

# **Reports**

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## **National Wildlife Refuge System Habitat Goals Process**

Briefing for the Midwest Association of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Dave Walker – Refuge Policy Liaison - July 11, 2005

### **What is the Habitat Goals Process?**

The National Wildlife Refuge System's Habitat Goals process seeks to integrate the wildlife population, habitat, and biodiversity objectives found in national, regional, state and local conservation plans for the purpose of focusing management and growth of the Refuge System on fish and wildlife conservation priorities developed in concert with State fish and wildlife agencies and other public and private conservation partners.

The process is part of the Service's implementation of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act in 1997, which provides Congressional guidance on the management and growth of the Refuge System. Making the most of the funding provided by Congress to implement the Act requires a clear picture of how each refuge fits into broader conservation efforts and how specific conservation actions on refuges may contribute to achieving broad-based fish and wildlife conservation objectives.

### **How does the process work?**

Goals and objectives for wildlife populations and biodiversity are stepped down from the national level to the regional and ecosystem level and converted to habitat objectives. The Service's partners are involved in developing goals and objectives at all levels. The process works by using conservation plans to identify "conservation targets" (both species and community types) and their associated habitat objectives at the ecosystem level. Conservation strategies are then developed to achieve the identified habitat objectives. The process will allow refuge managers to see how their land management activities may fit into the larger landscape planning effort and to make informed decisions on how best to meet their specific mandates while contributing with partners to broader ecosystem-level fish and wildlife conservation.

### **What's happening now and what are the next steps in the process?**

An initial strategy has been developed to apply the Habitat Goals process in pilot ecoregions selected for each of the Service's seven regions. Once formed, ecoregional teams will compile, develop, maintain and update habitat objectives and geographic focus areas for priority conservation targets in each ecoregion. Refuge System biologists and planners will use the products of these ecoregional assessments to help guide the development of refuge comprehensive conservation plans, habitat management plans and other site-specific habitat objectives and management strategies. The ecoregional assessments will also help guide the strategic growth of the Refuge System.

### **How can your organization/agency participate in the process?**

- Assist the Service in identifying national, regional, statewide or ecosystem-level plans that contain quantitative population, habitat and biological diversity objectives.
- Participate in the Ecoregional teams tasked with identifying priority conservation strategies and habitat objectives.
- Participate in review and evaluation of the conservation strategies selected to achieve habitat objectives and assist the Service in maintaining and updating those objectives based on new information.



## REGIONAL COORDINATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

**JULY, 2005**

This report begins on a very personal note. I wish to express the very heartfelt thanks of myself, Betty and our daughter Heather for all the support, caring, offers of assistance, and especially your prayers as we went through Heather's brain tumor surgery in May. I cannot tell you how important your support was and continues to be. Our conservation family is a very special one. We literally received messages from every part of the country. With the Grace of God, Heather had a very successful surgery. I still cannot believe she walked out of the hospital 3 days after surgery. The only lasting aftereffect we know about is the loss of vision in the lower left quadrant in both of her eyes. We do not yet know if this is permanent. Today is an anxious day for us. Heather has her first post-surgical MRI. The tumor she has, an astro cytoma glioma, has a fairly high rate of return and usually returns at a higher, or more malignant, grade. Her tumor was a grade II, or benign. Grade III and IV are malignant. She will need to have MRIs for the rest of her life due to the nature of this type of tumor. Again, thank you very, very much for your support.

Business year 2004-05 was a very successful one for the Midwest Association. We landed a NFWF Doris Duke grant for \$96,000 to help our member states determine cross-state opportunities for conservation action to help species in greatest conservation need. With the help of the International and the Missouri Department of Conservation, we successfully launched our very first web site. I hope you have visited it and I welcome any comments you have and especially, any ideas for improvement. We landed two new important affiliate members--the National Audubon Society and the National Wildlife Federation. As with most organizations, the heavy lifting gets done via committee work. Your Executive Committee was very active this past year, meeting 6 times. Some important actions they recommend to you are listed in the business meeting agenda. Our NCN Committee was successful in gaining approval of our submission of the fish therapeutics NCN at the March meeting. Our By-Laws and Resolutions committees were active as you can see in the business meeting agenda. And, you have just witnessed the highly successful work of our Nominations and Awards Committee during the awards luncheon. This is a very nice evolution for the Association establishing a formal awards program and recognizing the good and important work of our staff peers and partners. Of the 10 other committees in the Midwest, some are very well connected to our Association, others are not. This is an important item we will deal with next on the agenda during the strategic issues session. Private Lands, Public Lands, MICRA, Legal, Wildlife and Fish Health were all very active and you have some action items to deal with from these committees during the business meeting. We did establish a solid relationship with the Midwest Pheasant Study Group and the Midwest Furbearer Group during the year. Pending your decision, MAFWA should have a logo

