendation and associated rationale. Only one NCN may be advanced from the Association.
11. The President will make the final decision whether to forward an NCN from the Association and which NCN if multiple proposals have been made.
12. The President will advance the selected NCN to the IAFWA staff by the given deadline, to be included with all NCNs for consideration by the National Grants Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Passing the Gavel

**Incoming President Steve Gray, Ohio;
and Outgoing President, Dean Hildebrand, North Dakota**



NEW BUSINESS

By-Laws Changes Including Creation of Standing Committee

MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

Memorandum

TO: Sheila Kemmis, Recording Secretary
FROM: Jeff Ver Steeg, unofficial Bylaws Custodian
DATE: 8 June 2004
SUBJECT: Proposed Bylaws Amendment

Attached is a copy of proposed amendments to our current Constitution and Bylaws. Please distribute this to our membership at least 30 days prior to our meeting in July. The key changes are as follows:

8. The allowance of electronic mail and phone calls to conduct business in certain situations.
9. Clarification that the position of Coordinator is nonvoting (similar to Recording Secretary)
10. Elimination of the term "First" when referring to the position of the "First" Vice President..
11. Requiring Technical Working Committees to submit written reports electronically.
12. Requiring Technical Working Committees to submit an electronic copy of their reports to the Recording Secretary as well as the President.
13. Creation of a new standing committee, the Bylaws Committee.
14. Potentially increasing the annual dues to help fund the Coordinator position.

Please note that in the attachment, additions are identified by underscoring while deletions are denoted by strikeouts. I've tried to highlight all of them in yellow as well.

As always, thank you for your assistance.

cc: Ollie Torgerson, Association Coordinator

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS



MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

JULY, 2003 2004

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. 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 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.

ARTICLE I

OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers of the Association shall be President, **First** Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer. The President and **First** Vice-President shall be nominated from the members of the states and provinces on an alphabetical rotation basis, with the **First** Vice-President being from the state or province next in order of rotation. The term of office shall commence thirty (30) days following adjournment of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' (IAFWA) fall meeting and conclude thirty (30) days following adjournment

of the succeeding fall IAFWA meeting. The **First** Vice-President shall automatically succeed to President if he/she remains eligible. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected by members and serve until replaced.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the elected officers, and one representative from each state and province except those represented by the elected 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 R T I C L E I I

OTHER ASSOCIATION POSITIONS

Section 1. The Association shall also establish the position of “Coordinator.” 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 2. 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 Colorado, 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. Persons who cannot qualify for regular membership in the Association may be elected Honorary Members by unanimous vote of members.

Section 5. 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 President 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.

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, shall record and compile proceedings of that year 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 Secretary/Treasurer shall keep a record of all transactions of the meetings of the Association, as well as meetings of the Board of Directors, shall notify members of the time and place of meetings and perform such other duties as are naturally incumbent upon the office. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be custodian of all funds of the Association and draw all warrants for the payment of claims properly presented. He/she shall bill the members and collect the annual dues. It is the intent of the Association that the costs of the annual meetings and related business functions, not to exceed \$2,500.00, may be paid by the Association.

Section 4. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be custodian of all permanent files and other assets of the Association.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall conduct the business of the Association.

Section 6. The Coordinator shall perform the following services:

- (1) Function as the official "Coordinator" 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.
- (8) 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.

- (9) Assist the Executive Vice-President of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in coordinating actions and communications relevant to the Midwest Association.
- (10) Respond to inquiries for information regarding the Association and to routine correspondence.
- (11) Develop and maintain a web site for the Association.
- (12) Carry out directives of the President and/or Executive Committee of the Association.
- (13) Provide such other services as may be mutually agreed upon by both parties.

Section 7. The Recording Secretary shall perform the following services:

- (5) Publish the annual proceedings of the Association.
- (6) Assist with the scheduling of meetings and conference calls and to record minutes as appropriate.
- (7) Assist other officers with correspondence, recording keeping and tax reporting.
- (8) Other duties as assigned by the President or the Secretary/Treasurer

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 outgoing President has administrative responsibility, or in such other locations designated 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 Board of Directors, by majority vote ~~by mail~~ ~~ballot~~.

ARTICLE VII

DUES

Annual Dues shall be ~~\$?~~ ~~\$300.00~~ 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.

ARTICLE VIII

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Association shall be July 1 through June 30.

ARTICLE IX

QUORUM

A simple majority of all member states and provinces in good standing constitute a quorum.

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 Secretary/Treasurer 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, ~~written~~ notice sent to each member within forty-eight hours of vote tabulation by the Secretary/Treasurer, and all ballots shall be kept for one year following the vote.

