

**Minutes**  
**MAFWA Business Meeting**  
**July 1, 2009**  
**Peoria, Illinois**

**Wednesday, July 1, 2009**

MAFWA Business Meeting – Mike Conlin, MAFWA President

1. Call to Order and Roll Call – Colorado, South Dakota and Wisconsin absent (South Dakota and Wisconsin present on previous days). (Proxies for Mitch Marcus, IN; Ken Herring, IA; Joe Kramer, KS; Roger Rostvet, ND; Bob Ziehmer, MO; and Emmett Keyser, SD – *Exhibit GG*)

2. Approval of 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes – *Nebraska moved to accept; Ohio second. Approved.*

**Rex Amack, Nebraska** – The Investment Committee asks that we combine item 5, Jaschek Fund; with item 6, Investment Committee report.

3. Treasurer's Report - **Joe Kramer** - This is an 11 month report as of May 31, 2009 (*Exhibit HH*). Cash on hand beginning July 1, 2008, \$72,725.78; receipts \$48,519.93; which made total amount available \$121,245.71; disbursements \$64,452.00. Change in cash investments, sold \$25,000.00 in securities and purchased some at \$28,245.55, for a loss of \$3,245.55 in investments. Total cash on hand as of May 31 was \$53,548.16. On the back, we were asked by the auditor to change the way we do our accounting of assets. This will be covered later by Shane Hessman. *Minnesota moved to accept, second Nebraska, Approved.*

4. Audit Committee Report – **Roger Rostvet** – Reviewed Treasurer's Report and other financial records of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and found them to be well organized and materially correct. Joe and Sheila do an excellent job of keeping the financial records, and make it so even three biologists can understand it. We recommend acceptance of the report documents as submitted. The Audit Committee also recommends the Treasurer include a copy of Form 990, which is filed with the IRS annually by MAFWA and similar tax-exempt organizations, as part of future audit records. Finally, the Audit Committee concurs with previous recommendations that MAFWA arrange to have a professional audit of MAFWA finances conducted every 3 years. Respectfully submitted by Emmett Keyser (*Exhibit II*). *Michigan moved to accept; Iowa second. Approved.*

5. Jaschek Fund Report – **Rex Amack** – A gentleman named Jaschek left \$209,534.44 to MAFWA in 1996. When we received that money it was left in the bank and we didn't do anything with it, Doug Hansen came along and we invested it. No one liked the way it was invested so we moved the

accounts to Hampton and Hampton and moved on from there. Shane does work pro-bono, one of the few who does, and he will give a report later. *Kansas moved to accept; Iowa second. Approved.*

6. Investments Committee Report – **Rex Amack** – *Combined with Jaschek report.*

7. Investments Update – **Shane Hessman, Hampton and Hampton** – As Rex and Joe said, I took this over three years ago, but this is a work in progress like any endowment (*Exhibit JJ*). An endowment is never ending, so that 20-50 years down the road the Jaschek fund will still be here. Originally it was \$209,000; but when I took it over it was \$191,000. We keep \$15,000 available at all times for MAFWA use; currently there is \$28,286, more than we want in there, but May, June and July are the biggest months for bond interest. Current bonds will pay out \$8,400 in interest next year and we will reinvest the principal and rollover in ongoing concerns. The mutual fund initial investment was \$75,000, but we have had the second worst downturn in history next to the great depression, so now it is worth \$61,000, down 18 percent. We are down 50 percent on Dow over the past 24 months. The account last year was at \$239,000 and was \$222,000 as of June 22, down 5.7 percent. Comparison, -26 percent Dow year over year; S&P -30 percent year over year, and NasDaq -24 percent. It is a fluctuating market. The idea of a bond ladder is to hold the bonds until maturity, using the interest to fund projects and current needs while maintaining the principle. We want to look at the average interest year over year. We are currently averaging 5.6 percent on \$145,000 face value in bonds. We are comfortable where we are and the mutual funds will recover. **Joe Kramer** – On the figure \$222,000, what is the difference from the Treasurer’s Report? **Shane Hessman** – That is \$191,094.41 in investments. **Dave Schad** – There was that much change in three weeks? **Shane Hessman** – No, you need to add the money market to that, \$23,119.66. We will move forward and hope ethics shows up in the business world. **Ken Herring** – The Investments Committee thanks you for coming up and visiting with us.

