

**75th Annual Meeting of the  
Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
June 29 and July 2, 2008  
Estes Park, Colorado**

**Minutes**

**Sunday - June 29, 2008**

*Welcome to Colorado reception*

*Hospitality Room sponsored by Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers*

**Monday - June 30, 2008**

*Breakfast sponsored by National Wild Turkey Federation*

**Orientation and Introduction**

**Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado – (PROGRAM – EXHIBIT A)** Welcome to Colorado, I hope you have an occasion to enjoy the scenery and outdoors. The last time I hosted was in Illinois 13 years ago. There is a computer and printer available in lobby and at the hotel registration desk. There will be drawings at the ends of breaks and after lunch (7 times in all). We want to thank Bass Pro Shops for donating prizes. The hotel changed the meal location for this morning; we will try to get that back to what is in on the schedule. Tuesday night is on-your-own for meals to give people time to tour or eat uptown. I have staff here to help, Teri and Ruby at the desk and Dave Chadwick, recognize them for all of their hard work. Also, Cindy Delaney, our hired conference planner. For the first time we invited exhibitors to see how that works out. Sheila asked me to ask speakers to leave or send her a copy of talks for proceedings. Please acknowledge our sponsors and partners if you have a chance (AMFGLEO, ATA, Bass Pro, Cody Systems, DJ Case, DU, NSSF, NWTF, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, SCI, TNC – IL and CO, USFWS Regions 3 and 6, USSA, and USDA-APHIS). It is a pleasure to kick off our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. MAFWA has been around a long time. The first meeting was October 28, 1934 in Des Moines, IA, we changed our name in 1972, again in 1977 and 2001, the last one changed the order of the title to better conform to other regional associations. Those in attendance at the first meeting were I.T. Bode, Dr. W.C. Boone, H.M. Sanderson, Arthur E. Rapp, Dennis H. Goeders, W.M. Rosene, Jas K. Stepp, C.P. Lechner, Iowa; H.W. MacKenzie, Wisconsin; Oscar Johnson, Karl E. Mundt, Dr. H.E. Fankhauser, George F. Walters, W.F. Hughes, Frank Cundill, R. Ripple, South Dakota; Stanley B. Locke, Illinois; Charles Mcfarlane, E.V. Willard, John R. Foley, Minnesota; Frank O'Connell, Guy R. Spencer, Nebraska; and Thoralf Swenson, P.E. Collins, North Dakota. The history book was put together by Sheila Kemmis, on her own initiative. It is a nice compilation of work. Also, Kansas helped with the layout and printing of the book. We want to thank Sheila and Kansas for their help. Colorado didn't join until 1949 and is the only Rocky Mountain state, our first meeting here was held in 1955 at the Stanley Hotel, and we hosted three more times, Aspen in 1971; Vail in 1986; and Estes Park in 1994. At that time we toured the park and went into Alpine tundra. I looked at issues of what has gone on in past compared to what we do now, there are some similarities and some differences. Fish and

Wildlife diseases have been added in the last decade, invasive species, biodiversity, endangered species, public use conflicts, hunter and angler recruitment and retention, overabundance of wildlife, water quality and quantity and climate change. Relationships with constituents, climate change and alternative funding are still being discussed. We need to be aware of what we do because we will be judged by our successors (**HISTORY BOOK – EXHIBIT B**). Again, welcome on behalf of Colorado and my boss, Tom Remington. I would like you to go around the table and introduce yourselves and then we will have the audience introduce themselves. Those present: John Hoskins, Missouri; Rich Leopold, Iowa; Tony Leif, South Dakota; Rex Amack, Nebraska; Jon Gassett, Kentucky; Glen Salmon, Indiana; Mike Conlin, Illinois; Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado; Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Executive Secretary; Matt Frank, Wisconsin; Dave Graham, Ohio; Becky Humphries, Michigan; Mike McKenna, North Dakota; Dave Schad, Minnesota; Joe Kramer and Sheila Kemmis, Kansas. The entire audience also introduced themselves.

### **State of the States**

***Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado, President of MAFWA*** – We use surveys from previous years to decide on topics for following years so each of you have 5-7 minutes to talk about your hot topics.

***Ollie Torgerson, Executive Secretary*** – I want Dan Zekor to come up and call up the states.

***Dan Zekor, Missouri*** – This is an opportunity to get directors up front early in the meeting to share what is happening in their state and help others here put a face with a name. Each state will be called at random.

***Glen Salmon, Indiana*** – Indiana conducted a paddlefish operation, a two-year undercover investigation on Indiana's portion of the Ohio River revealed widespread violations of existing commercial fishing laws. The case was labeled "Operation Skid Roe" and focused on paddlefish and the caviar trade. More than 20 suspects were arrested with the filing of over 300 charges (some felonies) including money laundering, drug charges and even illegal possession of a moonshine still. Commercial paddlefish harvest is legal in the Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky portion of the Ohio River. However, the lucrative caviar market led to fishing in closed areas and marketing of sport-snagged paddlefish among other violations. The case prompted enactment of emergency rules in Indiana for increased paddlefish protection including a season, size limit, a ban on sport snagging and a seasonal ban on gill and trammel nets. The three states are working together to establish uniform permanent rules that will provide adequate resource protection. An insect-borne virus, epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) is linked to the deaths of white-tailed deer in nine southern Indiana counties is suspected to have spread to 32 additional counties, including five in the northern half of the state. The Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) in Athens, Ga., has confirmed the presence of EHD and confirmed EHD in 14 other states. It is the second straight year Indiana has been hit with the disease, but this year's outbreak may turn out to be one of the most severe on record. So far, Clay is the only county affected again this year. The DNR is awaiting results from SCWDS on test samples collected in other counties. We don't expect significant deer mortality in the counties where EHD hit hard last fall because of the residual immunity developed by the animals that survived. The 2008 Indiana General Assembly passed our apprentice-hunting license, which we modeled after the Ohio program. The legislation creates an apprentice-hunting license that delays the hunter education requirement, and allows the individual to try different types of hunting experiences with a licensed hunter. The program allows the mentor the flexibility to invite someone when the

time is right and the possibility presents itself for first time hunters to experience and build their own hunting tradition. An individual can buy up to three apprentice licenses in their lifetime. Indiana is one of several states that will be participating in a direct mail marketing effort to increase fishing license sales. The direct mail toolkit developed by RBFF (Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation) will be used. Indiana has had a point of sale system for only four years but we are beginning to make good use of it. Last year in a pilot study of lapsed anglers, we mined the POS for some information and did a small trial of 20,000 lapsed anglers. The study was highly informative and showed promise for the broader effort we are now launching with RBFF.

***John Hoskins, Missouri*** – Iowa's I.T. Bode, who attended the first Midwest meeting came to Missouri in 1937 and was the first director of modern day Wildlife Conservation. He was there 16 years. An internal committee is looking at pricing of permits, we are looking at structure, pricing and associated privileges to enhance revenue, promote citizen participation, assist federal aid receipt, assess equity issues and recommend strategy for change. Some objectives are in conflict and we have presented two of three reports to our Commission so far. Ideas for consideration include permit pricing based on analysis of CPI; senior hunt and fish forever permit; adjustments to hunter education requirements for mentors; changes to landowner privileges; and discounted youth permits. We conducted 16 deer season public meetings and did random surveys of farming landowners and deer hunters. People could also view the presentation online and make public comment. Public input was substantial and varied. Over 4,000 people attended the 16 public meetings and nearly 9,000 online and written comments were received. These comments were then summarized, and the input was used to assist biologists in making final deer season recommendations to the Conservation Commission. We found comments were: 1) vocal at public meetings, but don't necessarily represent the rank and files opinions about many changes - multiple means of input are important - including random surveys; 2) web based comment was far more successful, in terms of conveying public information, than were open meetings; 3) web based communication strategies were able to be integrated into the web sites of others - increasing exposure of information; and 4) making ourselves available to listen - via direct interaction at public meetings - was well received by friends and foes. Several changes in key positions occurred over the past year; a sign of the times. Changes include: 2 Assistant Directors, 4 Division Chiefs, several Unit Chiefs, and many others caught-up in the domino effect. Assistant Director John Smith (retired) – replaced by former Wildlife Chief Dave Erickson; Assistant Director Denise Brown (new job) – replaced by former Protection Unit Chief Tim Ripperger; new Wildlife Chief is DeeCee Darrow (former Forestry Unit Chief); Protection Division Chief Dennis Steward (retired) – replaced by former Protection Unit Chief Larry Yamnitz; Resource Science Division Chief Dale Humburg (retired) – replaced by former Resource Science Unit Chief Ron Dent; and Fisheries Division Chief Steve Eder (retired) – replaced by former Fisheries Program Coordinator. This doesn't include several Unit Chiefs. Feral hogs are a growing concern for both resource agencies and agriculture interests. With an estimated population of 5,000 to 10,000 hogs in 20 of Missouri's 114 counties, emphasis has been on control and eradication. In 2007 the Governor created a Task Force to address feral hog issues. The ten-member task force is co-chaired by the Directors of the Departments of Agriculture and Conservation. Other members include the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Health and Senior Services, United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Conservation Federation of Missouri, Missouri Farm Bureau, MFA Incorporated, Missouri Forest Products Association, and the Missouri Pork Association.

The task force delivered a report with recommendations in early April of 2008 and an educational effort is underway as is the crafting of an MOU to establish solidarity and unified purpose among land management agencies in Missouri. Attention to funding and strengthening law to prevent release of more hogs will follow. Coordination with similar efforts in adjacent states and support from federal agencies with land in Missouri will be extremely important to prevent the spread of feral hogs. Continue to improve implementation of Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy, both within the agency and with conservation partners. Three new action plans have been added to the Directory of Conservation Opportunity. Staff has been looking for an effective way to direct dollars and time to conservation opportunity areas and other priority geographies; implement reporting and progress at monthly meetings, and make recommendations about department activities and needs in the COAs. Conservation partners continue to be integral and partners benefit from collaborations made possible by the strategy, and receive a greater share of grants for habitat restoration and management. Missouri's fledgling land trusts have not been a strong element of our conservation program to date. In April, CFM co-hosted a meeting for land trusts to discuss how we can help them deliver more conservation and announced a grant program specifically for land trusts for land protection. In June, CFM co-hosted a "Teaming Summit", focused on growing the partnerships that generate more money and conservation action for "all wildlife".

**Joe Kramer, Kansas** – I am here on behalf of Secretary Hayden and Assistant Secretary Keith Sexson. I would like to ask Rex (Nebraska) and Iowa to quit taking Secretary Hayden on tours because he keeps bringing back all the ideas for us to incorporate. We have a unique partnership on cabins with Wildscape; a non-profit organization who borrows the money for construction of the cabins and cabin rental receipts pays off the loans. Our agency was reorganized when Secretary Hayden was Governor and our department combined with Parks. With friends groups and individual investors we were able to put in cabins and have a few cabins in state wildlife areas (Mined Land WA and Ottawa SFL). Parks plan to have 100 cabins in 26 parks in our state, but we will go slower in the wildlife areas, two a year for the next five years. We now have facilities for campers, primitive campers and 5<sup>th</sup> wheel campers. We have tightened regulations on prohibitive species because of Asian carp, zebra mussels and white perch. Most other states are also struggling with this problem. Black-footed ferrets have been introduced in Kansas. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is taking the lead on that. We still have barbaric regulations that deal with prairie dogs in our state dating back to 1905 where some counties can still eradicate prairie dogs and charge landowners for it. Kansas has healthy deer populations, but there are always challenges for equipment uses. Milford Hatchery is under renovation, over \$1 million has been committed and we are trying new kinds of management. We will be starting to raise mussels. Kansas is also involved in the lapsed angler promotion with RBFF using marketing and information gathered from our SAS software. Cheyenne Bottoms wetlands had a 100-year flood causing \$700,000 in damages. We had the first mountain lion documented since 1904 shot in Barber County this fall. Kansas has formed their first Sportsmen's Caucus in 2007. We are the 35<sup>th</sup> state to be affiliated with the National Assembly. Legislators as well as numerous state conservation groups and outdoors industry groups participated. Kansas still has a hunting season for lesser prairie chickens, but there is fear that they will potentially be listed.

**Matt Frank, Wisconsin** – I have been the director in Wisconsin for nine months and I look forward to working with all of you. I would like to thank Tom Niebauer for his help. We reauthorized our state stewardship program for another 10 years (the third reauthorization) and got more money to buy lands to set aside for public use forever. We have purchased 450,000 acres so far. We had to put together rules for public use because the land has to be open to

hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, and other nature-based outdoor recreation. The bottom 30 counties in the state have been inundated with overwhelming amounts of water, and we are doing wildlife impact studies. On climate change, the Governor put together a Task Force on Global Warming. The Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts team will assess and anticipate climate change impacts on specific natural resources, ecosystems and regions; evaluate potential effects on industry, agriculture, tourism and other human activities; and develop recommendations and adaptation strategies. We are also conducting biofuel research in a partnership with the Nelson Institute and studying impacts on wildlife because of climate change. We have entered into the Great Lakes Compact passed in May by our legislature, but it is not fully law until ratified in Congress. Wisconsin passed a strong mercury rule, with an expected 90 percent reduction in mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants by 2015. There is a multi-pollutant option that requires affected power plants to achieve nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide reductions beyond those currently required by state and federal regulations. Dealing with CWD issues since it was discovered in 2002, looking at whether we need revisions in our statewide plan and are looking at a comprehensive approach. Legislature passed a baiting and feeding bill because we are a dairy state, they are worried about Bovine TB more than CWD. Wisconsin is also concerned about aquatic invasive species and have revised rules to prevent the spread of VHS which will allow anglers to keep leftover minnows purchased from approved bait dealers, but they must be used at the same waterbody or the angler must make sure the minnows have not been exposed to any fish or water. Which means anglers can't add water or fish from a lake or river to their bait bucket or livewell. Non-point pollution may have harmful effects on drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife and Science Services is currently engaged in research related to non-point sources of contaminants to the environment. Wild Rose Hatchery is the largest in the state and has just undergone renovations and the fish have been moved back to the hatchery. Wisconsin joined the timber wolf amicus brief put together by Michigan. Wisconsin is doing a study of lead found in venison. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced that nesting Kirtland's warbler, which is an endangered bird, were found in central Wisconsin.

***Rex Amack, Nebraska*** – Game and Parks is involved in the RBFF national sport fishing lapsed angler marketing campaign also. In March Commissioners approved a 20-year plan that will assist with hunter and angler recruitment, development and retention and we were able to hire four new people to shore up education efforts. The Foundation raised several million dollars to fund this. Game and Parks formed in 1929, prior to that we were a division of the Department of Agriculture. The Board of Commissioners was appointed by legislators and their first report was in 1930. In that report they listed important things and the first item was education, but it has always been secondary in our agency, now education is a major part of our program. There is not a great deal of funding, but the Foundation recognizes that. We were the first public agency to have a website on the internet for information technology, it started with eight pages and now we have thousands. We go to a lot of meetings, and the new technology is handhelds and that is bringing the internet platform to a new level. Now you can get up-to-date video access to hunting and fishing reports. Fisheries are doing weekly programs all over the state, teaching people how to fish and have taught thousands already. We also had flood damage in some of our state parks. The National Archery in the Schools program expanded in 2007 with 150 schools, we are becoming a close second to Kentucky. The second annual outdoor expo was held in Kearney in 2008. It showcased our partnerships with conservation organizations, nongovernmental organizations and the Commission. We had 9,600 participants who took part in hunting, fishing, shooting, camping, boating and ecology activities. We are working with Corky from Alabama on heritage license. Sharing information across state lines is very important.

**Dave Graham, Ohio** – We have new administrative staff and a lot of things have happened over the last 18 months. Ohio is one of the last states to sign onto the Great Lakes compact, but we are excited about being part of that and this will help Lake Erie tremendously. ODNR recently defeated the Ottawa Nation in a lawsuit that would have given them rights to enter into a commercial fishery on Lake Erie. Working to implement rules from a recent law change that resulted in commercial fishing reforms on Lake Erie, this will help sustain the industry, and ensure the continuation of the sport fishery which is a three-quarter billion dollar industry. After 30 years of hard work a plan has been set in motion to release the Sandusky River back to a wild river, with the removal of the Ballville dam. This should help with walleye spawning. We are developing a new licensing system, a web-based system. We plan to integrate it with our existing web system which will allow us to step up in the marketing arena. It will also offer potential new opportunities for licenses and permits such as combination packages and discounts. This will require landowners to have an actual deer or turkey tag in hand, licenses would still be free for landowners, but we would be able to see how many are out there hunting. We are trying out a new style of game checking with telechecking. Law enforcement bills include the increase of restitution rates for taking game illegally, the best it has been for 20 years, particularly on deer, it was \$400. It will cost poachers \$16,000 to \$18,000 in restitution. There is one lawsuit in play, on a 200-inch buck. Ohio is implementing the violators compact. The Division of Wildlife is working on their fourth strategic plan, and we hope to combine it with the current CWCS plan instead of having two stand alone documents. Climate change and economy is causing concern and issues. We are looking at alternative energy like wind energy, gas and oil drilling which could affect migratory birds and state lands. On invasive species issues, it seems we are working with the species of the week on Lake Erie. If current federal ballast water legislation is not passed we will be back to square one.

**Mike Conlin, Illinois** – We are having many of the same issues, flooding, funding problems, and invasive species. Happy with AFWA work on hunter retention and recruitment, there are some promising ideas. The funding presentation made in Wisconsin last year is the template we are using and I presented that and found a great deal of interest. Invasive species and Asian carp are moving with the flooding. VHS is another invasive problem everybody is hearing about and currently we are testing for it in all of our hatcheries and Great Lakes. We are trying to slow the spread, but have to deal with it. On CWD, we have been toiling with it for the last 4-5 years, in core areas we are seeing populations reduced, but the disease is still spreading west and south. On Asian carp, the barrier is now a Corps project. They have the funding and are completing the second part of the second barrier. We are just happy it is working and operational. We are looking at marketing and encouraging the commercial harvest of Asian carp. IDNR has had an increase in deer hunting opportunities; we are trying to reduce car damage and crop damage. A new program is the Conservation Stewardship program which was enacted last year to protect all habitats. People received incentives in reduced property taxes and there are 28,000 acres representing 1,000 property owners signed up so far.

