

***Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
National Conservation Needs (NCN) Committee Report – 2008***

Meeting Time and Place – The NCN committee meets as necessary via teleconference and/or email. Committee members are: Dave Risley (OH), Dan Zekor (MO) and Tom Niebauer (WI), Chair.

Executive Summary - The NCN Committee was created in January 2004 by then President Dean Hildebrand (ND). The charge to the committee was to: become intimately familiar with the NCN and multi-state grant (MSG) processes and annually advise the (Regional) Association on a recommended course of action for submitting NCNs. For the 2009 grant cycle, the MAFWA Executive Committee approved submittal of the lead toxicosis NCN (“Implementation of the AFWA Mourning Dove and Lead Toxicosis Working Group Recommendations”) during their January 22, 2008 meeting via conference call. It is with pride and excitement that we report approval, as amended, of the lead toxicosis NCN by the National Grants Committee as one of 9 NCN’s for the 2009 cycle. The original MAFWA NCN proposal was amended to include “...research (human dimensions or scientific) that relates to lead toxicosis and its impact on mourning doves...”

Director Action Items – Reaffirm support for an educational effort to enhance understanding of the Multi-State Conservation Grant Program process by: (1) developing appropriate informational guidelines to aid understanding of the National Conservation Needs process and (2) educating the Director's, Director\Liaisons, committee and work group chairs and others to enhance understanding of the NCN process.

Director Information Items - At the 2007 Annual Meeting in WI, Rex Amack (NE) suggested that youth education should become an NCN to insure implementation of the Conservation Education Summit. We are proud to report that an NCN implementing the Conservation Education Strategy was approved by the Committee on National Grants for the 2009 cycle.

Also at the 2007 meeting in WI, the Director’s approved a motion to: (1) develop appropriate informational guidelines to aid understanding of the National Conservation Needs process and (2) educate the Director's, Director\Liaisons, committee and work group chairs and others to enhance understanding of the NCN process. It is with great pain that we report this effort was not completed due to workload issues by the committee chair. The chair regrets this dereliction of duty and pledges to complete this assignment in the coming year.

For the 2009 Multistate Conservation Grant Program cycle, two candidate NCN’s were suggested: (1) support for a climate change NCN developed by the Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; and (2) Implementation of the AFWA Mourning Dove and Lead Toxicosis Work Group Recommendations, developed by Dave Schad (MN) and the Mourning Dove and Lead Toxicosis Work Group. The MAFWA

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The MAFWA NCN Committee suggests to representatives of the National Grants Committee (MAFWA member states currently hold at least 4 seats on this prestigious committee, including the chair), that guidance be considered regarding the value of multiple sponsors for proposed NCN's.

Time and Place of Next Meeting – Any where, any time that duty calls!!

Respectfully Submitted: Tom Niebauer, Chair, April 2008