8. Resolution Committee Report – **Dave Schad** – One resolution this year. There was a lead issue, but Becky said it just needed language to be forwarded and then we will be looking for a position paper in the future.

a) Thank you to Illinois (*read*). Personal thanks to Mike and his staff (*Exhibit KK*). *Ohio moved to accept; Michigan second. Approved.*

**Mike Conlin** - Because of old-timers group maybe I will see you next year in Indiana too.

Drawing for Cabela’s \$50 gift card; Mitch Marcus, Indiana won. **Rex Amack** – Met Duncan Hackworth (Cabela’s) in Lancaster, he is going to all of the regional meetings as well as AFWA. They are trying to start an outreach program. They created fly fishing to catch your (Mike Conlin’s) fish. **Mike Conlin** – They are a great partner and we look forward to a close association for many years to come.

9. Awards Committee Report – **Dave Graham** – This is a five-person Awards Committee. We received 13 nominations for four major awards. The awards are Fisheries Biologist of the Year, which is

awarded to the individual who has shown an unparalleled initiative towards the better understanding of fishes and their conservation; Wildlife Biologist of the Year, which is given to an individual who has shown an unparalleled initiative towards the better understanding of wildlife and their conservation; Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, which is awarded to the individual who in the past year has shown superior leadership, initiative, and dedication in their duties and should personify achievement, public service, education, and above all natural resource conservation; and “Spirit of the Shack” Achievement Award, which is given to the individual who exemplifies the ideals of the great conservationist and educator, Aldo Leopold, and who has contributed to conservation in a superior way, and this individual should epitomize stewardship and dedication to fish and wildlife conservation. Thanks for submitting nominations. Also accepted recommendations for three Sagamore awards. Enjoyed my tenure on the Committee because it is good to appreciate someone deserving. Jeff Ver Steeg will replace Glen Salmon on the Committee. Thank you Mr. President for your role on the Awards Committee. Looking for a fifth member on the committee. Look forward to doing it again next year. Special thanks to Sheila and Ollie for their support. *Minnesota moved to accept, Kansas second. Approved.*

10. Bylaws Committee Report – **Dave Risley** – I am filling in for Jeff Ver Steeg, who emailed by-laws out at least 30 days ago. I will highlight changes then call for a vote (*Exhibits LL and MM*). The first change is a couple of typos; and to reinstate the Pheasant Working Group and the Private Lands Committee until July 2012. Next year Public Lands and Wildlife and Fish Health committees will expire. The Executive Committee recommended reinstating the two committees expiring this year. Reports were given yesterday. The whole group doesn’t meet at AFWA so it makes it difficult. We are looking for a motion to reinstate the two committees. *Iowa moved to accept; Kansas second. Approved.* The other topic is how we will deal with membership for federal partners and Jeff put together background material. **Ollie Torgerson** – One of my work objectives is to get better federal attendance at this meeting. For years only U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel participated. It has been difficult, but we got USDA/APHIS-Wildlife Services and the National Park Service. It was hard to get USGS, but we had Sue Haseltine and Max Etheridge here this year. The Forest Service has been difficult for me, they come to AFWA and other regional meetings, but never come here Until last year when we got Paul Momper. This year we got Bill Bartush, out of Milwaukee, Region 9. He covers a big chunk of states, but not all of our Association. Bill worked with me and President Mike sent a letter to Regional Forester Kent Connaughton and invited him to our meeting and asked them to sponsor. They wanted to know if their contribution included a voting membership, but he never answered Mike’s letter from March. So, he sent Deputy Regional Forester Lee Nightingale and she has already sent me an e-mail and asked me for another letter. They said they were going to give \$3,000, a gold sponsorship for this meeting, but we have never seen it. Dave brought up the topic of voting membership and we said no, just partnership, but this begs the question, so we looked at the other Associations. **Dave Risley** – Don’t believe any other Association has a voting membership with partners. The first charge in the by-laws reads, “to protect the right of jurisdiction of the Midwestern states over their wildlife resources on public and private lands”. Look at Article 3 in the membership that says other governmental agencies responsible for