**Rich Leopold, Iowa** – Iowa has been in the news recently because of the floods. There are 77 counties of 99 counties declared toxic waste sites, and 84 declared disaster counties by the President. Air monitoring is being done on asbestos and they are knocking down houses and businesses. Total cost estimates are \$3 to \$5 billion, plus crop damages. In DNR, it has affected everybody, all 600 people. We have parks down, infrastructure damage and loss of revenue. Because of climate change Iowa has had five presidential declared disasters since 2005. On sustainable funding, the legislature passed a constitutional amendment, Senate Joint Resolution

2002, for 3/8 of one cent sales tax for natural resources, but there is still a lot of work ahead. We are very encouraged at where we are. We appreciate the help we received from other states. On the clean lakes program, it was very well funded by the legislature and will have economic and socio-economic impacts. Our water trails program has really taken off, outfitters have doubled and it is a \$53 to \$54 million to do several river things like trails, safety and other items. Iowa will open its first resort state park, Honey Creek Resort Park in August. It has 105 motel rooms, a restaurant, lounge, conference center, golf course, indoor water park, 37 furnished cabins, 20 camper hook-ups and 10 miles of nature trails. This is a \$50 million project and the first head is set to hit the bed on the week of August 3 and 4. We are working with Farm Bureau on a deer depredation policy and this seems to be successful. Iowa held the first river otter season in 2007 and 469 animals were harvested. The DNR is currently considering legislation to give the black bear furbearer status. This would allow appropriate wildlife management to occur which would include opportunities to handle nuisance black bear complaints. On climate change, we are hiring new full time people to deal with that issue. We are also working on recruitment and retention programs using data mining and marketing and are starting to hold public meetings.

**Jon Gassett, Kentucky** – Kentucky has 10,000 elk on the ground and we are number 10 in the nation and have some Boone and Crockett animals. Last year 66 animals were taken and 400-500 tags will be drawn this year. We passed our first black bear season. We are having paddlefish issues that are contentious because of the ownership of the river. It is difficult even though the state owns 90 percent of the river. Commercial fishermen want us to annex the rest of the river from the other states. It is a lucrative business with paddlefish caviar driving this up. Illicit operations are going on to spite our best law enforcement efforts and we are not sure we can pass legislation to protect them. We are having wild canid movement, particularly coyotes and foxes. It is illegal to import them and you can't sell them, but you can move them around. They are being used for coursing pens. People will pay a bounty on coyotes, \$50, so they chop off the tails so the dogs can't catch them and sell them for \$150 to coursing pens, so they are making a total of \$200 per animal. Lake Cumberland was reduced from 55,000 to 35,000 acres to work on the dam. This is the largest dam in the eastern U.S. The entire dam has settled one inch and this may jeopardize the entire project. On captive cervids, we apprehended people and tested their animals for CWD. We also placed a statutory ban on transporting animals under the import statute. We were told by the Circuit Court that this was unconstitutionally vague and they disagreed with us whether transporting an animal across the state constituted importing an animal. We asked AFWA and Carol Bamberg for their help on this decision. Adventure Tourism is a big thing in Kentucky and they want to use our land for other activities and we are working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to make sure we don't jeopardize the purpose and intent of the land, but we want to get people back outdoors.

**Mike McKenna, North Dakota** – Things are real good. Can look, hunt or fish 15 minutes from my house. Due to an all-time low in the number of strutting male sage grouse observed this spring we are recommending closing the sage grouse hunting season this fall. Only 77 males were counted on 18 active strutting grounds, down from 159 males on 19 active grounds in 2007. This number is well below the Department's spring breeding population management objective of 100 males. The record high number of male sage grouse counted on leks in the southwestern part of the state was 542 birds in 1953, and the prior low mark was 111 in 1996. We don't know exactly what has caused the recent decline, but we suspect West Nile virus is a factor as well as considerable energy development for both natural gas and oil. Between expiring contracts and landowners opting out of contracts, we lost nearly 400,000 acres of CRP grassland in 2007 and about 180,000 more acres are scheduled to expire in 2008. This will affect the state's private land

access program, which has about half of its 1 million acres tied to CRP meaning fewer places to hunt this fall. North Dakota is anxiously awaiting the results of a U.S. Centers for Disease Control study that was designed to determine whether eating venison that could contain small lead fragments from bullets is causing elevated blood-lead levels among state citizens, the result of a research project by a Bismarck physician, who discovered that more than 50 percent of 95 packages of ground venison donated to food pantries contained lead fragments. In late March research prompted, the Health, Agriculture, and Game and Fish departments to advise food pantries across the state to not distribute or use donated ground venison because of the discovery of contamination with lead fragments. A few weeks later, the Minnesota departments of Health, Agriculture and Natural Resources did the same thing after laboratory tests discovered lead in approximately 20 percent of venison packages donated to Minnesota food pantries. Several Midwestern states are awaiting results from the CDC study to determine how to keep hunters informed and whether they will be able to operate venison donation programs again this year. Once again, North Dakota did not have any positive chronic wasting disease tests from 2007, so we still remain CWD free. This spring we implemented new regulations directed at introduction or spread of aquatic nuisance species. Anglers and boaters by law must remove all aquatic vegetation from boats, personal watercraft, trailers, bait containers and other associated equipment before leaving a body of water. All water must also be drained from watercraft, except for livewells containing fish. Nonresidents may not bring in live aquatic bait or any water in boats and equipment. With help from federal agencies, we managed to eliminate a band of feral pigs in the western part of the state in the badlands. This winter, we were not as successful in reducing the number in the north central part of the state in the forested Turtle Mountains. We're still trying to get a handle on those. We did, however, take out a small band of at-large pigs in the central part of the state. For the third year in a row the mountain lion season in the western part of the state was closed early, after the season quota of five cats was reached. Last year was the first year we established mountain lion zones. We set a quota of five in the western zone where we feel there is sufficient habitat to support a self-sustaining mountain lion population. In the rest of the state, there was no quota, but only one lion was harvested outside the quota zone in the far southeastern corner of the state. In September, Director Terry Steinwand sent a letter to the National Park Service explaining how we would like to see certified volunteers used to reduce the elk population within Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Certified volunteers would remove elk by using high-powered rifles from November through February, a time that coincides with state hunting seasons outside the park, and a time when park visitation is low. Certified volunteers would remove the carcasses as per NPS policy, process the meat themselves and either keep it or donate it to a food pantry. A certified volunteer is someone who has passed an approved hunter education course, is legally eligible to obtain the necessary North Dakota licenses for take or possess of big game, and participates in a specialized training course. Once the initial elk population goal for the park is achieved, volunteers would also participate in additional removal action as needed to maintain the desired elk population. The park service is currently developing an EIS that was scheduled for public presentation last December, but completion of the EIS has been delayed. In cooperation with the North Dakota Furtakers Association, the Game and Fish Department launched a Fur Harvester Education Program last fall. It is a 16-hour course, taught mostly by volunteers. Two courses have been completed so far. The State and Three Affiliated Tribes have developed an MOU to help coordinate law enforcement relating to hunting and fishing violations within reservation boundaries which enables both departments to recognize and honor each other's licenses, and to coordinate season dates and bag limits for Native Americans and non-Natives while hunting on tribal lands within the reservation boundaries. In addition, the Tribe will no longer charge an access or conservation fee to any non-Native for boating or fishing access within the reservation.

In return, the Game and Fish Department will make an annual payment of \$25,000 to the Tribe. Heavy rains in mid-summer allowed young carp to cross a divide separating Devils Lake from the Red River drainage. The carp were discovered quickly and efforts to eliminate them before they could move downstream were apparently successful. Record crude oil prices, plus upgraded potential for recovery in the Bakken Formation in northwestern North Dakota, has greatly accelerated oil exploration and production. This affects much of the western half of the state, including the badlands, on both private and public lands. We haven't seen this much oil and gas activity for 25 years and it's probably early in the cycle. It's hard to tell just yet how much this will affect wildlife habitat for a variety of species.

***Dave Schad, Minnesota*** – After 10 years of effort, legislation to place a provision on the ballot that would dedicate three-eighths of one percent sales tax for conservation was passed by the House and Senate. If passed by a majority of voters in November the tax would go into affect July 1, 2009. The funds will be used to restore, preserve and enhance fish and wildlife habitat; protect and restore surface and ground water; support state parks and trails; protect drinking water; and arts and cultural heritage. Hopefully, if successful, this will serve as a model for other states. We formed a citizen task force to look at simplifying deer hunting statutes and regulations and develop recommendations. The group agreed on six recommendations and those changes are going through the rule making process. We hosted a multi-state conference early in June on the lead in venison issue. Seven state wildlife agencies were present, as well as several partner organizations, meat processors and others. This is a good start to work across state lines to develop consistent programs and recommendations for hunters, food processors and food shelf programs. Changes in food shelf programs will likely occur this year in Minnesota, including a change from ground product to whole cuts. A legislative proposal to restrict use of lead shot on public lands in agricultural portions of the state died at last moment in legislature, in part due to opposition from NRA. States need to pay more attention to lead issues due to mounting evidence of both fish and wildlife and human health issues related to use of lead shot, bullets, and tackle. Fish and wildlife disease issues are growing in our state. Bovine TB was found in cattle farms in northwest Minnesota and now is on 11 farms, and it has spilled into the deer herd. To-date, it has been found in 20 of more than 4,000 deer tested, and as a result aggressive actions are being taken. We hired sharpshooters to remove deer in a 160 square mile affected area between February and May and we are optimistic that we have removed most of the infected deer. On the cattle front, several million dollars has been appropriated by the legislature to buy out cattle farms in the TB area and they have until mid July to decide, or implement fencing to separate deer from cattle and cattle feed. We have hired a new mentoring coordinator in our Recruitment and Retention Program and are instituting a new apprentice hunter program which allows an individual to hunt for one season without having firearms safety when accompanied by a licensed adult hunter. Results of a survey of participants indicated that a large number were adults, pointing out that recruitment efforts can not focus solely on youth. Minnesota hosted the North American Wildlife Law Enforcement meeting, and questions have been raised regarding DNR roles in supporting the event. Our Law Enforcement chief and his wife were put on leave pending an investigation of the charges, so be aware and be careful of activities staff are asked to participate in when hosting similar events.

***Break sponsored by The Nature Conservancy - Illinois***

***Jeff Ver Steeg, CO*** – We have an agenda change. We will switch the USDA-APHIS report from tomorrow morning to this afternoon at 4:15 in place of the strategic issues discussion and take the remaining 15 minutes tomorrow to discuss the strategic topic ideas.

**Tony Leif, South Dakota** – Doug Hansen retired and I feel fortunate to fill that vacancy. I hope to become an active member of this Association. Pheasant numbers are at an all time high according to our 2007 August roadside brood survey. The pre-season pheasant population was estimated at 11.9 million birds, however, we lost 300,000 acres of CRP in 2007. We had about 1.5 million acres, but we expect to lose another 350,000 more acres this year. This was the reason for 13,500 acres less being enrolled in the Walk-In Area program and this decrease in permanent undisturbed habitat is causing some concern. Staff is working on other access pilot programs to secure access to the land. Movement of agriculture westward also causes concern with prairie grouse. Over 2 million pheasants were harvested last year with over 100,000 nonresident hunters visiting our state generating \$219 million in economic impact. We are implementing a CREP on the James River Watershed, where the James River enters North Dakota and goes into the Missouri River near Yankton. This would establish a wildlife habitat and all areas along the CREP will be open to hunting and fishing. We are having success in reducing elk herds and progress in reduction in deer herds in populated areas, but not in rural areas. The same for antelope, with the bulk of the herds being in the northwest corner of the state it is difficult to sell enough licenses to get sufficient harvest and we have gone to triple tags this year, but we need help from Mother Nature. We don't want a three-month severe winter that wipes out the population but some more natural mortality from would help us to get back to more manageable levels. We have nearly completed renovations at our three fish hatcheries, Cleghorn Springs and McNenny which are coldwater hatcheries; and Blue Dog which is cool and warm water hatchery. The first two are complete with Blue Dog expecting to be finished this fall. The renovations took five years and included replacing water filter systems; grading the pond bottoms; installing above-ground valves in ponds; and installing a water heating system to aid in warm water fish production. Abundant moisture has been beneficial in the lower basins, but drought continues to plaque the upper Missouri River basin. Some reservoirs are rising and causing restoration in some fisheries habitat. The fourth mountain lion season starts again January 1, 2009. The season will move from autumn to winter to reduce the frequency of young cubs being orphaned when mountain lions are shot. We don't expect to sell as many permits with the change . It seems we are dispersing animals, they have been found in Wisconsin and one was killed in Chicago, Illinois.

**Becky Humphries, Michigan** – This year has been challenging on a personal and professional level. I am the 15th director of the Michigan DNR which was created in 1929. The Natural Resources Commission, a seven-member commission, was established to buffer staff from the Governor, and we have been fortunate that our Chairman has been there 14 years. We manage fish, game, 98 state parks and the state forest system, over 4 million acres. We are trying to get our budget passed; as many of you know, we did not get our budget approved last year until September and we had to close some state facilities. Our budget consists of 8 percent state general funds, almost 17 percent federal funds, and 75 percent is made up of various smaller funds, for a \$288 million budget. We have 1,370 full-time employees and that number doubles in the summer. We are working on four main funding initiatives with our legislature to provide for short- and long-term funding. We have constitutional protected funds. This past year, we settled inland hunting and fishing rights in the 1836 Treaty Area, which covers most of the state. We continue to meet to work out implementation issues. We continue to work on VHS problems and are starting fish production again after the 2007 moratorium on rearing and stocking of walleye, northern pike, and muskellunge. We will begin limited production on walleye and muskellunge. Also, we have placed restrictions on use and movement of live fish, baitfish, and fish eggs. Testing of white-tailed deer in 2007 confirmed progress is being made in the eradication of

bovine TB, down to 1.5 percent; however, we still have spillover into agricultural herds. We are working together with other groups on this. We have found pseudo-rabies in feral hogs and are looking at importation. We have completed our land consolidation program; we have evaluated every parcel of state land and will divest of some of our out-holdings and get more in-holdings. On recruitment and retention, we have big initiatives in urban areas and have partnered with the Salvation Army to bring kids into our State Fair Pocket Park. We are working on our "Becoming an Outdoors Woman" program and are number two in the Archery in the Schools program. Our first POS license went online in 1996, and up until then we thought we had the same number of deer hunters, and thought they were the same people, but we found out that 40 percent of them were infrequent buyers. We need to figure out how to market and partner with private businesses to draw them in. We recently held a field day at the Island Lake Shooting Range for staff and our Accessibility Council members to showcase new equipment. We hope to repeat this clinic at other locations. We are holding a groundbreaking for our newest shooting range at Michigan State University on July 18.

**Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado** – Live internet broadcast of Commission meetings started last week and we are contemplating going to video. We were petitioned to ban prairie dog shooting and the Commission denied the petition, but we expect this is not the end of that. We are working with southern Ute Tribe on rights and privileges of taking of fish and wildlife. Recruitment and retention is also high on our radar and is a personal priority of our new director. We are looking at what is working and seeing what has been evaluated so far. We are under pressure to develop more shooting ranges and we are looking for place near Denver and counties and municipalities are doing the same. We are trying to catch up. We are a “roof-top state”, which means essentially all streams run out of Colorado; for all practical purposes, none run into state. But despite that, we have aquatic invasive species issues in the form of zebra mussels in the Pueblo Reservoir. We have also had New Zealand mud snails. Legislature has recognized the threat to water supply and authorized almost \$4 million this coming year and about \$1 million annually thereafter to implement our aquatic nuisance species program. About 40% of state is in public ownership. We have acquired conservation easements on about 32,000 acres of land to help provide recreational access and protect wildlife habitat and public access is available on 2,000 of these acres. Very little land has been protected under fee title. By 2009 we anticipate an additional 42,000 acres, with public access on 13,000 acres of that. We are getting ready to hold the second Conservation Summit meeting. The first Conservation Summit kicked off the Great Outdoors Colorado program and committed lottery proceeds to preserve, protect and enhance wildlife, parks, rivers, trails and open space. The second summit will look at the condition of state natural resource by 2050 and how to get where we want to be. Four or five issues will be discussed, such as: land use and conservation; water conservation, quality and quantity; federal land mgmt; climate change; and youth outreach. A bill was passed in 2007 that requires the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to consult with the Wildlife Commission prior to approving well permits to protect wildlife resources and minimize the adverse impacts. This is contentious and time consuming, but the last 6-9 months we have been working on this and have been drafting rules with the other stakeholders. Impact of energy development on wildlife development is an emerging issue. In the 2008 legislative session \$8 million has been earmarked for wildlife projects related to energy development with the primary source of revenue coming from directly or indirectly from energy development. Of that, \$4 million is earmarked for zebra mussels, grouse, lesser prairie chickens and eastern plains native fishes and mountain plovers and other invasive species. We have one year to spend this money and will be scrutinized this time next year. It is amazing how little we talked about CWD this year. Climate change is also as challenges we will have to deal with. This year we submitted 8 percent of deer heads for CWD testing and have found no new discovery

areas. We found a few cases of skunk strain rabies from a coyote and a few skunks. Feral hogs are a problem too. Our profession usually tells people to not feed wildlife, but this winter we spent a lot of money feeding big game; about \$2.5 million primarily in the Gunnison Basin and some along the I-70 corridor. We had 50-60 inches of snow on the ground for many months and we can lose as many as 90 percent of our mule deer population in an area with snow cover like that. We started in feeding and baiting in January and concluded in April. We fed pronghorn also. We estimate we fed half, (9,000-10,000) of 20,000 mule deer in the Gunnison area. We also baited elk, in order to keep them away from rancher's haystacks. Feeding in a winter like our last one can make a real difference in deer survival rates. Without supplemental feeding, devastated deer populations can take five or more years to recover (which can have a significant impact on local economies). Gunnison is a unique area and we cut mule deer licenses by about 90 percent in the late 1990s (at the request of the public). We hope our winter feeding will also help outfitters, landowners and small businesses keep going.