for the first time in our existence after this meeting. Also, we should become incorporated and have our Conservation Enhancement Fund set up as a 501(c)3 entity pending your action during the business meeting.

The Association's financial situation is solid. By contract, I am authorized to work up to 1,000 hours per year for the Association. This past year, I logged 895 hours of work on your behalf. This included business trips to Bismarck, ND, Lansing, MI, Atlantic City, NJ, Cable, WI, Indianapolis, IN, Huron, OH, and Washington, DC. I successfully relocated my office last August from Missouri to Wisconsin thanks to the good help of Tom Niebauer and his leaders. The cost of supporting my office functions is being spread across 6 different WI DNR accounts and I am very appreciative of the good cooperation and support of Wisconsin. Missouri continues to provide Office Manager services for me and I also very much appreciate the good help of Kathie Hubbard.

Finally, this Association owes a debt of gratitude to Joe Kramer, and especially, Sheila Kemmis, of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for all the work they do on behalf of this Association.

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Law Enforcement Officer of the Year:

**Kim Rhodes (IL)** nominated by Captain Mark Ottis

It is with great pleasure that Region IV nominates CPO Kim Rhoades for consideration as Law Enforcement's 2004 Officer of the Year.

Officer Rhoades is a 24-year veteran of this Department yet he approaches his job with the enthusiasm of a rookie. His upbeat attitude and positive outlook is contagious. He is a role model for other district officers. He leads by example in his daily work. Only those closest to Officer Rhoades know how difficult some of those days were as he recovered from a serious health issue.

Officer Rhoades' enthusiasm and professionalism is not restricted to his district only. He's well respected by local police, rescue personnel, county deputies, Illinois State Police, Missouri Water Patrol and federal agencies such as United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Corps of Engineers. We can all be proud of how he represents the Department to these agencies and others.

You cannot talk about CPO Rhoades' service without mentioning his training academy service. He has led the Conservation Police portion of our new officer training for 10 recruit classes including one 2004. Officer Rhoades is personally responsible for at least one half of our current force starting their career out on the right path. These classes average around three months three months each in length. That is 30 months away from family and friends for our benefit. When you're trying to measure the value of this service to the Department just try and figure out whom you would replace him with? His contribution is not to just the classroom. Officer Rhoades serves as a Field Training Officer, Defensive Tactics Instructor, Line Officer and DUI/OUI Instructor.

Officer Rhoades is also a first rate field officer. In 2004, he issued 242 citations and warnings, which was near the top in his district (remember he was gone three months for training). This activity covers the entire range of our responsibilities. It includes 26 game arrests, 57 fish, 9 boat, 15 IVC, 13 criminal and 25 miscellaneous arrests. He also assisted his fellow officers with 33 arrests.

Lastly, Officer Rhoades is a pleasure to supervise. He requires very little day-to-day direction. He varies his hours and work activities to fit the season without being told. Most importantly he makes himself available to the public even during off duty times.

I hope I've been able to give you an accurate description of CPO Rhoades' contributions to the Department in the past year. Please give him serious consideration for the 2004 Officer of the Year Award.

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Wildlife Biologist of the Year

Bruce Morrison (NE)

Bruce Morrison has demonstrated incredible dedication to the wildlife profession. He has worked for two state Fish and Wildlife Agencies, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Nebraska would like to take credit for giving Bruce a “second chance” and hiring a worn out New Mexico employee and turning him into an International CWD Fireball.

Bruce has a stellar past with New Mexico. He was a commissioned Law Enforcement Officer for the State of New Mexico for 24 years. He held numerous wildlife related positions during his 25 years with New Mexico including land management responsibilities for all Department owned lands and Big Game supervisor and project leader. He served in local, regional and national positions with The Wildlife Society along with a number of Committees for the IAFWA, NAWMP, Playa Lakes Joint Venture and the Intermountain Joint Venture, The Desert Bighorn Council, North American Bear Society and the National Wild Turkey Foundation. He even found time to umpire Little League Baseball.