administration of fish and wildlife resources may be granted affiliate membership if they pay annual dues. Fees are waived for affiliate members who sponsor the annual meeting with \$500 or more. If you want to formalize this we could make that clearer as an affiliate membership. **Ken Herring** – Last year at AFWA, partners on standing committees had the ability to vote. No goal in standing. **Matt Hogan** – That is correct. Contributing member dues haven't increased since 1970, but we are proposing a dues increase and to give them formal voting rights in a committee. Approved the dues increase, but left voting members as they stand. Federal members do have voting rights in the business committee meeting. Attendance is about 50 percent and we decided to stick with status quo. **Ken Herring** – That might be an option for us too and an opportunity to involve partners. Maybe we should follow suit. **Mike Conlin** – Are you making a proposal? **Ken Herring** – I would like feedback first. Good decision at AFWA, partners made passionate plea and were glad it remained status quo. Maybe then we could get the Forest Service to come and be part of our committees. Consider it in the by-laws. **Dave Graham** – I agree in some principle. It makes sense for federal agencies to have a vote on membership. They are important partners, but in thinking about the statement on the purpose of states and the fact that we are a smaller group and that subset, I think affiliate membership makes a lot of sense and lean towards no vote. **Matt Hogan** – There is a provision in our by-laws for non-government members, Chair can call for a vote of just governmental members to be sure NGOs don't dominate. They can never fully execute something and take AFWA in a degree they don't want to go. Carol can give you a copy of our by-laws. **Dave Risley** – One of the differences between AFWA committees and ours is that Working Groups are not chaired by a director and there is very little director participation. Like the furbearer group, there were only six states and four universities at the last meeting, good partnerships, but not as much structure. **Matt Hogan** – If allowing them to vote at this meeting, you have the ability to bulletproof yourself by putting in your by-laws that they aren't allowed to vote. You are right, our structure is different. **Mike Conlin** – We are not voting at this meeting, just looking for discussion. **Joe Kramer** – I think this is a big enough issue that every state in MAFWA needs to have a voice in how we do that, and there are four states not here. **Dave Risley** – I agree with you, we would like to get a feel from members that are here; and whether to provide an option to provide a vote or not? **Ken Herring** – How many favor it? There are two issues: federal partners around table; and committee structure with NGO participation. Good idea to get Forest Service involved in participating. Good to have representation in our region from USGS. I can't imagine not having super majority of states. **Joe Kramer** – Set up agenda to deal with issues that federal members would vote on rather than business meeting? **Ken Herring** – I don't think so, AFWA set up similar. **Ollie Torgerson** – Do we need a straw vote? **Becky Humphries** – At least consider it, come to our forum and have a vote. Drive them to our existing structure, we have working groups, otherwise as we work on broader issues across government lines, drive to create some other forum and our forum could do that. *I would like the by-laws committee to bring that forward with a provision to allow feds to vote.* **Dave Risley** – Asking for guidance and council. **Ollie Torgerson** – What federal agencies? We need to think about that, which ones are allowed in. They would have to have natural resources base. **Matt Hogan** – Anyone who becomes a member. **Ollie Torgerson** – Membership fee? **Matt Hogan** – I think it is \$1,500. **Rex Amack** – No, it is \$2,000. **Mike Conlin** – Any other discussion; maybe a straw vote for option for consideration later on? Then they can work up a

proposal. **Dave Schad** – *Dues are in by-laws, put \$3,000 for federal government and \$75 for affiliate, and clarify which is affiliate and which is government and what a voting membership is. Clarify rules and some clarification with what comes with an affiliate membership, that is not clear and I am curious about that myself.* **Mike Conlin** – All of that would have to be clarified in the proposal. **Roger Rostvet** – The Midwest is the largest geographical area, we have both Region 3 and 6 in the Fish and Wildlife Service, so in looking at that, Region 6 could have a vote and Region 3 could have one? Who would have the vote? We need a point of clarification. **Mike Conlin** – Straw vote? **Ken Herring** – The way Becky said I would be in support of that. *Consensus to put together proposal.*

