

**Midwest Association of
Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2008 2:00 pm
Conference Call**

Call to Order – President Jeff Ver Steeg called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

Quorum - Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado; Mike Conlin, Illinois; Joe Kramer, Kansas; Becky Humphries, Michigan; Glen Salmon, Indiana. Also present were Ollie Torgerson, Executive Secretary; Sheila Kemmis, Recording Secretary; and guest Tom Niebauer (in place of Past President, Matt Frank).

Agenda Review – Additions to new business – Court date for wolf delisting; Rocky Express pipeline settlement. Mike – I would like to discuss next year's meeting dates also.

Approval of March 28, 2008 Executive Committee Minutes – *Joe Kramer moved to approve the minutes, Mike Conlin seconded. **Approved.***

Financial Report - Joe Kramer – The financial report as of April 30, 2008 is: conference checking: \$30,097.96; general checking: \$7,119.44; money market: \$26,985.33; and securities: \$216,046.72; for a total of \$280,249.45 as of April 30, 2008. Balance for December 31 was \$285,575.25, which is a loss of \$5,325.80. The Conservation Enhancement Fund balance as of April 30, 2008 is \$2,036.98

Investment Committee Report – Joe - We have invited Shane to come to the annual meeting. He said he has friends to visit and plans to vacation in the area and would be happy to come and report at the business meeting. After discussion it was decided he needs to be there Wednesday morning and speak for 15-20 minutes. He needs to talk about green investing, and whether that means socially responsible, environmentally responsible or what.

Printing Conservation Fund Brochure – Ollie reported on memo sent to Executive Committee and the fact that the Nebraska staff prepared a nice brochure several years ago. The Executive Committee needed to know what the fund raising strategies were before deciding how many brochures to print. These strategies were prepared and it was recommended that we indeed needed a professional brochure. With the talk of MAFWA sponsoring the Midwest F&W Conference this topic has been put off because that could have been a way to raise money. Since MAFWA is not going to be asked to sponsor the Midwest F&W Conference, we now need to appoint a Fund Raising committee and print the brochure. I got an online quote from Print-for-Less and local bid from Office Max for 1,000 brochures, envelopes and return envelopes. We are looking at around \$1,900. The Fund goal is to raise about \$300,000 and that will mostly come via face-to-face meetings (to double the Jaschek fund). This was approved four or five years ago. Do we move ahead and print the brochure? If so, copies can be available at Estes Park. It is time to

move this forward and get on to fund raising. Jeff – This has been ongoing, it is an attractive layout. Should we do it or not? My sense was we were going to do it all along. Becky – I say take the lowest bid and go ahead. *No objections.* Ollie – I will get them printed locally. Becky – One of the ways listed to raise funds is for each state to go out and get \$30,000. Ollie – That was a suggestion from Rex and you can do it that way or however you decide.

D&O Insurance – Ollie reported we are ready to go with D&O insurance and as a reminder Jeff wanted the whole body to make the decision for insurance. MAFWA got help from Carol Bamberg and the cheapest bid is \$897 a year from Philadelphia Insurance Company. Does the Executive Committee think this is the right thing to do and should we make a recommendation to get the D&O and liability insurance to the whole body? *Becky moved to recommend to full body, Glen second.* Ollie – I will check to be sure the quote will extend through July and will fill out the application just not send it in until voted on. *All approved.*

Funding Request for Midwest F&W Conference - Jeff stated this came from Dave Risley asking us to contribute \$5,000 to the Midwest F&W Conference. I am not inclined to do that. Joe – Don't feel we should fund; Mike, Becky, Glen all agreed. Thought about bringing this forward to the whole body, but I think we will just let them know we are not interested. Jeff will reply. Ollie – Individual states are already pouring a ton of staff and money into the conference, which is a nice way to tell him no.

By-Laws Changes - Jeff reported nothing new since we sent possible changes out in mid-April. Ollie – I will resend it as we get closer to the meeting.

2008 Meeting Report - Jeff reported that the conference website is up-to-date and that they have had several requests for add-on presentations. Colorado is paying for expenses for external speakers who waived their speaking fees, but requested travel expenses. It will be a good meeting, but there is a lot of snow in mountains so you need to bring sweaters or jackets. Ollie – We set a fund raising goal of \$45,000 for sponsors and are doing pretty good; we are at \$30,000 with more to come in. Jeff hired Dave Chadwick and put him on our meeting and he is great to work with. Jeff – He has been a real asset to us. Working with Cindy Delaney is a learning experience and we will make recommendations for future meetings after this meeting. Mike – We have asked Delaney to give us a proposal for the Midwest Director's meeting next year and the Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference as well. We will look at estimates and notes from Jeff and go from there. Jeff – I am putting together a beginning planning guide and it will get more precise in July. Ollie – Glen you are hosting 2010, have you booked a hotel yet? Glen – Not yet, but I think we will use Cindy too. We are planning on downtown Indianapolis. Ollie - Cindy is really good at negotiating hotel contracts since she worked in the hotel industry for 8 years before launching out on her own. Jeff – We have an Executive Committee meeting scheduled from 5-6 p.m. on Sunday. Will everyone be there? *All plan to be there.* Ollie – What about Matt, Tom? Tom – I think he arrives around noon. Jeff – Two ways to drive from airport, go lower route, in from Loveland or south from Lyons and the Lyons route is better, a little less winding. Ollie – I sent out an e-mail reminder on registration deadline this afternoon. Jeff – If you get a chance to drive up to the continental divide at Alpine it is worth the drive.