**Zekor** – We covered a lot of issues and state reports are available on the Midwest website. I wrote down your ideas and highlighted items I think will be interesting. I would like to extract items for future discussions. What have you heard that you want to talk about more? **Hoskins** – The Governor of Wisconsin is putting together a climate change workshop, is anyone else doing that? **Humphries** – Michigan is. (*Several hands were raised*). **Zekor** – It seems several states are. **Frank** – I didn't mention invasive species, but we have them. I also want to know what we can do working together to get ballast water legislation, many states are impacted by Great Lakes shipping. **Humphries** – Fish and Wildlife disease, we have a meeting coming up with Veterinary Services. Also, budgets, USDA's budget does not have CWD surveillance built in. **Kramer** – Urban shooting ranges, cost and major problems if you put them in wrong and include Archery in the Schools and other archery programs as a part of that. Also, Commission web conferencing and radio ideas. **Salmon** – Several people mentioned public meetings, we went to an open house forum. Also, I forgot to mention invasive species, we have an outbreak of hydrilla in one of our lakes, which has been controlled with sonar. **Amack** – Address issue of public meetings, had failures in that area, schedule public meeting after 7:00 pm, waterfowl is major issue and if we had 365 days they would argue on all species. Started on public meetings on deer and waterfowl, we contracted with information technology people and were empowered by POS on internet and sent surveys, 35,000 questionnaires and got back 15,000, but data was invaluable. Waterfowl people happy with that. Will still hold public meetings, but not on that large of scale. **Ver Steeg** – Which do we want to take up tomorrow afternoon? **Hoskins** – On public meetings, parallels on what happened with us on deer, survey more valuable, but you have to have some public discourse, but real data comes from technology. Florida is strong on this and has web meetings. **Zekor** – Climate workshop initiative; fish and wildlife disease issue; and if extra time we can pick up shooting range or meeting topic, or maybe even next year's topics.

#### **Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Update**

**Corky Pugh, AFWA President** (Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries) –

This has been enlightening and educational for me to listen to all of your comments. I looked at the names of people who came before us and who attended a similar meeting 75 years ago. We need to put ourselves in the place of those people, they were probably balding males the same as now, with the exception of Becky. They would be proud of our accomplishments, but would be astonished about elk in someone's yard eating the trees. Conservation is coming around to bite us in nuisance wildlife. Those gentlemen would be proud of your professionalism, but they might be disappointed that we didn't pay more attention to the importance of education like Rex said.

Dealing with the complexity of issues that we do, the diversity of issues, it is hard to focus on what we need to. As a profession we are correctly focused on wildlife restoration, not education. We have education programs, but it reaches deeper than that, relevancy and public policy in a positive way. In regard to disease and fair chase, I am happy to hear what Matt is doing in regards to baiting and feeding and captive wildlife and transportation of cervids and invasive species. It is balled up together and is sitting right in front of us. Those who don't hunt are looking at that. Sat through facilitated discussed at AFWA and that is the wrong course of action. Conference in DC a few weeks ago, and participation was good and those before us would be happy you are wide awake on that issue. A high number of people trying out the apprentice program are in their 20s and 30s, and it makes perfect sense. Looking down they would see managing the resource depends on participation. The other issue, fair chase, will determine the future, people are more urban and more disconnected and we need to reach critical mass or lack of acceptance will hurt us bad. Those guys from 75 years ago would expect us to do no less. As far as the Association goes, Matt is doing a great job of running things. He is bringing depth to an organization that is already deep with people like Gary Taylor, but not so deep on other programs but we are working on that through people like Ron Regan and others.

***Matt Hogan, AFWA Executive Director –***

When you have the job of hiring people you hire people smarter than you. We added some great talent this last year with Ron Regan and Laura MacLean and she was behind the idea of the director's line email you get from us every couple of weeks. I hope you find that valuable. When Corky was part of the interview panel, we interviewed 9-10 people and his first words were, "stronger than new rope". Naomi is leaving and doing part-time work for the Wildlife Federation. Mark Humpert is the new diversity director. On the downside, we lost Dave Chadwick to Colorado Division of Wildlife. Mark will be trying to find a replacement for him. Dr. Arpita Choudhury will be replacing Amber who went to California. Comes from NOAA's Coastal Center of Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research. Farm bill is a big issue and you helped us fund the farm bill coordinator, Jen Mock Schaffer, she is back 100 percent and we want to give a special thanks to Rich Leopold for stepping in and sending us Todd Bogenschutz to fill in during her absence. The Executive Committee met by phone a few weeks back and approved continued discussions between AFWA and NASBLA on reauthorization of Wallop-Breaux. Boating people feel they have unmet needs and approximately 30 states have boating under their purview. We hope for a unified position and Ron is leading that effort with Glen Salmon, Ken Herring and others. They also approved tentative membership in the American Wind and Wildlife Institute. The Executive Committee wants the entire membership to decide on membership at their annual meeting. Jeff Vonk from South Dakota and Keith Sexson from Kansas will participate in that meeting. The third issue was changes to our bylaws, Jon Gassett headed the working group that is recommending the changes that have been sent to members and will be voted on in September. We are working on an update on reconnecting state agencies and fishing, shooting and boating industries on excise taxes. These are important surrogate relationships and we are focused on trying to rebuild those relationships. We have created a Industry-Agency Steering Committee that Glen Salmon, Indiana is co-chair of with Doug Painter of NSSF. Other agency members are John Frampton, South Carolina; Jeff Vonk, South Dakota; Carol Bamberg, AFWA; and Dale Hall, USFWS. The larger summit meeting will take place in December, mainly Executive Committee meetings. Special thanks to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Dale has given us Brian Bohnsack on a two-year detail as coordinator of the Industry-Agency Summit. We are providing the administrative support. Attended Shooting Sports Summit earlier this month where there was a detailed assessment given by Mark Duda. They had 196 recommendations that will be bound into one publication. The second thing was they had a

generationalist that walked them through what motivates them. The presentation was really fascinating. The last thing to come out of this was an effort to do an assessment of some of these programs to see what is working and not working. On the legislative front a lot of discussion on CWD and funding cuts. Climate change is another big issue and the Senate brought up the Warner /Lieberman bill, but did not engage in discussion on that. Thanks to Gary Taylor's and David Schad's work on climate change, that is currently drafted, but will take time to implement. We will try to keep funding in the bill. The North American Wildlife Conservation Policy Workshop was held in Washington DC in June. Corky Pugh and Jon Gassett and six other Directors participated in that. There was an Executive Order issued by the President last August and we will keep you posted on that. Appreciate efforts of the states. There is a dropping off of folks applying for the National Conservation Leadership Institute program, a 20 percent reduction from each cohort. We have graduated two cohorts (36 students each) so far. In the Midwest that is pretty well attended. Some states have not nominated anyone and I would like to get your thoughts on that. The staff report is great resource if you have any questions (**AFWA STAFF REPORT - EXHIBIT C**).

### **Awards Luncheon sponsored by National Wildlife Federation**

**Ver Steeg** – I want to thank John Gale and the National Wildlife Federation for sponsoring this lunch. **John Gale, NWF** – I want to thank Jeff and Directors for collaboration and we appreciate the relationship we have with AFWA and the regional associations.

**Ver Steeg** - I want to give a special award to Sheila Kemmis for her work on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary history book.

**Salmon** – (Read the nominations – **AWARD NOMINATIONS - EXHIBIT D**).

- Fisheries Biologist of the Year – Don Bonneau, Iowa (Ken Herring accepted)
- Wildlife Biologist of the Year – John Schulz, Missouri (John Hoskins accepted)
- Law Enforcement Officer of the Year – Jeff Finn, Kentucky (Jon Gassett accepted)
- Spirit of the Shack – Dennis Figg, Missouri (John Hoskins accepted)
- President's Award presented to The Nature Conservancy – Colorado Chapter by Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado, MAFWA President (Tim Sullivan, TNC Colorado accepted)
- The Past President's Award goes to Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado.

**Salmon** – Thanks for the nominations, it is hard to choose the winners. I am the chair of the awards committee and the active members are: Mike Conlin, Terry Steinwand, Dave Graham and Keith Sexson. I also want to thank Sheila Kemmis who gets the plaques put together for us.

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Update**

**Robyn Thorson, USFWS Region 3 Regional Supervisor** –

Thanks to Colorado for hosting this meeting in such a beautiful place and thanks to the sponsors. It is important to have lunch and dinners together and have a chance to visit. We want to pay tribute to NGOs and their inspiration to connecting us with private sector and states and working so well with us. Congratulate Midwest Association on 75 years, it has been 5 years for me. Ollie, I see your hand in the meetings over the years. You can count on us for continued sponsorship and participation. Dale Hall wanted me to extend his regrets at not being able to be here. We want to thank Becky Humphries on the wolf litigation. Dale is focused on changes as he plans to retire on January 3. Two vacancies on directorate, Steve Thompson retiring August 3 and Rick Lemon has retired. Personnel changes, Parker retired and was replaced by Gary Frazier. Mitch King vacated Region 6 and was replaced by Steve Guertin. He has been in charge of our money, which was handled with integrity and skill. The 75<sup>th</sup> federal duck stamp competition will be held

in Minnesota in October. I have given you all reports on Region 3 Division of Reality; Conservation Planning, Prescribed Fire; Fire Activity Report; Fish Passage, Eagle Permits; Small Wetlands Program; Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Program; Strategic Habitat Conservation; VHS; Multistate Grant Request; Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act; individual state highlights from Region 3; Midwest Region National Wildlife Refuge System; Indiana Bats; Pallid Sturgeon; Invitation to Join Climate Change Forums and Glacial Ridge NWR news release. This is just a collection of some topics. In 2004, the Midwest region received 8.4 percent of all of the operating money; in 2008, 10.1 percent, which may not seem significant, but is exactly what I am trying to do. In 2004, we ranked fifth in regions, now we are third. Not more of the pie, but we are competing so successfully for grants. We put in a lot of effort, talent and time on this. Also, we are looking for other ways to increase capital. There is a regulatory chance to get mitigation for migratory birds. I am available to go over Rocky Express East with anyone who wants more information. I take great pride in the Glacial Ridge NWR who received the largest grant in order to complete that NWR in Minnesota. The largest grant last year was also awarded to someone from the Midwest. In the last two years we have had zero EEO complaints. On climate change, the Director asked every region to have a forum on climate change and all eight are doing that differently. We are using blogs, webcasting and have dialogs going to cut down on travel and the overall footprint of travel. We are doing forums in four categories: information (conference call once a month) which we encourage states to participate in; graduate seminars in the academic community, which Indiana University has stepped up on, these are web-based seminars for four months, once a week, two from each state are allowed to participate and USFWS on climate change, and they may have a continuing education course in the future; federal government on same page, met with other government groups to find out where we all were; last is a policy level seminar to address specific actions we might take, do this next year and have elected officials in place. We like to keep our association together productive. Bob Bryant is retiring this fall after 34 years. Charlie Wooley could not come because of another obligation. **(USFWS REGION 3 HANDOUTS – EXHIBIT E).**

***Steve Guertin, USFWS Region 6 Regional Supervisor –***

I want to thank everyone for the invitation to speak here. I am excited in my new role, I came from the Washington DC office and my family just joined me a few months ago. I am looking forward to the 100<sup>th</sup> year of MAFWA because I have young kids and they will be going through college then. We also have had personnel changes, Mark Butler passed away a few weeks ago; Gary Moadd is going to Washington to become Deputy Director at the national level; and we consolidated two positions, Mike Sample will be covering both for now and we will be splitting those again and will be opening new position later. We are having a climate change summit in Denver, bringing in project leaders and state leaders. We will be looking at what we are going to do to deal with this new challenge. Looking ahead at work force planning and strategic habitat concentration, like prioritizing areas like prairie pothole region. Like many of the state agencies, we are in need of a couple of botanists, GIS modelers and contract staff. We have a keen interest in connecting people with nature. As former budget officer I failed to generate funding for this, but we are looking at cost share opportunities. It doesn't have to be expensive. The last issue is sturgeon issue. Sam Hamilton has shared some of the information in the southeast region, and other venues, we will work through a PowerPoint presentation to look at what we are working on with you. There is a lot of information we want to put on the table and are here to answer any questions.

***Tracy Hill, USFWS (PALLID STURGEON POWERPOINT – EXHIBIT G) –*** The pallid sturgeon is so close in appearance to the shovelnose sturgeon they are getting harvested. So we were looking for a way to provide you with the information. ***Thorson*** – presentation is in the

packet. **Hill** – The pallid sturgeon was listed in 1990, with completion of the recovery plan a moratorium was recommended on commercial sturgeon fishing. A five-year review completed in 2007 still listed commercial fishing as a threat, and a wide range of activities is covered under that and is illegal. A case was made in 2006 on three commercial fishermen and in 2007 a task force of local and state law enforcement officers was put together on the Mississippi River. Cases have been made in Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri and Kentucky and we are aware of 88 pallids that were part of this take. About two percent of shovelnose sturgeon harvest in Tennessee waters is pallid sturgeon, about 160 to 170 fish. In addition, ghost nets have been recovered. Population demographics say the oldest fish is about 15 years old and in the lower Missouri River the average age is 21 with 15 percent mortality. At the current rate we expect to drop below 1,200 fish in the next 20 years. Egg check wounding is common. Global issues contributing to this is that the Caspian Sea has been closed to shovelnose harvest for caviar. Within the range of pallids there are six states that have fisheries, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Arkansas and Tennessee and conservation is being employed in this area. Identification of pallid over shovelnose involves complicated measurements. There is a publication by Kuhajda and Murphy talking about characteristics. Looking at mortality rates, there are 2,500 in the middle Mississippi, but there will be less than 1,200 in 20 years; which increases to 30,000 fish if there was no commercial fishing. With that in mind, what options are available? The Endangered Species Act has a tool, the Similarity of Appearance (SOA). At the current level of harvest, pallid sturgeon cannot be recovered or sustained. There are other species in North America that this tool has been used on. The process for how this might be rolled out is list this in the Federal Register; give public notice; make proposal available for public comment; hold a public hearing; publication of a final rule 12 months before publication of proposal. This all takes about 18-24 months once this gets under way. We could list shovelnose as threatened where sympatric with pallids; or in the entire range; and an option for 4(d) rule for recreational fishing could be used. If commercial harvest fisheries of shovelnose are closed it would not require movement on the SOA listing. **Guertin** – Buyers are spending \$55-\$85 million per year for the eggs. **Conlin** – When we met with MICRA last May, the Service was there, at that time we talked about rules and regulations and we implemented more restrictive rules and regulations in the fall. In talks about identification, most pallid sturgeon are readily apparent according to my biologists. **Hill** – It depends on where you are. **Conlin** – It is more difficult down river as you see more hybrids? Part of the regulatory changes we made include folks that got permits had to take a test on the recognition of pallids. We still have illegal activity if you have regulations or whatever, poachers are poachers. Some of this you discussed has been done in the last year. **Hill** – The Tennessee study where they found 2 percent take is new, it is similar to what you had employed. Biologists were riding along with the fisherman. **Conlin** – There are more hybrids there which would make it more difficult? **Hill** – Yes.