11. Executive Secretary's Report – **Ollie Torgerson** – PowerPoint Presentation (*Exhibit NN and OO*) – In my seventh year of serving this Association as your staff person. We are blessed with great leadership. When we met in Minocqua the President let me run the meeting knowing he was going to lose his job when he got back. Jeff grabbed the reins from Hassett and finished his term and then his own. Then Mike came on, Mike announced his retirement a year ago and he changed his mind and now he is retiring. We owe him a lot of thanks for hanging in there another year. We have an excellent Executive Committee, Glen Salmon was going to be our president, Joe Kramer as Secretary/Treasurer, and Dave Schad and Becky Humphries. It is great to have that kind of leadership. Last year in Colorado, Jeff and Dave Chadwick put together the first annual meeting planning handbook, with details that need to be attended to. This will help keep things from slipping by the wayside. We appreciate Colorado's effort in putting this together. It is a very beneficial handbook. The Midwest Natural Resources Group (MRNC) agreed to meet here in Peoria with us, as well as the Association of Midwest Game and Fish Law Enforcement Officers (AMGFLEO). Robyn Thorson was the one who pushed MNRC, but she left and they changed their mind. We missed a great opportunity. The AMGFLEO group was anxious to meet, but couldn't get out-of-state approval for chiefs. They are an active and effective group with a much broader geography than ours. Maybe we can do that again down the road. Robyn was a great cooperator for us. We gave her a farewell letter and some of the directors took her to dinner in Saratoga Springs last September. And we welcomed Tom Melius in her place. Tom met with each of his eight state directors in his region so he got off to a great start. With Sam Hamilton as USFWS Director Designate, we will continue to have a close working relationship with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Colorado decided to hire Cindy Delaney to help plan the meeting, and MAFWA agreed to hire her for Illinois and pay her out of our budget. Her strength, in my view, is getting hotels to compete and getting comps, she worked in the hotel business for eight years before she started her own business. She makes them own up to their contract. Nice evolution for this Association. She is helped select the hotel in Indiana, the Hyatt in Indianapolis. Pleased that our NCN on Climate Change was accepted; need to thank that committee, Dan Zekor, Dave Risley and John Buhnerkempe. Letters of intent needed to be scored, and the NCN Committee did that for MAFWA, but I don't know which letters were accepted. This is fulfilling our need for multi-state funding. The Executive Committee approved the National Glacial Lakes Partnership and agreed to act as the banker for potential Midwest Fish Habitat Partnership. It has been accepted and the full proposal is being prepared. If approved MAFWA will be banker. Also, they approved MAFWA to be the banker on Southern Wings work in Latin American and

Caribbean; with Missouri and Iowa sending in money. We are becoming more active in banking business. The new Wildlife Action Plan Technical Working Committee was formed and Jon Gasset is the Director/Liaison. It is important that they know directors are interested. We usually have affiliate member applications to approve at this time, but this year I have none. I invited seven NGOs to affiliate and we did not receive their applications by the April 1 deadline. But, I expect three to four next year. We currently have 21, who pay \$75 a year and I post their logos on our website and hotlink to their website. If they sponsor more than \$500 then their affiliate dues are waived. The Executive Committee and the Association formed ORCA (Organization of Retired Conservation Administrators), after the killer whale, and Laura McLean set up the website. It seems after people retire they drop off the radar screen, and we hope this will keep them going so they can continue to be an advocate for conservation work. In the past we have not paid attention to this. Matt and I will send communication to you to send this out to your conservation organizations and state agency retirees. I will administer this blog or website. Minnesota conservation tax money will begin flowing the first of July, I'm sure Dave will find it a hardship to spend \$90 million a year, but he will figure it out. Alternative funding needs to be top on all of our lists. We have posted a handbook on our website on how to go about getting something like this done. Iowa is also about to do it and we need to keep growing alternative funding for state fish and wildlife agencies. Conservation Enhancement Fund is up and running. You saw the jacket we gave Rex, he is not only helped put the fund together, but became the first sustaining member. Our fund raising goal is \$300,000 and we can do it, in small increments, but we got to get a start. We need to figure out how we can convince people to put the Fund into their estate planning, insurance or endowment into this. Lost Glen Salmon, who was a great asset to this Association, and we said farewell to him while we welcomed Marc Miller on board. I am very pleased that Marc has agreed to fill out Mike Conlin's term. There are only 50 directors in the country and they are a very close knit group. I think Marc will become active, and will be in on the Executive Committee teleconference later this month. You all need to get with him and develop a personal relationship. We appreciate Dave Graham for stepping up to chair the Awards Committee, Glen put this together and Jeff has agreed to step up as a new committee member and with Conlin is stepping down, we need another member. Can't thank Sheila and Joe enough, thanks for all you do for all the pay you get, which is none. Thank Matt Frank for providing my office and office services. Thank sponsors, got \$35,000 towards this meeting. FWS, APHIS and most of NGOs hanging in there with us, so thank them. Ask for prayers, Jerry Conley had brain surgery before Christmas, no deficits, but words don't seem to come to him when he wants them to. Sharon Rushton has ovarian cancer and is recovering from that, completed surgery and chemo. She is from southwest Missouri. She is weak, but has the right attitude. Keep her in your prayers. **Joe Kramer** – In Kentucky, Jon got Tom Young to come to the evening meeting of the Furbearer Committee and talked to him about ORCA and he said he didn't have a high speed internet line. I think one from each state to help with network would be a good idea. It is important to get more people like Rex to donate to the Conservation Fund. **Ollie Torgerson** – I couldn't keep up with hard mail, if Tom Young doesn't have access, he needs to go to the library. Tom represented Kentucky for 17 years, and we are just trying to tap into that knowledge.