Other Business –

Ollie - Wolf delisting court date has been set for August 4 in Washington DC.

Ollie - Dave Graham called late last week. Four of our states have a pipeline being constructed (MO, IN, OH and IL) which will impact upland forest. USFWS Ecological Services (ES) is working with mitigation on habitat loss and agreeing to \$4.1 million distribution for habitat loss. Dave got me on a call with his ES person. The Service needs a disinterested third party to hold the money. The Service recommends the Conservation Fund, but they take 20% off the top so Dave thought maybe MAFWA could hold the money. The role of the disinterested third party would be the one who shakes holy water over the agreements, but we are only interested in banking the money. Dave was going to check on this further. The ES gal in Ohio wants to know if we are interested, but we can't make that decision yet. She also wants to know what our fee would be. Jeff Gosse, USFWS, is handling the negotiations in the Region 3 headquarters. Dave is trying to get them to agree to not have a third party. He didn't think we wanted to review and approve construction projects, but if MAFWA just trusts the four states recommendations, maybe we could. Glen – My understanding is that there are 17 states involved in the entire project. This has to do with habitat conservation plans so they are doing it regionally rather than state by state. Indiana is acting as the bank for the larger amount of money, for all of the mitigation plans and we are going to bank the money. The important question is, exactly what MAFWA's role would be? If we do not have to approve anything, just act as bank and if we could charge a few percent that would be okay. Obviously we want to stay away from approving projects. Jeff – Is there any liability that goes along with acting as the banker? Glen – Our attorneys say no. USFWS has already agreed that there is the \$4 million in damage. There are two separate things going on here. Ollie – Is the Indiana DNR or the state holding it? What are you charging? Glen – Nothing is being charged by the Indiana DNR. Ollie – If we charged a half percent that would be \$20,500. The purpose of the money is to restore the habitat. The gal from Ohio is Mary Knapp. I told her 5 percent is a standard fee. Joe – Banking the money and paying some bills only would be okay. Ollie – Would we have to write one check or how many? Glen – One vendor is writing the larger mitigation plan and will bill us on a monthly basis. If we can come out making \$20,000 that is not a bad gig. Jeff – Does USFWS say when you are authorized to write a check? Ollie – Once agreed upon by the state, Service and the pipeline, then it comes to us to write the check. Jeff – Agreement or contract or what? Glen – We have a contractual agreement with vendor doing mitigation plan. I would be interested in looking into it more, but need to figure out how much work is involved. Jeff – Okay if we capture some sort of compensation, some recognition and some return. Have Carol Bamberg look at this agreement. Ollie – I will call Mary Knapp back and, tell her we not comfortable with looking at/approving agreements, but will bank. What percentage? Leave it up to the four states to see what they are comfortable with? Becky – According to by-laws, if this is a role we take on, in event we do away with the Association, what do we do with funds that belong to someone else? Ollie – We talk about our own money in the by-laws, but not other people's money. Jeff – I will look. Becky – Might need to address this in by-laws. Ollie – It may be in our incorporation documents in the dissolution clause in there. Becky – We might have to address that if not. Jeff – It would be good to know timing of payout also. Might be able to invest money in short term and make some money on it. Get more background on that.

Ollie – I will keep in contact via email. Glen will call Jeff from the USFWS. Glen – Okay.

Ollie - Next year's meeting dates – I think WAFWA is in August in 2009. Jeff – Larry responded that they hadn't picked their dates and narrowed down to two locations, but no dates. That would make our job easier if they are in August. Ollie – I have August 2-7, 2009 in California on my calendar. Jeff – Next year July 4 is on Saturday so we are looking at July 12. Or maybe we could hold it in June again? Ollie – I can put a question on the evaluation to see what directors and partners say. Will that be early enough for you Mike? Mike – The sooner I get the facilities the better. Ollie – We run against Flyways and other meetings. Maybe late June is better. Mike – Flyway meetings will be around July 23, 24 or around there. I think July 12 to 14 would be better. Jeff – Meet before July 4 or week of July 12. Unless WAFWA comes into July again then they draw people away from us. In the long-term it might be better to stay with late June, early July. Sheila – If you do that you should consider changing our fiscal year end to May 31.

Joe – What about the history book, any discussion on that? Ollie – We appreciate Kansas printing and paying for it.