**Gassett** – Tom Bennett was admitted to the hospital on Friday with a rare blood disease. They are doing transfusions, two so far, but may have to do as many as 20, but it is curable. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

*Break (5 minutes)*

### **Climate Change – Planning & Managing Wildlife in the Face of Uncertainty**

**Curt Flather, U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station** – Modeling Habitat Change for Wildlife Managers – **(CLIMATE CHANGE POWERPOINT – EXHIBIT H)** – Myself, Linda Joyce and Marty Koopman, who is with the National Center for Conservation Science and Policy in Oregon, worked on this report. The project had three phases, 1) literature

synthesis; 2) climate stress index; and 3) look at three case studies in three states in hopes to have frameworks to make recommendations. Focus on first two. What are the threats? - Changing climate regimes like precipitation, snow pack, more storms; disturbance regimes such as fire, which has increased since the 1960s, and insects like the pine beetle; in conjunction with other disturbance agents. The International Panel on climate change considers habitat loss and fragmentation, water diversion, air and water pollution, disease, exotic species and low genetic diversity adds to the stress of climate change. How is wildlife expected to respond? - Shifts in geographic areas, northward migrations (for instance state birds that will no longer occur within a state); population abundance; and breeding and migration changes; tropic relationships like temperature decreases, like moose foraging and increased ticks elevates wolf predation on moose, which means short-term pup increase and long-term decreases in wolf populations; changes in morphology like declines in body size; and finally extinction. Are wildlife already responding? - Yes, there are more increases of populations in northern tier of states. We put together a Climate Stress Index and what states are doing to prepare. Looking at the lower 48 states we split the map into grids, 72 grids in Missouri for example, looking at two 50-year time periods, from 1950-1999 and 2050-2099. The Index shows the shift in temperature and precipitation, habitat quality effects like production and habitat area effects like vegetation dissimilarity. The distance between points is the climate stress. We look at mean precipitation and then look at the future on a new map of climate stress or difference between the two. Right now we are looking at above ground biomass, for instance forest changing to grass and compare the scale terms to form the index. This is one of many we could have looked at, but we looked at a series of climate models and then looked at several maps. Each area shows a composite of 12 scenarios and coefficient of variation. We have more confidence in our findings in the high stress areas, but unsure of lower stress areas. The Midwest is going to play a prominent role in how we address climate change. Let's turn our focus to what some of the states are doing. State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs) were completed in 2005 to help conserve wildlife and natural areas with a goal of coming up with proactive plans for each state. We compared SWAPs to published literature. How helpful is the literature? - 57 percent made no offered recommendation or wanted more research; leaving 43 percent who attempted to make policy recommendations, of which reduction of greenhouse gas was the most common. Education and communication is a complex problem. SWAPs literature understood more than scientific literature. Another aspect, SWAPs is comprehensive recommendations, tied to climate change and those not tied to climate change. For example in Illinois they analyzed historic vegetation; in Missouri they looked at translocation of Greater Prairie Chickens to previous habitats. How might managers need to adapt? - Change may need to go to more species-based management; manage outside the historic range; translocate species; new criteria to prioritize areas; and work across boundaries (land ownership issues). Managers should also continue to restore ecological processes to increase resilience; control invasive species; monitor populations; increase connectivity; and maintain biodiversity. For example the southeast is a high area of climate stress. **Leopold**- What kind of time line is there for us to see the report? **Flather** - The end of the month. **Leopold** - Do you plan a follow up for policy recommendations coming out of this? **Flather** - Yes. **George Vandell, South Dakota** - Climate change is based on ecological issues, mostly agriculture. It is not how we react, but how they react. Is that taken into account? What impact on agriculture and how will that cascade down? **Flather** - Land use change is in conjunction with this, but we have not incorporated that yet. We will step down to individual state studies to look at other areas. Where it is a current restraint. **Unknown Audience** - Who is doing the case studies? **Flather** - Tennessee, Minnesota and Arizona. **Ken Herring, Iowa** - Any surprise of where those high stress areas are? **Flather** - Yes, if we had Alaska in this large changes would have been there, the surprise was in the center of the states. **Ken Herring, Iowa** - I expected critical areas like

southwest areas in Texas. Is that a factor of criteria, another set could come up with another rationale? **Flather** – When you consider recent history and how varied systems are, precipitation is already varied, results in lower distant shift because of that. This is a relative index, not saying no stress in low stress areas, but much greater in other parts. **Schad** – Historic vegetation can not be used. Does your data help predict how those might change? **Flather** – Can look at any locale on map, so do get a sense, we just didn't display any of those results. **Schad** – Could that data be made available, cell by cell? **Flather** – Yes, looking at additional sources of funding to scale down to look at areas. Hoping to have a web-based interactive model to see what is going on in your state.

### **Recognition of New Affiliate Members**

**Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Executive Secretary** – We have four new affiliate applications that will have to be voted on: Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (Terry Riley); Wildlife Forever (Doug Grann); Southwick & Associates (no one here); and XON TV (no one here). Each of these sent in their bylaws and are compatible with us. **Ver Steeg** – There is nothing in the bylaws that says we can't vote on this before the business meeting. **Mike Conlin, Illinois moved to accept all four affiliate organizations, Joe Kramer, Kansas second. Approved.**

### **Break sponsored by DJ Case & Associates**

### **Energy Development**

**Celia Greenman, Colorado Division of Wildlife** – Addressing Wind Energy Challenges in Colorado – **(ENERGY DEVELOPMENT POWERPOINT – EXHIBIT H)** – Wind energy development exploded in Colorado, mostly in the western part of state, along with oil and gas development so Colorado decided to hire an energy person to act as a liaison. It soon became apparent that it was more than a one person job, so they hired three other people. The northeast region is my area. On private land, landowners don't want to be told what to do on their property and most of eastern Colorado is privately owned. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory developed a wind resource map showing high wind potential areas or GDA (general development areas) where possible wind development will occur. Most of the projects are located along the northern and eastern boundaries and the areas are quite large. On a map of transmission lines running from Wyoming down into Arizona, the Eastern Plains transmission project is 500 kw lines. What is driving wind energy? Production tax credits; green energy designation; Amendment 37, which is 10 percent renewable and is supposed to be 20 percent by 2015; Governor's energy office, Governor Ritter campaigned it, sees it as mitigation against global climate change and rising fuel costs; and job creation and tax revenue, minimum of \$6,000 per turbine per year. The Limon project is expected to create 200 jobs. Challenges of wind energy development is that it has national and local support, but it is not without impacts to wildlife, bird and bat strikes and fragmentation of habitat. Not the worse thing that can happen to wildlife, because if farmers convert grassland to cropland that could be worse. DOW is allowed input as well as the USFWS and NGOs such as TNC. Development climate is important because we don't work in a vacuum we work cooperatively with developers and counties because we don't have regulatory authority. The agency has put together draft guidelines for wind energy. Screening is most important part, asking that wildlife considerations be one of considerations. The biologists paired down factors for screening into critical species (prairie grouse and bald eagles) that can be mapped; and habitat like central short grass prairie and riparian areas. This helps us because it shows where other critical species may occur that can't be mapped. We are asking for a two mile buffer from major rivers to protect riparian areas. Emphasis is going to be on screening and once the location is chosen it can be tweaked by micro-siting individual

turbines. Pre-construction monitoring is what is happening after a site is chosen, we determine what species are there, how they will be impacted and how an area can be micrositied for less impact. We are asking for more intensive monitoring if it is in a special geographic area like Peetz Table, where raptors are attracted to escarpments. We did extensive monitoring at Peetz Table so it was decided to put the turbines right at the top. Post-construction monitoring helps us gain information from mortality, carcass searches, and see what species are being impacted. Asking for bird counts to mirror what was done pre-construction to check for abundance of species to see how they are reacting to the development. We have research questions that go beyond the guidelines such as what will be the indirect and cumulative impacts and what are the best way to assess these? We plan to check the first and third year after construction. Checking to see what the migration corridors are and are they narrow enough to be defined? We are not sure. In looking at the map, it shows the north/south migration could be restricted. We hope to put together a research project and study this further. **Salmon** – Do farmers get \$6,000 per turbine? **Greenman** – They get \$6,000 per turbine, annually. **Leopold** – Thus far our power companies have been cooperative working with us and NGOs. **Greenman** – I have a good working relationship so far, but I have only been there eight months. They are more cooperative in laying out their protocol and laying out dialog. One project was developed with a lot of contention because of the escarpment. **Leopold** – Our experience in Iowa is that bird mortality is minimal, but we found a lot of bat mortality early on, and we try to site away from wet areas. **Greenman** – Are you looking at that as far as habitats, the 2 mile buffer from riparian areas and micrositing areas like wetlands? Some of the information was not picked up in pre-construction, but in mortality data after the project was built. **Kramer** – In Kansas, pre- and post-management is done by different groups. One group is paid to go in and find landowners and negotiate very quickly then we end up negotiating with someone else. Our Governor is very pro-wind energy and our Secretary was able to get a moratorium in the Flint Hills, but some were put in the southern part of the Flint Hills and eight more sites are being built. The first two were in farm ground and had the least impact, but now they want the Flint Hills and Sand Sage Prairie. One energy company is giving TNC and the Livestock Association \$5 million to do volunteer mitigation. There is a lot of risk with prairie grouse. **Greenman** – We have not had to work with a third party, when we meet towers are going up. It has been three years before we find out about projects and they want to do only one year of monitoring. Some landowners formed collaborative group and offered their own RFPs to the company and receive some payment. Some landowners don't want DOW to know what is on their property so they might destroy some habitat. **Gary Taylor, AFWA** – Can you regulate getting it to the grid or siting the wind turbine? **Greenman** – There are other utilities that are connecting with them. **Taylor** – When you said the PUC is recommending they come to you, is that in their rules? **Greenman** – Wildlife concerns are not one of the criteria they are looking at. **Bob Bryant, USFWS** – How are towers sited? Can a landowner block another from receiving enough wind? What about landowner rights? **Greenman** – Don't have financial capabilities to do that, I don't think there has been landowner versus landowner, but maybe developer versus developer.

### **Invasive Species**

**Doug Grann, Wildlife Forever** – Reaching out to Hunters and Anglers to Control the Spread of Invasive Species – (**THREAT CAMPAIGN POWERPOINT – EXHIBIT J**). It is an honor to be here. Thank you for all you are doing and for your support of America's fish and wildlife heritage! My wife Karen and I just came back from Downeast Maine, but this year our guide talked about invasive species. How in the world do we stop the spread of invasive species? Is any place safe? I would like to share with you a few ideas we have learned from Wildlife Forever's Threat Campaign. Many of you know of Wildlife Forever and our work with outreach to anglers

and hunters on stopping the spread of invasive species. Over the years we have developed a strong conservation education focus. Wildlife Forever is a unique non-profit business that is a marketing machine and is funded by direct mail. We reach 1.3 million hunters and anglers each year. We are noncompetitive to other NGOs and are a valuable ally. We have a combined membership of over 460,000 members in Midwest. Our big membership states in the Midwest include: Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Canada, and half of our membership is in Great Lakes states and totals over 600,000. This is your targeted market to stop the spread of invasive species. We have a tradition stretching back to the 1840s. Sportsmen were the first conservationists and developed the state and federal wildlife management we use today. All in response to crises, sportsmen taxed themselves during the Great Depression and funded professional conservation in every state. As a social movement, we possess an inter-generational mentoring system and an intra-member communication system known as “camp fire talk”. You couldn’t imagine a better stakeholder to attack invasive species. Hunters and anglers have the tradition of resource stewardship and duty to respond to environmental crisis. For example catch and release fisheries. Wildlife Forever decided to treat the issue of invasive species as a top down “behavior shift” opportunity, in part because you, the state and federal agencies, are readily available as partners. We each have talents and assets, we know media, marketing and outreach, but don’t understand science of best management practices to halt invasive species. We recommend we go back to the sportsmen’s conservation play book. Several of you have heard about my son, Nate, looking for an Eagle Scout project. Buckthorn removal became the focus of the Scouts efforts. With help and assistance from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, an invasive species became the energy to bond citizens and government employees together into a working force. It woke me up that invasive species are among us. The invasion had just hit my homeland. The silent invaders had arrived in Minnesota and more importantly I was aware of the threat for the first time. I then and now have a vested interest in stopping the invasion. Imagine a volunteer task force comprised of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, FFA, Camp Fire Girls and other youth groups. Then add Sportsmen Clubs, Bass fishing groups, shooting clubs, nature groups and other vested parties all forming an army of support in one of the greatest battles in conservation history. Wildlife Forever recently surveyed our conservation partners that included twenty national hunting and fishing organizations. The largest result of the poll was 71 percent of the groups have increased awareness of invasive species at national level. Many individuals in the outdoors are unaware of what is going on or how to stop it. The question is what are we going to do about it? In 2006, Wildlife Forever teamed up with experts at the U.S. Forest Service and other partners at U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Minnesota Sea Grant and the Minnesota DNR to reach America’s anglers with a message that would enlist support in the battle against Invasive Species. We called it the Threat Campaign, which is a unique series of multi-media outreach targeted to hunters and anglers. It includes television, print, billboards, dioramas and PSA’s. All messages are crafted to gain quick attention and to take advantage of current thought trends and concerns of the American public. We produced two PSAs that we sent to 5,000 TV stations and reached 87 million viewers in the northeast. The third PSA will be released this summer starring Dale Hall. With print we teamed up with the North American Fisherman magazine and reached 18.5 million anglers; newspaper added another 16 million; for a total of 34.5 million impressions from print. A unique partnership was formed with the nation’s largest billboard companies, Clear Channel, CBS Outdoors and Lamar. With the pilot program in Minnesota signs were strategically placed on northbound arteries from the Twin Cities with heavy lake travel, reaching 9.3 million travelers with the message. This component has grown tremendously and signs have been erected in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Arizona and recently Pennsylvania. We added over 64 million impressions to lake bound travelers in 2007. That’s 74 million impressions from billboards and outdoor posters are going green this summer and will use recyclable polyurethane.

Dioramas have been placed at airports, led with bold headlines in Minnesota and we reach 51.4 million people annually with an invasive species education outreach message. We have just renewed the airport dioramas for the summer months and expect a big increase in exposure because Minnesota is hosting the Republican National Convention in September. Ultimately Congress must step forward with funding to eliminate the threat of invasive species on our homeland. Also targeting sportsmen's clubs and fishing tournaments with tip segments which are 3-minute DVDs that were given out at fishing tournaments. By fall this year we will have the second installment of the U.S. Forest Service, Dangerous Travelers series DVD ready. In partnership with the Center for Invasive Plant Management, filming has begun with elk hunting in Montana, pheasant hunting in Minnesota and waterfowl hunting in Maryland. This is another tool for educating hunters and anglers about best practices for controlling invasive species. We have many partners including federal, state and local organizations and have reached 262 million Americans in two years. We started this campaign with a question: Can we reach a mass audience with an invasive message? We have answered that question...Yes! The "Threat Campaign" reached 1,000 people with every dollar invested in outreach. But dollars are also the limiting factor. Even if we can reach out to 1,000 hunters and anglers with each dollar spent, we need \$millions to make the campaign effective. To seize the opportunity we must bring invasive species from the margin of the natural resources dialogue to the center of the nation's politics. Use basic campaign strategies to get funding needed by creating a vocal army of hunters and anglers to win funding in Washington and the state capitals. We want to work with you and expand the outreach. What if one out of every seven Americans added their voice to this effort? Would 42.5 million new partners spread across our great outdoors make a difference? See for yourself at <http://www.wildlife forever.org/documents/WEB-THREATCAMPAIGN2007.pdf> The next question is the million dollar question. Does the Threat Campaign work? Dr. Douglas Jensen, Minnesota Sea Grant, has been studying the question of outreach using the SAH! Program. He funded a special initiative targeting boaters and anglers in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. Boat Ramp surveys were developed by a team of scientists and assembled by Minnesota Sea Grant. Wildlife Forever was not part of the survey study. Study showed it worked to raise awareness compared to surveys done in 1994. Sea Grant (MN & WI) contributed \$33,500 this year into the Threat Campaign and Wildlife Forever was able to match that amount with partner support 3:1. We are limited only by funding to expand the outreach to hunters and anglers and we know the campaign works. Let's find ways to work together in solving the greatest natural resources battle in conservation history.

#### **Partner Update: Animal & Plant Health Inspections Service Wildlife Services**

***Jeff Green, APHIS Wildlife Services, Western Region –***

We have a new administrator, Cindy Smith, and her two major priorities are work force and succession planning; and emergency response. Part of the job description now, is not only natural disasters, but acts of terrorism. We have hired new wildlife disease biologists, 44 across the states who are totally devoted to responding to emergencies. We are running pairs of biologists up to North Dakota to deal with the plague and black-footed ferrets. We are also working on feral hog issues. In the western region, each state felt about a \$1.4 million decrease in federal dollars. We will be on continuing resolution through FY 09, but that may be all of it. Had a couple of fatalities this year and we have done a major safety revue of what we use, firearms, vehicles, etc. We will be working on recommendations over the next year. Surveys have been done on flood waters of Iowa, we are looking for live swine and rescue efforts are underway to aid in rescuing them and we have carcass disposal issues. Opponent groups have petitioned EPA on use of livestock protection collars and M-44s because they kill coyotes and are killing the sheep as well. EPA opened comment period and received thousands of comments. Not sure when

EPA is going to make the decision. Wildlife Service has put together an 80-page document highlighting our use of these products. There may be additional efforts to decrease our funding.

***John McConnell, APHIS Wildlife Services, Eastern Region –***

I have eight states that belong to MAFWA and the rest are in the western region. Charles Brown could not be here and he extends his regrets. I am Assistant Director of the Eastern Region, but I have been there for less than one month. I have only one state person in Minnesota. Our budget is stable, but that is the best I can say about it. We will need to earmark cuts involving cormorants and tread water for the next few years. On Avian Influenza, this is the third year that we are conducting that study. This study helps us monitor where we stand. Pseudo-rabies, CWD and Bovine TB continue to be issues. Feral hogs are also a problem they are the source of disease transmission and other problems. We signed up 23 additional biologists besides the 44 Jeff spoke about. Other issues include urban deer, cormorants and maintaining our research component.

**Affiliate Presentation: Crossbow Dynamics**

***Mitch King, Archery Trade Association –***

**(ARCHERY TRADE ASSOCIATION HANDOUTS – EXHIBIT K)** The handouts I gave you really have nothing to do with what I am talking about today, but I thought they would be useful information to you. I am talking about crossbows. You will have a chance to shoot compound bows, recurve bows and crossbows tonight before supper. In the audience is Michelle Eichler who works for Muzzy Products out of Georgia, she is from Colorado; Riley Foster from Horton in Ohio; and Johnny Grace from Parker Bows, from Virginia. Also, Jim Witmer will be here, he is a bow shop owner from here in Colorado. One other individual you will meet will be Jerry Boyles from Arkansas. We recognize this Association as an important partnership.

**(FUNDAMENTALS OF CROSSBOW DYNAMICS POWERPOINT – EXHIBIT L)** Our position on crossbows is that it is a legitimate piece of archery equipment, taxed by excise tax. We also recognize that the decision to use crossbows is each of your own states' decision to make. But we want to understand the reason for keeping the crossbows out.