## 12. New Business -

a. Forming Climate Change Technical Working Committee - **Dave Schad** – Mentioned this yesterday, but at this point it makes sense to organize staff working on this issue. Need to link into federal agency discussions and efforts, for example climate change science clubs and cooperatives. The time is right to take a look at a Technical Working Committee and share within the states to figure out the climate change issue. We dropped the ball on getting this out in the 30-day deadline timeframe for by-laws change, but the by-laws allow for three types of committees: 1) Standing Committees shall be appointed by the President within thirty (30) days after assuming office, they shall serve during the period intervening between annual meetings and at such meetings, or until the purpose of each such committee has been accomplished and it has been discharged by the President; 2) Ad Hoc Committees may be established as deemed necessary by the President of the Association and shall serve until the purpose of each such committee has been accomplished and it has been discharged by the President; and 3) Technical Working Committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Association, which requires vote of the body. We can amend the by-laws between annual meetings by electronic vote. Get established by mail or e-mail and get to work on charter and identify members. We will put together initial meeting in Minnesota. Talked to Becky and she suggested looking at a joint group with the Northeast Association (NEAFWA). Science clubs, as Sue Haseltine showed us, we are lumped in with the NEAFWA. It makes sense to organize ourselves that way, however I don't know if we have ever done that before or have models to work with. WAFWA has established one and I am going to their annual meeting and the SEAFWA is discussing it at their next meeting. This is a chance to discuss it with NEAFWA directors. I don't see the need for annual meetings as we can meet throughout the year by conference call as things are changing really quickly. Initiatives are being developed and funding opportunities are arising. Having a process where they could meet and discuss things and still bring forward recommendations and summaries of their discussions to this annual meeting. Keep that in mind and give this some consideration. **Becky Humphries** – *I move we charge the by-laws committee to bring this back in 30-days.* **Dave Risley** – An AdHoc Committee can be formed at any time. The Mississippi Flyway had an AdHoc Committee and we revised and formed a full committee later. The president can form an AdHoc and revise it later. **Ollie Torgerson** – We are talking about 14-17 people. The other alternative would be 30-day notice that electronic vote is coming to change the by-laws. Email from me forwarded from the by-laws committee. *Michigan moved to request by-laws committee to come up with wording to establish climate change Working Group and hold vote after 30-days. Nebraska second. Approved.*

**Dave Schad** – One other idea, everybody is doing work on recruitment and retention issue and one of our folks attended the Shooting Sports Foundation meeting and they are doing a lot of stuff, but we could benefit from states talking this over. I am impressed by the work being done in the Midwest, they are the core group leading the way on this, but we need to get organized and do evaluation of what we are doing on license trends. Hate to pile on new committees here, but I do think this is a big new effort for a lot of us. Need to consider an additional Technical Working Committee for that. **Joe Kramer** – Dave are you chairing the climate change working group as director? **Dave Schad** – Some member of

my staff will and I will let the group decide who the chair is. **Ollie Torgerson** – We need a director/liaison. **Joe Kramer** – That is what I meant. **Ken Herring** – I concur with starting a recruitment and retention working group. We are looking at trying to pull together just what our agency is, then go down the road a year and bring forward next year. Everybody is doing something, we are engaging in an RFP with DJ Case or someone else. There is great interest there. **Mike Conlin** – There is a national effort going on with industry also. **Matt Hogan** – In my personal opinion, the group is disorganized and only has 25 percent participation. It was plucked from the air and is not well coordinated. What works in different parts of the country makes more sense. Very little success with Senator Nelson on \$28 million, repackage effort next year. It will help to bring forward coordinated efforts that make sense, but they are hard to get money for. With more coordinated states, the better off we will be in coordinating funding. **Dave Schad** – Do any of the other regional Associations have them? **Matt Hogan** – Keith Sexson and Dave Graham chair the AFWA committee, but none met later. **Becky Humphries** – Bring in as special topic at our next meeting and decide if we want to create a working group.