His accomplishments with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission have not been as numerous but quality beats quantity every time. The emergence of CWD as both a national and an international Wildlife disease issue gave Bruce his moment in the sun. His experience with other Big Game diseases gave him the insight to help design the Nebraska GWD plan and the knowledge to lead the National CWD planning effort. Bruce is currently consulting with many other nations and governments assisting with their plans for dealing with wildlife disease. If he has his way the United States will have stronger import restrictions on exotic animals.

Bruce is a deserving candidate for Wildlife Biologist of the year.

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Fisheries Biologist of the Year

Richard S. Peterson (IN)

Rick Peterson served the cause of conservation in Indiana for the past 37 years. Most of that time has been spent shaping efforts to develop, refine and sustain effective fish culture programs with warm and cool water species. Many of Indiana's current hatchery facilities, operations, procedures and successes can be attributed in large part to this one man's extraordinary, but quiet, behind the scenes work. When he began his fisheries career nearly four decades ago, Indiana was a "blue and bluegill" state in terms of both management policy and fish hatchery production. As a broader management policy began to emerge, so did the demand for new, more and better fish hatchery products to support the expanding sport fish management program. Rick was at the front end of this development that required new (at least for Indiana) capabilities for producing muskellunge. Today, Indiana produces about 20,000,000 fish over 15 different species/strains annually. Hatchery managers consistently meet their production assignments that deliver the right species, number and size of healthy, high quality fish to the right locations in support of the fisheries management program. These efforts are part of the overall program to "make fishing better." It works. And quietly, competently, creatively and impressively, Rick Peterson has worked throughout a career shaping, developing and leading Indiana's fish culture evolution. No other single person has had as profound an impact on this program. And arguable, no other person has done it with such a remarkable combination of skill, dedication, ingenuity, humility and success. This is a very special man who retired June 17, 2005, leaving as his legacy, a solid foundation of fish hatchery practices and operations. This legacy will continue to serve the cause of conservation and the people of Indiana through effective and judiciously applied programs involving hatchery-reared fish.

The following comments are provided to support the above statements and to illustrate Rick's character. This is by no means an exhaustive list of his accomplishments:

Indiana's efforts to undertake a modern-day walleye-stocking program in the 1970s was limited by lack of eggs. Rick joined other Indiana biologists on numerous out-of-state trips to obtain eggs. He also spent countless hours, usually in inclement weather, collecting and spawning walleyes from some of the first Indiana lakes to develop walleye fisheries. He built one of the first hatching jar batteries in Indiana since the 1930s and successfully helped launch what has become a respectable walleye program.

Culture of muskies, tiger muskies, striped bass and hybrid striped bass had not been done in Indiana. Rick led the principal development of these culture programs through study, contact with hatchery staff in other agencies and trial and error. In time, Rick's efforts brought success, removing most of the guesswork and variability associated with these production assignments.

Rick was a pioneer within the Indiana fish hatchery system in the management of warm and cool water fish diseases. After attending the USFWS Fish Disease Shortcourse at Mississippi State University, he served as an instructor for Indiana's Fish Health Management in-service training, the first of its kind.

Other achievements have included development of successful pond fertilization methodologies, conducting numerous small hatcheries research and development projects to enhance fish production and solve fish transport problems, personally designed effective pond harvest basins

now in use at four Indiana hatcheries and oversaw the major reconstruction of a pre-World War II hatchery and the construction of a brand-new \$2.7 million hatchery in 1982-83.

Only a few months into his job as an Indiana fish management biologist/hatchery manager, Rick answered the call of duty and served in the United States Army as an artillery specialist in Vietnam. Among his other commendations and service medals, Rick was awarded the Bronze Star, a fact known to few. In addition to being one fine fish culturist, Rick is a patriot who has proudly raised the American flag to the top of the pole each morning at his hatchery.

Rick is a developed family man who along with his wife, Carol, has raised two wonderful daughters. He has been an outstanding example of a natural resource field professional and was mentoring those around him long before this term was in common use.



Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
“Spirit of the Shack” Award

Our first annual winner of the “Spirit of the Shack” award is: Jim Mack (IL)

Jim has been with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for the past 27+ years, initially in the Planning Division for two years, then with the Forestry and Heritage Division for a year and then making his ultimate move to the Fisheries Division, has been a driving force of innovation to the development and direction of current fisheries and watershed management for the State of Illinois.

In the early 80s, Jim worked with the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) to develop a system for tracking fisheries management activities by the Department’s district biologists and other field and hatchery staff. This Fisheries Analysis System (FAS) is used by the Division of Fisheries to track all time and money expenditures to specific programs and projects, as well as for justification in Federal Aid reimbursement. As this was being developed, the statewide Creel Survey project was being designed and implemented in cooperation with Peter Bailey and the INHS. Jim was instrumental in the original development and the modification, over time, of these programs.

In the mid 1980s, the Manual of Operations for the Division of Fisheries was published. Jim was the lead person in its development and writing. This document guides the Division in its daily operations, fish management techniques, fish kill investigations and various special activities. The document is so written, and they should be able to complete their duties with a minimal amount of direction. This is a valued and highly used document for the Division of Fisheries.

When the Central States Small Impoundments Work Group was first initiated, Jim was an active member and participant. Through his participation, Illinois contributed information from experiences in management of small impoundments with the INHS. He coordinated research and studies for management of these impoundments with Regional and District Fisheries staff that was developed by the group. Not only has Jim been active in impoundment management, but he has also worked with and developed procedures for rivers, streams and watershed management.

In 1994, Jim was the original Department representative on Lt. Governor Bob Kustra’s Illinois River Valley Partnership. This group, in looking for model approaches for restoring the Illinois River and its watershed, launched a planning effort that ultimately involved over 100 Illinoisans who developed the Integrated Management Plan for the Illinois River Watershed. The state passed legislation creating an Illinois River Coordinating Council (IRCC) chaired by the Illinois Lieutenant Governor’s Office to oversee the Illinois Rivers 2020 that was a \$2.5 billion effort to restore the Illinois River Basin. That initiative focused on program and funding from the Energy and Water Appropriations for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, United States Department of Agriculture Appropriations for Farm Bill Programs and the Clean Water Act. Jim is the author of the present Water Resources Development Act (2000) Section 519, Illinois River Basin that is driving the development of restoration projects up and down the Illinois River to implement portions of the original Integrated Management Plan. This plan is innovative in that it addresses, not only the Illinois River mainstream, but the watersheds that impact the Illinois River. Through this plan, a priority was established whereby justification for the highly successful Illinois Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) for the State of Illinois has been supported by Federal and State legislatures. CREP has restored and protected over 110,000 acres

of critical floodplain habitat. Jim is recognized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service as an innovator and mediator. His efforts in watershed management techniques and many of the initiatives he has helped develop are now looked upon as national models for river restoration efforts.

In addition, to all of the practical application work that Jim has worked on, he has been tireless in the development and updating of the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) and the Biological Stream Classification (BSC) systems. Working with the IDNR river and stream biologists, INHS staff, and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), a comprehensive and practical application of these two programs has been demonstrated many times and is currently used in the proposed Dissolved Oxygen Standard change that has been introduced by the Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies. In cooperation with INHS and IEPA, a list of "High D.O. Waters" has been developed in response to concerns that the proposed changes may have on waters of concern.

Finally, Jim was instrumental in developing, with the INHS, a web page for the Division of Fisheries called "I Fish Illinois" ([www.ifishillinois.org](http://www.ifishillinois.org)). This effort is not totally complete at this time, but in its present state provides the most up-to-date information on present regulations and fishing opportunities, as well as fishing reports and lake information like nothing in the past. It is being highly utilized with the example of 200,000 "hits" being recorded for the first two weeks of April 2005. The Division of Fisheries is very proud of this web page and the individual who was instrumental in its development.

For these above examples and years of contributions for the betterment of the Division and the Department, the Division of Fisheries and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources would like to nominate Jim Mick for the Spirit of the Shack Award.