According to statistics, when folks get to about age 44 they start setting their bows aside. That could be because of shoulder problems, personal or professional problems. Crossbow power stroke is approximately 12 inches and vertical bows have about 20- to 22-inch stroke, so you need to have a more powerful limb on the vertical bow. The break down is about 2 ½ pounds. The other issue is that this is a flat shooting piece of equipment. It is flat to about 20 yards, but increases arch after that. From a safety standpoint we have heard, they might be more dangerous. Ohio has had legal use of crossbows as part of their archery program for some time and there were only 19 crossbow accidents (15 self-inflicted); and 12 with vertical bows (7 self-inflicted) from 1976 through 2006. During a five-year period in the 1990s there were 633 hunting implements seized by wildlife officers, 95 percent firearms; 2.7 percent vertical bows; and 2.2 percent crossbows. Success rates in the 2001/02 season were about 15 percent for both crossbows and vertical bows. A study of the impact on bow hunting in Ohio was done by Tonkovich, when crossbow use increased 10-fold in 2001/02. Crossbows have been legal in Ohio and Arkansas for 30 years; Colorado for 20 years; and in eight other states since 2002. In most states it is legal equipment for handicapped use only. New Jersey did a survey of the hunting community and 67 percent of bow hunters supported the use of crossbows; 79 percent of gun hunters; and both supported 72 percent. In the Kentucky survey 60 percent supported crossbow expansion. We urge each state to do a survey like that. In Georgia, the first season started in 2002 and in the 2003/04 season crossbow hunters represented about 24.8 percent of archery hunters taking 22 percent of the harvest and were 9.1 percent of all hunters taking 2.6 percent of the overall harvest. The survey stated that 13.5 percent had used crossbows

previously, 31 percent had no archery equipment experience previously, and the success rate was .51 deer per hunter for compound bows; .49 for crossbows. Half of crossbow users are over 50 years old in Georgia. The Virginia survey also showed increases of crossbow use. Maryland survey showed 15 percent of archery harvest was from crossbows, 2-3 percent of total harvest. In the 2006 Ohio survey, it showed 325,000 hunters and 730,000 licenses issued. Of the 325,000 hunters, 74 percent hunted with archery equipment. We need more information and additional studies and surveys and we need to be able to separate bowhunters and crossbow hunters. These are information gaps we know exist. **Conlin** – Can you make that information available? **King** – Ollie can make that available.

**BBO Dinner sponsored by Archery Trade Association**

*Shooting Event: Director's Competition for Director from each state only, each of you will shoot five arrows from a compound bow, five from a recurve and five from a crossbow. The state with the most bull's eyes gets \$2,000 contributed to their state for their archery program; second place gets \$1,000.*

**Hospitality Room sponsored by Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers**

**Tuesday - July 1, 2008**

**Breakfast sponsored by Archery Trade Association**

**Hunter/Angler Recruitment and Retention**

***Jody Enck, Cornell University –***

**(HUNTER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION POWERPOINT)** – I would like to acknowledge Andy Raedeke, Missouri; David Fulton, USGS, Minnesota; Dave Case, DJ Case and Associates; Dale Humburg, DU; and Kevin Hunt, Mississippi State University for their help on this model. The National Flyway Council created the Waterfowl Hunter Recruitment and Retention Strategy Team in 2005, and the Human Dimensions Working Group (HDWG) was established in 2007 to bring in social science foundation. One of the Working Group's tasks was to develop a conceptual model to improve understanding about the natural processes of how recruitment and retention (R&R) works. Data from the USFWS shows that recruitment of young people has been declining for 20 years and no place is immune; almost exactly at the same rate for retention of older hunters. Why do trends continue, with all the efforts being made? We mapped out what those methods were based on: good habitat and wildlife; but hunters need equipment, access and opportunity; and that is based on political and financial support and that is the basis for these guidelines. HDWG started with a clean slate by trying to figure out natural process where people become hunters. Three things we want you to learn: what is management problem – license sales, political, etc.; better understand natural processes of what has happened; and inform you of development of R&R plans. We developed three conceptual models to put people in the position to learn from different aspects rounded in social science: Motivation and Constraints – Decision Model; Conception and Self-Perception – Identity Model; and Cultural Capacity – Capacity Model. Not competing models, but complementary. Deal with scales, decision is short-term; identity is more long-term, but connected in many ways. The Decision Model deals with short time period and smallest social scale; recreation, motivation and constraints theory; behavior based, draws from leisure base, and assumed hunting is psychological. Non hunters are aware of activity of hunting, must perceive it as a good thing, and then may become a potential hunter. Potential hunters may decide to go hunting if positive attitude and it fills a psychological need; if motivated they choose a place to go. Likely to encounter constraints and will only participate if they can negotiate constraints; then finally they can hunt and decide if the hunt is satisfying or dissatisfying, which changes their attitude. Recruitment depends on three things: awareness and belief that hunting is acceptable; can match motivation and what they think it will provide in terms of outcomes; and successful negotiation of constraints. Retention depends on: high satisfaction; meeting expectations; positive attitude; and continuing to negotiate constraints. Lots of studies have been done over the years, some similar and some based on race. Based on matching motivation and overcoming constraints. Weaknesses and variables with these models, weak predictors that people will do what they are motivated to do, too many choices. Not predictive model or guide, but does help us think through opportunities and constraints. The second model, the Identity Theory deals with attachment to wildlife and habitat, once a hunter always a hunter, but doesn't mean they can always participate. Persons are recruited through identity; behavior is important, but self perception is the key to whether they think they are a hunter or not. Some who still hunt don't consider themselves hunters and some of those who stop hunting, still consider themselves hunters. Older people can pass on knowledge, and be politically or economically supportive. Attributes to be a hunter is not just one set of conceptions, so there are different kinds of hunters. In New York there are seven or eight different identity types. This model suggests a person goes through a stage or process,

from non hunter to potential hunter to apprentice, to hunter recruit to retained hunter. The move from one stage to another makes it less unlikely they will back slip into a previous stage. Non hunters are aware of activity of hunting, but unaware it can be a way of life or state of mind (not what you do, but who you are). Interaction with other people with hunting identity like mentors, family, friends, hunting agencies, etc. helps potential hunters become interested from consistency between motivations and characteristics. This is similar to decision model, but these individuals can articulate motivations. What you get out of it like: “a hunter is self-sufficient” “aware of seasons of wildlife” and “aware of themselves”. An apprentice is someone who is trying out hunting, but that doesn’t mean they have made it as a hunter yet. So how do they become recruited? By developing rights of passage (norms and attributes) and rituals (repeated behavior because of tradition or other factors). How you interact with other hunters and repeated interaction. When a person believes they are a hunter then they have been recruited. Retention is how they maintain that identity and satisfaction in terms of maintaining attributes of hunters. Slogan for hunting “hunting doesn’t build characters, it reveals character.” Important roles for mentors and retained hunters are not just to accompany an apprentice, but teaching norms and values of being a hunter. The constraints of identity model is roles of retained hunters in recruiting new hunters, addressing long-term processes, and building bridges. There are only a few studies using this framework and we had to come up with new metrics of how you measure success and development. The third is the Capacity Model that links social structure and culture, characteristics attributes of hunting and definitions of what is acceptable is how it is socially defined. How do we define acceptable things, that is what has changed. We need to change social structure and draw on research from social organizations, communities and social movements. Driving factors are globalization of economy, politics and culture. In general by land use; shift to information-based economy from productive to consumptive resources in rural landscapes and economies tied to things and interests rather than a place. Spatial boundaries no longer a limiting factor and identity is tied to the internet and other large scale media, not to a place. Transportation connects urban people to that place. Information based economy affects how we interact with nature. In the past everyone played and lived in the same place. Regionalized definition of being a hunter and knowing when you have made it as a hunter. Structural changes of place, live one place and play in another. Another important change that has occurred is how kids grew up into adults, used to be informal play, unstructured opportunity to learn about nature, now more formalized, now adult centered, not child based and you have to go to a particular place to do it. Communities of place to communities of interests and know no bounds. Challenges of that, no longer nature and outdoor recreation something we do where we live, but where we go. New constraints are the time or the drive to go. Potential change in what it means to be a hunter, looking at catalog, not part of us, but something we chose to do. Implications are the control of amount and type of access is shifting from community to locally-based social relations to economic or state controlled relations and shifting from activity integrated in a working rural landscape to a more specialized single focus activity. Appropriate uses of nature are defined by broader culture; characteristic attributes change; control and amount of access; economic; and shifting to single focus. Constraints demonstrate that we need alternative ways to think about access. The weakness of this model is that there is no application and it is difficult to measure change. All of these models have something to share and importantly deal with different scales. Understanding motivations is not sufficient, we need to help evaluate motivation and realize it is not happening naturally (word of mouth), and teaching skills is important, but not sufficient, communicating norms is not sufficient either. Mentors have important roles to take on. Informal exploration of nature helps build foundation (patience) provides context; if place to hunt is something to rent then only the highest bidders can hunt, and hunting builds character. **Terry Riley** – Is this PowerPoint available to us? **Enck** – It is coming

out in a report later this summer. *Tom Remington* – Do you see differences in angling and hunting in terms of recruiting? *Enck* – The same processes and goals can be used on other nature-based programs.

### **(Re)connecting People with the Outdoors**

*Cheryl Charles, Children & Nature* – Building a Movement to Reconnect Children with Nature – **(CHILDREN AND NATURE NETWORK POWERPOINT – EXHIBIT N)** Founded Project Wild in 1981, AFWA was lead sponsor and we started spreading the word, when I left in 1993, most states were involved. For ten years I went to all AFWA meetings and I came back with perspective that we need to provide background to reconnect children with the out of doors. Kids have had enormous changes in life experiences. The “Last Child in the Woods” showed nature deficit disorder happened quickly. This book was reprinted in 2008 with 100 items to do added to the back of the book. Our focus was looking at retirees and I was worried about life experiences and how to step into career fields in natural resources and Richard Louv and I had to speak at a conference in 2005. Rich asked me to help him form a network for a way to share concerns and ideas and we formed the Children and Nature Network. My focus is in the U.S., but this is a worldwide issue and we are going to other countries to present this. One way to think about this, reconnect child by thinking about their every day life. A lot needs to be the opportunity for children to play on their own and learn how the world works. If we plan everything they do and structure it all for them we diminish their capacity. Nature-centered experiences occur in outdoor settings anywhere from backyards to neighborhoods to city parks and wilderness and encourage unstructured play. Get to know your neighbors. Build a movement to reconnect children in nature. I helped build this group in 2006. Examples of things we are working on: reach half of the nation’s parents; endorsement of physicians and medical associations; allied organizations to reverse trend of obesity; engage major builders and developers to design and redesign communities; secure commitment of one-third of nation’s mayors and half of nation’s governors to support children and nature-centered places and programs; and establish children and nature initiatives in 50 state and 50 nations. I founded the first Project Learning Tree and then Project Wild, so what would it take to get people involved? By the time I left we had reached about 40,000 educators a year with workshops that lasted about 6 hours, but that was only about 15-17 percent of the teachers. Most of those programs still are available. We are trying to figure out how we do that now and there is a tremendous body of resource that is building, but at the same time a lot of gaps. Our website shows several studies [www.childrenandnature.org](http://www.childrenandnature.org). Research says 40-65 hours (8-18 yrs) is spent on electronic umbilici; fewer than 1-5 children walk or bike to school; childhood obesity has increased from 4 to 20 percent from 1960; and there is less time for unstructured creative play in outdoors. There are more than 40 studies on our website. To summarize the research it says: children are happier, healthier and smarter or more creative when they have these opportunities. Disconnection is happening in urban, suburban and rural settings. If children don’t connect with outdoors before 11 or 12, they don’t grow up to be committed to active outdoor lives. Think about creating and helping spread the word. We are growing public awareness; providing resources; nature-based design; support community leadership and grassroots; and filling the gaps by identifying trends and areas for additional research. The movement is a grassroots initiative, some states are involved, some not. Since 2006, more than 50 communities nationwide and Canada have launched children and nature initiatives and campaigns. Dale Hall has been a great champion of this. The Conservation Fund has also established a national forum. By November 12, 20 demonstration projects will be out. There is recognition that this is important and that changes have occurred in the lives of children. According to the Surgeon General and others, this may be the first generation of children who may not live as long. Wildlife agencies can do many things.

This does not have to be about money, but the expertise you have. So many parents and teachers don't have the skills to take kids outside. There is a list of things that all of us can do. We can make changes in our communities and need to get builders and others involved in redesigning communities. The good news is that Rich's book is on the best sellers list. **Salmon** – What has been the reaction from traditional groups such as Boy or Girl Scouts, is there a conscious change against the outside? **Charles** – I can't speak about Boy Scouts, but political changes are happening and overall responsiveness is there. I am talking to Girl Scouts in California next week, and those groups are allies. Find groups that are interested in the outdoors. There is a trend. **Riley** – You said it was difficult to do anything in the schools, but we are inspired by the Archery in the Schools program, but you say it is difficult to have an impact. It is worth investing time in that? **Charles** – Yes, definitely in time. The "Leave no Child Behind" Act has narrowed what teachers are teaching and there is a loss of outdoor classrooms because of budgets and the lack of teaching knowledge. Teaching in a tight curriculum if you go to a school and bring resources I think that will be great. **Frank** – In Wisconsin the school budgets are so tight that schools are scaling back and one area that is hit the hardest is field trips. We also had a decline in field trips last year because of fuel costs and a double whammy of budget cuts. A lot of the schools would like to, but they can't because of funding. **Charles** – Cost is one of the major reasons. In New Mexico, the state parks department and state department of education are trying to get kids out to public lands and are putting money behind it. **Conlin** – You spend a lot of time talking about angler and hunter recruitment and retention, but get kids outside first. If we don't do what you are talking about, we don't have a prayer. I think Richard's book is marvelous. This also affects colleges because they are teaching more microbiology and fewer people are teaching people to go out into the field. If people never go outdoors how are they going to support legislation. **Hoskins** – Start looking at methods of operationally reaching people and getting them outdoors. You have to look at the schools because nothing touches all of society like schools. In Missouri we started a small grant program for schools, \$200,000 a year and outreach and education is more than \$12 million. This brought big dividends, like field trips that go to conservation destinations and opened doors for our people to get into the schools. If \$100-\$150 will get a school to your conservation area it is well worth it. **Charles** – Provide more support to match schools and agencies. Something else the Association did was fund the Community Action Guide that is available free on our website. **Riley** – Most of us are faced with mobile families and travel to where families are to interact with kids and grandkids. In my son's search for programs he found Y-Tribe, a program for fathers and daughters and my granddaughter has been doing that together with her father for two years. **Charles** – I have never heard of that but I will look for it. We are a young organization, but I will research that. We are trying to provide some resources and toolkits for kids and are spreading by word of mouth and use of grassroots programs. **Conlin** – We are in partnerships in the business world, outdoor situations are free and that is one reason we are not receiving more priority nationwide. **Charles** – Look at greening of business world, we see more corporations stepping up to be the good guys all the time. Finally, thanks for everything you do. It is important to keep hope alive in young people. Start small in what you know and give foundation to allow kids to grow up the way you want them to and keep your shirt sleeves rolled up.

**Amack** – I want to introduce two members of our Commission, James Ziebarth, Wilcox, Nebraska, our Chairman; and Jared Burke, Curtis, Nebraska, an educator and farmer. They were in Wisconsin last year, we belong to both MAFWA and WAFWA and they are supportive of us. **Ver Steeg** – Thank you for joining us again.

**Gary Vequist, National Park Service** – If you want to see Rocky Mountain National Park tonight or tomorrow, normally it would cost \$20 to bring a car in, but if I can get a list of anyone who wants to do that and get free entrance for you. You will need to keep your guns and bows in the trunk. At 1:00 pm I will be talking about elk and management issues.

**Break sponsored by Safari Club International**

**Enhanced Funding for Wildlife Agencies**

Updates on pending campaigns from around the region and prospects for success

**Dave Schad, Minnesota DNR** – We are excited and optimistic in Minnesota about the possibility of voters approving dedicated funding. Our legislature, after 10 years of effort, agreed to put a question on the ballot to increase the state sales tax by three-eighths of one percent, with one-eighth each to fish and wildlife habitat, clean water, and recreation and arts and cultural activities (about \$90 to \$95 million a year for each of the three areas). This has been a grassroots effort, and came about after a constitutional amendment for the right to hunt, fish and trap in Minnesota was passed. While the Governor has supported the effort, Minnesota DNR was not generally involved in promoting the initiative but supplied information as requested. Fifty percent of the voters must agree with this to get it passed. The money can't likely be used for education, monitoring, research, and other similar activities. DNR will be assessing use of existing funding sources in a way to compliment the new dedicated funds. State law prohibits state agencies from political campaigning so we can't speak in support of this ballot initiative. Rather, we are trying to provide information on the need for additional conservation funding and walking a fine line between education and advocacy. There have been a variety of groups organized to raise funds to develop a marketing campaign that kicked off a few weeks ago. Millions of dollars were raised and two former Governors have been enlisted to help market the initiative. There are some groups gearing up to oppose this also. Recent polls had a low margin of error and showed a strong majority of the voters in support. The poll also found it is not easy to sway the voters either way. Much effort is being focused on raising awareness that this question is on the ballot. It is felt that the clean water message has strong support and is an especially effective marketing message. The challenges are the poor economy, and the reluctance to raise taxes. After the 35W bridge collapse, the state legislature raised gas taxes in Minnesota and some will see this as piling on more. The presidential race may also impact the kinds of voters who show up and their willingness to support the measure. The good news is that it will be on the front page of the ballot. We are cautiously optimistic. This money would not come directly to DNR, and we would have to compete for the dollars. A group consisting of citizens and legislators would control the fish and wildlife habitat funding. It will be difficult to get this on the ballot again if this fails this year. In some other states it took a couple of times to get it through the voters. **Herring** – Is the Department of Agriculture and other groups aware that this is money that could be available to them? **Schad** – They have easement programs that would qualify for this funding. **King** – It is the same question in industry to try and get the message out. I wonder if industry can help with this. **Schad** – We are the home of Gander Mountain and are trying to get posters out and orange t-shirts that are showing up all over the state. I will remind folks about the potential to engage industry. **Vandel** – Is funding allowed for access, could it be used for CREP or leases? **Schad** – Yes. **Niebauer** – Does the money for the clean water project and arts need to go to a commission also? **Schad** – There was concern from hunters and anglers that fish and wildlife funds not be diverted for other purposes, so a citizen /legislature advisory committee was established. Clean water wouldn't, but arts funding would go through the arts council. **Kramer** – How many Midwest states are referendum states? **Torgerson** – Many only have the ability to put a bill on the ballot through the legislature? How

many citizens can? (hands raised) Some states can do both. **Kramer** – According to Secretary Hayden if you are not a referendum state you will struggle with this. It is almost impossible to get that passed through the legislature. **Torgerson** – They don't like earmarked money. **Kramer** – It makes sense in Minnesota, Missouri and Michigan and some of the others, but it is tough for those that aren't a referendum state. **Amack** – The legislators could pass a referendum to get a referendum state. **Unknown audience** – Is it tied to a match? **Schad** – No, it is a supplement not a substitute, but it will be a challenge to hang on to existing general fund dollars. **Vandel** – Can you hire support staff with it? **Schad** – We can't add staff directly, but likely could if needed to implement projects funded with the money. **Vandel** – What is the annual amount? **Schad** – About \$90 - \$95 million for fish and wildlife and the same for clean water.