**Mike Conlin** – Indiana can get hot topics from this meeting and what we have mentioned. **Mitch Marcus** – Didn't Iowa talk about recruitment and retention? **Ken Herring** – We dabbled in it. **Mike Conlin** – Now 30 states in RBFF lapsed angler's survey. **Mitch Marcus** – National Shooting Sports Foundation is also providing funds for activities on the hunting side.

b. FY10 Budget Approval – **Joe Kramer** – Provided working drafts for our budgets for approval (Exhibit PP). Show FY09 and proposal for approval of FY10. These are without working group conference income. We have a checking account available for working groups to use and the private and public lands committees have used it; furbearers used our federal ID to set up their own account. We need to remind director liaisons that this is available to help with registrations and that type of thing. Annual dues are \$300, province dues are \$100, affiliate dues \$75, with a \$1,500 special assessment for states. Basically this is a working draft, but income and expenses are between \$60,000 to \$70,000 a year, for the most part. For FY09, that doesn't include June in the budget year. You need to consider the budget for FY2010. **Rex Amack** – Is the \$1,500 for the farm bill? **Sheila Kemmis** – No, that is for Ollie's salary. **Matt Hogan** – Each state is billed individually for the Farm Bill. **Rex Amack** – *It makes sense to make the special assessment part of the annual dues, but that takes a by-laws change. It is easier to deal with dues than special assessments in our state. Nebraska moved to approve, Michigan second. Approved.*

**Mike Conlin** – I was asked to provide a charge to the Public Lands Committee? **Ken Herring** – We withdraw that item of discussion.

**Ollie Torgerson** – At setting federal budget priorities, we are awful at that in MAFWA. Trying to get our states to forward those is difficult. Matt Frank chairs AFWA's Federal Budget Committee and Jon Gassett is Vice-Chair, but how do we get those figures? WAFWA does very good at this, it is frustrating to me. How do we fix it? **Matt Hogan** – Suggest after this year's process, that you have regional

associations do what you are saying, but do it a year out, as priorities for fiscal year. You are all building 2011 budgets and by December of each year have a list of state agency AFWA priorities. We lean heavily on regional associations to help us build that. Each region has representation on that. If we are going to get good at this and work with federal agencies, we need to come up with 10 or less rather than 100 ideas. **Ollie Torgerson** – That makes a lot of sense. **Becky Humphries** – Put that as an agenda item for the Executive Committee, then in annual meeting next year, and exclude feds next year from vote, if we put them in that. Discuss between now and December. This should be a part of next year's annual meeting. **Dave Schad** – I agree with that. Is that timely for December timeline Matt is looking for? **Matt Hogan** – They meet in March and go back and forth within the department, pass the final draft in November and then the final budget is set. Missed chance for 2011, but can still get it done for 2012. Begin to roll in January with state directors. Once we catch up we will be a year ahead. This year we are trying to address Congressional process. **Ollie Torgerson** - If anyone has a priority let me or Mike know. **Dave Schad** – Need to try to write a letter for wolf depredation, zeroed out in President's budget, need to deal with that. This is very much a Midwest issue. Get letter out and share with Becky and Frank. Federal agencies need to step up and fund that program. Did you address that in AFWA? **Gary Taylor** – Yes, restored funding and have basis to advocate. Get to congressional delegations. On Senate side, it has not come out of full appropriations committee yet. Try to keep funding in. **Matt Hogan** – Added in last year's budget. They strip those out when they highlight the budget. Important to be in base budget, then gets stripped out. **Gary Taylor** – There is a \$6 million deficit, listed earmarks, ways to get those back in there. As the Ag subcommittee meets, some items get put back in. **Dave Schad** – \$720,000? **Ken Herring** – Section 319 funding, one time receiving millions for lake restoration. Millions there and would like to see restoration because there is no federal match. Don't know if that made it in there Gary? They had meetings with Gordon Robertson. **Gary Taylor** – I don't recall if that is in there. House passed interior appropriations bill and that is a good example of where input from regional associations is so critical. Not commented on EPA budget because no one is knowledgeable to comment on the need to maintain or enhance it. We commented this year, through EPA, Great Lakes initiative was in there, \$470 million was only comment we made. If you have staff familiar with EPA that would help us let me know.

**Mike Conlin** – Had a lot of help from Illinois staff on this meeting, most have left, but Chad Bartman is here and he helped with the presentations.

13. Passing of Gavel to Indiana – Mike Conlin passed gavel to Mitch Marcus, Indiana. **Mitch Marcus** – We are looking forward to having everyone in Indiana next year.

Adjournment - *Nebraska moved to adjourn, Kansas second. Approved.*