ARTICLE XI

TYPES OF COMMITTEES

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, Secretary/Treasurer, 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.
- B. The Auditing Committee shall be composed of three members: The Vice President of the Association, who shall act as chairman, and two other members to be appointed by the President.
- C. The Resolutions Committee shall be composed of three members, one of which shall be designated as Chairman by the President.
- D. The Nominating/Awards Committee shall be composed of three members, one of which shall be designated as Chairman by the President.
- 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.**

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:

- D. 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.

- E. All Technical Working Committees shall submit a written report electronically to the President and the Recording 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.
- F. Resolutions from Technical Working Committees for Association action shall be submitted to the Chair of the Resolutions Committee.

ARTICLE XII

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.

Amended: July 16, 2003

Amended: July 13, 2004

Formal Awards Program Approval

(Approved as presented earlier in proceedings)
Midwestern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Awards

Excellence in Conservation Award

This award will recognize the agency that has shown excellence in conservation through a specific project. Each member agency would select one project completed in the awards year that exemplifies the goal of fish and wildlife conservation.

Each member state/providence in order to be considered for the award must submit a nomination entry. Each agency should outline one project highlighting the exceptional conservation efforts of such project and submit it to the awards committee.

A perpetual plaque would be awarded to the winning agency and would remain with that agency until the next awards ceremony where the next winner would take custody of the plaque until the following year. Each year the winning agency will have their name and year they won engraved on the plaque.

Conservation Education Award

This award will recognize the agency that has shown an above and beyond effort to try to incorporate education into a management program. This will be given to the agency that has initiated the most unique and original educational opportunity for the public.

Each member state/providence in order to be considered for the award must submit a nomination entry. Each agency should outline one project highlighting the educational aspects of such project and submit it to the awards committee.

A perpetual plaque would be awarded to the winning agency and would remain with that agency until the next awards ceremony where the next winner would take custody of the plaque until the following year. Each year the winning agency will have their name and year they won engraved on the plaque.

“Spirit of the Shack” Achievement Award

This award will be given to the individual who exemplifies the ideals of the great conservationist and educator, Aldo Leopold, and who has contributed to conservation in a superior way. This individual should epitomize stewardship and dedication to fish and wildlife conservation.

Nominations should include candidates name, title, member state/providence, a description of the work that qualifies this person for this award including specific projects or accomplishments relevant to the award specifications, also included should be the name and title of the person making the nomination.

A plaque will be given to the recipient of this award stating that is was given by the MAFWA, that it is the “Spirit of the Shack” Achievement Award, the name of the recipient and the year awarded.

Midwest President’s Award

This award would be very similar to the award above only that this would be directed at an NGO or political individual. The Midwest President will select the recipient of this award, not the awards committee.

A plaque will be given to the recipient of this award stating that is was given by the MAFWA, that it is the Midwest President's Award, the name of the recipient and the year awarded.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

This will be awarded to the individual who in the past year has shown superior leadership, initiative, and dedication in their duties. This person should personify achievement, public service, education, and above all natural resource conservation.

Nominations should include candidates name, title, member state/providence, a description of the work that qualifies this person for this award including specific projects or accomplishments relevant to the award specifications, also included should be the name and title of the person making the nomination.

A plaque will be given to the recipient of this award stating that is was given by the MAFWA, that it is the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award, the name of the recipient and the year awarded.

Wildlife Biologist of the Year

This award will go to the individual who has shown an unparalleled initiative towards the better understanding of wildlife and their conservation.

Nominations should include candidates name, title, member state/providence, a description of the work that qualifies this person for this award including specific projects or accomplishments relevant to the award specifications, also included should be the name and title of the person making the nomination.

A plaque will be given to the recipient of this award stating that is was given by the MAFWA, that it is the Wildlife Biologist of the Year award, the name of the recipient and the year awarded.

Fisheries Biologist of the Year

This honor will be awarded to the individual who has shown an unparalleled initiative towards the better understanding of fishes and their conservation.

Nominations should include candidates name, title, member state/providence, a description of the work that qualifies this person for this award including specific projects or accomplishments relevant to the award specifications, also included should be the name and title of the person making the nomination.

A plaque will be given to the recipient of this award stating that is was given by the MAFWA, that it is the Fisheries Biologist of the Year award, the name of the recipient and the year awarded.

Selection Process

To select the winners of these awards an awards committee should be formed. It should consist of 5 or 6 members appointed annually by the President in consultation with the EXCOM. The committee will make recommendations for final approval to the President and the EXCOM for potential recipients of the abovementioned awards. The lone exception to this selection

process will be the MAFWA President's Award, which will be selected by the association's President.

Announcement Process

The Chair of the Awards Committee will forward to all Association members an "Announcement for Nominations" request no later than March 15th of each year, with a deadline for submittal of May 1st. The document will include all information required for submittal of qualified applications for each award. All nominations and information, including sharing of application with awards committee members will be done electronically.