**Rich Leopold, Iowa DNR** – A lot of same things are happening in Iowa as in Minnesota and we have common advocates. We have only been organized for two years. Created committee in standing bill headed by DNR. Tasked with four items, defining what natural resources was and broke that into three categories - find out what other states were doing; decide how much was enough, down to \$150 million a year; and how money was distributed. There was a large discussion to have a Citizen Board, Legislative Council or use existing funding mechanisms. Too much government sentiment and funding mechanisms are already in place in our state with two state agencies involved, DNR and the Department of Agriculture and Stewardship. From the funds \$30 million would go to the Department of Agriculture and \$35 million into DNR programs. The committee was varied from the start and mainstream was Agriculture represented from the start as well as other groups. The hardest part was, how do you raise that much money? We evaluated 43 different funding mechanisms and came up with five that we had consensus on and we polled 800 Iowans. We took the polled information and did report to Legislature in 2007 and they didn't do much with it except name an Interim Committee that had four meetings and authorized continuation of the committee we had started. On their recommendation, they went forward and approved everything the committee had recommended and they chose one of the five, the three-eighths of one percent sales tax and protected it by referendum. Now we have to have two separate legislatures approve it beside the people. It is called Resolution 2002 and was enacted last year and needs to be passed this year or the year after. Then it will be put on the public referendum ballot in 2010. We have a split committee, but it is still together and few are walking a fine line between lobbying and advocacy. We tell, if and then stories, to decide what gets done. We are looking at things through different lens and why Agriculture groups should be for this and trying to get Farm Bureau involved. DNR is facing work force shortages in the next few years, and problems with how you attract a well educated young workforce. Energy, water sustainability and water quality will be big issues and characterizing the money and where it will go. There is a coalition that formed outside of committee that can lobby and starting a marketing campaign. **Torgerson** – Does it take a simple majority at ballot box? **Leopold and Schad** – Yes. **Torgerson** – But a non-vote is a “no” vote? **Leopold and Schad** – Yes. **Torgerson** – The focal point is getting kids involved and reconnected with nature. It sells so well and it all ties together to convince citizens to tax themselves more and helps us down the road. **Leopold** – One of the slices of the pie are cities and counties and getting them in on environmental and educational programs. When you talk about initiatives you are talking about staff and buying lands, but you don't talk about that up front. **Riley** – Have you looked into purchasing access to private lands around metropolitan areas? **Leopold** – Access programs have been discussed in the past and farm land costs are going off the charts so we are looking at that again. I won't commit because I am on the fence on that. When we acquire land we pay taxes that I think is bizarre (hundreds of thousands of dollars), but I am not sure if the money goes to the state or county. **Humphries** – Ours goes to the county. **Herring** – It does go to the county.

**Partner Update: U.S. Forest Service (USFS)**

***Paul Momper, USFS Director of Renewable Resources, Northeast Region -***

**(USDA FOREST SERVICE EASTERN REGION POWERPOINT – EXHIBIT O) – I**

appreciate how enjoyable it is to go anywhere and have a bond and affection for people in natural resources. The eastern region has 20 states, 12million acres, 17 national forests, 11 tallgrass prairies, and 115 million people. It is divided into sub-regions: the Great Lakes States; the Southern Tier; and the New England Tier. We have five conservation goals: to protect ecosystems across boundaries; connect citizens to the land; walk the talk for sustainability; revolutionize effectiveness and efficiency; and be the employer of choice. The eastern region is different then the others because we have 41 percent of the nations populations; 40 percent of the senate seats; 44 percent of the House seats; 9 of the top 20 metropolitan areas; 13 of country's largest newspapers; and 80 million visitors per year. We also have 30,000 miles of roads, over 4,000 trails, 3,700 buildings and a fleet of 1,641. We have two million acres of wetlands; 48 percent of nation's anglers; 30,000 miles of streams; 10,000 lakes; and 300 fish species. We have 36 threatened or endangered species; 20 percent of nations small game hunting; and diverse habitats. Our chief, Gail Kimbell's emphasis areas include: climate change; more kids in the woods and water. We have begun to implement forest plan revisions; restoration projects such as oak-hickory forests; climate change; sustainability; carbon sequestration; biofuels; partnerships(meet nationally and locally); forest health; and stewardship contracting. We recently got permission to exchange goods for services and have been able to get 47,000 acres in Region 9, a huge opportunity for us). Threats include: loss of open space; invasive species; climate change; barriers to management (loss of budget, retirements, etc); fire; White Nose Syndrome (in bats – could affect all forests); and Emerald Ash Borer (for example). Partnerships are huge to us and millions of money comes in. We try to participate in joint ventures; education efforts; tripled amount of shared funding; gathered over 700 partners region wide; and this resulted in planting 80,000 trees for carbon sequestration. We have two new forest supervisors coming on board, Dave Whittekiend and Barry Paulson; two retirements, Steve Mighton and Nancy Berlin; and one person who resigned, Tommy Parker. There has been a lot of discussion on transformation and trying to down source our organization and that will cause a lot of changing. We are focusing on a 25 percent reduction. Our issues match state problems and programs and you should look at us as partners. Conservation goals are cross boundaries as well as behavior issues, whether hunter/angler access or kids in the woods. We are more powerful if we work together. We are interested in being involved in other joint ventures. **Riley** – With respect to hunting and fishing on national forests, conservation organizations are trying to get them as identified recreational uses and we saw some plans that recreation was not even used in the plans, particularly hunting. It seems like Region 9 has not begun to focus on hunting or fishing or other recreational opportunities. Is there unintentional dumbing down of those opportunities? **Momper** – I don't think so. Appreciation of recreations is the highest I have ever seen at the executive level. That is one of the stable areas getting recognition. **Riley** – Is there an approach in the region to deal with that? **Momper** – There are a lot of programs going on and I am not clear on your question. A lot of work has been done on fish passage and work with NWTF and habitat improvement. I appreciate your thoughts on that and know our four supervisors are aware of that, but keep reminding us. **Humphries** – Michigan has a working relationship and supported forest updates, but we felt you walked away from forest management. How can we help you get the help to reach goals? **Momper** – One of reasons is our budget is going to fire management instead of programs on the ground, 50 percent off of the top. Also, work in lawsuits recently filed against forest service activity and neighborhoods have joined with

county commissioners and states to help intervene. We are starting to prevail in the lawsuits because of that. Any time there is an opportunity for us to partner up we want to do that.

**Humphries** – Appreciate lawsuit problem, so many are settled out of court, and we can help with that. What are your views at looking at more efficiency? You have ten times more per acre per harvest than we do. You need to take a look at that and streamline that process, it is transparent to the public, but still apparent to some. **Momper** – We did some of that in state plans and some other things are going on. There are innovative concepts, but not enough of them yet. I think about certification of forests and possibly lowering the NEPA threshold. There is a lot of discussion about that and stewardship is helping. **Thorson** – Your new regional forester has met with us on woodcock and succession of forests. **Momper** – We are coachable and appreciate comments. **Torgerson** – One of my work objectives is to get more federal agencies here and this is the first time a Forest Service person has been able to make our meeting and we appreciate that. **Momper** – I was looking at your history book and under “unaffiliated”, in 1971 from DC, Edward Cliff, was the Chief of the Forest Service at that time, so someone was here once. **(U.S. FOREST SERVICE EASTERN REGION 2007 HANDOUT – EXHIBIT P)**

### **Strategic Issues Discussion: Follow-up from State Reports**

**Dan Zekor** – A reminder of things that popped up yesterday: climate related initiatives at broader scope, share how approaching that at all levels of state; fish and wildlife disease issues and how we get some of those funded; ballast water and invasive species; shooting ranges, costs and issues; and the broad package of commission, public, audio/video conferencing, webcasting, etc. **Ver Steeg** – I also had wind energy. My advice to Mike next year is to pick four and we can discuss this tomorrow in the business meeting.

**Glen Salmon** – A Joint Task Force was formed on how federal aid is implemented, and that group is alive and well and meeting 2-3 times a year. We helped the USFWS with the strategic planning process. Tom Niebauer, Robyn Thorson, and Keith Sexson are on the Task Force and I co-chair with Rowan Gould. We went to all four regional association meetings to give updates, and we have backed off on that. As directors or federal partners, if you have federal aid issues please bring them to us.

### **Partner Update: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)**

**Max Etheridge, USGS Regional Executive for North Central States -**

We have had reorganization with new rolls and responsibilities and science. I don't have a PowerPoint, but I have a handout I will refer to. I have listed projects that we are working on in each of your states and there are maps showing the reorganization at the back of the handout **(COMPILATION OF ONGOING USGS PROJECTS IN MIDWEST – EXHIBIT Q)**. Also, I gave you a state point of contact list **(USGS STATE POINTS OF CONTACT – EXHIBIT R)**. Currently there are three regions and we have been criticized for having a stovepipe arrangement. We have four types of projects: geology; water resources; biological resources; and geography. We were organized strongly, and still are, with less discipline areas and more geographic so we reorganized into small geographic areas. I am the North Central Area Director and I oversee all activities in those seven states and one of my counterparts oversees the science part. I was the regional person for each of the four types of projects and my job, under the previous structure, was geographer in 15 states in the Central Region. Instead of having one regional executive for each region, we have one for each geographic region. You can come to one person now and deal with all regional disciplines. The Midwest area has some of your states and that position has not been filled yet. Each area has a lead city within the geographic region and I am in Minneapolis. On science, we did a strategic science planning study about a year ago

and it identified six broad science goals. The new director read the study and adopted it and we are trying to focus our science activities around those six goals. We are not giving up our core activities that we have been doing for years, but organizing new initiatives around these six broad areas: understanding ecosystems and predicting ecosystem change; climate variability and change; energy and minerals for America's future (biofuels); national hazards, risk, and resilience assessment program (earthquakes, floods, etc.); the role of environment and wildlife in human health (not major role but on radar screen); and a water census of the United States (Water for America to study water resources and demands and where they are going). There is a seventh, which is data integration, which is not listed. How do you list all of that? Director Mark Meyers has initiatives to get new money in climate change, \$7.5 million and more money in 2009, \$20 million more if it survives the budget process in conjunction with other federal agencies. He is actively pursuing the water issue with BOR. We are working on an initiative for national hazards, volcano, earthquake or flood and are near decision process and sometimes you can get more money then. We will see trends and similarities in these six areas and will share them with you. The Central region science priorities established a short list and we are continuing that list: environmental effects of agricultural practices (plants, wildlife, water and chemistry) (**USGS ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF AGRICULTURE – EXHIBIT S**). We partnered with other agencies to do that project, we looked at CRP and WRP and what affects that had on wildlife. We came up with healthy lands initiatives which are conservation initiatives to deal with growing oil and gas which is more economically feasible to extract now where it was not feasible before. North Dakota has the largest reserve in the lower 48 states. We are coordinating activities along the Missouri and Upper Mississippi Rivers, with partners, and are looking at river corridors, natural hazards and pollution, and water resources. People are taking water samples as well as measuring high water marks. Water availability is a major issue for us, surface water and ground water, and we need to manage it very carefully. We also do a lot of work with endangered species, especially at that at Fort Collins, Colorado and Jamestown, North Dakota. Invasive species is a major topic and if you don't manage it you could lose a lot. Impacts of fire on the landscape and the pine bark beetle problem in Colorado which is spreading to other states are other problems we are interested in. We are interested in the New Madrid Fault Line that is in Missouri and Illinois, an earthquake was felt there a few months ago. That will be captured in the list of projects that goes by states. We are tracking the farm bill and it was our hope that they would consider climate change and environment and put more money in for green farming (environmental farming). Iowa has a pilot project, research at Iowa State University if you have water running off agricultural land it is heavy in nutrients and if you have a small wetland, 5-10 acres it can sit in that wetland for a day and the natural processes will remove up to 50 percent of the nitrogen and then as it runs into ground water there is not as much nitrogen and not sucking as much oxygen. This is a huge political issue. USDA is interested in reducing toxic zones and the Farm Service Agency is pushing to have 500 wetlands constructed in Iowa and in other areas in the watershed. We hope to make changes in the farm bill and make incentives to build the constructive wetlands. Emerging contaminants are an issue, we are finding pharmaceuticals in the water along rivers and this is a growing problem that the National Water Quality Assessment program targeted certain areas that will look at that. **Thorson** – The location of Max's office was a hard fought battle with the USGS and USFWS that we lost, so he is at another location. Also, selection of the Midwest position will be filled in September.

### **Farm Bill Conservation Effects Assessment Program Update**

#### **Ray Evans, ECO Systems –**

I am on contract with AFWA doing work for NRCS. The CEAP program is basically directed by USDA and the Agriculture Research Service did a lot of that work. I am working with folks in

your states and if you have research projects in your states we can throw a little more money in them. Handouts include studies that are coming your way (**NRCS - CEAP WILDLIFE COMPONENT - EXHIBIT T**). We are not only are doing CEAP wildlife, but CEAP wetlands and CEAP grasslands. There have been two sets of bibliographies put together on all the work done on the outcomes from Farm Bureau practices. We are measuring affects and documenting habitat changes. Specific projects are listed, but the University of Northern Colorado is looking at CRP enrollments relating to grassland bird nesting, plotting the position of CRP and bird survey routes and the presence, or absence, of birds and droughts. Work that was completed in Missouri is the second handout (**NRCS - ECOLOGICAL MONITORING INSIGHTS – WETLANDS RESERVE – MO – EXHIBIT U**). A small amount of money is going into this ongoing study to get additional information out of it. Working with Playa Lakes Joint Venture through bird conservation districts, CRP and WRP and how goals are being met. Without CRP many of those birds would not be there, publication is in progress for that. In Mississippi, working on the northern bobwhite initiative and CRP CP33 practice and measures quail and upland/grassland birds and resulting impacts. We did a study for TNC in Illinois trying to determine the relationship of soil and water practices in watershed and water health. Another study with Missouri is with the Resource Partnership Assessment to predict distributions and of freshwater aquatic biota in watersheds. A study is being done at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, which involves 30-40 years of rural mail carrier data and looking at relationships to CRP and WRP. The rural mail carrier data is much better than the research done by wildlife biologists. New studies are: one with DU on migratory patterns of mallards; one with Playa Lakes Joint Venture on grassland birds in short-grass prairie in BCR 18; USGS at Environmental Science Center, with work centered in Iowa on amphibians and wetland bird impacts; Upper Mississippi basin project testing soil and water practices on freshwater aquatic biota; and bird populations in Wisconsin on WRP wetlands.

**Lunch sponsored by U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance**

**Partner Update: National Park Service (NPS)**

**Gary Vequist** – Besides here at Rocky Mountain National Park we have two other elk plans, one at Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota and Wind Cave in South Dakota. We have deer management plans in Indiana at Dunes National Lakeshore and Cuhaga Valley National Park in Iowa. The one here is completed and we are looking at how to implement it. I would like to introduce Vaughn Baker, Jenny Powers, and Ben Bobowski.