Jeff – I know according to by-laws, it is outside 30 days, but I would like to bring forward a resolution commemorating our 75th year.

Mike – Working with AMFGLEO who will be meeting with us next year. They meet in June historically. Ollie – They met with the Western a few years ago, but this is their first meeting with us. Jeff – Include them in date discussions. Mike – They are fairly flexible, they met in May this year. Ollie – Committees try to meet ahead of us. Becky – We have a new law enforcement chief, but have not completed interviews for our new wildlife chief. Ollie – Please send me contact information.

Next Meeting Date - The next meeting is at Estes Park on June 29, 2008 at 5:00 pm.

Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

**Midwest Association of
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Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 29, 2008 5:00 pm (MDT)**

Guests Robyn Thorson, USFWS Region 3; Dan Zekor, Missouri; John Hoskins, Missouri; and Dave Graham, Ohio; were in the meeting to discuss the Rocky Express Pipeline settlement.

Rocky Express Pipeline Settlement – Robyn Thorson, USFWS, provided the Executive Committee a brief overview of the Rocky Express pipeline settlement situation. The Executive Committee of MAFWA had been evaluating the pros and cons of serving as a third-party manager of mitigation funds and providing project oversight. Following a short discussion, the Executive Committee chose not to pursue direct involvement in the mitigation. No action on the part of the Executive Committee or MAFWA is required.

Guests left meeting.

Call to Order – President Jeff Ver Steeg called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Quorum - Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado; Joe Kramer, Kansas; Becky Humphries, Michigan; Glen Salmon, Indiana; and Matt Frank, Wisconsin. Also present were Ollie Torgerson, Executive Secretary; and Sheila Kemmis, Recording Secretary.

Agenda Review – No changes.

Approval of June 6, 2008 Executive Committee Minutes – *Becky Humphries moved to approve the minutes, Joe Kramer seconded. **Approved.***

Financial Report - Joe Kramer – The financial report is as of May 31, 2008, 11 months. The Audit Committee is going to meet Tuesday at noon. We lost a little in investment money, but are doing okay. Shane is still coming to the business meeting to report. *Glen Salmon moved to accept the report, Becky Humphries second. **Approved.***

Conservation Fund Brochure – Ollie reported that he was hoping to have the brochures ready to hand out at this meeting, but there was a problem with the color. He went back to Nebraska (who did the original brochure layout) this week and they changed it and now it is different color and doesn't match the envelopes. We were going to print 1,000 for \$1,900. This was set up two years ago, and we put off printing it pending the possible MAFWA sponsorship of the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. I will talk to Rex and see if I can get him to print these. We need to appoint a fund raising committee to start raising funds for this. One of Rex's ideas was to have each state give \$30,000. **Jeff Ver Steeg** – Do we need to put this on the business meeting schedule or not? **Ollie Torgerson** – It depends on Rex.

D&O Insurance – Ollie reported that the Executive Committee has recommended the purchase of this insurance and the application is filled out and ready to go. Philadelphia

Insurance Company extended the \$897 a year for the insurance. Who needs to be the person signing the contract myself or Joe? Ollie and Joe are the only constants. **Glen Salmon** – Leave it with Ollie. **Ollie Torgerson** – The bill will come to Joe or Sheila.

2009 Meeting Report – Ollie reported that Illinois has a proposal from Delaney Meeting Event Management to assist with next year's conference. The meeting will be in Peoria, Illinois. Mike Conlin was waiting for the Delaney proposal before negotiating with hotels. Her proposal was for around \$8,000. **Jeff Ver Steeg** – My contract was for up to \$7,500. **Ollie Torgerson** - Also, Illinois had her bid on the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference because they are hosting that next year too. They got a RFP from Cindy, but Illinois has already booked a hotel for that one. **Jeff Ver Steeg** – Is Illinois contracting with her or will the Association pay? **Ollie Torgerson** – I think they are paying. **Jeff Ver Steeg** - I will confer with Mike. One thing you asked me to do was see if it covered its cost, was break even or better, but I can't tell you until all the bills come in. **Ollie Torgerson** – It might not hurt to have another year in Illinois, but we are meeting with the Law Enforcement Committee and that will complicate comparisons. **Jeff Ver Steeg** – Unless Mike is doing it out of his budget. I can send him what services I contracted for. **Glen Salmon** – Can I have copy as well because we have the meeting in 2010 and are considering talking to Cindy as also? **Ollie Torgerson** – The dates will be around this time because WAFWA has camped in our time. **Jeff Ver Steeg** - If it is a problem for Directors and vacation time we need to look at that. **Ollie Torgerson** – That is on other business? We might have to go even earlier. **Becky Humphries** – Sheila brought up needing to change our fiscal year if we change our meeting, we need to consider that. **Ollie Torgerson** – And my contract is based on the fiscal year.

Next Meeting Date - The next meeting is Friday, August 8, 2008 at 2:00 CDT via teleconference.

Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.