**ONE OF MY DUTIES AS YOUR COORDINATOR IS TO COMMUNICATE AND NETWORK WITH OUR CONSERVATION PARTNERS AND OBTAIN THEIR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSOCIATION.**

**THIS PARTNER SESSION WAS DEVELOPED TO INTRODUCE OUR COOPERATORS AND PROVIDE THE NEW ONES OR THOSE WHO MISSED US LAST YEAR TO SAY HELLO AND TO BRIEFLY STATE THEIR MISSION AND ALERT US TO ANY CURRENT HOT BUTTON ISSUES THEY WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT. YOU ALREADY HAVE HEARD OR WILL HEAR FROM SEVERAL OF THEM DURING THE MEALS THEY SPONSOR OR ON THE FORMAL PROGRAM ITSELF**

**I WILL BEGIN WITH OUR FEDERAL AGENCY PARTNERS**

**YOU HAVE ALREADY HEARD FROM OUR GOOD FRIENDS FROM THE F&W SERVICE--HAS EVERYONE FROM THE SERVICE BEEN INTRODUCED?**

**AS YOU KNOW, STEVE WILLIAMS HAS BEEN WITH US THE LAST 3 YEARS STRAIGHT AND WANTED TO BE HERE AGAIN THIS YEAR IN HIS NEW ROLE AS PRES. OF WMI; HOWEVER, HE HAD COMMITTED TO SPEAK AT THE CWD SYMPOSIUM WHICH CONFLICTS WITH THIS CONVENTION, SO HE COULD NOT BE HERE. BUT HE SENDS HIS GREETINGS AND HAS COMMITTED TO FILLING OUR VACANT WMI FIELD DIRECTOR SLOT AS SOON AS HE CAN RAISE THE FUNDING**

**I AM VERY PLEASED THAT CHARLIE BROWN, EASTERN DIRECTOR, USDA/APHIS/WS IS HERE. CHARLIE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS AND INTRODUCE YOUR WORKMATES WHO ARE WITH US?**

**LAST YEAR, GARY VEQUIST, FROM THE NPS WAS HERE AND INTRODUCED US TO THEIR AGENCY. THIS YEAR WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE LISA PETIT FROM THE MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE. WHERE ARE YOU LISA? THANKS FOR BEING HERE.**

**I HAVE TO ADMIT FRUSTRATION IN MAKING LIMITED PROGRESS IN GETTING OUR OTHER IMPORTANT REGIONAL FEDERAL AGENCY PARTNERS TO ATTEND OUR CONFERENCE IN SPITE OF GOOD HELP FROM ROBYN THORSON ON THIS. NRCS, USGS, USFS, COE, BLM, ETC. SHOULD BE HERE. IF ANYONE IS CONNECTED AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL AND CAN HELP, PLEASE DO OR LET ME KNOW WHO TO CONTACT**

**I WOULD NEXT LIKE TO INTRODUCE OUR NGO AND AFFILIATE PARTNERS**

**WMI WAS OUR ONLY AFFILIATE FOR YEARS AND WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE RON HELINSKI HERE AND A PART OF OUR PROGRAM**

**PHEASANTS FOREVER HAS BEEN A STRONG PARTNER AND SPONSOR AND RICK YOUNG IS BACK AND WE ARE VERY GLAD TO HAVE YOU RICK**

**DUCKS UNLIMITED ALSO IS AN AFFILIATE AND SPONSOR AND WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE BOB HOFFMAN AND GILDO TORI BACK AGAIN THIS YEAR AND ALSO TO HAVE SCOTT YAICH WITH US AND A PART OF THE PROGRAM. THANKS FOR BEING HERE.**

**WE ARE HAPPY TO SEE JODI VALENTA BACK WITH US AND ENJOYING MOTHERHOOD WITH HER NEW DAUGHTER LILY. THE NAT. SHOOTING SPORTS FND. IS AN AFFILIATE AND SPONSOR AND WE COULD NOT BE MORE HAPPY.**

**YOU HEARD FROM PAT RUBLE, LONG TIME MEMBER OF THIS GROUP, LAST YEAR AND WE ARE PLEASED THAT YOU ARE HERE PAT WITH ONE OF YOUR PARTNERS, MICHELLE DOERR, OF YOUR BOWHUNTING PRESERVATION ALLIANCE. WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE YOU AS AN AFFILIATE AND TO SEE JAY MCANINCH FROM THE ARCHERY TRADE ASSN. AND HIS WIFE JANET HERE AND TO HAVE YOU SPONSOR FOR US. THANK YOU!**