**Vaughn Baker, Superintendent Rocky Mountain National Park** – Introduction to Rocky Mountain National Park Management Issues and Needs (including elk) (**ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK POWERPOINT – EXHIBIT V**). Rocky Mountain National Park was established in 1950 and is the tenth oldest National Park and has 3 million visitors annually. The park is under 270,000 acres, about 416 square miles; 147 lakes and is the head waters of the Colorado River, Big Thompson River, and Cache la Poudre River. Enjoying scenery is one of main things, viewing wildlife, elk, deer and other species is also very popular. We have had moose populations since the late 1970s and have a healthy population on the west side of the park and now are more common on the east side. The park has 355 miles of hiking trails and there is fishing, horse back riding, snowshoeing and skiing. Trail Ridge road is the most prominent feature in the park and is the highest continuous paved road at 12,183 feet, it opens Memorial Day and closes mid-to late October. On the west side of the park we have seen the affect of the mountain pine beetle infestation. Groups of scientists from the west and Canada have come up with consensus talking points and several reports are available. In forests killed by

mountain pine beetles, future fires could be more likely than fires before the outbreak and large intense fires with extreme fire behavior are again possible. Because this task is enormous, hazard fuel removal, like dead trees and underbrush are being removed and limited spraying is occurring on the west side to protect trees and campgrounds and some temporary closures may occur. It was a major effort to get the park open this spring. Colorado, EPA and the Park Service have adopted a nitrogen deposition reduction system and also are doing ozone monitoring. The Grand River Ditch is a transmountian water diversion that takes water across the continental divide. The ditch was breached in 2003 and the park received a \$9 million damage settlement to repair damages to the park. We are working on a variety of cooperative projects with the Colorado Division of Wildlife such as the bighorn sheep workshop; greenback cutthroat trout recovery program; the boreal toad tadpole release; and Chronic Wasting Disease testing in deer and elk. We are also working on an elk and vegetation management plan that will be completed this winter, primarily on winter habitat. This management plan started with seven years of research and four years of interagency planning. Elk populations reached their high point from 1997 to 2001 with estimates ranging from 2,800 to 3,500 animals. The numbers have tapered off to winter estimates of 1,700 to 2,200 animals, but they are still causing damage to willow and aspen stands. We have identified three primary tools for managing the elk: fencing; redistribution; and culling. We have put in a prototype of fencing and according to NPS policy 4.4.2.1, it says destruction of animals by NPS personnel or authorized agents, defined as qualified individuals, with help from the Colorado Division of Wildlife can relocate or have public hunts to reduce the population. We plan to start culling in January and will put out an announcement in the fall and go through a screening and training process to get authorized agents and initiate the culling. We just received notice that we are being sued. The suit charges that the National Park Service failed to adequately consider the reintroduction of a self-regulating population of gray wolves as part of its plan to address ongoing elk problems. The suit also charges that the park violated the Organic Act and the RMNP Act by failing to prohibit hunting and that the NPS violated the Endangered Species Act by failing to carry out programs for the conservation of gray wolves in the park, like Yellowstone did, and is asking for injunctive relief enjoining the NPS from hunting elk. However, there are a lot of differences between the two parks, including size. They also claim that "controlled culling" is hunting. The suit was filed by the WildEarth Guardians at the University of Denver. We have met with the judge to set the trial schedule, but they said the students weren't in school during the summer so we had to wait until fall. **Jenny Powers** – As the elk and vegetation management plan progressed, opportunities for testing animals began to reveal itself and our research stems from that. We saw an opportunity to look at CWD in the herd and looked at a new live test in elk. This is the first time the live test has been used in free ranging elk. We captured 136 female elk and biopsied them, and 13 animals were confirmed positive and were destroyed. This is a collaborative effort with other groups. We had 11 percent prevalence of disease on the east side of the continental divide and we captured those along the road. Additionally half of the females were treated with a multi year fertility control agent and this is the first time this vaccine was used. **Humphries** – On culling, you are not culling those that were vaccinated? **Powers** – Many well be, 30-40 of the treated animals will be culled and tested. **Conlin** – All biopsy animals were positive? **Powers** – Yes, but it was caught very early, some were only infected for 6-8 months. **Taylor** – Did you sacrifice any of animals that tested negative to see if tests were accurate? **Powers** - Three animals were killed that were tested. **Humphries** – Is the fertility control agent safe for human consumption? **Powers** – Currently it is not licensed and that will be up to the USDA. **Humphries** – Are the animals marked? **Powers** – Yes. **Ver Steeg** – If treated animal are left in the park, would people know it was treated with the fertility drug? **Jenny** – Yes, the tag says the animal should not be consumed, and the control animals are left up to hunter whether they consume them or not. **Niebauer** – When we did

culling in Wisconsin, we used government employees and they were recertified. We heard rumors of a lawsuit because ineffective people were shooting the deer and we showed that the people were trained and retrained to show we had adequate shooters. **Vaughn** – That is a valid comment. **Niebauer** – Wisconsin is eager to help out. **Ver Steeg** – What is the current objective in the park? **Vaughn** – The plan is to reduce from 2,800 to 2,200. We plan to cull about 100 animals with 30-40 be test animals, with meat to be distributed to foodbanks. **Tammy Scott** – How do we become an authorized agent? **Vaughn** – The press release will be on the NPS and DOW website. **Unknown Audience** – What will be done with the carcasses? **Vaughn** – If positive, they will be taken to Fort Collins for further testing, if not we will give the meat away and process whole carcasses. **Ver Steeg** – We have been having discussions on donated meat and lead so make sure you use non lead bullets. **Audience NPS person** – Yes that is a good idea. **Ver Steeg** – Are you contemplating aerial closures or what? **Vaughn** – Short term early morning road closures in January, February and March. **McKenna** – Do you have only over-winter populations? **Ben Bobowski** – A combination of the two and will have annual checkpoints. **Leif** – We are going through this at Wind Cave National Park and we are considering other ideas. **Vaughn** – We considered wolves, at least an intensive handful of wolves, but nobody thought free ranging wolves would work. The original preferred alternative was more aggressive and a drawback was pricing. The public thought we should be more cost effective. Fertility drugs were considered, but it was decided that we either do nothing or cull.

### **National Fish Habitat Initiative Report**

**John Cooper** – (**NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PLAN HANDOUTS – EXHIBIT W**) I sent out a letter to Midwest Directors in January 2003 asking for state endorsement of the Action Plan and for financial support for the National Fish Habitat Initiative. A citizen board was convened that would allow us to raise funds and lobby Congress and was more of a landscape approach. AFWA had discussions on whether they wanted to take that on and we voted at the 2004 annual meeting to pursue the initiative with several federal organizations involved in water quality, but that this program should be a state-led effort. In 2004, we passed a motion that provided for formulation of people that was led by Doug Austin. The plan was done in time for the 2006 meeting in March, and was signed. The board was formed and selected at the end of the meeting in September 2006 and we elected a Board Chair and I agreed to continue on until my contract ended. To bring you up to speed, a letter was sent to all regional Associations as a collection point to get open discussion on funding needs until we got federal legislation passed. We are currently on the fourth and fifth rewrite of the plan. As you can see, from the letter, if this is going to continue to be a statewide effort we need to show states are still interested. We met with most of your state fish chiefs and asked them how to go about this. The first paragraph states that we need \$1.5 million expenditure over the next three years, or two years if legislation passes, to cover a \$600,000 shortfall. We have exhausted our resources. Kelly Hepler has relieved me as Chairman and asked me to visit with you personally. That would be a total of \$12,000 a year for each of the next three years, or a total of \$36,000, and can be remitted to AFWA. That will cover 90 percent of the data needs and if we receive grant money in a NAWCA-type grant the third year of funding would not be needed. I realize budgets are tight. There is no better place you could put your money if you are going to be involved in fisheries management. It is hard for me to look at other groups and continue asking for money without support of the states. We are working on an informational report. We could write a letter to each state requesting the funds, if you need another one, with carbon copies to Association Coordinators. Ron Regan and I are here to visit if anyone needs questions answered. **Ver Steeg** – This is structured for individual states, rather than as Association and not an action item. If you need something from him, like an invoice, now is the time to let him know. **Cooper** – One thing we were asked to do when

working with NFWF was to open this account and talk about where the money would go. NFWF worked out an invoice form and submittal form and would produce an account for you, and every 6 months you would receive a statement of where the money went and how it was expended. **Salmon** – You are asking for our money? Looking at Mr. Niebauer, would this be an eligible Dingle-Johnson program, could it be a 75 percent DJ and 25 percent state money match project? **Niebauer** – Sounds like a great idea. There are many federal people here, maybe we should ask them. **Salmon** – I could talk to Joyce in DC. John, did that come up before? **Cooper** – It did and we spoke with the DC folks and when you come in with that NFWF we would track money in two different pots. Handling money costs them overhead, but they gave us a cut rate and interest money would come off state side, not federal side. **Conlin** – States would still have to front that money. **Cooper** – That's right. In the long run, the assessment was one of the big issues, how to partner with federal agencies without states relinquishing their inherent rights. We tried to do that in that action plan. We put the train on the track as AFWA requested us to do now we need coal to run the train. **Niebauer** – When you talked to USFWS folks was their response spur of the moment or an organized response? **Cooper** – Not sure I can answer that. I am familiar with the audit and concerns about that. **Bryant, USFWS** – This is the first time I have heard of this. I am surprised and reluctant to give my opinion and that would be Region 3 interim policy. I emailed Joyce and she will check with the other regions. **Cooper** – I never want to get into a situation where we didn't have a clear cut answer. **Conlin** – We wouldn't want to get crossways with a federal aid program and we need to go through that to effectively do that. **Cooper** – If we are missing something we would want to clarify that. **Niebauer** – I don't understand all of the federal assistance program, but I can think of ways to make this work. The AFWA Joint Federal Aid Task Force is meeting in August, if Glen Salmon and Joyce Johnson could work together with the chiefs on that. If we could use federal assistance funds we could come up with our commitment. That is just a friendly suggestion. **Cooper** – That is very appropriate, we are looking for answers and we need to include those in the next letter we are going to send out. How much federal money could be put in and what accounting needs to be made. **Schad** – States are already contributing to this effort. We have dedicated a position to help form partnerships in our state and we made significant investments in other ways while we wait for federal money to come in. We are diverting significant funds into these partnerships already and that would have to be part of our discussions. **Cooper** – I don't want to make it sound like states have turned their backs on this. Michigan has given us a lot of staff time also and Alaska and others. Individual things are going on in every state. We need a couple of things to help us with legislation, a visible effort, and a significant investment that Congress could turn to. The board will call on you in furtherance of this action plan. In this account there is a great way to keep track of each state's contributions. It is okay from the standpoint of the Association to address MAFWA and we already addressed the SEAFWA and they asked us to work this up. We will be contacting directors and will carbon copy Ollie.

**Gary Vequist** – Jerry Mitchell is here from Fort Collins, and he can discuss wildlife or fisheries issues with you. He will be here for a couple of hours.

**Becky Humphries, Michigan** – I have three items I want to go over with you. 1) The USDA sneak peek of the CWD rule has been reworked and two of the other Associations have objected to the rule. We tapped individuals to put together comments and submitted them in mid-June, not officially out for review, but tried to work through our concerns. 2) On August 19, John Clifford who heads up Vet Services is hosting a meeting for state directors and state veterinarians. It is a one-day meeting for each. I need you to send me a note if you are interested in attending that, and travel assistance will be offered. 3) We need to work on the budget at the federal level for

CWD and Gary will talk to you about that. **Gary Taylor** – Remember recommendations in present FY09 for surveillance of free ranging cervids has been cut by \$7 million of \$7.2 million (2008), with a 40/60 match. Let your legislators know if it is important to have that money restored. The Appropriations subcommittee is constructing bills now, but they will not be out until after elections. Get to your members of Congress and ask for restoration of budget. APHIS has been asked to compel partners to get a match. There has been language put in the 2009 bill precluding the need for a match by Senator Cole, Wisconsin, who is chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**Break sponsored by National Shooting Sports Foundation**

**MAFWA Committee Reports** - (including discussion and action on committee recommendations) (COMMITTEE REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE MAFWA WEBSITE)

**Torgerson** – Action items are being taken right now. I will introduce the person giving the report and Jeff will take over to vote on action items. We have 12 committees and we appreciate the fact that you allow your people to attend these meetings. The first report is the Private/Public Lands combined report. Ken Morgan, Colorado Department of Wildlife will give that report. **Ken Morgan, COW** - Mark Leslie is here as well and he coordinated the public land part of meeting so he will give that part of the report.

**Private Lands** – **Ken Morgan, Colorado (Keith Sexson – Director/Liaison)** – (PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2008 – EXHIBIT X) The 17th annual meeting of the Midwest Private Lands working group convened in Estes Park Colorado May 5-7, 2008. Representatives from South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, New Mexico, Ohio, Missouri, Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Nebraska, Michigan, and Kansas were present at the meeting. A joint meeting with representatives from the Private and Public Lands Working groups was conducted covering the following topics and issues: public and private land conflicts, energy and wildlife issues and wildlife management issues in Rocky Mountain National Park and surrounding communities. In addition, attendees enjoyed a field trip through Rocky Mountain National Park, guided and narrated by park biologists. Issues discussed in the Private Lands Working Group meeting included an update and in-depth discussion on Farm Bill legislation including potential changes in the Conservation Title; an update of the National Pheasant Plan; various programmatic issues such as wetlands, LIP, CRP, Pheasants Forever/Ducks Unlimited Habitat Teams, SAFE updates from states, Open Fields Program, Easement Programs in Colorado, and an update from Ducks Unlimited. We have several draft letters for Directors to review. Both general and Private Lands Working Group meeting agendas are attached with the report. Individual State reports are posted on the MAFWA website.

**Public Lands** – **Mark Leslie, Colorado (Dave Schad, Director/Liaison)** – (PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2008 – EXHIBIT X) Representatives from South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, New Mexico, Ohio, Missouri, Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Nebraska, Michigan, and Kansas were present at the meeting. Director action items include: 1) Prescribed Burn Training Guidelines: in certain instances, inconsistencies exist among Federal and State agencies prescribed burning training requirements. Most states already have established minimal fire training guidelines. Action - Recommendation from the Midwest Directors that states, who manage federal land, can adhere to their own established fire training guidelines; **Graham** – Doesn't each state have their own state certification? **Leslie** – We have our own guidelines, but we want you to make a recommendation allowing states to use those as

federal recommendations. **Niebauer** – This came up several years ago on federal lands. **Bryant** – Only state lands that had federal aid. **Niebauer** – Burning falls under state procedures, do you want us to make it broader? **Leslie** – On land owned by federal agencies, but managed by states. **Salmon** – Do you want a letter from the MAWFA President requesting that action? **Leslie** – I believe so, yes. **Ver Steeg** – Do you want to act on authorizing the President to send that letter? **Glen Salmon, Indiana moved, Dave Schad, Minnesota second. Torgerson** – Who is letter to? **Ver Steeg** – I would like to ask the Public Lands Working Group to draft a letter for my signature. **Approved.**

2) Compatibility Issues: The Midwest states continue to receive requests for non-traditional/non-compatible uses of Wildlife Management Areas such as geo-caching, paint balling, OHV use, etc. We want to reiterate to the Midwest Directors that these lands were purchased for the specific purposes of wildlife production, public hunting, fishing and trapping and it is imperative that we continue to prohibit those uses that are deemed non-compatible by the states. (This is not necessarily an action item);

3) Attendance: We want to encourage continuity of members attending the Public Lands Working Group meeting. Action -We would like to reiterate to the Midwest Directors that it is vitally important that each state be represented if we are to be most effective. We would also like a recommendation from the Midwest Directors that those states that can not attend should, at a minimum, submit a written report to the Public Lands Working Group. **Ver Steeg** – I submit that we don't need action or vote on that, by consensus agree (*raised hands*). **Consensus.**

These are to be included in the Director's Report but not as action items: 1) we would like to have the respective Federal Aid representatives attend our future meetings; 2) host state is to give a presentation on their state's public land issues while other states present a condensed report (this is a new recommendation); and 3) Compatible Use Issues: Since this is an on-going discussion, we should make this a perennial discussion topic at our meeting. **Bryant** – On federal attendance, E.J. Williams sent me an email and I would have attended, but did not receive the invitation. **Leslie** – Region 6 was unable to attend. **Zekor** – Are you asking federal people to attend? **Leslie** – Yes. **Niebauer** – On compatibility issues, the Joint Task Force aggressively worked though commercial and recreational uses of land. If you are familiar with that it is not adequate to let their director know so it gets back to Joint Task Force. We think we resolved a good part of that. **Humphries** – The point Bob was trying to make was to contact both federal aid regions. **Ver Steeg** – Mike, FYI, host state people usually give these reports. **Salmon** – The host state may bring their federal aid coordinator along, then we have the right people in the room. **Ver Steeg** – A good suggestion.

**Ver Steeg** – Let's take the letters one at a time. **Morgan** - Private Land director action items include: 1) Drafting a letter of appreciation from Directors thanking Iowa, Ohio, Arizona and Washington for lending their staff to AFWA for support of the Farm Bill in DC; **Glen Salmon, Indiana, moved to accept, Mike Conlin, Illinois second. Approved.** 2) Letter to monitor the general CRP sign-up and removal of allocation caps for individual CRP practices and report next year; **Humphries** – It says minimum. **Ver Steeg** – Do we want to change that? **Torgerson** – Also, it says they should contact me, do we want to leave that? **Ver Steeg** – It should be the President. **Dave Graham, Ohio, moved, Dan Zekor, Missouri, second. Approved.** 3) Draft a letter from Directors to FSA expressing concerns about how easily producers can get out of new CRP contracts; **Tony Leif, South Dakota, moved, Joe Kramer, Kansas, second. Approved.** 4) Draft a letter for the Directors to be sent to the NRCS to encourage a sweep for EQIP funds now to promote objectives of state action plans; **Niebauer** – The first line of third paragraph, should be conserving. **Glen Salmon, Indiana, moved, Rich Leopold, Iowa, second. Approved.** 5) Draft a letter from Committee to MAFWA directors supporting LIP and SWG monies on private lands;

*no action*, make it from the Committee. 6) Draft a letter from Directors to the Secretary of Agriculture with carbon copy to FSA, requesting annual monitoring and reports of the loss of native prairie; **Vandel** – You need to take into consideration the prairie pothole regions, that doesn't work. **Morgan** – There is no reference to wetlands. **Mike Conlin, Illinois, moved, Dave Schad, Minnesota, second. Approved. Torgerson** – Letter structure guidelines are used in the last letter, but not in the other letters. You need to correct those and use the proper format. **Morgan** – Another letter came to me later. This letter was sent regarding CRP and breaking it out for agricultural production. **Taylor** – The letter was to Schaffer objecting to consideration of early outs for various reasons, emergency haying and grazing; or crop use. No early out without penalty for any reason. **Leopold** – We are sending the same letter from Iowa. **Morgan** – I have a copy of the letter if someone wants one. Individual state reports are on the MAFWA website in the Public Land Report.

**Bryant** – I received an email reply from Joyce Johnson on National Fish Habitat Plan. “I have not heard about this.... But, I just checked with Steve Barton and Rowan Gould and there has been no WSFR Program opinion given on this idea. Steve says that John Cooper made this plea to the Directors at the Western, where it ended that it was up to each of them, but as a group, there was no endorsement. I will follow up with someone in FWS Fisheries to see what is going on. Thanks for the news.”

**Torgerson** – The next two reports will be given by Tom Niebauer, first the law enforcement report and then the NCN report.

**Law Enforcement Report** **Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin** – *No action items*. For your information, The Association of Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers (AMFGLEO) has a new executive secretary, and they are holding a joint meeting with us next year in Illinois. There is no director liaison to the Midwest Association and we need to consider appointing someone.