Estimated Costs

The estimated cost for one basic 8"x10" plaque would be \$30 and that includes the engraving (see fig. 1). For something a little bit fancier the price for the same size would be \$63 (see fig. 2). The estimated cost of a larger (11"x15") perpetual plaque, with 24 individual plates would be about \$117 (see fig 3). That includes the engraving on the head plate and the engraving for the first individual plate. If we wanted the MAFWA's logo engraved on any of these plaques the factory has to quote the price of that depending on the logo. Total costs if all seven awards were given out in one year would be roughly \$400.00.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2

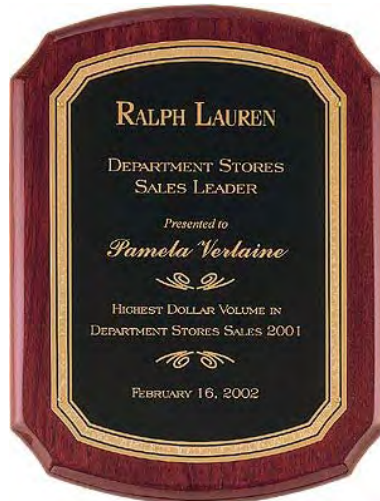


Fig.3



NAWMMP/NAWCA Contributions To Canada

Contributions

No report, Randy Kreil, North Dakota asked that states continue to contribute to NAWMP and NAWCA.

OTHER BUSINESS

Joint State/Federal Aid Task Force

Draft Directors Orders on effective dates and use of land as match have been approved by Steve Williams for signatory route. It is important for states to make decisions at this meeting.

How we do business

Electronic mail would speed things up considerably, notify Ollie Torgerson if you are comfortable with receiving Midwest business this way. Also, the website will be up soon and assessable. If you need anything or have questions please let Ollie know. Larry Nelson has agreed to take Tim Bremicker's place as the Resolutions Committee liaison. Still need a liaison for the Furbearer Committee.

Preliminary Details For the 2005 Meeting

2005 Meeting

Luke Miller, Ohio showed a brief video of Ohio including the preliminary agenda. The meeting is set for July 11-14, 2005 near Lake Erie at Sawmill Creek Resort near Huron, Ohio. There are lots of activities, such as golf, Cedar Point, Cleveland Indians, Lake Erie Islands and fishing. Walleye fishing at Lake Erie is fantastic in July and we would like to hold a sponsored fishing day before the conference.

Photos



←

Dean Hildebrand, MAFWA President, ND
Presented award to Steve Williams, USFWS

Dean Hildebrand, MAFWA President, ND
Presented award to Dick Bishop, Iowa

→



←

Dean Hildebrand, MAFWA President, ND
Presented award to Rebecca Humphries, MI
on behalf of George Burgoyne, Jr., MI



Dean Hildebrand, MAFWA President, ND
Thanked Sharon Rushton, NSSF for
sponsorship



Dean Hildebrand, MAFWA President, ND
Thanked Rick Young, Pheasants Forever for
sponsorship



Dean Hildebrand, MAFWA President, ND
Thanked Bob Hoffman, DU for sponsorship



Dean Hildebrand, MAFWA President, ND
Thanked Rob Olson, Delta Waterfowl for
sponsorship



Dean Hildebrand, MAFWA President, ND
Thanked Keith Trego, ND Natural Resources
Trust for sponsorship



Dean Hildebrand, MAFWA President, ND
Thanked ND Action Group for sponsoring the
"Heart River Band"

Acknowledgments

Donations and Sponsors

Sponsors

National Shooting Sports Foundation
Ducks Unlimited
North Dakota Natural Resources Trust
Pheasants Forever
Delta Waterfowl
North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society
North Dakota Action Group

Caterers

Radisson Hotel, Bismarck
Best Western Seven Seas Inn
Lewis and Clark Café
Cookie 4 U

Entertainment

Heart River Band

Banner and Posters

Bismarck – Mandan Convention and Visitors Bureau

Planning Committee

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Dean Hildebrand, Director
Randy Kreil, Conference Chairman
Bill Jensen
Clare Renner
Dale Repnow
Kelly Wike
Jeb Williams

Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator, Missouri Department of Conservation
Sheila Kemmis, MAFWA Recording Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Acknowledgments

The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies would like to thank Dean Hildebrand, Randy Kreil, Clare Renner and the North Dakota staff for putting on a great conference;

Thank the Committee members, and Association members for their dedication to the natural resources; and

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

Copies of these proceedings can be obtained from:

Joe Kramer, Secretary/Treasurer or Sheila Kemmis, Recording Secretary
c/o Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
512 SE 25th Ave
Pratt, KS 67124

Or on the website at: <http://mafwa.iafwa.info/>