**THE AMERICAN SPORTFISHING ASSN. BECAME AN OFFICIAL AFFILIATE LAST YEAR BUT VICE-PRESIDENT GORDON ROBERTSON HAD A CONFLICT AND COULD NOT ATTEND. BUT, HE IS HERE THIS YEAR AND ON THE PROGRAM. GORDON, PLEASE COME FORWARD AND ACCEPT YOUR AFFILIATE CERTIFICATE. WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE YOU AND YOUR ORG.**

**NWTF BECAME AN OFFICIAL AFFILIATE ALSO LAST YEAR BUT COULD NOT ATTEND DUE TO CONFLICTING SCHEDULES. HOWEVER, THIS YEAR WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE JAMES EARL KENNAMER HERE ALONG WITH TAMMY SAPP. NWTF IS ALSO SPONSORING OUR BREAKFAST TOMORROW MORNING. JAMES EARL AND TAMMY, PLEASE COME FORWARD TO ACCEPT YOUR AFFILIATE CERTIFICATE.**

**YOU ALL MET AND HEARD FROM CLAUDIA EMKEN FROM TNC LAST YEAR. CLAUDIA CALLED AND SENT HER REGRETS AT NOT BEING ABLE TO BE HERE, BUT WE DO HAVE WITH US, GARY MOORE, TNC'S AG POLICY SPECIALIST. GARY, HI, AND THANKS FOR BEING AN AFFILIATE AND A PART OF THIS MEETING. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THIS GROUP IS THAT ROB MANES IS BACK AS TNC STATE DIRECTOR IN KANSAS.**

**MICRA IS AN IMPORTANT AFFILIATE AND COMMITTEE OF THIS ASSN. LAST YEAR WE HEARD FROM BOTH JERRY RASSMUSSEN AND DOUG NYGREN. NEW CHAIRPERSON OF MICRA, MICHAEL ARMSTRONG, FROM THE AR G&F COMMISSION IS HERE AND HAS A FEW WORDS FOR US--MIKE.**

**IT IS NICE TO HAVE ROB SEXTON AND RICK STORY HERE WITH US FROM THE U.S. SPORTSMAN'S ALLIANCE. CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR AWARD, ROB!**

**I WANT TO INTRODUCE THE NEW LEADER OF PROJECT WILD WHO TRAVELED ALL THE WAY FROM CA TO BE WITH US THIS YEAR. PLEASE WELCOME BILL ANDREWS!**

**OUR GOOD FRIEND, DAVE CASE, OF CASE AND ASSOC. IS HERE. WELCOME DAVE. DAVE WILL BE FACILIATING THE WORK OF THE NFWF/DORIS DUKE GRANT.**

**I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE 2 NEW ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE APPLIED FOR AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP. THIS WILL BE A BUSINESS MEETING ITEM ON WEDNESDAY.**

**THE NAT. AUDUBON SOCIETY HAS APPLIED BUT COULD NOT SEND A REPRESENTATIVE DUE TO A SENIOR STAFF MEETING THAT CONFLICTS WITH OURS. HOWEVER, WE WELCOME AUDUBON TO OUR GROUP.**

**THE NAT. WILDLIFE FEDERATION ALSO HAS APPLIED. I AM PLEASED THAT NWF DID SEND A REPRESENTATIVE AND PLEASE WELCOME KOBI PLATT.**

**I AM SURE I HAVE MISSED SOMEBODY AND I AM SORRY. WHO HAVE I MISSED?**

**THANKS FOR ALL OF YOU VERY IMPORTANT CONSERVATION PARTNERS. THANKS FOR WHAT YOU DO AND FOR BEING ASSOCIATED WITH THE MIDWEST ASSN. OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES!**

## Notes taken from presentation (minutes)

**Recognition of MAFWA Partners and Introduction of Federal and Non-Governmental Organization Partners** - *Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator* – (Report can be found in the proceedings as an Report.) The next section is the partner's session and is the place to introduce our partners. Those we had last year I am not going to give a chance to speak, but the new ones I will. This way you can put a face to a name.

USFWS - Charles Wooley, Mitch King, Bob Bryant.  
Steve Williams sends greetings and said he is going to fill WMI Midwest position as soon as possible.

WMI – Ron Helinski. Ron is on the program tomorrow.

USDA-APHIS – Charlie Brown needs to introduce his workmates.

Charlie Brown – I have eastern 31 states, nine of your states, Minnesota down to Missouri and back to the east. Mike Worthen was the western representative but has moved on so that position is open. Tom Hoffman is the Acting western representative. We have worked with you for years, part of Animal Plant Health. Working on raccoon strain of rabies vaccine here in Ohio; CWD monitoring and surveillance; monkey pox; Canada Goose animal damage; Double-breasted cormorants; environmental study we worked with USFWS on; invasive species; giant Gambian rats and monkey pox in Florida Keys; T&E species; Feral swine on the radar screen in a lot of states because of damage and disease; and Ft. Collins, Colorado facility, to name a few. Bill Hawes says “working together works”. Andy Montoney and Jon Cepek are here from Ohio.

National Park Service – Lisa Petit is here.

Ollie Torgerson – There is some frustration at getting other federal partners here at these meetings. NRCS should be totally embarrassed that they don't send anybody to our meeting, and I have asked Jen Mock to work on them. Also, we don't get representatives from USGS, U.S. Forest Service or Corps of Engineers.

Groups from last year include:

- 1) Pheasants Forever - Rick Young (not here may be out setting up for tonight)
- 2) Ducks Unlimited - Bob Hoffman, Scott Yaich and Gildo Tori
- 3) National Shooting Sports Foundation - Jodi Valenta (not here right now)
- 4) Bowhunter Preservation Alliance/Archery Trade Association - Pat Ruble (BPA), Michelle Doerr went to get Jay McAninch (Archery Trade Association) because he got caught by Hurricane Dennis, will be here later.
- 5) American Sportfishing Association - Gordon Robertson

Gordon Robertson – On program tomorrow and have to leave as soon as I am done. Brings back old times to be here. ASA has been around in one form or another for many years. It is a trade association and we have resource agency. We have 35 state members and would encourage you to get involved if you are not. Many private organizations and stores, large and small, are involved. We have 26 people on staff, mostly near Long Beach, California. Most of what we deal with is resource issues, also, some trade and tax issues. I have spent 30 plus years in this field. When John Baughman spoke today he mentioned Wallop-Breaux. When Congress comes back and looks at the transportation bill, Wallop-Breaux is in that and we could gain \$110 million each year. If you have a House or Senate member fax them a letter and ask them to pass this and

capture all of the fuel tax, each state would gain at least \$1.5 million each, coastal areas even more.

6) MICRA – *Michael Armstrong, Arkansas*

Ollie Torgerson - Last year you heard from Doug Nygren and we have Michael Armstrong, Arkansas, who is President for the next two years.

Michael Armstrong - Brief issues before us. We grew out of effort in mid-80s, no model to do inter-jurisdictional river management. Paddlefish was in danger of being listed. Signed off by 28 states in 1990. Paddlefish, cooperative work on the species, stocking, tagging and sharing data. Aquatic nuisance species, we petitioned to list black carp and five years later we still do not know how that issue has been settled. Doug Nygren is going to Washington DC to represent MICRA on that, have Invasive Species panel in place and we host and provide administrative support. Reauthorization of National Invasive Species Act (NISA) and would like a clean list policy on species being brought into the United States, trying to work on that. Big River habitat, tried to set up a symposium, got derailed, but still interested. An issue of critical importance, USFWS has completely funded our people, Jerry Rasmussen and other groups, three in Robyn's area alone. Need to engage in dialog so that the USFWS share the cost of those coordinators instead of one region paying for the biggest share of them.

Ollie Torgerson – They are sponsoring our breakfast tomorrow so they will be speaking then.

7) National Wild Turkey Federation – *James Earl Kennamar and Tammy Sapp*

8) The Nature Conservancy – *Gary Moore, Ag Policy Specialist*

*Claudia Emken was here last year but could not be here, but Gary Moore is and also Rob Manes is on board at TNC*

Ollie Torgerson – Also, Bill Andrews, Project Wild National Coordinator is also here. We have two new affiliates to be approved this year:

9) National Audubon Society – *(no one present)*

10) National Wildlife Federation – *Kobi Platt*

Ollie Torgerson – Two other groups that are affiliated, but have no representation here are:

11) Izaak Walton League of America *(no one present)*.

12) Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation *(no one present)*.