**NCN** **Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin (MAFWA President, Director/Liaison)** – **(NATIONAL CONSERVATION NEEDS (NCN) COMMITTEE REPORT 2008 – EXHIBIT Y)** Dan Zekor, Dave Risley and I meet as necessary by conference call. Last year Dave Schad and Jeff Ver Steeg submitted NCNs on toxic shot, which we asked them to edit and Dave and Jeff agreed to that. We submitted the NCN on lead toxicosis and it was published along with 5-6 others that were approved by AFWA. Grant proposals are due by the end of July, considered at the AFWA September annual meeting with final approval made by AFWA. Our primary assignment was to create education and I did that with this report. We received two proposals last year, one asked us to support SEAFWA's proposal and the other was on non-toxic shot. We asked AFWA if it made any difference if a NCN was supported by two groups and that answer was unclear. The Committee might look into that further. One action item is to reaffirm support for an educational effort to enhance understanding of the Multi-State Conservation Grant Program process by development guidelines to aid understanding of the NCN process and to educate Directors, committees, working groups and other to enhance understanding. The consensus is that we still would like to undertake the educational efforts to let you know what it is. **Humphries** – It would be helpful if we had a flow chart of the whole process, we have a decent handle on it now, but that would be helpful. Just a one page document would help. **Niebauer** – It changes annually. **Salmon** – Matt, can we ask Christina to put that together? **Niebauer** – Do you want to send it to all of the states or just the Midwest states? **Hogan** – All of them. **Zekor** – We used to have that and it may just need to be tweaked. Is NCN supported by multiple groups who carry more weight than others? **Salmon** – I would like the Committee to take that up at their next meeting. **Ver**

**Steeg** – The process that causes confusion is the amount of money because they take a big chunk out.

**Torgerson** – Next two committee reports will be given by Dale Garner, he is the liaison of Deer and Turkey Committee and also is going to give the Fish and Wildlife Health report.

**Dale Garner, Iowa** – On Private/Public lands, I send staff, important to send report, but very important to send a body.

**Deer and Turkey – (Dale Garner, Iowa, Director/Liaison) – (MIDWEST DEER AND WILD TURKEY STUDY GROUP COMMITTEE REPORT 2007 – EXHIBIT Z)**

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife (DOW) hosted the 31st Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group (MDWTSG) meeting August 19-22 at the Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center Canter's Cave 4-H Camp in Jackson. With the exception of North Dakota, representatives from all 12 member states, Illinois; Indiana; Iowa; Kansas; Michigan; Minnesota; Missouri; Nebraska; North Dakota; Ohio; South Dakota; and Wisconsin; and the province of Ontario, Canada were present at the meeting. Representatives from the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Quality Deer Management Association were also there for part of the meeting. Guests included Jim Crum, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources; David Yancy, deer program specialist for Kentucky Fish and Game; and Kip Adams of the Quality Deer Management Association. Speakers were from the Ohio Division of Wildlife; Ohio State University; and Ohio University; and discussed a range of topics including marketing strategies employed by the Ohio Division of Wildlife, Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) and restoration of the American Chestnut in Ohio. On the second day we had individual deer and turkey group discussions, state and province reports, and a brief joint business meeting. Nebraska will host the 32nd Annual MDWTSG in September. We also welcomed new member states Kentucky and Colorado. The topics were ranked and the top three deer management issues were chosen. 1) Strategies to increase antlerless deer harvests - education instead of regulation - There seems to be consensus that we may have focused on opportunity for too long at the expense of educating hunters about the role of antlerless harvest in deer management. How we change marketing the science of deer management and the changing role that hunters must play in deer management may be a place to start. 2) Leasing - how do we manage deer on leased lands? This is related to issue 1. One partial solution may be to consider a private lands program modeled after a popular program in many southern states Deer Management Assistance Program or DMAP. Spending more time assisting land owners with deer management decisions and management plans may be necessary in the future. While there is consensus about the need for novel approaches to selling the importance of antlerless harvests, the group is divided on how to proceed with assisting private property owners with deer management plans on their property. 3) Managing urban deer.

Current turkey management issues: 1) oak regeneration; 2) hunter recruitment; 3) hunter access; 4) turkey subspecies, wild and domestic, hybridization and related issues; 5) turkey nuisance problems; 6) spring season opening dates and the push by hunters to have it earlier each year; and 7) need to reexamine turkey harvest and population models.

The deer issues are based on input from 11 biologists in 10 states while the turkey results are based on responses from 3 biologists in as many states.

**Wildlife and Fish Health – Dale Garner, Iowa (Rebecca Humphries, Director/Liaison) (MIDWEST FISH AND WILDLIFE HEALTH COMMITTEE 2008 - EXHIBIT AA)** – The Midwest Fish & Wildlife Health Committee held its annual meeting May 20-21, 2008 at

Superior Shores Resort in Two Harbors, Minnesota. Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin were represented. Also representatives from USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services, USDA-Agricultural Research Service/National Animal Health Center, USGS-National Wildlife Health Center, and Iowa State University - Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management. Rebecca Humphries, Chair of Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Fish and Wildlife Health Committee and Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, led a discussion via conference call on the status of the National Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative. Two goals of this initiative are: to facilitate establishment and enhancement of state, federal and territorial fish and wildlife management agency capability to address health issues of free-ranging fish and wildlife; and to minimize the negative impacts of health issues through surveillance, management and research. A toolbox is being put together for new directors to help them better understand fish and wildlife health issues and gauge their readiness to respond to crises.

**Humphries** – There will be a meeting of the Committee in July via conference call. **Garner** - Dave Schad led a discussion on lead in venison and human consumption. Each state gave an update on their wildlife disease issues. Ann Hutton, National Wildlife Health Center provided an update on several disease outbreaks. Paul Wolf, USDA-Wildlife Service provided results of the 2007 national avian influenza surveillance efforts. Discussed AI surveillance with Tom Delaberto and the fact that it is reverting from wild populations to the poultry industry. Last year MAFWA produced a letter asking USGS to sponsor and conduct a follow-up workshop on CWD surveillance topics which will be July 15-16, 2008 in Madison, Wisconsin. Julie Blanchong, Iowa State University and Julie Langenberg, Wisconsin DNR led the CWD discussions. Julie Langenberg also led the discussion on Type E botulism which is occurring in the Great Lakes and causing die-offs in several bird species which may be an annual problem. Tom Hutton, USDA-Wildlife Services led the discussion addressing feral swine populations, which are now in many Midwest states and asking you to consider writing letters to Congressional delegations; contacting the USFWS and asking for their support; and contacting USAHA to enlist their support. Also, each state should consider contacting state political leaders, enlist state agriculture department and natural resource stakeholder support to address the problem. Invasive species reports were given by Michelle Cartensen, Minnesota DNR; Steve Schmitt, Michigan DNR; Mitch Palmer, USDA-ARS; on bovine tuberculosis outbreaks in cattle and wild deer and vaccine development. The next committee meeting was tentatively scheduled for April or May, 2009 in Colorado.

**Torgerson** – In the past I was on Deer and Turkey group as well as Keith Sexson. We appreciate the fact that Dave Schad went to that meeting and it would be great if you, as directors, could get to the committee meetings when they are in your states. It is a good idea and let them know we appreciate them. We may need to consider a new liaison for the Midwest Furbearer Group as Randy Kreil is going to the WAFWA meetings instead of ours.

**Midwest Furbearer Group** – **Joe Kramer, Kansas** – (**Randy Kreil, Director/Liaison**) – The group met twice to get their meeting to coincide with ours. There are no resolutions, but they ask that directors approve travel to annual workshop and opportunities to do some mountain lion workshops down in Arizona. The meetings were in Omaha, Nebraska, September 9-12, 2007 and in Olathe, Kansas, June 9-12, 2008. In Omaha representatives from 10 states attended the meeting including state wildlife biologists, research biologists from various Universities, federal biologists, and trappers and hunters representing various state and national organizations. The number of attendees representing these states is as follows: Iowa 4, Kansas 7, Kentucky 1, Minnesota 1, Missouri 1, Nebraska 12, Ohio 1, South Dakota 2, Wisconsin 2, and Wyoming 1.

Nebraska was late to finalize plans and scheduling conflicts caused the date of the Furbearer Workshop to remain in September rather than the typical spring date. A series of speakers presented a variety of topics related to furbearer research and management in the Midwest. Attendees toured the Henry Doorly Zoo, Center for Conservation Research, where Dr. Doug Armstrong presented details of the Zoo's world-class facilities and efforts and a behind the scenes tour including a chance to see the Midwest's only captively held dispersing mountain lion which was captured in Omaha in 2003. We were extremely saddened to learn that Dave Hamilton the Furbearer Biologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation passed away the day before the meeting began. Dave had been very active and was a leading participant in previous workshops and his legacy will continue. We also learned that Dave Bostick, Michigan Department of Natural Resources was returning to a position with the Forest Service in Washington. Dave will be missed. The second meeting was held in Olathe and had representatives from 11 states including state wildlife agency furbearer representatives from 9 states. The number of attendees representing these states is as follows: Illinois 1, Iowa 2, Kansas 16, Kentucky 3, Michigan 1, Minnesota 1, Missouri 1, Nebraska 1, New York 1, Ohio 1, and South Dakota 1. The Working Group asks that the Directors retain furbearer biologist positions in all 14 states and asked each of you to check that out when they got home. In Wisconsin, the furbearer biologist is a mammalian ecologist, so it gets the blue ribbon for the most creative title. That needs to be taken seriously so the need for people to be in the know is important. Best Management Practices, Bryant White continues to work with 37 states to improve animal welfare and Matt Hogan reported on that. Cougar Field Workshop has been set up by the Large Carnivore Working Group (part of the Midwest Furbearer Group) has been held for two years now with the third workshop scheduled for March 9-13, 2009 because cougars are showing up in more and more states. Bob Wilson, one of three founders of the Cougar Network supplied us with a DVD and pamphlet which I have handed out to each of you. You can look up this information at <http://www.cougarnet.org>. They are a nonprofit group and they have a lot of research on this website. The site also showed that there were 40 cougar sightings in the Midwest. Michigan is taking the lead on addressing the issue of coursing pens in the Midwest and it drafting a white paper with other Midwest states. The first draft was recently provided to the Midwest furbearer biologists. There has been a problem discovered with the use of Golden Malrin fly poison, it is killing raccoons. Some undercover work was done in Missouri and Wisconsin and they discovered that 8 out of 10 stores called knew that the drug would poison raccoons. Missouri pulled all fly ointment off the shelf. It is being used more frequently to poison wildlife in the Midwest. **Salmon** – How can we get more of the pamphlets? **Kramer** – From the Cougar Network. **Vandel** – Do they have advocacy? **Kramer** – I wish I knew. The Furbearer Group didn't know if they had advocacy, but they put our agency people on the website and we didn't see anything that was negative there. **Vandel** – I will check and see. **Kramer** – They are using science and ecology and getting facts and information out. The Furbearer Working Group is using that network. In the workshop they go out and tree cougars to give field experience to biologists.

**State Wildlife Action Plan Technical Working Committee** – **Ollie Torgerson** – This is a new group and they held their first meeting in May in Iowa with 17 people from 10 states in attendance. Mark Humpert, Nebraska and Doug Harr, Iowa ran that meeting. Katy Ritter, Iowa and Dennis Figg, Missouri were recommended of the chair and vice-chair for 2008-09. The complete report is on the MAFWA website. They drafted three letters for our consideration and also provided 11 information items. The information items are: 1) appreciation to AFWA for Naomi Edleson and Dave Chadwick for helping secure federal funding; 2) requesting one national wildlife diversity meeting a year should be dedicated to general issues and one to

wildlife diversity; 3) requests that national meeting of wildlife action plan coordinators be organized at 2009 meeting to facilitate; 4) suggest inclusion of education, nature-based recreation and wildlife conservation be included in dedicated funding; 5) include viable watchable wildlife activities in every state; 6) develop collaborative efforts that can be used for case study; 7) linkages made to Farm Bill during rule making process; 8) climate change, establish a link between technical working committee and AFWA subcommittee; 9) established subcommittee to develop role of Midwest in nation's bio-diversity; 9) serve as group implementing priorities identified at workshop in St. Louis funded by the NFWF and the Doris Duke Charitable Trust; and 11) recommends Katy Ritter, Iowa as chair, and Dennis Figg, Missouri as vice-chair beginning July 2008. The place for next meeting is Missouri next May. The letters were to Senator Tim Johnson, South Dakota, and Senator Debbie Stabenow, Michigan, expressing appreciation for introducing the Teaming with Wildlife Act; and to Senator Barbara Boxer, California, expressing support and appreciation for including wildlife funding in climate change legislation. **Ver Steeg** – The first letter was to two different Senators, but the body of letter is the same. **Becky Humphries, Michigan, moved to send the letters, Glen Salmon, Indiana, second. Approved.** Third letter is to Senator Boxer on climate change. **Rich Leopold, Iowa, moved to send the letter, Mike Conlin, Illinois, second. Approved.**

**Legal Committee** – **Ollie Torgerson** – The legal committee held their meeting last week, but no report has been received. I will check tonight to see if report is there. The Executive Committee will be meeting in August and they can act on your behalf to accept the report.

**CITES Report** – **Carolyn Caldwell (MAFWA President, Director/Liaison)** – International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973. The CITES Technical Work Group, which comprises four regional Association representatives, the AFWA International Relations Director, and the Chair of the AFWA International Relations Committee, was initiated in 1994 and has proven to be both effective and efficient. Earlier this year, the CITES Technical Work Group initiated a national survey to assess the status of bobcat throughout its North American range. The ultimate goal is to revise the CITES Appendix II delisting proposal and to provide an “updated” national and North American bobcat population estimate. The European Union consists of 27 countries. With the approval of the USFWS, the CITES Technical Work Group will participate in the European range country meeting and will take the lead on developing a revised Felidae identification manual. Also during the 23rd Animals Committee, the Humane Society unsuccessfully attempted to have black bear, river otter, and sandhill crane included in significant trade review. With input from the CITES Technical Work Group concerning state wildlife agency management, population status assessment, and harvest regulations the three species were dropped from consideration. The Chief of the U.S. CITES Scientific Authority feels the removal of these species from significant trade review consideration at the international level will likely prompt information requests from the Humane Society relative to harvest and management of black bears and river otters. State agencies should be prepared to deal with these issues. This is a good example of how these things pop up. The 2006 Appendix III CITES annual report indicated that 200,000 map turtles and 20,000 alligator snapping turtles were exported live from the U.S. There export is a huge market and we think this could be a good tracking mechanism for other potential species that may be traded in international arenas. The technical working group submitted a NCN which was unsuccessful, but received a grant from the USFWS to cover travel to all CITES meetings. Finally, there has been steadily growing opposition to sustainable wildlife management at the international and national level. These groups are extremely well funded and it is important that

we support sustainable use groups at the international level. Most of NGO groups at CITES are based in the U.S. We have to be vigilant, in our own states, in the Midwest and internationally. **Leif** – Will there be further action on the bobcat in the future? **Caldwell** – At the next conference in 2010. **Leif** – Could we be of assistance in that effort when the time comes? **Caldwell** – I think the states have been, the bobcat survey was a great help. **Leif** – I mean, we as an Association? **Caldwell** – Yes. **Humphries** – Does SCI participate? **Caldwell** – Yes, they are a real ally, but there are groups that have a “kill it all” attitude. **Salmon** – We pushed and failed to get rid of false arguments. The brashness of these groups is amazing, to ask for equal status as the USFWS like the Humane Society did. **Ver Steeg** – What happens after 2009 to ensure representation? **Caldwell** – Hopefully someone will tell us a good way to proceed on this. MAFWA supports us, and that is true of all Associations. We need to fund the technical working group as a whole because we need all four tires to operate. We have an efficient, effective system and that doesn’t require all 50 states to keep their eye on this. We are open to whatever funding suggestions there might be. **Torgerson** – Has this come up in AFWA Executive Committee meetings yet? We need to deal with this funding issue. **Hogan** – We talked about it in the scope of all projects. There is not a lack of support for the issue and I am not sure why the NCN failed.

**Midwest Pheasant Study Group** – **Ollie Torgerson** – The pheasant study group has no report. They only meet every two years and the last time they met was in 2006 and that report was provided to you last year.

**Torgerson** – We are forming a new program committee, but we have no report, we had a talk on this under Hot Topics. **Ver Steeg** – They acted as an Ad Hoc committee and won’t be formed until tomorrow when we vote on it. **Torgerson** – Mike, the legal committee did a report, but there are no action items.

**Thorson** – I am chairing the Midwest National Resources Group (MNRG), a collaboration of federal groups involved in natural resources. Our goal would be to link up MNRG with MAFWA. Jeff Vonk came to our meeting on your behalf and we looked at MAFWA issues ten years out. We are coordinating a summer meeting and are planning two meetings a year. General Mike Walsh of the Corps of Engineers is planning that and we will try to coincide our two meetings if that works. We could meet concurrent near by and would work with your Executive Committee to make that work. **Ver Steeg** – This would be a good opportunity and we will try to make it work. **Thorson** – We will work with Ollie. OMB cut health survey funds and with the VHS outbreak in the Great Lakes, we need to watch funding to see that enough money is budgeted. We are having trouble mobilizing and as I mentioned yesterday, we had two opportunities to address climate change. I will follow up with email to extend that invitation to attend conference calls and webinar at Indiana State University. **Ver Steeg** – Are we going to weigh in on fish health funding issue? **Taylor** – I will have to check on that. **Thorson** – I will follow up with Gary. **Humphries** – We will also follow up. **Salmon** – I want to congratulate Don Bonneau, who was our Fisheries Biologist of the year and he is here which rarely happens with our award recipients.

**Dinner on your own**

**Hospitality Room sponsored by Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers**