

Minutes
MAFWA Annual Meeting
June 28 – June 30, 2009
Pere Marquette Hotel
Peoria, Illinois

Sunday, June 28, 2009

MAFWA Executive Committee Meeting 5:00 pm (*Final Program – Exhibit A*)

Welcome to Illinois Reception – Sponsored by the Illinois Conservation Foundation

Hospitality Room – Sponsored by the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

Monday, June 29, 2009

Orientation

Mike Conlin, Illinois DNR – I have worked in the vineyards of conservation for a long time. Introduced USFWS Assistant Director of Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Hannibal Bolton, and asked him to stand; also introduced new director, Marc Miller. Marc has 10 years working with the outdoors, masters in environmental planning, spent last five years working with the Lt. Governor. The Governor couldn't be here today, he is in Springfield dealing with the budget. Marc is working with the Governor to get funding back for the department. Also, Marc will fill my term on the Executive Committee the next few months.

Greetings

Marc Miller, Director, Illinois DNR – Mike did such a good job of introducing me there is not much to say. Welcome to Peoria and Illinois, appreciate you being here. To help you understand where you are sitting: around 1900 this river was a tremendous resource, the second largest freshwater fishery in the world and shipping out of here was plenty. The resource went through what we are seeing across the country: water pollution, run-off, agricultural development, etc. The Illinois River Council has been working on the river for years on how to bring people together to talk about issues, coordinate efforts, work together and bring the river back to its former glory. We have a good crew, used to working with limited resources, but we need to work with our partners. Children are not getting outdoors so the future of our agencies will suffer greatly. A shining example for us is Brent Manning; he gets people together and gets them to focus on important issues. Claudia (Emken) helped set up the Coordination Conference on youth recruitment, public access and funding. We are hoping to follow the example of Minnesota and Iowa to get dedicated funding. Look forward to serving with you, I have only been on the job for four months, but feel we are making a great deal of progress. Many of our leaders are getting grayer and shorter on time and we are losing institutional knowledge, Mike Conlin is leaving the end of July, my gratitude to Mike for all his work. He will leave a big hole. Wish you luck the next few days as you cover a great deal of subjects.

Welcome to Illinois

Mike Conlin, Illinois DNR - Governor Pat Quinn was invited but unable to attend.

State-of-the-States

Dan Zekor, Missouri DOC, Facilitator – Ollie was a ruthless timekeeper in past years, but we got rid of the buzzer and time keeper, you each have five minutes or so to try to get wrapped up. John Hoskins, Missouri, won't be here and sitting in his place is Bob Ziehmer.

Full state-of the state reports can be found on the MAFWA website at:

<http://www.mafwa.org/state/index.htm>

Michigan – Becky Humphries – In good financial shape, so it has been roses (*laughter*). Now we have less than five percent state general fund (SGF), so we can't get much lower. Our budget year starts October 1, and we are working on 2010 budget. The legislature has struggled with budget cuts. There is an opportunity with other legislation to get it done so there is a window of opportunity. We are working on marketing, recruitment and retention, and building partnership with business school at Michigan State University. We are trying to cross reference license users to get consistent, better buyers. Using a Consulting Group to help us do this study, hope to have it done by the end of July. We are using Mark Duda and the Safari Club helped us bring him in. Mark's research shows kids are different today. We are looking at major consolidation in state government. The Governor announced last year that we will be reducing down from 18 to 8 departments, so there are a lot of opportunities ahead.

Kentucky – Jon Gassett – We are doing everything Becky is doing. On severe budget issues, we are coming into the economic downturn slowly and will be the last one out of it. The department is intact, and we are not touching state general fund (SGF), other agencies who are have taken a 20 percent cut. As an agency we are doing well, but as a state as a whole we are in trouble. We have several major issues going on, both good and bad. We are working on the Lake Cumberland dam, a nine-year project to keep the dam from failing. This year, was the wettest year on record, rain in basin every day, and we will lose trout and walleye out of the lake. Positive issues: I recognized Tim Landis for putting 250,000 acres in public access; started restoring elk a few years ago and have 11,000 on the ground, people want to see them and public lands are open for access; our first bear season is this fall, it is limited, but for sale over-the-counter; and restorations are occurring on lake sturgeon, walleye and alligator gar. We are continuing to see illegal activity and trade, and seem to be a dumping ground for other states, from snakes to coyotes to deer. We were able to make 682 cases against eight individuals on illegal buying, selling and possession of wild coyotes and are also, working on a large snake case.

Kansas – Joe Kramer – Stream work in state, only three navigable streams that allow public access, all others are privately owned. We have the most beautiful pristine prairie streams in the United States and we are getting some access through our fish access program. Conducting surveys on streams, we call them minnow people, saw Eric Schenk walk in the room, he used to work for us as a minnow person. We are fortunate that our Hunter Education Coordinator, Wayne Doyle, was inducted into the International Hunter Education Hall of Fame. Rob Manes, who is also here; used to be our Hunter Education Coordinator, and Wayne is a real go getter, an ex-marine. We have moved the quail season back to the second Saturday in November with pheasant and the season runs until the end of January. Received an endowment from Kansas University, with the huge amounts of land big colleges have, and the million acres we already have in WIHA, some land grant colleges are trusting us to open some of their pieces of ground. We opened 1,200 acres this last year for special hunts for youth. Hunts were all awarded electronically on a first come/first serve basis and limited to one youth/mentor pair per tract each weekend. We now have 60 cabins in state parks and four on wildlife areas, and expect up to 100

cabins total. This is Mike Hayden's project, and a big thing is electronic online registration for the cabins. We have zebra mussels in six reservoirs. Have a new bass propagation facility at Meade State Park and are stealing some techniques from southern states. Cheyenne Bottoms, an International Wetland, has a new \$4 million education center. Fort Hays State is running that for us. We are moving ahead with hunter education in the schools and have 28 middle schools in the Archery in the Schools Program. Kansas has now had ten CWD positive deer.

Indiana – Mitch Marcus – Running marketing campaign to capture lapsed anglers and hunters, partnered last year with Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) and National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) with 60,000 postcards sent out. Ran a public land recruitment and retention project with over 60 events last year, from shooting to fishing to hunting and trapping with more than 600 people participating. Have a new license, the apprentice hunting license, so first time hunters can go out with a mentor instead of taking the hunter education course; and a new senior fishing license. Have a new Grand Kankakee Marsh Restoration, NAWCA and Ducks Unlimited project to improve two wetland areas. Walleye tagging and stocking in Lake Monroe, using GIS maps on the web. The internet web mapping programs show where to fish, with aerial and highway road map overlays. This spawned a hunting application, which won a GIS award in the state. Lake enhancements, 31 funded through LARE Program improving aquatic habitat.

Ohio – Dave Graham – Budget is the hot topic in Ohio. Worst shape since 1949, or in my 33 years working for the department. We are looking at consolidations of divisions and redirection on where we deploy our assets. The Division of Wildlife and Division of Watercraft are self-funded so may see our revenues grow for lack of being able to operate during this period of reduced spending. We have a Task Force working on long-term funding like Minnesota has. We have opportunities to work with non-consumptive groups to come up with a user fee idea. We have resurrected our conservation stamp and will have other opportunities. Our point-of-sale (POS) system is worn out and we are in the process of building a new web-based system that will offer increased information on where to hunt and fish, and also have a new electronic deer and turkey check-in system as part of the package. In fisheries, we continue to have an aggressive stocking program. Two to three of our hatcheries are in need of repairs and we are trying to renovate our steelhead hatchery so that we can raise the fish from egg to stocking. On deer, a new food pantry program with Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry raised doe harvest significantly in conjunction with reduced price antlerless deer permits. This was a great success with over 60,000 lbs of meat going to food pantries. We are having no problems with lead in venison issues. We have a new online service for hunters to put their profile on our website so landowners can find those they want to hunt on their property. We will be adding all day spring turkey hunting during the last two weeks of our spring turkey season next year. On retention and recruitment: our old mentoring program was redesigned into a grant program with \$750,000 dedicated to support it. We also passed legislation to expand mobility impaired access programs to more of our public wildlife areas. This will be the fifth year of our apprentice license program that we passed with the help of USSA and it has been very successful. We have seen over 50 percent retention of youth from year to year and over 30 percent conversion to permanent licenses in the same period of time. These numbers are far beyond what we have done in any other program. We had a huge legal challenge regarding the right of our law enforcement personnel to enter on private land to do compliance checks. The challenge went to the state Supreme Court and the right of entry was upheld by a unanimous vote of the court. If that had passed that would have set us back quite a bit. Wind energy development is receiving a great deal of attention

and we are working with potential developers to locate it with minimum environmental and wildlife impacts.

Minnesota – Dave Schad – The big news is the new dedicated natural resources funding which was approved by voters in November. It provides \$90 million per year for the next 25 years for habitat; \$90 million for clean water; and \$90 million for parks/trails and culture. Even with the poor economy, 57 percent of voters voted to increase their taxes to fund these programs. Minnesota now has a 25-year window to make a difference, and there is great optimism by staff and the conservation community. The provision received the largest number of votes of any election in the history of the state, and hopefully will set the stage for other states. The division's operating budget is declining, however, with general fund tax support nearly eliminated, and almost complete reliance on fee-based funding. We have a declining budget and fewer staff to do the work. The legislature approved a provision that limits local government's ability to restrict uses or management on wildlife management areas in developing communities. On areas greater than 160 acres, no uses or management can be restricted. For units between 40 and 160 acres, some limits can be placed on certain firearms and hunting activities. This is an important provision for future protection of public lands. Three new efforts related to retention and recruitment were highlighted: 1) the legislature approved free fishing in state parks; 2) the department developed a report to the legislature on outdoor skill-based education programs in the schools; and 3) have been working with a large southeast Asian population to provide white bass angling and squirrel hunting opportunities. In the forested part of the state, we continue to see large industrial forest lands being sold or leased, and are purchasing conservation easements to keep lands accessible and as working forests. An 187,000 acre, \$36 million conservation easement was funded in the past year, and several others are waiting.

Wisconsin – Matt Frank – Have similar themes going on in our state. Our state budget is in a \$6.5 billion deficit; however the Governor is signing the budget today. We will have challenges, but will be ok. We have 16 days of employee furloughs spread out over the next two years, which will have impacts on staff. Also, we are holding vacancies, over 300 out of 2,600, but hope to begin hiring again during the biennium. On the game front, we have increased bear permits by 60 percent next year. Wolves are a big issue and we have been working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). They were delisted, but the Humane Society keeps bringing law suits. Deer management is always a big topic. This year 450,000 deer were harvested, a very high figure, but one of the lowest harvests in 10 years. We are working with hunters and the Natural Resource Board to develop an alternative to “earn a buck”. We are developing a longer term five year CWD plan. Positives include: delisting osprey and trumpeter swan; dedicated Wild Rose Fish Hatchery, a \$35 million hatchery which will increase production of trout and salmon; the PCB clean-up of the Fox River, the largest clean up of its kind other than the Hudson River; and updating other facilities. Outreach programs include: Harmony in the Woods, a very successful hunter education program working with our large population of Hmong hunters from Laos and being taught by Hmong instructors; Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) work with the University of Wisconsin brings in women and gets them engaged with the outdoors; Outdoor mentor bill, where 10-year-olds will be able to go hunting with a mentor, one gun between them, with no hunter education; as well as a lot of hard work with conservation organizations. There are five states here that border the Great Lakes and President Obama has Great Lakes Restoration Initiative money set aside to work with federal agencies to be true partners on that. We are all dealing with climate change issues. We are in partnership with Minnesota; our Governors agreed to look at cooperative efforts and we got together and came up with new things, like producing fish for both states and combining our efforts on other things.

Nebraska – Rex Amack – Mike’s introduction in the program was very well done. It focuses on professionalism. Professionalism will carry us through all of the difficult issues that lie before us. Conservation, our country and our world are in a state of change. Studies tell us that people fear change, but change is the only thing that is constant. Who would have thought 20 years ago we would use internet tools like Facebook and Twitter to communicate with our constituents. Nebraska's biggest initiatives include recruitment and retention. We have a new program, “open fields and waters for access”. Nebraska is 97 percent privately owned. We are opening thousands of acres for public access. We have a new apprentice hunting license. Last year 2,000 people applied. We thought it would just be for people between 16 and 30, but most were 12-year-olds, so that was surprising. Thank you for coming and for Mike’s introduction in the program, it was inspiring and the absolute truth.

Missouri – Bob Ziehmer – I understand budget discussions are on the agenda for later today. In Missouri, economic times have highlighted the value of partnerships. Lagging revenues continue to be a topic requiring attention. The Department’s two largest funding sources (sales tax and permit revenue) have not kept pace with inflation. We anticipate sales tax revenue finishing the fiscal year down by six percent when compared to last year. The Department is currently, through a comprehensive/strategic review, working to reduce FTE numbers and modify select services. It has been interesting to hear reports from other member states. Similar things are going on in Missouri. During the past year, active involvement to manage and protect forest, fish, and wildlife resources have included diseases - Chronic Wasting Disease Statewide Task Force remains active. Missouri’s CWD contingency plan developed in 2002 is under review. CWD has not been documented in Missouri. Invasive species and pests - Emerald Ash Borer was documented in a southeast county, on U.S. Corps land, during the past year. We are currently, working with several stakeholders to eradicate this population. We have isolated populations of feral hogs mainly across the southern portion of our state. Efforts to eradicate these populations continue. This past year over 500 hogs were removed utilizing several techniques including aerial gunning. In balancing needs of both abundant and rare wildlife populations; production of pallid sturgeon at Blind Pony Hatchery for release into the Missouri River has begun. White-tailed deer herd remains a valuable resource. Following 16 public meetings, early in 2008, and building on information gained from a 4-year pilot effort in 29 counties, 36 additional counties now have a 4-point antler restriction. Interest/participation in youth hunting seasons for waterfowl, deer, and turkey continue to remain strong. This past season Missouri included a second “youth portion” of the firearms deer season in January. Increasing our dialogue with diverse stakeholder groups - alternative energy, especially in the areas of wind and woody biomass, hold the potential to significantly impact resources if a long-term balance is not found. Missouri Proposition C, which was approved by voters in November 2008, created a renewable electricity goal in the state. This new requirement calls for public utility companies to increase production of renewable energy annually until 15 percent is from a renewable source by 2021. To help ensure long-term sustainability of our state’s forests, staff has participated in producing a document “Missouri Woody Biomass Harvesting – Best Management Practices Manual.”

North Dakota – Roger Rostvet – We have a small state, only 650,000 people and we had \$1 billion in state surplus. Game and Fish are federal aid and license sale funded, so we had money left over this year. I hope when we experience the downturn we can learn from your states’ experiences. Our revenue was energy related, with large oil and gas leases; biomass; and wind energy. New developments in oil and gas are due to new technology that was not there in 1970s, but that has improved; they are using horizontal drilling now, so impacts are lessened, but still significant. Weather is always a topic; we just had a winter like we haven’t had in years. Waterfowl production was good; we had 100 inches of snow

and a wet spring so we are producing ducks in good numbers. Good years in upland game, pheasant numbers were the largest they have ever been last fall, but spring counts are down 25 percent from last year, but still same as 2006 and 2007. We probably peaked, but have stabilized. We are a 100 percent user-paid agency and have seen an increase in nonresidents, so we are not raising their fees, but have room for increases.

Iowa – Ken Herring – We are an umbrella organization, our Director works with two Commissions an Environmental Protection Commission and a Natural Resource Commission, while being appointed by the Governor. A sustainable funding initiative was passed for the second consecutive year by our Legislature. This now becomes a ballot initiative for Iowans in the next general election (November 2010), to consider dedicating 3/8th of one percent of Iowa’s next sales tax increase to a land and water conservation fund. If approved by Iowa voters this would mean ~150 million dollars annually for conservation. In 1997, Iowans voted to constitutionally protect the fish and wildlife trust fund. The fish and wildlife trust fund represents 3 bureaus: fish, wildlife and law enforcement, and required a seven percent reduction in budgets this past year. State parks and forestry bureaus are funded with state general fund revenue, and these bureaus experienced a 10 percent reduction in their budgets. We have 550 employees in the Conservation and Recreation Division; currently we are holding eight percent (30 positions) vacant. Reductions affecting temporary staff were in the first round of budget cuts, 30 FTE in parks in seasonal positions represent more than 300 temporary employees. While challenging, these budget times create opportunities, change is difficult; sometimes you can make meaningful change in times like these. While SGFs have been reduced, the Iowa Lake Restoration Program received appropriated money that beginning in 2005 has continued along at about \$8-10 million per year. Iowa now has a fully operational destination park on the ground, a \$58 million project, with \$28 million of double tax-exempt bonds. It was a challenge, but a great opportunity. Iowa has a good bond rating, which led the legislature to pass its own stimulus package, called the I-jobs legislation. This amounted to almost 700 million dollars with revenue to be paid back with gaming receipts from casinos and riverboat gambling money. A total of 100 million dollars were set aside to be used to clean up Iowa’s waters. Specifically, \$13.5 million of this money will benefit fish, wildlife and lake water quality. Also, we have new Law Enforcement and Fishery chiefs and a new deputy director.

South Dakota – Emmett Keyser – Jeff Vonk couldn’t be here, he had a knee injury; and Doug Hansen is busy working on his retirement home near Webster in the northeast part of the state. Our budget outlook for our agency is good; the state is structurally deficient, but will struggle in state general fund (SGF) money. We are funded entirely with user fees and small game hunters come to South Dakota in droves. We are experiencing a loss of CRP; we are down to less than 1 million acres, which could hurt our Walk-In access program. A new small initiative we are working on is controlled hunting access (like Montana); we are having limited success and sign-ups. In conservation reserve enhancement, we have 100 acres in long-term temporary 10-15 year contracts, at 40 percent over and above CRP rates. Our mentor hunter program had good participation for its first year, but it was rough to get it through the legislature. Missouri River conditions have improved and we have the largest reservoir on that river and it is up, which makes it a real walleye angler destination. Fisheries staff is working hard to streamline regulations and looking at trying to fit them into four specific categories. The bright spot is that we are in the throws of our new Outdoor Campus-West Facility in Rapid City. We already have one in Sioux Falls, but will begin construction in October on the new one. It will be 25 percent hunting; 25 percent fishing; 25 percent camping and other pursuits; and 25 percent education and nature. We are working on an initiative to distribute GIS land-based information, where we could download the information onto thumb drives and distribute them to anglers and hunters to put on their own GPS units.

Colorado – Presented by Mike Conlin, Illinois – Because of budget issues Jeff couldn't come to this meeting. Maybe they should just close up shop and send their revenues to Illinois; Jeff was from Illinois. As in many other states, the economy has struck state budgets hard. The Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) fended off suggestions to use license revenues to help offset state deficits, but spending and vacancies were frozen throughout most of the current fiscal year and employee furloughs (4/year initially) are scheduled for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009. The CDOW recently received an NSSF grant to pilot a “welcome wagon” approach to recruiting hunters who move to Colorado from other states. The proposal seeks to create a hunter retention pilot program that could be implemented in other states if successful. The program will evaluate the extent to which we can increase retention of current hunters and perhaps re-institute a hunting tradition in lapsed hunters following a move, by implementing a “Welcome Wagon” program where current or lapsed hunters are personally contacted shortly after moving into Colorado and given information and incentives to encourage them to hunt that next season. They have had urban coyote attacks in the Denver metro area, and are doing lethal removal which is challenging. Some people want them removed and some want no harm to come to the coyotes. Aquatic nuisance species are a big problem; zebra mussels in Pueblo Reservoir and six additional reservoirs and one suspect reservoir. On February 20, 2009, the State Parks Board passed regulations for required watercraft inspections and decontamination. Beginning in May, staff will implement the watercraft inspection and water decontaminations at 15 reservoirs.

Illinois – Mike Conlin – Everyone has talked about budget problems; Illinois Governor Quinn proposed state income tax and fee increases on the line, separate from state general fund (SGF). We have had severe drought in our share of SGF, fees we proposed are critical to become more self sufficient. CWD numbers fell for the third year; only 30 positive cases found out of 7,000 deer tested; with 38 in 2008; 48 in 2007; and 51 in 2006. Hunting programs in those counties and significant efforts with sharp shooting in those core areas has worked well. We spend each night trying to remove them from those areas. We have deer issues here too, and we want different things done in different ways; landowners, outfitters, and others were brought together on a Joint Deer Management Task Force, who recommended an extension of the antlerless deer season from 3 to 9 days; passed a regulation for a seven-day split season like Wisconsin. The overall kill was down five percent, but the herd is in excellent shape, but this continues to be a controversial issue. A major cash cow for the department is nonresident licenses, but we are not selling as many as we used to. In recruitment and retention: we had a parent's license which is working well; online trapper education course the first time this year where half of the requirements can be completed online. It is difficult to get parents to spend a full weekend in education courses. Online requirements will be user-friendly to customers, and we expect to do that with hunter education courses in a short time. Asian carp, the Illinois River is full of them, comprising up to 80 percent of the biomass in the river. The river is a shipping channel and a barrier was placed in operation in 2002. Now Barrier IIA is operating, and they are doing safety testing and revising the level of voltage; now working on Barrier IIB. Invasive species is a massive problem. In terms of outreach, this is the fourth year for the Fish Illinois website. It is user-friendly and is providing important information for the public. We had seven million hits last year. The Urban Fishing Program is an excellent program. They taught 80,000 children throughout the state last year. Illinois had the nation's first High School bass fishing tournament; interest was high with 217 different schools on 18 different lakes; the top three teams from each lake went to Carlyle Lake; and West Frankfort High won the tournament. The Trap Shooting Hall of Fame and Museum is looking to locate their museum at the World Shooting and Recreational Complex near Sparta. The complex has state-of-the-art facilities and also hosts the U.S. Open Trap

Shoot each year. The Conservation Stewardship Program, opened to landowners, has conservation management plans that must be submitted. There are 1,700 landowners and 66,500 acres enrolled so far.

Break – Sponsored by The Mule Deer Foundation

Navigating the Budget Crisis Discussion - *Dan Zekor, Facilitator* – Budget issues are a large concern, and we will take time to share in a round-robin fashion; What kind of strategies is your agency using? Innovative ideas emerging from this? What opportunities have emerged because of issues? How do you see things today with uncertain economy and long term obligations?

Kansas (Joe Kramer) – Same shape as North Dakota and South Dakota, we have reserves in fee funds; except for Parks, they are negative three percent, with anticipated 10 percent. They will have to reduce capital improvements and things that can survive cuts, but infrastructure will wear out, and we will all see problems if the economy doesn't change. Internally we have had a Revenue Task Force for 10-12 years, which is a good way to have everyone in the department engaged with budget. Two-term Governors help with a fee fund agency. The last Governor was supportive of our agency, Sebelius, a Democrat; and Governor Graves, a Republican was also two-term and helped us. It is obvious that small agencies weather the storm better than large DNR agencies. Legislature doesn't have time to pick on Wildlife and Parks, and they are down to the end of the session and have so many big issues to cover. If we have to increase fees, we try to stay competitive with other states on nonresident fees. Big game has helped us tremendously with \$8-10 million a year on nonresident deer alone. Fishing is tougher because there is not a lot of water. Tagging youth and mentoring is in every big program in the state. We will have to be innovative with fee increases. Kentucky has done an excellent job with a lot of their funding, as we learned at the Midwest Furbearer Workshop.

South Dakota (Emmett Keyser) – Challenges not many, we have a stable waive of small game hunters, which will go away in the not too distant future, because of low CRP. On the positive side, we have 10-12 years stable base of commercial hunting, nonresidents hunt on those lands, and we set aside acres of habitat and stock birds. We have widely fluctuating numbers, are totally fee-based, but sitting well the last 10-12 years. In 1999, Senator Tom Daschle and the Governor at the time set up a trust fund to provide dollars on an annual basis on loss of Missouri River basin; Title 6 legislation, with \$4.6 million in annual funding from interest on \$118 million capitalized funds. There is no inflationary fee built into that, so effectiveness will be diminished as well. Habitat and access side will be our focus. Privatization of wildlife and landowner/hunter conflicts is increasing; so we have implemented a \$5 surcharge for abatement programs for wildlife damage. Jealous of states that have sales tax-based funding; doubt South Dakota voters would accept that. It would have to be a grassroots citizen initiative, but in the long-term we would like to be there.

Minnesota (Dave Schad) – Operating is tough, our last fee increase was 2001, but game and fish funds are deposited and we are expected to be in the red in 2012. We have a zero-based budget, 25 vacancies in the last two years and expect twice that this year. We have hiring and travel restrictions, have new dollars on the ground, but we are getting smaller and less capable of doing our work out there. We have been working on opportunities and efficiencies with Wisconsin, working across state boundaries with hatcheries and work crews. Making investments now that will save in the future; like video conferencing and hatchery development. Doing aggressive work on fleet program, looking at ways of reducing miles we drive. Invested in high mileage vehicles at field locations and adding to number of vehicles, but

saving dollars in the long run, 1 million miles less than the year before. Looking at facilities and opportunities to co-locate and be smart and strategic about leaving high-cost facilities and having fewer facilities. More revenue successful programs: critical habitat license for \$30, which will bring in \$3.5 million per year; and unveiled four new license plates, with new technologies in printing process they are printed on a flat plate, so we get more color and more creative in design, held a public contest to rev up program with designs; and a program cash card, which is a \$50 gift card to buy park sticker or something like that (department services), has an expiration date and we get to keep unspent balances. Looking at the work we do as state employees and whether the private sector can do some of what we are doing; possibly outsource and still get work done. There is a potential for cost savings which makes us more nimble if funding declines. Also, stop doing as much contract work or increase as needed.

North Dakota (Roger Rostvet) – Look good right now, last five years funding base has changed. Ten years ago revenue came from residents, now half from nonresidents. Change in farm program can make or break us. Are people willing to travel as far as they used to? Our last fee increase in big game was in 1984, but is it easier to get fees passed when they are fat and happy, or wait until the bottom falls out? A lot depends on the farm program, had over 3.5 million acres enrolled in CRP, which is dropping, especially now with oil and gas production and increases in property values.

Missouri (Bob Ziehmer) – Not in crisis mode, Commission has charged us to keep personal service cost at 53 percent, which allows significant operating budget to on-the-ground programs. We are holding open 11 percent of our workforce and looking at seeing them outsourced to see if workforce is in the right part of Missouri. Many staff brought on board 10-15 years ago. Offered a retirement incentive to employees, an extra seven years of health benefits, and 150 people signed up to retire. This does provide some flexibility, so we can retrain and relocate where needed. Technology has changed, so we need to look and see if we need all of the offices open today. Our POS system was implemented in 1996, comfortable with our Information Technology (IT) which will let us move forward and will free up \$1.5 million in ongoing expense to utilize somewhere else. We are looking at low hanging fruit online; you can get confirmation number and licenses online; program is interactive with the public, they can click on reminder, and three days or three months (their choice) before a license expires they can get a reminder, so they can plan vacation items, like Mark Twain Lake services. Maintenance standards are also listed so citizens know what to expect when they arrive. Permit price increases - when do you do that? Looking at revenue enhancement and equity; rolled out a large package last year and landowner changes met with a fire storm. Moved forward with nonresident tag increases. Created opportunity to get strategic through outsourcing. Also, we are looking at alternative energy, web-based items and staff and services. Don't have all of the answers, and need to look at federal funding sources.

Illinois (Marc Miller) – Over the last six years, great deal of adversity, but the agency weathered well. In 2001, general revenue was \$100 million a year; because of line item veto, last year down to \$50 million. We did cuts we could: attrition, shedding staff, and deleted programs and other low hanging fruit. Loss of state general funds (SGF) lost us a lot of people, moved head count off of dedicated funds (PR/DJ) and need to address them, see them going into the red. Acquisitions will suffer. Fee increases important, looking at strategies to get them back into healthier shape. Held town hall meetings across the state and received broad base of support for fee increases. Constituents are eager to help. Waterfowl stamp reengineered. We are trying to restore integrity in our agency and state after the incident with the past Governor. Hope funding will be on the agenda, and get dedicated funding in near future. If we don't do it now it may not happen; further down the road, with a large population state, our concern is that the

census will be detrimental with population moving towards Chicago, more urban districts and less connection to the land. Talked about youth recruitment, and encouraging minority population recruitment. This would be more relevant in the future because we are growing more and more urban. We may find ourselves already beyond the point of where we can get it passed. We are looking at our point-of-sale (POS) system; consolidation of parks; and merger of preservation agency into DNR. Working with constituents is the only way to move past some of these issues.

Indiana (Mitch Marcus) – Our state is in similar crisis. Agency revenue is stable or increasing in fee-based revenue as a result of marketing efforts we have been doing in the last two years, such as direct mailing and radio ads. We are having success with recruitment and retention programs on public lands, are locally concentrated, and good involvement by local groups. New licenses helped our revenue; apprentice licenses and nonresident youth licenses available this fall. Connecting with industry, like Archery in the Schools, Hoosier Outdoor Experience; increased number of youth hunt days; going to flex fuel and energy efficient vehicles; using Facebook and Twitter sites; online hunt registrations; interactive web applications for where to hunt and fish; and fishing urban ponds. Opportunities include license bundling and revisions in Sportfish Restoration and how that is going to come out. In the near future we are looking at fee increases to capture federal funding and alternate funding sources. Local community organizations and conservation groups. Revenue stream should remain stable with costs.

Wisconsin (Matt Frank) – Technology such as customer service, internet presence for purchasing licenses and getting permits has increased. Now have a call center open 7-days a week from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm, an 800 number. Private vendor network expanding over last decade for license sales, expectations of public everything used to be in person, but now internet-based. We have 24 DNR service centers across the state and proposed to close counter service at those centers, and the reaction was hugely negative. We will see how that plays out. We need to leverage our scarce resources and we have been pursuing that strongly. When times are tough we rely on partnerships with local and statewide conservation organizations through sweat equity and funding to leverage resources. No big bail out, but in federal budget for 2010, youth initiative in Fish and Wildlife Service and opportunity on recruitment and retention and chance to tap into those federal resources. We are trying to build efficiency. Organized into five regions in our state, set up 20 years ago, not big reorganization, but looking at all of the vacancies and how we are structured and doing some fine tuning. For example, most forests are in the central region, but managed like they are all across the state, we can streamline that. Keep boots on the ground like biologists, etc.

Ohio (Dave Graham) – Budget is not critical, but close. Revenue predictions continue to tank, and we haven't seen the bottom yet. Short term things all going on, spending controls, not a hiring freeze, but a slow down. The long-term things being looked at in the department and division are: looking at capital assets, where employees are, facilities and possible consolidation into larger facilities instead of several smaller facilities. Expect downsizing of people which will affect entire department as well as fish and wildlife. Need to work with non-consumptive constituents who seem to want to get involved in pay scale, like Conservation Legacy Stamp. Interest in coalition of groups developing a model to get solid funding. In technology, we are investing in future with new POS system, a customer relationship system to be able to profile customers as well as sell licenses, moving to paperless-based system and less face-to-face. This will allow us to do more things and help us in the long term. People are staying home, seeing increased revenue in fish and wildlife because of that. Tremendous demand in private sector for competition in contract jobs. Strategic planning process brought in human resource element and

outsourcing possibilities. In the next 1-3 years, fiscally the division will remain sound and possibly increase with higher numbers of folks staying home. Possibly increase nonresident fees in the future, and bring some new assets to division because of reorganization. Our state is changing from manufacturing to service society.

Michigan (Becky Humphries) – Financially sound, big shift from dedicated funding portion of funding. FTE is down 33 percent, or more, than 15 years ago. Doing more than we did then, less is not more, but looking at strategies to deal with that. Need to clarify our role, we moved away from keeping plans current and are updating all of those. We are looking at getting involved in more partnerships; however we were unsuccessful in getting license fee increases. We have three main funds: forest development; parks improvement funds (camping and vehicles) were 70 percent now 0 percent, we are not KOAs and need to drive people to low cost entertainment; and use partnerships. Opportunities include: historical areas coming back to us and looking at how to use those; set up separate bonding authorities, use revenue sources and protect bonding and use in a more flexible manner. Oil and gas revenue goes into the third fund, not game and fish, we pulled \$30-\$50 million a year to develop and purchase lands. We have 4.5 million acres of land. Dedicated to cap out at \$500 million, in 8-10 years, look at using that to fund other areas, but need to be conservative. Combining agencies allows us to put back some of those funds. Need to do it right and combine folks on the landscape. All of us use some type of point-of-sale (POS) system, those with parks have reservation system and we are paying a fortune on those. Can we design a system ourselves that all of us could use where data would be compatible between states? We are talking with Matt Hogan on that because maybe we could leverage more with 50-states buying in.

Iowa (Ken Herring) – New deputy director wanted open door policy; took all suggestions and delved into hundreds of cost saving suggestions. One idea was trying a lot of the same things you have. On opportunities: think about what the legislature can do that doesn't cost money, like sustainable funding. We hatched an idea, our Governor appointed a Task Force and we have a friend in the legislature and that is how we got started. Had a license increase last year, and everyone was agreeable, 80-20 vote at state meeting and House and Senate were willing to pass it and then the Governor took that off the table. He wants us to spend our trust fund down. The headline that killed us was: "DNR proposes 34 percent increase in fees". We can't get there with consumer price index (CPI), so the strategy we have come up with is to ask for ability to package fees at, or below, existing cost. We are going to take that seriously and carefully. We told them over 65 license was losing us federal dollars, so looking at moving from 65 to 67, which was legislature-suggested. Have confidence that industry has joined us on challenge of hunter and angler recruitment and retention, it is a partnership. There are a lot of strategies, state agencies will have to be inventive and will have to rely on people outside our agency to make them happen. Looking at how we are organized, challenged in our agency to pay for services in realty, engineering, IT, etc. and looking at layoffs. We have to be frugal and I want to see the same frugality outside my direct supervision. The bottom line is that we challenged bureaus to look at staff and how they need to restructure. Dale Garner, in wildlife, did the best job: have rangers and conservation officers who are funded differently, and we challenged those two supervisors to utilize each other, but we are concerned with federal aid issues. We are looking at modest increases that will last 5-6 years.

Nebraska (Rex Amack) – Everybody is on the same page. Mike has best idea of all, Joe building cabins for Mike Hayden, we have 200-plus shop, you guys close up shop and we will use our cabins. We are lucky in Nebraska, 2-3 years ago we started looking at funding and our primary goal was to free up money for recruitment and retention and access, but we didn't know the downturn in economy was

going to hit as bad as it has. We are a farm-based state, so we are not as bad off as other states. Taking savings and transferring them to other things, looking at things we did 20 years ago and redoing them. Working with less brings the best out in people. We are also working on updating our plans; had long-term plan started in the 1990s, just now starting third one which will reflect all of the discussion we had here today. We are looking at privatization, like restaurants in state parks, for instance.

Kentucky (Jon Gassett) – Following same course of action. We are a rural state and hunting and fishing oriented. People are staying closer to home, so license sales are stable to slightly increasing. Huge retirement window of opportunity closed about eight months ago and that moved out a lot of higher salaried people and moved those cost savings into other areas. Two years ago we developed comprehensive strategic plan, and every program/budget item has to have specific reference to something in the plan or it doesn't happen. We are cutting some non-service programs, such as magazines, television shows, and workshops that I don't consider critical; they have to pay for themselves. Magazine subscription price now has to pay for the printing and staff, for instance, or cease the program. That is the approach we are taking. Marketing now and developing messages to get into the minds of kids like websites, texting, etc. Rather see kids in a treestand texting their buddies than at home texting their buddies. Our Becoming an Outdoors Woman is a great program, but it became a girls club with the same 30-35 women, so we are rolling that into a workshop for getting people outside, using education, a families-together-type program. National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) is doing well, but not seeing that selling licenses so we are looking at after-school programs to try to peak kid's interest. Go after kids, get them outside; and go after 30-plus aged people who didn't grow up hunting and fishing and are looking for things to do; demographics are getting older. The kids are not the ones buying the license, it is mom and dad.

Dan Zekor – Low hanging fruit gone for awhile, now looking elsewhere. Seeing opportunities and different ideas to tackle for the future. There is a lot of optimism out there. Strategic planning a big part of what we are doing; look for relevance in the future; managing infrastructure; leverage and buying; outreach and partnerships; bonding; and combining programs with other states.

Awards Luncheon – Sponsored by Archery Trade Association (Mitch King) (Nominations – Exhibit B)
Fisheries Biologist of the Year - Peter Jacobson, Minnesota
Law Enforcement Officer of the Year - Shawn Pennington, Missouri
Wildlife Biologist of the Year - Thomas Beissel, Illinois
Spirit of the Shack - Glen Salmon, Indiana (retired)
Sagamore - Glen Salmon, Indiana (retired); Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin (retired); and Mike Conlin (upcoming retiree)
Past President's Award - Mike Conlin, Illinois
President's Award - Wildlife Forever, Douglas Grann
Conservation Enhancement Fund jacket to Rex Amack for becoming first Sustaining Member.

Energy Development Impacts on Wildlife (e.g. wind, biofuels)... how states are dealing with it – **Rob Manes, The Nature Conservancy** – PowerPoint - “Renewable Energy and Wildlife: biofuels and wind energy” (*Exhibit C*). Biofuels and wind energy are the most rapidly developing and land-intensive forms of energy production. As you all know, there are many reasons for the recent dramatic increase in biofuel production. The two main reasons are rural economic development and energy security. Another reason people have supported biofuels is because they have the potential to reduce carbon emissions and

help mitigate climate change. I will address this effect of biofuels on carbon emissions. Forces behind energy sprawl: climate change abatement; energy security needs; misinformation and popular demand for renewable energy; rural economic development hopes; lack of regulation; inadequate science for impacts and mitigation; renewable energy requires vastly more land; federal tax credit (PTC); and renewable energy standards (RES), both state and federal; are not bad by themselves. All of the different types of biofuel and wind energy generation will take 100 million new acres at the top end; and at the low end 40-50 million acres. If we institute strong mandates at the federal level it could take 70-80 million acres. Biofuels will comprise the largest component of future U.S. "energy sprawl", demanding 36-80 million new production acres, primarily in temperate grasslands and temperate deciduous forests. With driving ethanol prices we expect 20 million more acres going into corn by 2010. Land is being cleared, but not all for corn, some for soybeans in the Dakotas; on the global perspective, five million hectares every year. At the start of the ethanol craze, they said that using ethanol could knock down greenhouse gases by 13 percent, but they didn't take into account the energy it takes to break out the fields, which is 93 percent more. How many years does it take to repay carbon debt? For corn ethanol, in about 100 years you regain the bad you did by creating a gallon of ethanol. This helps farmers, but it doesn't help climate change; 300-400 years is longer than we have to mess around with it. Cellulosic ethanol uses stems not grain crops and we could ramp up for cellulosic production by 2022. The fastest growing is miscanthus; an Asian grass which is an invasive species with no known wildlife value and Kentucky is dealing with controlling it now. We need to watch what we ask for, because the cure is worse than the disease. Biomass energy from native plant crops is viable, but more research is needed. It would take less energy; use perennial native plants; use local ecotypes; can use around birds because of single harvest after nesting season; low water, fertilizer and pesticide inputs; unharvested refugia could be used for winter cover; and we could have stubble height requirements. On wind energy, half of the wind energy facilities are on the ground. Nebraska has a public utility structure that is protecting them. The Department of Energy report shows 305,000 megawatts (MW) by 2030; 241,000 MW on land and 64,000 MW offshore for a total of 12-15 million acres, mostly in the Great Plains and Midwest. This will cause impacts of direct mortality of birds and bats, not much of an issue, if you have lots of good habitat you can sustain other issues; but loss of good habitat is hard to recover from. Bird mortality rates are pretty small, 600,000 annually; 796 million from building and window collisions; and 400 million from feral cats. But they keep building the wind turbines bigger; now 3 MW ones, which have a wind swept area of about an acre and a half, and in perspective, a 747 would fit between the blades. Bats are at greater risk and impacts on the landscape are significant, however there is not a lot of research on habitat impacts out there. Ground nesting obligates are displaced and brood rearing is interrupted, prairie chicken research shows that they avoid wind turbines in a one-acre radius and with hundreds in the area that really has a devastating affect. Also, there are genetic ramifications. We tend to overlook on wind energy, the psyche on your constituents, and if it visually degrades wild places we will have fewer constituents. The challenge is not to stop it, but to guide where it goes. If you look at maps online; in Kansas, the map from the Kansas Biological Survey shows 20 layers with GIS locations, prairie chicken ranges (lesser and greater) and native rangelands. We need to work with the wind energy developers because they can write huge checks because of energy credits. The Oklahoma Natural Resources map shows their mitigation formula. Think big dollars. Soon, we will have a nationwide database where you will be able to take your cursor and draw a polygon and the map will tell you what species are in that area, which will help wind developers keep out of the most sensitive areas. Agencies need money and you need to make action plans and maps readily available to wind energy companies and get good reputable developers to build in the right places. Bring in Universities and other experts up front. Big developers tend to want to do it well, but small ones will stab you in the back. This is the most powerful

strategy in your state and surrounding states. TNC supports done right and in the right location, tell them where you have concerns, tell them you want to work with them on doing it right and in the right place. It is tough for a developer to get power purchase unless run through KDWP and USFWS in Kansas. Most of your Governors want wind energy and biofuels, so educate them. Spent a lot of time with the Governor of Kansas and it was a worthwhile endeavor. Renewable Energy Standard (RES) mandates 20 percent of energy has to be from renewable source, and the most common is wind and getting it done right and in the right location, will be critical. Work on protection tax credits (PTC); and getting green certification, such as green forestry, do it for wind energy and tie it to RES and PTC. If working with developers, get involved before they pick the site. Encourage you to get involved with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), they are doing a good job to protect your interests; and 16-20 states have state level NEPA laws. Place conservation easements in strategic areas and create powerful partnerships. Other sources include: The Department of Interior federal advisory committee; AFWA; American Wind and Wildlife Institute; National Wind and Wildlife Institute; National Wind Coordinating Collaborative; and NGO position statements and actions. We are talking about a 100-million acre threat, and land that is important to wildlife. Website: <http://www.nature.org/>

Gary Taylor, AFWA – I want to amplify a couple of things, in addition to state level issues, there are renewable energy bills in both the House and Senate, which has RES title and has criteria for biomass, and doesn't have a definition of sustainability. We are working on the big energy bill that is efficient in respect to use of biomass. Jen and I will be working with you and talking to your state forestry leaders.

Video Marketing - My Outdoor TV – Chris Moise, CEO – PowerPoint – “Engage Your Audience With Online Video” (*Exhibit D*). We are the largest provider of outdoor TV, comes from The Nashville Network (TNN), now Spike TV. Used to air TNN Outdoors, taken to web, work with 300 TV producers, 30 state agencies and 30 federal agencies. Gage audience better with online video. More people are watching TV online because they can watch it on demand. Online video transformed the landscape for communicators, the same reason why TV is so popular is what is making the web a great tool to get their message out. Statistics show: 77 percent viewed online video; compared to last year, 34 percent more; watched 273 minutes; and 87 videos per month. Most of you have heard of YouTube, and the largest category on the web is news, which is hurting local TV stations. Private industry is embracing the web, ramping ads on video, retailers are using more in shopping cart, when product in shopping cart, they purchased more. Watched 40 percent more product videos in 2008, and travel decisions are based on video. When we first launched, we did hunting and fishing shows and have shifted from photos to video online. Looking at Google search, watching videos is up by quite a percentage. If looking from marketing perspective, sites with video show people stay on the site longer. TNN has two shows they air on PBS, but online we can reach all 50 states and over 30 countries and we do reach younger audiences about the outdoors. Online distribution: YouTube is free and 60,000 videos are set up every day, but the problem with YouTube is all videos are placed in a big hole. You can go into a channel, but there are thousands of those online. How do you integrate with current website to promote to your constituents? You need a marketing plan. Working with Arkansas in putting up their Commission meeting minutes; Maine sent out snowmobile safety videos dealing with avalanches, and put a link to their website to buy hunting licenses. Other states like Ohio have done things too. Some states are sending it to us and we put it up; others, like Montana, are putting up weekly items and putting reminders on their website. Partner with websites that assist in branding your video and reach users interested in the content. Looking at goals from agency perspective: look at message and analyze objective; how to draw traffic to website; increase license sales; provide additional information; safety and education; and increase site engagement. When we first started two years ago, everyone said nobody would watch more than three-

minute videos. Our average video is 12 minutes; and now people are watching 30-minute shows online, which match TV viewing habits. Commercially we are using the same concept on our new website, TripJumper.com which will be for outdoor travel: from skiing to hiking, to hunting, fishing, camping, and outdoor activities. Instead of trip-oriented it is what-you-want-to-do oriented. Website: <http://www.myoutdoortv.com/>

Youth Careers in Nature – Jay Slack, USFWS – PowerPoint – “National Conservation Training Center” (*Exhibit E*). NCTC is located in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. We do training for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), but also training with other folks. We are a 550-acre facility on the Potomac River: a campus with all facilities onsite, 225 rooms in four lodges; dining facilities without leaving the campus; and plenty of things to do outside also. We have a variety of classrooms, seating 8-60, as well as an auditorium that seats 250. We have over 15,000 visitors annually and don’t just train the USFWS, but the National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), other government agencies, states, and non profit conservation groups. We are all feeling the crunch on budgets, so we are doing things smarter with time and resources, but unfortunately training gets cut first when you should be thinking about training and efficiency first. Secretary Salazar’s initiative for FY 2010 included: \$20 million base budget for Youth and Careers in Nature and working on getting new money, a \$50 million Youth Conservation Corps Initiative, of which \$1 million will go to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF); \$1 million to the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC); \$20 million in new funds for Youth and Careers in Nature, with \$12 million to BLM, NPS and United States Geological Survey (USGS) and \$8 million to USFWS; and \$28 million for Educating Youth Hunters and Anglers, which was cut from the budget. You may speak to Hannibal Bolton to see if that money is really gone, but it was for Wildlife Restoration Grants: \$25.2 million to the states; and \$2 million to the tribes. NCTC is planning to spend: \$1.2 million for interagency coordination; \$2 million for capacity building; and \$1 million for career awareness. We are taking a three-pronged approach: building connecting people with nature (CPWN) initiative to engage youth in public service; enhance science-based programs in high schools, communities and partners; and improve college curricula to feed our resource professional workforce. On interagency coordination, we will bring in folks and take a look at what is going on now; do comprehensive needs assessments to work with stakeholders to come up with a plan; national strategic planning workshops; electronic collaboration tools; and hold regular council coordination meetings. Youth Conservation Career Institute (YCCI) and mentoring programs will send them on assignment at federal or state level; inventory of existing program; conduct “train-the-trainer” course to mentor folks; training modules to go into the schools; produce job aids; establish evaluation criteria; and implement assessment tools to see how many end up in those careers. For career awareness we will create: summer career awareness institutes; college administrators; student work/internship; electronic field trip programs, how to reach those using YouTube or other programs; and “grab” and “go” kits. Four Courses are being developed, in collaboration with USGS: 1) CSP3176, which supports structured conservation decision making process and will be applicable on multiple scales and multiple issues; 2) CSP3176, Adaptive Management, structured decision making for recurrent decisions: builds on (CSP3171) intro to structured decision making; interactive learning process to improve understanding and natural resource management; building models, formal methods of learning and principals of optimization, which will give outflow from feedback and help them make good decisions; targeting mid-level; 3) ECS3149, principles of modeling course to analyze data; targeted at biologists and scientists; and 4) ECS3159, which will be USFWS/USGS structured, offered several times a year, we solicit problems and bring four to each workshop where they will be taught structured

decision making process in practice and people walk away with recommendations on problems; target is managers, biologists and scientists. Website: <http://training.fws.gov/>

Break – Sponsored by D.J. Case and Associates

PARTNER UPDATES

U.S. Forest Service - *Lee Nightingale, Deputy Regional Forester, Region 9* – I am relatively new (named DRF earlier in 2009), but am familiar with the Midwest, being originally from Kansas. The bulk of my background is in human dimensions with much involvement in programmatic agreements. During my career, I have served in many locations from Alaska to the south and west. I am here today to represent the USFS Eastern Region (Region 9), which includes all states east Minnesota and northeast of Missouri and Indiana, included are 14 national forests and one grassland-prairie. Urban intensive areas and a diverse forestland make management in R9 extremely complex; we have approximately 1,500 employees, Bill Bartush, regional wildlife program manager is here with me today. The reigns of the Forest Service recently changed hands - our new chief is Tom Tidwell, a Montana Forester. The Forest Service responsibility includes research as well as state and private forestry (Northeast Area); most associate the Northeast Area as the individual state foresters' and their staff. Northeast area state and private forestry programs are closely aligned with the Northern Research Station as many NRS & S&P offices are co-located, the headquarters for the Northeast Area is New Town Square in Pennsylvania. Some specific issues of concern to the MAFWA are: Sustainable operations – R9 is concerned about containing costs, being effective with funds and looking for efficiencies through partnerships. R9 is involved in developing a video to look at ways to save money and work efficiently. Recent review from our chief office in Washington includes other issues of concern such as climate change and outreaching to youth through our program “kids in the woods”; these are very similar to issues I have heard from Midwest directors here today. We are also having internal issues; according to the office of personnel management, the Forest Service is one of the lowest ranked federal employers in the nation. Some of the low personnel ratings are attributed directly to our recent move to centralize all FS business operations to a national facility in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The American Recovery & Restoration Act (ARRA) – as with most federal agencies our primary focus with the new administration is on economic recovery. The Forest Service is focusing efforts on infrastructure (facilities such as roads and bridges) and reduction of hazardous fuel and biomass consideration for alternative energy sources. Specific FS projects related to these projects to date as funded in selected Midwest states are as follows: \$3.6 million to Illinois; \$1.3 million to Indiana; \$18 million to Michigan; \$10.5 million to Minnesota; \$2.9 million to Missouri; \$4.7 million to Ohio; and \$1.6 million to Wisconsin. Resources: A disease coined “White Nose Syndrome” (WNS) is affecting many bat species in the Northeast; the name is due to a white powdery substance found on infected bats during hibernation – the infection has resulted in high mortality. A recent letter I want to share regarding the importance of bats discusses their role to agriculture and people; specifically consuming large numbers of insects at night, destructive moths and other pests could become much more destructive without the beneficial impacts of bats. WNS is spreading rapidly, originally found in New York and New Hampshire in 2006, it has now found in almost all northeastern states south to Virginia. Last week, federal agencies held a Congressional briefing about WNS and its impacts to species of concern such as Indiana bat. We are unable to track WNS as well as we would like, but we have found it is not limited to caves, as it has been found in abandoned mines. A cave advisory has been issued from the FS to all users of our caves and mines; we post reports on our website and provide links to ongoing WNS research. The FS goal is to reduce or stop

the spread of WNS, the FS implements all USFWS guidelines and has taken preventive measures to restrict human spread of spores from the fungus. It appears those who recreate in the caves are unwittingly spreading the disease. FS caves and mines provide hibernacula as well as our forests provide foraging habitat for bats; to develop baseline information, the FS biologists and cooperators are conducting monitoring, summer and fall, including swarming surveys with many other federal agencies. The FS is currently working with US Army Corps of Engineers to get baseline summer population data. Other Resource issues of interest to MAFWA: (1) The R9 FS units are working with the Wildlife Management Institute and state agencies in the “early forest restoration” project to improve habitat for many species such as golden-winged warbler and woodcock; (2) state Wildlife Action Plans in the and state forest assessments to establish state forest action plans are an important coordination effort; (3) The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to include the NFWF Kirkland’s warbler Keystone Initiative are important management considerations with the potential for vastly improved funding and habitat restoration potential; (4) Integrated bird monitoring and coordination with joint ventures for key species management is an active element of FS units with state partners and USFWS; (5) southern tier FS units (in Missouri, Indiana, Ohio) and the partner states are working closely to develop oak restoration efforts to improve habitat and standardize bird monitoring across large landscapes; (6) The FS is developing priority areas for oak forest restoration with partners – the focus is to identify priority areas to ensure future functioning ecosystems to deal with climate changes. In addition to terrestrial programs, the (7) Aquatic and Fisheries efforts are also very impressive – the National Fish Habitat Action Plan include many natural resource agencies as well as the sport fishing and boat industries. Starting in 2002, Fish Habitat Partnerships now include at least seven focus areas and is a very comprehensive and well vetted program. Of importance to MAFWA partners is the (a) Midwest Glacial Lakes in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan; the Mississippi River (b) Driftless Area in Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois, this are includes a high concentration of cold water streams but with habitat degradation and loss; (c) Ohio River Basin and (d) Great Lakes Basin partnerships, (e) Reservoir Fisheries Partnership, (f) Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership, and (g) Fisher and Farmers Fish Habitat Partnership and a portion of the Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership. The FS Eastern Region is developing an aquatic conservation strategy based on the Fish Habitat Partnerships conservation planning and strategic plan documents. Success Stories can be found on our agency website <http://www.fs.fed.us> or our regional website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/>

U.S Geological Survey - Max Etheridge, Regional Executive, North Central States – PowerPoint – “USGS Projects and Capabilities June, 2009” (Exhibit F). - I attended the MAFWA meeting last year in Estes Park, so this is my second year. Sue Haseltine will be out tomorrow to talk to you about climate change. An update on regional reorganization: we have a new regional director, Stan Ponce in Denver, he started in January; regional science plan; input on Bureau initiative process; quick response program with USFWS, and National Resource Preservation Program with NPS. USGS is divided into three regions, western, central and eastern; and each region is now divided into three sub-regions by geographical regions. In the Central Region we are divided into: north central, south central and Rocky Mountain. Several of the MAFWA states are east of the Mississippi and Leon Carl, whose office is in Ann Arbor, Michigan, covers those. There are three regional managers in the central region and I manage seven states in the north central region. The science plan document came out two years ago for 2007-2017, with six to seven broad themes: ecosystems; global change; energy and minerals; hazards; human health; water census; and data integration. We are attempting to focus in one of the science categories. We have good long-term monitoring, assessment and research; expertise; and collaborations. Examples of USGS capabilities for you that work in wildlife area are: remote sensing research and

applications; environmental toxicology and chemistry; chemical, genetic and molecular tools; isotope geochemistry and geochronology; early warning and environmental monitoring of hazards; geochemistry, biogeochemistry; geophysics; geologic mapping; water quality; forecasting, early detection, and rapid response to invasive species; and socioeconomics. Priorities in short-term include: carbon sequestration, biological and geological; National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center interested in partnering with others; Lower Mississippi Valley; and Greater Platte River Basin. We are planning for regional climate science hubs in the: intermountain west; northeast; and south central regions. A map of the Greater Platte River Basin shows sand hills of western Nebraska, big desert sand dunes with a thin layer of vegetation; another map of the area shows the contrast of this area to surrounding areas. The central region's long-term priorities are to develop a plan to identify capabilities, ongoing activities and programs, potential partnerships and goals with emphasis on: ecosystems; climate change; hazards and energy; water census; health; and data management. Science highlights: develop a science plan and get money next year for Great Platte River Basin; Northern Rockies hub; carbon sequestration funding of \$3 million to study last year and another \$3 million next year; and study pine beetle impacts. Partnerships include National Ecological Observations Network (NEON) through the National Phenology Network. Water quantity and quality shows that we can't remove pharmaceuticals from the water; devastation of flooding in Des Moines was another major event as was the Red River flooding in Fargo, North Dakota. USGS is looking at studying ground water because surface water is almost all allocated. The Williston basin (North Dakota) is the largest untapped oil reserve in the United States (lower 48 states). From the High Plains aquifer study in 2009: ground and surface water is contaminated from manure and wastewater; agricultural fertilizer is not all absorbed by plants, excess gets carried to the Gulf of Mexico and is causing problems; nutrients are showing up in surface water; and construct wetlands to mitigate nitrogen additions to small ponds or lakes. Constructed wetlands in Iowa for wastewater treatment and reuse, to improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat. John Wesley Powell Institute in Fort Collins, Colorado, is being used to stimulate science and understanding of USGS. Invasive species: will be looking at Asian carp later; a lot of growth on the ground that is pushing out native species. I have included a 90-page white paper handout in your folder with a list of active projects in your 14 states, in alphabetical order, with a list of USGS contacts at the back. Every state has a water resource center and some states have biology centers. I have two biology centers, one in Bozeman, Montana; and one in Jamestown, North Dakota. There are science centers in Fort Collins, Colorado; LaCrosse, Wisconsin; Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Madison, Wisconsin. Fact sheets on each of the science centers and fact sheets on timely issues are also included. Also, I have included one on investigating the white nose bat syndrome. Any of these topics can be found on the USGS website at: www.usgs.gov or the Central Region website at: www.cr.usgs.gov

USDA/APHIS, Wildlife Services - *Charles Brown, Eastern Regional Director (Exhibit G)* – Last year Jeff Green, the Western Region director presented to you, this year it is my turn. Most of you are familiar with our program. Our mission is to provide federal leadership to resolve wildlife conflicts and we have personnel in all 50 states. We work with state agencies and federal partnerships and provide technical assistance or direct assistance under cooperative agreements. There are a lot of issues with human populations, over 300 million people in this country, so there is a lot of conflict. We expanded into wildlife diseases, mitigating problems with raccoon rabies; monkey pox scare; West Nile virus; CWD; feral swine issues; and bovine issues. We have wildlife disease biologists in almost every state, hired 45 biologists over the last few years. One of the other areas on the forefront is Avian Influenza, HPA1, and we provided funding to each of you for collecting samples. The last sampling year we

collected 65,000 wild birds and 26,000 environmental samples, but it was not detected in the U.S. There is still money available in Tier 1 and Tier 2 states, but not for Tier 3 states; and we have to reduce the number of samples we will collect in those states. We appreciate all of your help. After Flight 1549 went into the Hudson, because of geese going into the jet engine, this issue was brought to the forefront, but we have worked with airports for decades to stop air strikes with birds; no funding was received, but cooperative effort made with airports. Increased emphasis on that, we have known for years that birds can bring down big airplanes. We have had planes go down in the past and in fact, loss of life. Now Congressional hearings, getting increased number of calls and working on plans for airports. In the last two presentations we heard about the white nose bat syndrome, and we have entered into an agreement to prepare a template for what you should, or shouldn't do, if you encounter this in your state. We are working with the USFWS and states impacted to prepare this emergency plan template to protect bats and bat colonies. This will be completed by December 31; we hired Leann White who will be working with Joe Caudell from Indiana. Contact me for more information. I have worked with many of you and enjoy our working relationship. Other items: livestock issues; wolf delisting on and off; double crested cormorant negatively impacted; T&E; invasive species; and urban and suburban deer. Our website is: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Region 3 – Tom Melius, Regional Director (Exhibit H) – Originally from South Dakota, but have been with the USFWS for a number of years, and in Alaska for the last three years. Region 3 is well known for its partnerships and I tried to get out to the eight states in MAFWA that I oversee. I will take this opportunity to talk about the highlights of the next few years. We are under new administration with a new Secretary and a new Director. Sam Hamilton, our new Director, is the current Regional Director in the southeast in Atlanta and is an avid fisherman and hunter. Highlights include: climate change; energy and wildlife; and strategic planning. Earlier this month received international recognition on the Upper Mississippi which was chosen as a Wetlands of International Importance by RAMSAR; it is 3,002 acres. The RAMSAR designation involves five states and 26 wetlands in the U.S. In the Midwest we also have: Cache River - Cypress Creek Wetlands, Illinois; Cheyenne Bottoms, Kansas; Horicon Marsh, Wisconsin; Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Kansas; Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, South Dakota; and Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park, Ohio. The USFWS is celebrating its 85th birthday this year. We have added additional lands to our refuge system, 18,000 acres to the Glacial Ridge in Minnesota. Also, adding additional acres for wildlife conservation due to the recently awarded North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant in Michigan through partners and land trust donations. Sent flood response to North Dakota, like airboats to Fargo and Moorhead; with 50-60 people going during snow and weekends, to help with search and rescue. Connecting Children and Nature, doubled efforts in environmental education in Prairie Wetland Learning Center at Fergus Falls, Minnesota, 5th graders spend half of a day in that area, and 250,000 kids have been out there. Small wetlands acquisition program uses duck stamp dollars to have areas for wildlife, conservation and hunting opportunities. New state funding program for next 25 years in Minnesota looking towards providing habitat restoration and hunting opportunities. In our law enforcement division we work side-by-side with state agencies, recently worked with Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota, and Indiana. These are good state partnerships. White Nose Syndrome (WNS) in bats is on the brink of being one of most devastating diseases in the U.S., with mortality rate, after being discovered in a cave, of 100 percent; our compliments to Indiana for their proactive work within the caving community and stopping the possible spread of the disease. Gray wolves delisting is on again, off again; we did make an announcement today that earlier this year they were delisted, but we got sued and decided that agreement would be pulled back for further action

and work again towards moving forward with current information, public comment and action in the future. Fisheries, worked long and hard with lake trout populations, working with Great Lakes states, Canadian governments and tribes, putting four million lake trout in the waters each year. Work with implementation of bighead, grass and silver carp. Trying to work on pallid sturgeon; in Minnesota on Spencer Baird mussels; fish passage dam removal programs will open stretches of Midwest rivers; and working in Wisconsin on coaster brook trout stocking. Also, working with a multitude of partners on the National Fish Habitat Plan; and working on three other fish habitat partnerships. Migratory birds are a cornerstone of the agency and Secretary Salazar put out a notice and the report revealed that threatened and endangered birds are coming back. We worked closely with the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) to form a woodcock forest bird management plan; for golden wing warbler, woodcock and other species. Our Joint Venture office is our bread and butter, with 23 projects approved this year, totaling about \$9 million and bringing in \$42 million in partnerships, and 42,000 acres to be restored. Sport Fishing Restoration Funds are up with fishing license sales up and an upsurge in receipts of sales of guns and ammunition for wildlife funds. Many of us in federal agencies are receiving funding, \$26 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), to build visitor centers, work with private lands folks to do habitat work, and fish passage. Charley Wooley does great work as my assistant. We hope to have \$50 million plus in resources for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Website: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Region 3 – Jim Hodgson, Federal Aid Chief – Born in Nebraska, but most of my professional career was spent in Minnesota. I started this new job the first week of February. Staff is in Minneapolis trying to get fiscal year grants out. Neat projects go through my office and it is my pleasure to sign and approve them. There are some creative names for projects, for example, “Survey of Bats in Maternity Nests in Labor”, which was an interesting study. I have seen land issues and conflicts; poor economy; and legislators getting creative on how they spend funds, since I started. What is federal nexus? They want to sell lands; legislators want to sell fish hatcheries to people they bought the land from 40 years ago, and we take all of that very seriously. My staff is willing to go the extra mile to fix problems like that. We will do what we can to correct any potential diversion situation. Thoughts and visions on us moving forward: climate change additional funds through state wildlife grants, influx on exact amounts, tied to carbon-trade legislation; audit findings, in some cases we failed the states, shortcoming on our part as well as the state’s shortcoming and we will work with the states to resolve those before they happen. On land issues: recreational cases, keep conflicts from happening, but land records don’t equal and we need a better land management and information system. Should be able to call up a map with GIS and GPS, to see if federal interest with any land and to help reconcile state and federal issues. Having been at the state level, in Minnesota, with federal grants, it is obligatory paperwork, you have to do it, but doesn’t have to be as complicated as it is, we want to work with you to make that more efficient. Receipts on trust funds, sport fish compared to 2008, \$31 million down or 3.75 percent, positive is that is starting to improve over the past couple of months, motor boat gas is higher than in 2008; in Pittman Robertson, \$45 million greater than 2008, 27 percent more, people are buying more shooting equipment. Website: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Region 6 – Steve Guertin, Regional Director – I was born in New Jersey, so I did not come from the Midwest, but I have five of your states in my Region. Had a number of leadership changes, Noreen Walsh, Mike Thabault, Steve Oberhauser, and Hugh Morrison. On flood response, there were devastating damages, \$38 million in North Dakota and Minnesota. We were unable to get traction to get emergency supplement, but proud of the 150 search and rescue missions from

Region 3 and Region 6 personnel. We have obligated 20 percent of funds for a new visitor center outside of Bismarck, North Dakota. Working with USGS, on climate change for the Service (USFWS) to delineate, modeled off Migratory Bird Conservation. Approach intertwined with \$80 million package on climate change; \$20 million for on-the-ground projects and \$40 million for states. Focusing on overall endangered species and the resounding message is that USFWS will come in with regulations based on sound science, like wolf delisting. Policy verdict on Yellowstone grizzly bears was endorsed by science. We deliver recommendations and are counting on state counterparts as we move forward with these. Findings due the end of this year include: Black-tailed prairie dog; American pika review; regulatory determination on climate change; and critical habitat on Preble's meadow jumping mouse. On Missouri River issues, our involvement is to provide input and programmatic oversight; working with Corps on this, and looking at the Pick-Sloan Act, which could be enormously complex. For instance, we are trying to balance the needs of pallid sturgeon with barge traffic and with spring rise there is more water for pallid sturgeon for spawning. The Service is involved in Climate Change workshops, which were attended by states, federal agencies and NGOs; working on adaptation of wildlife strategies, land acquisitions, setting up corridors and things like that. <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/>

Off-site Event - Spirit of Peoria Riverboat Ride, Dinner, Asian Carp Viewing - head south on Illinois River to view Asian "flying" carp - Sponsored by Bass Pro Shops

Hospitality Room – Sponsored by the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

Tuesday, June 30, 2009

STRATEGIC ISSUES DISCUSSION: Follow-up from State Reports – Dan Zekor – There will be a written report provided later.

PARTNER UPDATES (continued)

AFWA (moved from Monday) - ***Rex Amack, Director, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and AFWA President*** – We have just completed a six year period in Illinois where the DNR was irrelevant, how can that happen when based on natural resources? The human population is increasing with habitat for wildlife decreasing on alarming scale. We are going the other way in Nebraska, more habitat today than ever before because we are becoming more urbanized; in 1803, 97 percent were engaged in agriculture, in 2000, 97 percent were not engaged in agriculture, in some cases benefited wildlife, but in most cases, not. USA is uncontrolled sprawl area, zoning is tough and wildlife comes in second. Happy to work with Matt and his team and deal with everything from insects to reptiles, CITES, etc. If wildlife management was an easy job anybody could do it then there would be quite a lot of competition for these jobs. On national level we couldn't pull stimulus money to wildlife side, not shovel ready. Tried to get our delegation to focus on water quality, some of the money went to federal agencies. Matt and his crew are foraging for the Association (AFWA), working with the industry and moving forward as partners. This is the seventh year we are trying to define partnerships. ATA is stepping forward and doing all they can. Working on an RBFF type organization for the hunting side. Climate bills are going through Congress one way or another; it takes Congress a long time to figure it out, but I believe there will be money in that bill. States are doing more with less; less time for meetings and in reaction to that we have shortened the meeting in Austin, Texas this year. When we find ourselves with deadlines the more we tend to meet them. Expect greater things to come from AFWA, Matt hasn't met his stride yet.

Bringing website up to snuff and it is looking fabulous. Not designed for public, but designed for members; there are new features for committee chairs or co-chairs to construct presentations for annual meeting; but we can never replace meetings in person with conference calls. Website:

<http://www.fishwildlife.org/>

AFWA - Matt Hogan – Executive Director, AFWA – I have three of our staff here, Carol Bambery; Gary Taylor and Jen Mock Schaffer. This is my twentieth year in Washington DC, and there are those who don't do much and take credit, and those who do a lot of work and take no credit, but Gary has done the lion's share on climate change. Jen Mock Schaffer, worked through two farm bills, received award from Pheasants Forever, made the Association stronger and she has become a real leader on that. We have wonderful staff at AFWA and it is amazing to me how many staff some NGOs have to throw at an issue, like five at climate change and we don't even have one we can put on that full time. I want to thank folks around this table, like Dave Schad who has done so much on climate change; Rex (Amack) as President; Becky (Humphries) for work on animal health and for donating Carol (Bambery) to us; Glen (Salmon) did so much work for Association; Mike (Conlin) on Executive Committee and representing MAFWA; and Matt (Frank) chairs the budget committee. At the annual meeting we trimmed a day; for Directors we are hosting a dove hunt on Saturday before the meeting starts; and we cut the plenary session down. On renewable energy, tremendous impacts on what we all do. T. Boone Pickens has been an advocate for wind and we need to find someone on the opposite side to debate Pickens. More than half of the directors have turned over in my three years, so we have some time set aside for new directors. We had 40 applicants from five MAFWA states with 11 candidates for the NCLI. We are aware of budget problems, so we are trying to provide service with less money. Last year we were asking you to fund Jen's position, but we applied for a multi-state grant, which would do away with that special assessment request for 2010. We will be asking only for base dues this year, not the other two assessments. The federal budget committee reviews federal agency budgets and makes recommendations, bills didn't get done up until April, so we had a shortened schedule, but both Matt (Frank) and Jon (Gassett) sat down with Gary (Taylor) and I and made some recommendations. We want to start identifying some priorities earlier, work with federal agencies that are already working on their budget and follow it through the process, and get us involved earlier and when budgets get reduced in February we know what we are looking at. Develop priorities in advance; feed those to regional associations and up to us; we missed some opportunities for the current fiscal year. Good news is additional dollars for climate change in President's bill. Lower allocation, but significant funding. House changed match from 50/50 to 75/25. On bad news, lost \$28 million for recruitment and retention for young hunters, went over with a thud in Congress, wasn't packaged as well as it could have been and Congress could have funded that, but they didn't. On appropriations committee don't see it as their job to fund state agencies, only federal agencies. Some folks just didn't like the idea of putting guns in kid's hands, so those three things together kept it out. Hope to still get \$1-2 million at least for seed money. Worked hard to strengthen relationship with fishing and shooting industry, RBFF will pay some benefits. Last reauthorization, five years ago, was pretty ugly and we were told to get our house in order, but our relationship with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) has never been better. Rocky road with partners in fishing industry, but better. Got proposal on the Hill and hope program will be reauthorized. Excise tax program PR/DJ lowest in country, had a unified group going in, but it will be hard to see someone swoop in and take that money. We need to be united. Ron, Ken and colleagues have been working on that and keeping us moving forward. Sam Hamilton is the new USFWS Director, couldn't have done any better from the inside. It has been positive so far with the new administration and their willingness to work with us. Website: <http://www.fishwildlife.org/>

AFWA - Public Trust Doctrine and Wildlife – Carol Bambery – PowerPoint – “Wildlife as a Public Trust Resource” and its importance (*Exhibit I*). Four items: trace historic origins of the Public Trust Doctrine (PTD); discuss evolution; discuss the North American model of wildlife conservation; and threats. The nature of the PTD is certain natural resources, especially waters, like sea beds and large navigable lakes and rivers are of such importance to the public that they are incapable of purely private ownership and control. The concept was put into law in Roman law in the 6th Century. It said: “By law of nature these things are common to all mankind – the air, running water, the seas, and consequently the shores of the sea. No one, therefore, is forbidden to approach the seashore, provided he respects habitation, monuments, and the buildings, which are not, like the sea, subject only to the law of nations.” PTD was then incorporated into English Common Law and first incorporated in American jurisprudence in 1821 involving oyster beds on Raritan Bay, New Jersey. States stepped into the shoes of the King of England and became the trustees. PTD migrates inland up Mississippi River in 1876: “It appears to be the settled law of that State (Iowa) that the title of (those dwelling) on the banks of the Mississippi extends only to the ordinary high-water mark, and that the shore between high and low-water mark, as well as the bed of the river, belongs to the State. This is also the common law with regard to navigable waters; and it is especially true with regard to the Mississippi and its principal branches.” Finally it sails into the Great Lakes in 1892. The Court had previously held in the case of the *Genesee Chief*, 12 U.S. (How.) 443 (1891) that the Great Lakes were commercially navigable and subject to federal admiralty law. The Court then extended the PTD into the Great Lakes in what Professor Joe Sax describes as the “lodestar” public trust case, *Illinois Central R. Co. v Illinois*, 146 U. S. 387 (1892): “We hold, therefore, that the same doctrine as to the dominion and sovereignty over and ownership of lands under tide waters in the borders of the sea, and that the lands are held by the same right in the one case as in the other, subject to the same trusts and limitations.” Professor Sax from the University of Michigan, published an article in 1970 entitled, “The Public Trust Doctrine in Natural Resources Law: Effective Judicial Intervention”, which is considered to be one of the 10 most influential law review articles ever written. PTD is a different type of title where the state holds lands in trust for the people of the state that they may enjoy navigation of the waters. States have a duty to enforce the trust. In extending it into Michigan’s navigable waters, the Michigan Supreme Court described the trust in 1926. Traditional uses protected by PTD are navigation; fishing; and commerce. Professor Sax breathed life into it by stating, “Of all the concepts known to American law, only the public trust doctrine seems to have the breadth and substantive content which might make it useful as a tool of general application for citizens seeking to develop a comprehensive legal approach to resource management problems.” In 1971, California recognizes that the PTD embraces ecological values and the relationship between animals and their environments. In 1972, Wisconsin recognizes that the PTD protects freshwater wetlands. In 1983, an important case with the National Audubon, which said that the case represented a doctrinal shift from permitting certain uses on public trust lands to affirmatively protect natural resources, a significant change in the public trust doctrine’s traditional focus. Another National Audubon case in California recognized that the PTD protected non-navigable tributaries from diversions. “Thus, the public trust is more than an affirmation of state power to use public property for public purposes. It is an affirmation of the duty of the state to protect the people’s common heritage of streams, lakes, marshlands and tidelands, surrendering that right of protection only in rare cases when the abandonment of that right is consistent with the purposes of the trust.” The first case in the U.S. Supreme Court that recognized ownership of fish and wildlife; how did this come about; because the court ruled that since the American Revolution the people held public trust responsibilities for fish and wildlife except for rights specified in the U.S. Constitution. Since that time, legislation drafted around issues of wildlife ownership has

reflected the PTD whether it is administered by federal or state governments. Last year, a case in California passed a law that wildlife does fall under the umbrella of the PTD. California case held: wildlife, including birds, is considered to be a public trust resource of all the people of the state; members of the public may enforce the trust; and that the proper defendant in such an action is the state or its subdivisions, not the companies themselves. Broad pronouncements in federal law reads: “(a) In general, the States possess broad trustee and police powers over fish and wildlife within their borders, including fish and wildlife found on Federal lands within a state.” State constitutions have declared wildlife as public trust resources. In Wisconsin they have declared wildlife as public trust resources; while “trust” is mentioned in Ohio and Michigan; and strong implicit language is articulating wildlife is held in trust for the public in Indiana, Kentucky and Minnesota. The Wildlife Violator Compacts are agreements signed in many states, which reads like a contract, not like most legislation. The Midwest participating states are: Colorado, South Dakota, Iowa, Michigan, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, Minnesota, North Dakota, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. Doctrine can be used as focal point of arguments both for and against hunting. Under PTD, hunting is recognized as traditionally protected; a privilege passionately held by hunters, and is recognized as a traditionally protected public use, or right. Accordingly, PTD can provide hunters with a means by which they can legally challenge certain restrictions and prohibitions on hunting that are inconsistent with the conservation of wildlife. On the other side there is the potential for anti-hunters to use the PTD as a basis for enjoining state-permitted sport hunting with taking wildlife resources belonging to all the people and using the resources contrary to public policy. Aldo Leopold said, “Hunting should be protected so long as it tends to preserve wildlife, and when it no longer does so, it should be restricted or prohibited.” States strive to achieve this balance of taking and preserving wildlife by regulating peoples’ actions. PTD is recognized as a doctrine of what has come to be known as the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which is viewed by many as an important conservation construct of law, policy, program framework and scientific investigation, especially in this room, but unfortunately outside, it is not. Two basic principles: fish and wildlife belong to all citizens and are to be managed to sustain populations forever; and advocate for the primacy of state management authority for resident wildlife. The model’s two basic tenets are elaborated by seven concise doctrines first articulated in the mid-to-late 1800’s, known as the seven sisters of conservation. They are: 1) wildlife as public trust resources; 2) prohibitions on commerce; 3) hunting opportunity for all; 4) non-frivolous use of wildlife; 5) wildlife is considered an international resource; 6) scientific management; and 7) democratic rule of law. The first one, wildlife as a public trust, was established in 1842 and says that it is the government’s responsibility to hold wildlife nature in trust for all citizens. Prohibitions on commerce were led by hunters and anglers to eliminate markets and commercial traffic in dead animal parts. Hunting opportunity for all, fair and equitable opportunity to participate in hunting and fishing in Canada and U.S. Non-frivolous use of wildlife, guidelines that defined killing for food and fur, self-defense, and property protection. Wildlife is considered an international resource not controlled by boundaries of states and nations, for instance the Migratory Bird Treaty. Scientific management, hunters and anglers are naturalists. Leopold in his 1930 American Game Policy, credited Theodore Roosevelt, stating that science should be the underpinning of wildlife policies and in 1937, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act set precedent for the role of science over politics as the proper tool to discharge wildlife policy. Democratic rule of law protects against the rise of elites who would appropriate wildlife for themselves. The keystone of the North American model is that wildlife is managed as a public trust resource and an uninformed public makes wildlife management difficult to effectively address. Threats to PTD: wildlife resources are viewed as less important or relevant to the general public, and not warranting public support for conservation; wildlife resources are viewed as an artifact of the past separated from modern life, to be viewed and appreciated, yet with a

lack of understanding and acceptance of utilization concepts of sustainable use; and wildlife resources are viewed as a liability or threat to be minimized to the extent possible rather than an asset to be conserved and managed to sustain benefits for the current and future generations. Recommendations to help trustees of the public's wildlife ensure wildlife continues to be a public trust resource and that the public has access to its wildlife in perpetuity might involve statutory change, consider strengthening language; policy change, increasing the focus within state and federal governments; and outreach and education, taught in law schools and universities. Conferences like this one contribute to the advancement of the PTD, the North American (NA) Model of Wildlife Conservation. **Ollie Torgerson** – On self-assessment, for instance on deer populations in the Midwest, with more deer than good for other wildlife species; are we violating our own PTD or the NA Model? Are we vulnerable? **Becky Humphries** – We challenged our Commission to rethink our deer management roles. As deer numbers get higher, than the pendulum swings the other way. **Matt Frank** – Science is on one side and belief in personal opinion on the other and we are constantly trying to find a good balance. **Jen Mock Schaffer** – They don't teach the North American model in law schools. Carol, describe what they do teach on wildlife law? **Carol Bambery** – They teach you how to think like a lawyer, and go with federal legislation, not states. Very few colleges have any wildlife law courses. Animal rightists have infiltrated our law schools, so the North American model is not going to come up in that type of situation. We have developed a syllabus to go into law schools. **Matt Hogan** – I forgot to mention, Glen Salmon chaired the Trust Fund Committee and the Joint Task Force and now Dave Schad will fill those positions; and Dave Graham will fill Glen's shoes on the Agency/Industry Steering Committee. **Rex Amack** – According to PTD, wildlife belongs to all the people, we protect wildlife, but as soon as you hit it with your car it belongs to you and the higher the population, the more accidents you have.

Aquatic Nuisance Species – Managing the Resource and the User – Phil Moy, Wisconsin Sea Grant

– PowerPoint - “Manage the User, Manage the Resource: Invasive Species” (*Exhibit J*). We don't often have the luxury when it comes to aquatic species, we don't manage the species themselves, but can with sea lamprey and Asian carp. We are limiting the range expansion of Asian carp, have put a two-way barrier in place near Chicago. It is only half constructed, but in the next two years it will be up and running. Look at hitchhikers, the movie “The Hitcher” is like zebra mussels, they hitched a ride from the Black and Caspian Seas to the Baltic Sea on freighters about 750 feet long; then once they got here, 20 years ago, the invasion was pretty small, but in 2009 they hitched a ride with anglers and boaters all across the U.S. Stars are trailers that were stopped that had zebra mussels on them; and the potential for boaters to move things around. The Great Lakes is a super source, but has 188 non-native organism-type species now, with the majority being accidental introductions. We can't talk to animals, so we have to manage the people instead. We have aquatic invasive species interacting with boaters and anglers and interaction with humans leads to the spread and adverse impacts are compounded. Waterskiing on the Illinois River has stopped because of Asian carp, but diving in the Great Lakes is high because the water is clearer. It is not just affecting water related activities, but water gardens and releasing fish from aquariums. The challenge is obvious, the solution is to get boaters educated; provide strategic education programs; using effective methods; simple universal guidelines, consistent messages, not mixed messages; and evaluate effectiveness. Approaches should include: civil penalties for transporting Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS); roadside checks; watercraft inspections at boat ramps; and signage. Also use education with billboards; education packages; conferences; and in regulations. There are new 30-second public service announcements (PSA); media coverage; AIS kiosks; and there are fact sheets, brochures, videos and watch cards available. Are they effective? We need to stress why prevention is important; tap values and motivations; avoid myths or fallacies; reinforce compliance; and use simple

universal guidelines. Use these developed by Sea Grant, Minnesota and USFWS that say: remove...; drain...; dispose...; rinse...; and dry... A couple of years ago Sea Grant, in cooperation with three states, did a study and threw out a slew of information to evaluate and learn where people were getting the message. Over two years of the project; 2,200 surveys all administered at boat ramps, mostly in Minnesota, but a few in Wisconsin and Iowa; the results indicate the top five sources were the same, with slight reorganization in Wisconsin; it showed that signs at water access; watercraft inspectors; TV ads; billboards; and regulation booklets were the top five. Not reaching the same number of people, and different people with each effort; but 98 percent of people more likely to take action than before this education effort. Boaters and anglers pay attention; are willing to take action; and know what to do and when. Knowing where and how people get information can make prevention outreach more cost effective. Will they do it on when they are on their own? In Wisconsin, wardens are assigned to boat ramps and they issue citations; peer pressure; social marketing; and generational changes are used. We asked watercraft inspectors this summer to take notes, instead of going up to the boats, and observe to see if they do it on their own. Website: <http://www.seagrant.wisc.edu/> **Matt Hogan** – How do you account for the difference in Minnesota, very likely to take action; and in Wisconsin and Iowa they are only somewhat likely to take action. Was there more exposure to information in Minnesota? **Phil Moy** – Yes, Minnesota has done this for a long time. **Unknown Audience** – Has there been any type of preventative action by commercial fisherman or anything done with freighters and ocean going ships? **Phil Moy** – Yes, mandatory ballast water changers must be installed; or fish and spit for those not carrying ballast water. International maritime organization requires more than ballast water exchange. They expect 100 organisms per 100 gallons of water. People we have focused on are wild bait harvesters. The hazard is those which were used for seafood handling, but it seems to be working, they were asked to dry nets or freeze nets for a day, etc.

Conservation Effects Assessment Project (*Exhibit K*) – **Ray Evans** – The Association, in conjunction with NRCS, is working to implement Conservation Effect Assessment Project (CEAP), a USDA effort to measure Farm Bill conservation provision outcomes affecting wildlife. We are working with state wildlife folks, universities, USGS and others monitoring the conservation provision on wildlife. The 2008 Farm Bill specifically mentions the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) as possible users. Jen Mock-Schaffer just completed a survey of states on their use of Farm Bill Programs to achieve SWAP objective. We will try to use that information to inform SWAP coordinators and others of funding opportunities. This is the largest pot of money that continues to be in the Farm Bill. We hope Senate will pass a similar amount of money, but there is a lot of money out there not being spent. Many states are leaving Farm Bill money on the table while pursuing other unsure pots of money. The Midwest is doing the best job on using this money. We are trying to get other states to capture some of the bucks. I will be sharing this information at the Western meeting next week and at the first meeting of SWAP coordinators in Boulder, Colorado the end of July. Folks who have not had experience don't believe they can get NRCS to spend \$8-10 million a year on SWAP objectives. This is one of the most innovative plans. Based on a plan using 20 years of radar data; to measure waterfowl use, as land is converted back from agricultural lands to WRP lands. Another project this last year, was measuring how much time ducks spend on WRP wetlands. Bought fairly expensive collars that hooked to GPS and to get continuous records, until we compared the control on a fencepost, it appeared to move more than the birds, so we are back to zero on that project.

Break – Sponsored by Ducks Unlimited (Bob Hoffman)

National Fish and Wildlife Health Issues – Director’s Toolkit (*Exhibit L*) – **Dave Schad, Minnesota**

– In 2002, the first case of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was discovered in a captive elk herd in Minnesota. We were not prepared for that event, didn’t know how to deal with it, and had no plans in place. We have developed a toolkit to help all of us avoid those kinds of situations in the future. The Steering Committee is chaired by Becky Humphries, includes four regional association representatives, four federal representatives, an academic representative; a state veterinarian; and a tribal representative. This will enhance capabilities on dealing with fish and wildlife health issues. This toolkit can be found on AFWA’s website http://www.fishwildlife.org/about_comm_fwhealth_toolkit.html. We chose not to put this in the mail, but it is important enough to present in person and walk through it, take it and share it with your staff. We have received good guidance from states that have dealt with some of these health issues. The Steering Committee and Fish and Wildlife Health Committee are an arm of AFWA. There are six chapters: 1) overview on AFWA, Steering Committee and plan; 2) important documents related to authorities to deal with fish and wildlife issues and wildlife populations in general regarding PTB, with a paper on state’s authority to manage wildlife, example of Minnesota statute, how to enter private land and set special hunting seasons to try to get that authority, background in federal agencies especially APHIS, and a couple of papers I developed; 3) case histories, disease episodes and how they developed and state and federal agencies responded; 4) meat of it, examples of response plans, developed by fish and wildlife sides, dealing with whatever might be, what we need to do on surveillance, manage outbreak, work with other agencies and document information and have everything in place; 5) sample position descriptions for staff you might want to hire, and examples of model state fish and wildlife health plans from around the country, four on wildlife side and couple on fish side and how they run it and staff it, etc.; and 6) reference materials. Before that call there was no fish and wildlife health program in Minnesota, since then we’ve had CWD (is still in captive herds); bovine TB; VHS threat; and AI surveillance work. Now we have a wildlife veterinarian and resource staff. Even with budget challenges, fish and wildlife health issues will be a priority for us and others also. **Becky Humphries** – On the website you can download it and any updates will also be on the website. **Dave Schad** – Thank Becky for all the work she has done on this and her leadership and helping us get our act together.

Becky Humphries – August 18 will be the annual meeting with the Veterinarian Service from APHIS, at Riverdale, Maryland from 8:30-5:00. We had 16 folks from states there last year and would like representation from states this year. **Dave Schad** – I urge directors to send somebody.

CLIMATE CHANGE – WHO IS DOING WHAT? – **Dave Schad, MN Director, Facilitator** – What

would a fish and wildlife meeting be without climate change discussion. Communities are getting their arms around this. Past discussions of, what is it? And, is it real? What do we need to do differently? Now, the focus is on how we should respond. Attending meeting at NCTC, topic developed national wildlife climate change strategy, and brings key agencies together like states, feds and NGOs for a couple of days to talk about how to get better organized and link science folks and managers and look at things regionally. Look at new paradigm and envision what new future might be and use adaptive management approaches. Good meeting to get organized. Huge potential to reinvent the wheel, but we are in danger of missing the mark without organization.

USEWS Rising to the Challenge – **Tom Melius, Director, Region 3** – My talk is generalized to set the stage for the following speakers. PowerPoint – “Conservation in a Changing Climate” (*Exhibit M*) (*Notes - Exhibit N*). A picture is worth a thousand words, and most of us have seen this before; what a 2- to 6-degree change in temperature might bring and what might happen if too little or too much

precipitation might occur. Minnesota's climate would be like Kansas; Iowa like Arkansas; and Illinois like east Texas. This presentation includes: key management questions natural resource agencies face; the USFWS Strategic Plan; and current actions we are undertaking. Changing climate is changing the context of our work and historically how things have transitioned and questions we are faced with each day on how to plan for the future. Our Strategic Plan is in draft form, but will be released next month for comments. Advanced copies were released a few months ago and we got some state and federal comments. It looks at how we need to deal with landscape approach; how to deal nationally and internationally, and externally as well as internally in our own organization. We hope to start a nationwide network of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) to build partner-based plans. Our Plan has three pillars: adaptation; mitigation, human intervention including outreach to get citizens to understand behavior. Adaptation refers to the management actions we take to reduce the impacts of climate change on fish, wildlife, and their habitats. It deals with differences of water issues, how we deal with that; connectivity; and are we planning properly. Do we have the right mix of state, federal and NGO lands? Also, getting involved in non-fossil fuel development; doing wind turbine siting in a way that has the least impacts on habitat. Challenges of adaptation are, what actions can we take in the next 30-50 years, how to anticipate, modeling, and how it can be stepped down to make the right predictions. A group of folks, including a half dozen state partners, people in administration, are dealing strategically in Department of Interior, on whether land management agencies' teams and bureaus are working collectively together. Also, looking at mitigation. Active in siting properly in wind energy development and working internally to see how we can have less of a footprint and use fleet vehicles that are more energy efficient. Forest sequestration has been a success in the southeastern U.S. on an area we have had for a number of years and some lands added to those areas, we planted 22 million trees down there. Don't forget the value of native grasslands, prairie and wetlands and be sure they are brought into the mix of carbon sequestration question. State stakeholder groups are holding workshops in various regions and have brought in partners from academia and NGOs on how to begin thinking about climate. In Region 3, we held an innovative graduate level web-cast seminar, bringing in a number of Service personnel, state representatives and grad students. The course was conducted over a period of months. We are also hosting key national level workshops this year. Steve Guertin mentioned yesterday that we are moving forward with an \$80 million request, waiting for Senate reaction; \$10 million segment to help start LCCs. New incoming director will be involved in this area of climate change, on the team that is asking these questions as strategic planning goes forward. Website: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/>

Dave Schad – Great to have federal agencies stepping up.

Climate Change Curriculum – *Jay Slack, USFWS NCTC* – You heard about the North American Model and how we geared up at NCTC to make people understand that. Here to talk about role we will play to help make sure knowledge will be there for all of us. NCTC is geared toward USFWS, but opening the doors to all of you is my goal. Picking up from where Tom left off, driven by Strategic Action Plan. Some of approaches that FWS (USFWS) is embarking on are embodied in what we are teaching. PowerPoint – “Climate Change” (*Exhibit O*) – We are involved in several approaches: strategic habitat conservation; structured decision analysis; adaptive resource management; science capacity investment to help them understand how and when to use; employee education; and new era on how we do business. Partnerships will be something we all need to learn to build together. Need to change how we are doing business and look at filtered lens of climate change; raise awareness; carbon neutral by 2020; business model; and step up to the front. Strategic plan is driving us to do the best we possibly can at raising awareness. Of 200 actions identified, NCTC is doing three things: climate change

101 course, “Resource Management Implications of Climate Change”; existing course updates and expansions; and opening doors to all of you for workshops. One thing we needed to do was find out who needed what skills, tough when looking at all jobs from budget analysts to biologists, sometimes easier to do pod-casts than get the people in the room. Need highest quality people (experts) teaching the classes. Following six principles: priority setting; best science; technical capacity; landscape conservation; global approach; and partnerships. On a graph an inch deep and a mile wide; climate change 101 would be at the 50,000 foot level; way down below. Modeling and monitoring; adaptation science; water resources science; decision making; vulnerability science; partnership and collaboration; and education and outreach disciplines or models; we will stack classes under there and look at those as disciplines. Climate change 101 is an introductory course which will give current scientific understanding; implications of management of species and habitats; and current policies and planning; and will be online by February. We need to learn this together. Disciplines that are stacking up and building curricula to enhance their capacities are: predictive distribution modeling; principles in modeling; population viability analysis; climate envelope modeling; monitoring/sampling design and monitoring resources; adaptation science; wetland and coastal restoration and habitat connectivity curriculum. Water resources was a big issue, but is now overshadowed by climate change. Environmental decision making will include: adaptive management for recurrent decisions; structured decision making; and, ecological risk assessment. Vulnerability science: how vulnerable we are if we move to new habitats. Partnerships and collaboration will bring in examples of climate change and learn from their peers and take that back to solve their own. Education and outreach to the public and what the facts actually are. NCTC is trying to see where we fit into this climate change wave and opening doors to all of your staff. It is the most important thing we can do over the next decade or two. Website: <http://training.fws.gov/> **Matt Hogan** – Is climate change 101 online or at the training center? **Jay Slack** – Initially at training center, pilot program for about 75-100 people in first class and later offerings. Then later we will tape them and add more segments online as it evolves.

AFWA – Actions Currently Underway - **Gary Taylor, AFWA** – Quick perspectives your Association is involved in: brought up in legislative arena and task charged to us at the 2008 North American meeting. How do we reconcile Endangered Species Act with flexibility on-the-ground staff will need? Acknowledge outstanding leadership of Dave Schad and development of full committee to be sure state directors are out in front; and find NGO partnerships for dedicated funding for natural resource adaptation programs. Eric Washburn, Bipartisan Policy Center, started the coalition with two other partners, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). A new partner is the Defenders of Wildlife who we don’t often agree with, but concluded that it was in our best interests that we align ourselves on this issue to bring success to climate derived funding. This has expanded to other groups, but core group remains intact. Congressman John Dingle, in paraphrasing what he said “most daunting task the Congress will tackle in my tenure up here”. Significant policy needs to be done in full debate. In the House the climate change bill went through deliberations, before leading to passage last Friday of HR2454, on a 219-212 vote, a squeaker. Provisions in the bill, natural resources adaptation focus with mitigation needs; greenhouse gas emissions; carbon sequestration; natural resources adaptation and other energy provisions. Dingle is the only member on the Committee who insisted on funding for natural resources adaptation. The bill dedicated one percent of carbon allowances from 2012 to 2021; increases to two percent 2022 to 2026; and four percent 2027 to 2050. States get 38.5 percent with 85 percent provided to PR account apportioned to states based on landmass and human population; and 15 percent available for coastal zone management areas. State funding is dedicated, not subject to appropriations action of Congress. States are given allowances that they can sell or auction in carbon

markets and use the revenues for natural resource adaptation. Federal agency allowances will be auctioned off by the federal government and revenues deposited in a fund which will be appropriated by Congress, but which can't be spent for other purposes. But, Congress can choose not to appropriate the funds (but this does not affect the states' share). There are three parties in Congress: Republicans, Democrats and Appropriators. This is a 60-vote bill in the Senate, the dynamics will change, but significant numbers of Senators are not comfortable with cap and trade, many from this part of the country. There is a significant amount of work to be done to pass a Senate bill and go into conference with the House. Want climate change bill on floor this fall. Senator Boxer hopes to send bill to act as construct by August recess, which is hugely ambitious. If Senate passes the bill this will be the largest conference committee in history of Congress. To pass to conclusion, there needs to be adequate definition of harvest of biomass as it pertains to sustainability. We will be working with directors, their members and state forestry to shape proposals to establish harvest of biomass and provisions to enhance and to minimize impacts to fish, wildlife and habitat. The House has an adequate sustainability bill. Directors tasked the Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) Committee to develop an issue paper to list climate-affected species (*Exhibit Q*). There are real on-the-ground implications and we need to be prepared to weigh manager's need for on-the-ground flexibility and the ability to prioritize responses. The TES Committee looked at the Endangered Species Act and potential climate-affected species while working on the issue paper. We need to highlight areas that need further attention and we need recommendations from the Association and statutory changes from states. The definition of "foreseeable future" needs more work. Resource management professionals are still losers under the Endangered Species Act, no discretion not to spend money on species whether their fate is controlled or not. These are tough policy issues and the public looks to us to help them understand decisions we are going to make, we will not necessarily be able to save everything. Policy basis for programs can cover decisions we need to make, but we are asking directors to acknowledge that these actions need to be acted on further and we will come up with specific actions, look at the issue paper with no action items implemented until subsequent and further work is done. Website: <http://www.fishwildlife.org/> **Claudia Emken, Environmental Defense Fund** – On climate change; Caterpillar is located here in Peoria and they were a member of the U.S. cap on that bill, but they pulled out. We will continue to work with that alliance to work on the positive side of Senate. **Gary Taylor** – The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is part of the U.S. cap and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) used to be, but aren't now. There are ten committees that have a piece of climate change action that have agricultural suggestions. We have not been players in that part of the bill. That needs to be very carefully deliberated. Senator Waxman has been good at reporting that part of the bill.

Dave Schad – Due to Gary's efforts we still have a piece of that bill. There is a joint workgroup with Teaming with Wildlife and Climate Change and they need to work on how to amend plans to start working on statewide action plans to start receiving federal money.

USGS Climate Change Center - Sue Haseltine, Association Director, Biology – PowerPoint – "USGS Global Change Science, National Climate Change & Wildlife Science Center" (*Exhibit R*). – In 2008, Congress asked USGS to think about climate change and a science center, developed in partnership with the natural resources community to provide better information in reacting to, and dealing with, climate change adaptation. Workshops were held around the states to envision what it would look like, how it would work, and information they would need. When I first briefed new administration, I showed them a one page graph showing how it was going to act. The graph makes it look like we are all in the same boat, using the same science physical base using 21 general models, which gave us a fuzzy picture of the

coming decades. Our task, as fish and wildlife managers and scientists is to develop a downscaled way the landscape can support moose, ducks and whatever, and forecast the future. It can only be done in 10-20-year intervals. Science in this arena is in its infancy. We are cognizant of the fact and spending millions of dollars to be sure of the predictions, developing a center in adaptive management is a way to stay connected with the natural resource community. Need to develop science center to predict landscapes of the future and work with natural resource community to see if predictions are accurate and if not, how they need to be changed. USGS has been in the climate science game since the beginning. As part of the 2007 energy bill, we were asked to look at geological carbon sequestration and biological carbon sequestration, large scale on down to local levels. If growing mature forests, there is a chance it is going to burn, make it useful to you in land management tools. Not only how many birds, but how much carbon produced. From series of workshops and distillation of all information we accumulated, in forms of peoples' needs, will be disseminated. There is a long list, but forecasting systems for fish and wildlife will change in the future: sort out downscaling models and derivative products, integration with ecological and habitat models; define populations; habitat responses at appropriate scales; and develop response options in an adaptive monitoring framework. We want joint decision-making with federal, state and NGO communities; and national and regional focus so we can say to Congress this is how it is working on the landscape and how it is making a difference. Planning small national offices that you can call up that will have a director in place that is held accountable. Standard approach is to compare apples to apples, run advisory boards including states; with main bulk of science in center in regional climate science hubs. These hubs will be university-based and USGS people will have research managers. Most of science for goals will come out of these hubs and be used in adaptive application partnerships that take output of larger scale models and forecast specific habitat and species response at a level that managers on-the-ground need. This information will feed back into regional hubs to make science better for the next go-around. We are looking at hubs which are primarily science-based, university hosted in seven areas: Alaska; Pacific Northwest; desert southwest; intermountain west; south central; northeast and southeast. Government has a lot of research, but most of it is being done at universities, and we want strong partnerships with university-based science. Ecological and political boundaries are not important to the science, we advocate fuzzy boundaries. Adaptive partnerships will be self-generating, a coalition of the willing. A lot of work has been done in the southeast, at state and federal level. Envision four to six adaptive application partnerships per hub that will be, landscape/geography-based; partnership-led; done at regional climate science hub level. USGS will have research and modeling; adaptive response forecasts including other drivers; and monitoring protocols. The southeast (SE) regional pilot, first expressions this year integrates climate change science with habitat and species response models to assess impacts and will look at downscaled models; looking at both avian and aquatic species and casting predictive models; calibrating with data like National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); remote sensing; USGS, Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), and Monitoring Avian Production and Survivorship (MAPS) data; and watershed modeling. Hope by December of this year to have output from SE region to see how to calibrate this and downscale it for all over the country. Congressional appropriations process hasn't lined up for us to be able to hire yet. Have request for proposals (RFP) for \$5 million for climate adaptation science, got 204 responses, will take top ranked; request for information (RFI) to universities to see who wants to host these hubs, only three or four this year based on funding. Middle of next month, final workshop to roll out strategic plan. As evident from comments, most under-developed part of process is management application and science in those offices. Step up to the plate, work together and have more discussions this next year. End game is what future landscapes are going to look like and what fish and wildlife will look like. In order to do that, more effective monitoring strategies for management has to happen and improve our science. Need synergy here

because this is bigger than all of us. Need common transparent base. Biggest challenge in moving forward with science is culture. The challenge is to work together. Website: www.usgs.gov

Dave Schad – Science need is tremendous and I want to compliment Sue on forging ahead and involving states and practitioners. We will talk tomorrow on forming a Midwest Climate Change Committee to get organized regionally. Also, want to thank the four speakers. This has been a good update on where we are at this time.

Lunch – Sponsored by National Wild Turkey Federation (Robert Abernathy)

Mike Conlin - Sponsors are listed in the middle of the agenda book, without them this meeting would not be possible. THEY are: the Archery Trade Association (ATA); Association of Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers (AMFGLEO); Bass Pro Shops; Cabela's Inc.; Colorado Division of Wildlife; DJ Case and Associates, Inc.; Ducks Unlimited (DU); Illinois Conservation Foundation; National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF); National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf); Responsive Management; Safari Club International (SCI); and Mule Deer Foundation (MDF). Other MAFWA supporters are: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 3 and Region 6; and the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services.

Dan Zekor – Amphibian and Reptile Regulatory Summit as part of Southeast Association meeting will be held Wednesday, November 4. The summit is being coordinated by AFWA, the Amphibian and Reptile Subcommittee, and Law Enforcement Committee. The summit will include case studies and group discussions regarding procedures for future related issues. A \$400 per state travel stipend is available.

Coordinating Bird Monitoring in the Midwest - Katie Koch, USFWS and Andy Paulios, WI DNR – PowerPoint – “Coordinated Bird Monitoring in the Midwest” (*Exhibit S*) (*Notes – Exhibit T*) – **Katie Koch, USFWS** - Three pronged approach: business model is vision and method I am using to move this along. Uses of monitoring information varies: agency directors; program administrators; conservation biologists; public and private landowners; extension educators; public affairs specialists; land protection agents; lawmakers; and regulators. Monitoring can have many auspices that show status and trend assessments, set population and conservation goals; cause population changes; inform management and conservation decision-making. We like to gather data, slide shows cross sections; each process collects and stores data in their own way. How easy would it be to ask intelligent questions, how well do they work together? A colleague at Cornell University recently did a wind farm assessment and was frustrated with trying to amass resources. What happens to data when we are only focused on collecting them? Data atrophy. Many birds are in decline, such as some rail species, need good coordination, because water levels and wetland sizes could be good models on how to manage them, and show how restoration is affecting them. Recent policy changes show grassland habitat declines of 300 million acres. Also, changes for uses on landscape. How can we manage? Third case study, urban park can be stop over for birds, but lack of coordinating efforts limits our vision. There is a need for more a coordinated business model. **Andy Paulios, WI DNR** – There is a case for a shared, coordinated monitoring system that goes with our conservation efforts. With limited budgets, staff and partners are important so we ask questions to move from state action plans into landscape. How much habitat do we need to create to see a population increase at a given scale? How will management benefit one species or affect populations of another? Which design alternative will provide the most benefit for the greatest number of species? For example, the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture in western Minnesota set up for

32,000 recruits (mallards), mapped out efficient landscapes based on grass and low efficiency landscape and there was more land on the right than the left. Birds are largely opportunistic. Rex Johnson mapped out where he had worked in these landscapes: 37,000 acres with 7,115 recruits on the right compared to left, 113,000 acres with 2,153 recruits. Led to idea of being more strategic in where we do work. We know more about mallards than most human populations. Most time and money is spent delivering programs on-the-ground, but we are not very good at evaluating what we have done. Need a shift in paradigm: agency specific; opportunity-driven; site oriented; planning is evil; and management actions are treated as if they are goals. We don't have a good measure for success in Wisconsin. Bird conservation at the state levels is more collaborative. Even if wrong, we need a way to measure. In the new paradigm, birds in front of other groups, except for fish. Most of us are geared at determining status and trends of populations, can say things about birds that we can't say about other taxonomy groups, but we haven't been as good at setting population objectives and species priorities; determining causes of population change; informing management and policies to achieve conservation; informing conservation design; or evaluating conservation efforts. Katie is trying to lead an effort to increase survey efficiency; using consistent methods; better species and geographic coverage; greater power to detect trends; evaluate; improve; and reduce costs. Need a design on how to make modeling more efficient; a wheel working at the state level also to put projects on-the-ground. It will take a lot of coordination and is communication dependent, but will happen in the next year or two and is heavily dependent on science.

Katie Koch – Imagine a mixed species flock landed in the west first, where there are big bird observatories; then northeast U.S., who developed a framework handbook; then half of the flock went to the southeast U.S. and the other half went to the Midwest. Now they are working closely together in the NE, SE, and Midwest because it is relevant to all of us. In order to better solve conservation problems, to allocate resources appropriately, to ensure efficient and cost-effective implementation, to increase the credibility of our results and increase value of data through improved access and metadata documentation; we need to: integrate monitoring into bird management and conservation; broaden scope of monitoring for species most at risk and for which we lack adequate information to make effective decisions; coordinate programs among organizations and across spatial scales; improve survey design, field methods, and data analysis; and employ modern data management strategies. In an ideal world, there would be a single workshop to bring all the partners together to identify those priority issues that would most benefit from regional coordination. However, with budget and travel restrictions, I chose to host three sub-regional workshops at the borders of states to allow partners to come together while also honoring travel restrictions. During each of these workshops, we are collectively building awareness of what other monitoring programs are going on and setting priority issues that need regional coordination. The highest priorities are marshbirds. Wisconsin has been the first state in the country to pilot the National Secretive Marshbird Monitoring program. The goals for Wisconsin have been three-fold: 1) estimate population trends for marshbirds; 2) inform habitat management decisions; and 3) provide status data for harvested species. However, the ability to understand how Wisconsin is impacting marshbirds is somewhat limited without neighboring states contributing information. Michigan is building capacity to become the second Midwest state to come on board, and Illinois expressed interest recently at seeing how their on-going marshbird surveys can be augmented to fit within the National Program. In addition to helping other Midwest states come on board, it is also imperative that we identify conservation and evaluation questions that can be answered at the state and regional scales. Grassland birds also emerged as a high priority and it is an important goal to gather data together. There is a lot of great research and conservation happening for grassland birds, but these efforts are not often linked together. An additional need from the second workshop was to ensure states had equal access to private lands enrolled in conservation programs such as CRP. Many of our plans and population goals

cannot be met by the capacity of publicly-owned lands alone, and being able to identify how many private acres are also contributing to grassland bird conservation success is imperative to evaluating our progress in meeting these goals. Additionally, we are working to link individual grassland managers with the Eastern Grassland Working Group and National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative to begin assessing the value of our existing data and to prioritize what information is still needed to guide strategic conservation. The third priority is demographic monitoring, in particular stopover ecology. One first step will be to assess and coordinate current demographic monitoring taking place in the Midwest like banding stations, bird observatories, MAPS stations, and refuges. The Indiana/Ohio/Michigan working group drafted up an action plan to: 1) guide researchers towards highest priority information needs, 2) select focal species where less than 25 percent of their population is contained in the Midwest that represent the suite of Midwestern landscapes, 3) establish connectivity using geolocators, satellite telemetry, banding data and observational data, and 4) pool money and resources from several organizations. Another method, Midwest Nightbird Monitoring Partnership monitoring nightjars in northeast U.S. and Canada, shows that states have a trend, and they may find out where they are still abundant and continue future research. We are working to establish common protocols and sampling frameworks that can easily work together to inform at multiple levels. Consistent monitoring will also be ensured through implementing the National Secretive Marshbird Monitoring program, and we will continue to work towards this goal for other conservation issues as we move forward. A tool that is being developed by the Southeast CBM Coordinator can be implemented in the Midwest to help bird monitoring program leaders determine: appropriate uses for the data being collected; potential survey biases; regional coordination score; management relevance score; and data security score. Two other methods: support cooperative with funding; and provide ways to share information and ideas. The National Secretive Marshbird Monitoring concept of centralized data, one stop site, pull data sets and habitat information and ask questions and get responses is bringing the power of many datasets together to reveal patterns. Our overall goal is to ensure that information is packaged in such a way that it is useful to managers and decision-makers so that our initial investment of limited time and resources is not lost and we are well-equipped to interface with climate change, energy needs, land use practices, and food production across our Midwestern landscape. In addition to workshops we are building a registry. Consider this your VIP invitation to attend a half-day symposium dedicated to Midwest Coordinating Bird Monitoring (CBM) taking place at this year's Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. We have a premiere cast of speakers and topics, and we are excited to share our progress and engage additional partners. **Matt Hogan** – Great job, we have been lamenting the fact that grey hairs are leaving, but it is good to see young people so enthusiastic about this. Andy, if you were sitting in the decision maker's seat, how do you take this one more step? How do you allocate research? **Andy Paulios** – Allocate to all birds, but we have to go where the momentum is, birds are ahead of other species because of amateur ornithologists that produce a lot of data. Put money where it can be most efficient.

Community Archery Strategy - **Mitch King, ATA** – PowerPoint – “Community Archery Strategy” (*Exhibit U*) - Our goal is to try and bring archery up to level of community basketball or little league. Take people who don't shoot archery equipment, bring them in and possibly become bowhunters, but they need to have somewhere to go. Break down from non-shooter to archery shooter and/or bowhunter: need to introduce, develop skills and refine them. Exposure is the key. Take something we all know like baseball or softball that starts in the home, to little league, middle school and high school. Get introduced, like NASP in schools program; recreation programs or develop recreation programs like After School Archery Program (ASAP); 4-H; Junior Olympics Archery Development (JOAD); or Explore Bowhunting. Begin in small parks with beginner ranges, target ranges and shooting platforms.

Then refine into larger archery parks, recreation programs and destination archery competitions. Examples; there is a low budget park in northern Alabama, north of the river is the high school, there is a walking trail and tennis courts; they put in a bridge across the stream and have an archery range and shooting platform. Their budget was \$112,000; 25 percent federal aid (\$28,000); 26 percent from the City of Athens (\$30,000); and ATA put in 49 percent (\$55,000). The big time is a significant facility in Michigan with ranges at Michigan State University. The building has a small bore rifle range, cost is \$3.5 million; 17.5 percent came from Michigan DNR (\$612,500); 10 percent from ESDF (\$350,000), and 20 percent from ATA (\$260,000). In Lansing area there are 23 new schools; and four new recreation programs. On smaller scale, back in Alabama, archery range just going in at Cullman, located in and around other areas like golf course that city maintains, has 3-D course, beginner and intermediate and shooting platform for about \$300,000. Lots of publicity on this, in central part of state, expect increased income in area. At Montgomery County, Tennessee the same type of thing is going in, it was a success in Alabama and we are looking for more like this; it has tennis, baseball/softball, soccer/football, a walking track and archery will go right in the middle. Want to see archery in summer programs. Get doors open and stand behind it, you don't have to do it because communities will. ATA provides facilitation and vision to get more schools in area in NASP program; staff support; design assistance; funding support (\$0 at Newberry to \$600,000 at Lansing); analyzing first projects for ROI. Looking for leadership from state agencies. You can open doors and get us into communities, leadership you can provide; staffing support, talk about recruitment and give attention it deserves; and funding support by leveraging your money. Get City Recreation departments to maintain, just help bring the pieces together. Explore Bowhunting is a new program just about ready to roll out; an educational program to help instructors, program leaders, and educators teach students basic skills of bowhunting. In conversations with kids coming out of NASP, they are interested in bowhunting, a lot of kids don't have family connections on how to learn how to bowhunt. This is wildlife conservation 101 with a little bit of hunting. Designed for kids ages 11-17, it is an hour and a half program, off the shelf stuff you can use. Getting kids outdoors and close to nature. This came out of a 2004 survey from NASP kids: 63 percent wanted to know more about bowhunting. There are 22 activities they can do all of them or just pick out some of them; resource book on website. ATA's intention is to give it to you, with no requirements. Educational trunk includes all of the equipment you might need, trying to get cost as low as possible. Nebraska and Michigan are doing a pilot program and good information is coming back. Plan to roll out the complete program in January, 2010, or quicker if you need it before then. Plan to fine tune it in the next couple of years to be sure it is the best product we can get. We are trying to get those archery shooters out bowhunting, but if not bowhunting, at least outdoors. There is huge industry support for this program. Website: <http://www.archerytrade.org/>

National Archery In the Schools Program - Tom Bennett, NASP – Hard to believe we began this program seven years ago as a Kentucky program. It started around the coffee table in the office as a way to get kids out in the field. Roy Grimes wanted shotgun slugs in science or archery in PE. We decided on archery and couldn't have done what we've done without ATA and manufacturers. We have come a long way. Our goal was one school in each of the 120 Kentucky school districts in three years, but we accomplished it in 13 months. Heard from some of you and it became a national program in 15 months, teaching 4 million kids in 5,000 schools in 46 states. About 77 percent of kids had never touched a bow before NASP, and now 30 percent go out and buy their own bows and equipment. We are the introduction, the hunter education of archery. My hunter education class creates "X" number of hunters in my state. Hope barriers that exist between newcomer (kids, moms or young women) gets you the tools you need to become a hunter. Can't explain difference in who buys bows and who doesn't. Gave

you the status of schools. Visiting last four states to try and get them involved. We will provide 10 schools free of charge. We work hard on national tournament, in Louisville this year, had 4,565 kids from several states and Saskatchewan; 30 percent of kids are in after-school archery programs where they practice. We are working on a deal with Disney for tournaments with all five countries. Forty percent of the kids in programs are girls; and the new champion is a Michigan girl who shot 298 out of 300; the runner-up was an eighth grade from Kentucky. We are hearing from schools that they have better participation in class. What if we could find a way to get shooting sports back into the schools? What if we overcame that? There are major sponsors in industry and states; only Roy (Grimes) and I in NASP; NWTF is a major sponsor; SCI just came on; and MDF just came on. Future: national tournament in Louisville next summer but open after that to move somewhere else; Disney tournament in October at Disney World; piloting program in South Dakota and New Mexico for an online tournament series in the fall where kids can enter scores from school and save travel expenses. We have some new major funding sources that we are not ready to announce yet. Our first target was 120 counties in Kentucky; our next target is to have one million kids, we are going after little league for number one. We will be doing a 10-year conservation evaluation. Handouts include: a copy of our mission statement; a study, where ten states stepped up to evaluate and assess NASP, with preliminary results showing that NASP teaches children to focus better, increases interest to practice, and life gets better for the students in general (*Handouts – Exhibit V*). There is funding available for state coordinators to get them to National Convention in Arkansas. Website: <http://www.nasparchery.com/activea.asp> **Jon Gassett** – How soon until the finalized study will be out? **Tom Bennett** – It should be out before school starts. It will show grades going up in certain things and learned things to do and how time can be used more constructively.

Featured Sponsor: Safari Club International (SCI) - Bill Moritz – Networking has evolved into social networking like Twitter. I will provide a brief overview of SCI and the extent of the organization. SCI was first formed in 1972 with 54,000 members and 194 chapters. The Midwest is important to us; it has 55 chapters, 12,000-13,000 members, so Midwest issues come up often. We actually have two organizations: a 501(c)(4) where we have three lawyers for litigation, communications and outreach; and a Foundation that is a 501(c)(3) that is our humanitarian arm that shows the role of hunting in a broader community. Some things we are involved in: activity on capital hill; position statement on feral hogs; high fence industry on both sides; litigation ongoing with wolves and bears; polar and grizzly bears; and endangered species. The Foundation is involved in: predator/prey dynamics; large project with New Foundland with caribou decline; Michigan last spring, contributing money from chapter and national to look at role of wolves, coyotes and bears affect on deer; and grizzly on moose in the northwest. Interface with climatic changes. Agreement with Mossy Oak to provide funding to epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) in Georgia and where we can help with kill model, heated discussions on deer; study on sex/age kill. Internationally we have offices in Ottawa, Canada; and South Africa, so we are involved in CITES and the movement of animals. Have a teacher education program at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, looking at hunting and sustainable use. Have a sportsmen against hunter program; venison to help the needy program; and working on an issue with lead where we had some influence. Funding for NGOs is a big question, depends on revenue. Funds are driven by convention, but attendance was good. Endowments have recovered some these last few months and as we identify important projects, but we need to work together to get that done. Website: <http://www.safariclub.org/> **Dave Graham** – Thanks for your participation on the hog issue; when you need these guys you can count on them. **Tom Beissel** – When deer issues came up in Illinois, they donated \$20,000 to help fund our lab. **Bill Moritz** – Our budget is

\$25 million for projects, our banquets are successful as well as recruitment and retention at our chapter level. I will provide a letter with chapters in each state for contacts.

Featured Sponsor: National Shooting Sports Foundation – Unable to be here. Website: <http://www.nssf.org/>

Update on Farm Bill – *Jen Mock Schaffer* – President’s budget request FY2010 for farm bill programs, cut baseline for WRP and wildlife habitat in half. Going through data, House restored funding, with exception of EQIP, still \$100 million above last year, but down from what was requested. We need to encourage House and Senate to utilize dollars to increase NRCS to what we got in 2008 Farm Bill. Still working with the Senate to get more money to FSA and Farm Bill programs. CRP notice came out yesterday with assorted changes and new purpose of CRP and working with CRP working group. All states opted out, tinkering with ideas. Voluntary public access (VPA) program alive and well, encourage that this is viable, expect us to spend \$50 million over a course of time, you need to get us money, kick started in May, so have been working on Interim Rule, expect within the month. There was \$3 million enrollment on CRP, but the President said no on public access (\$5 million). We asked for \$178 million between now and 2018 to be put back in program. VCAP authorized and growing bioenergy crops. No rules for program yet, transportation and storage of biomass harvested and here is our idea doing EIS statements. Renewable biomass in Farm Bill, movement to take definition and insert into legislation, structured different in climate change is frightening, nothing on federal land sustainability and nothing on private lands. Forestry industry pushing to use Farm Bill standards, worries us a bit. Depending on forester, critical to agency managers and could be in direct conflict. Working with Gary on this language. At North American, biofuels presented white paper, heard from some staff that said no comments, looks great, but we need comments to guide us. Many of your state work with me and some states have BMP for biomass (6 states), and NRCS has no guidance for landowners that takes into account fish and wildlife. Positive standard and certification standard with regard to biomass. For landowners to meet, we have to have guidelines for sustainability. NRCS has no national practice standards, and there are states with no BMPs. VCAP and renewable energy are combining to make a perfect storm. Don’t have infrastructure to integrate fish and wildlife. Definition from House provides some on federal lands, but keeps private lands wide open. Talked to staffers and told them we want to bring in language, takes grass-based and woody-based systems into consideration. Don’t want to go backwards like 50 years ago. Looking to shape provisions for Senate. Roles of state agencies, fish and wildlife; and forestry. Something that works at state levels, not dictated by federal. Each state needs to provide a level playing field for those dollars. Need help answering questions. Website:

<http://www.fishwildlife.org/> *Gary Taylor* – In the House, climate bill has biomass provision on federal land, discretion to federal land manager; deficiency if biomass in Farm Bill for private lands, which is inefficient. Senate language does not have sustainability standard, but does call for National Academy of Science to do a report that they can consider in a subsequent bill. Key to this is to find the right construct on private lands and defer to states in forestry program in terms of impacts on fish and wildlife is factored in and use of woody products is used as biomass. Need good dialog between fish and wildlife directors and state foresters that helps both for sustainability. Think about and dialog over the next day or so; proposal off to Senate in next month or so. *Bob Ziehmer* – On ethanol, state statute is monitored and crafted to provide incentives, woody biomass language was added to get approval from forester, plan to have long-term sustainability. Missouri produced a publication which could be a good building block. *Jen Mock Schaffer* – Looking to build on what you have developed. If others have anything I need to know.

Break

MAFWA COMMITTEE REPORTS – *Ollie Torgerson, Facilitator* – We only meet once a year and only meet for 2 ½ days, so a lot of work gets done between annual meetings. There are 11 technical working committees that meet during the year and report to this meeting. We have nine reports this year; Action Plan WG is meeting next month and Law Enforcement did not have enough people to meet so they cancelled their meeting last month. Action items will be dealt with at this time. Committee reports can be found on the Midwest website at: http://www.mafwa.org/mem_com/off_com.htm

Private Lands and Public Lands – *Ollie Torgerson* – These two working groups are meeting together at your request and met in Illinois last month. Gary Potts is the first to volunteer to pitch in and he also is the North Central Section Representative to The Wildlife Society Council. *Gary Potts, Illinois* – Appreciate support on a lot of those meetings. PowerPoint – “Private and Public Lands 2009 Committee Reports” (*Exhibit W*) (*Report – Exhibit X*) – We met inside and had field tours at the Red Lake Resort in southern Illinois, we had field trips to private land and public land, Pyramid State Park and the World Shooting Complex. On the tour of the complex, most of us are hunters, but those who weren’t learned about the shooting sports industry (and how excise tax money flows through the industry to us) and got to shoot for a couple of hours. **Private Lands** – In 1990, I went to QU workshop and talked about the need for a working group, so my boss Lyle Adams, worked with Wisconsin, Ohio and Illinois and hosted the first Private Lands WG meeting in 1991. AFWA was excited about how influential we have been on Farm Bill issues. When you approve field biologists to go out, it is good to give them goals to come back with. **Action items**: Voluntary access program, took care of first three items Director Action Items in the MAFWA Executive Committee meeting a few months ago, so those letters have already been sent. In third of four years to spend \$50 million. CCRP and CP38 (SAFE) programs on critical habitat, nothing since 1996, we have used all allocations. How can we get more acres? We wrote a letter and forwarded it to Washington, DC asking for CP38 contract extensions. There are 1.5 million acres that will expire October 1, 2009 and many landowners may choose not to extend, so the 1.5 million-acre goal might not be met. We want to achieve that and sent a letter to Washington, DC. Have a letter regarding sodbusting of grasslands to be sent because of rapid increases of breaking native sod, exiting program and crop production have large implications. The letter is addressed to Tom Vilsack asking USDA to make statistics of newly sodbusted acres and CRP available annually. FSA provides us with how many acres being brought into production and how many going out. *Ollie Torgerson* – The letter lacks our standard preamble which I will add, but needs vote. *Mike Conlin* – Discussion or motion? *Dave Schad* – Do you have copies of the information that FSA has? *Jen Mock Schaffer* – Governmental Accountability Office (GAO) report, should be watching and reporting on, during last administration, not seen any data on sodbusting, general reminder that we haven’t seen anything yet. *Gary Potts* – Many acres will be plowed under. *Matt Frank moved, Ken Herring second. Approved.* *Gary Potts* – The last one is a three-page letter on WRP addressed to David White, Chief, USDA. Jim sent out an amendment to the rule a few weeks ago, now can purchase, but funds have to go to third party contractor; so the issue was resolved before our letter got there. We want to point out the value of all of these programs. CRP has been our federal stimulus for the last several years and we wanted them to be aware of the value of tweaking these programs and how important it is to meet the goals. Other information is in your packets. Monies are available for mid-contract management, no word from FSA on details, being sent to Jen to work with FSA on that issue. Thank to Jen for all of her hard work, she is

worth millions to us in the Midwest; and improving CRP programs. Public Lands – Fifteen people met in a separate room. Need reinstatement of this committee, you need to vote on that this year. **Ollie Torgerson** – Each group needs reinstatement every three years according to our bylaws. Dave Risley, is this included in by-laws report tomorrow? **Dave Risley** – Yes, that is in tomorrow’s report and the Executive Committee did recommend that the Public Lands Committee be extended for 3 more years. If you want to discuss it now we can, but we vote tomorrow. **Ken Herring** – Sense of urgency to revisit PTD and encroaching, which would be a great charge for this committee. **Ollie Torgerson** – Can you and Carol craft a charge to go back to them? **Ken Herring** – Yes. **Ollie Torgerson** – Dave Schad is the Director/Liaison for Private Lands; Keith Sexson for Public Lands. **Gary Potts** – Public Lands has an action item on federal highway administration 4(f) designation. **Dan Zekor** – As highway projects go forward, we need to look at impacts they have on public land, and provide special benefits for recreation or refuge. Missouri, Kansas and others had highway projects going forward, on conclusion they did not meet the 4(f) designation, the property had unique exclusive recreation or refuge benefits. We see wildlife areas as being both, but federal highway administration doesn’t. Have history with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHA). FHA says it is their law and they don’t have to interpret it that way. Action item: Have a letter to the Director of the USFWS on the need for national dialog on 4(f) designation. **Gary Potts** – Summary of the meeting is on the MAFWA website. **Ollie Torgerson** – The letter lacks the standard preamble which I will add. **Rex Amack moved, Dave Schad second. Approved. Gary Potts** – This could have impacts as two-lane roads become four-lane roads. Information items: allowable uses on state conservation areas; restrictions of consumptive uses of national wildlife refuges; prescribed burning; urban wildlife issues; GIS application development (Chad can present in Illinois, as Katie talked to us about on bird monitoring); biofuels; staff workshop ideas (gray and green, as people retire, what papers to read, what training they need, may not be exposed to hunting or grown up in rural area); lead poisoning (pulled in from private land to talk about this) worked with six award winning biologists on this, paramount to know difference between science, politics and policy, 600 papers published to date, need more science research in different areas of the country, at end of day lead is still a toxin, fill in gaps, but end discussion of whether a toxin; politics and policy on national dove hunter survey, three flyways involved, that is the way we need to go, need to work in human dimensions and do dove hunter survey, saved technical review to get information out on lead, policy and research is the way we need to go, simultaneous, policy discussion should start immediately; slides from John Schultz, good vs. evil on lead poisoning issue, used extremist groups on this to pit anti-hunting against hunters, gun ownership against gun control, and environmentalists against jobs and business interests. I am a Hunter Education instructor and deal with kids so I want leadership, but we need to deal with the issue. We had a technical review done by The Wildlife Society (TWS) and American Fisheries Society (AFS), there is also an article coming out in the Wildlife Professional; and one on North Dakota and Minnesota and the lead and meat issue; a good book for directors is the “Ingestion of Lead from Spent Ammunition:” which has good information in it; and global climate change, something simple you can read. The Wildlife Professional magazine is pushing the issue and youth are hearing about global climate change in the north and the great impacts in the desert west, but also in the Midwest. Many species you deal with in the future may not be traditional species you deal with today, may be insects or butterflies. In summary, over the last decade we have been cheerleaders for our students. Look at what Aldo Leopold would do when your job gets frustrating and perplexing. **Rex Amack** – Did you do a human dimension study? **Gary Potts** – Continue to do research unless we get more information. **Rex Amack** – Of all the proposals in front of the multi-state grants committee, lead not even ranked in the top. **Gary Potts** – Dove is a starting point, states should contemplate going to nontoxic shot on dove hunting, which would be a starting point for management.

Ask yourself, if policy is implemented in your state, would you comply-type questions. A lot of groups want a total ban, but we caution you to be careful not to do a total ban. Start working with doves and go from there and work with public human dimension issues.

Deer & Wild Turkey (*Report – Exhibit Y*) – **Dale Garner, Iowa** – First meeting of the private lands committee was in 1991, this was the 32nd meeting for the deer and turkey group. Held at Fort Robinson State Park in Nebraska, we invited speakers who gave presentations on lead in venison; and hunter recruitment and retention (state by state). No action items. **Ollie Torgerson** – I was in on the first meeting.

Legal (*Report – Exhibit Z*) – **Ollie Torgerson** - John Hoskins is director/liaison. We have two presenters today, Becky Humphries and Michelle Helleran, Michigan State University (MSU), East Lansing. We are excited about the Midwest Law Clinics program with the MSU Law School and Boone and Crockett's involvement. The Legal Committee had no formal meeting, but had a conference call earlier this month where they were asked if they were willing and able to provide guidance for this program. **Carol Bambery** – We met June 16, 2009 and spent two hours on the phone talking about this clinical program. Missouri, Illinois, Michigan, Kentucky, Kansas, Wisconsin and Ohio were represented. There is enthusiasm for the concept, interest in acting as clinical advisor and excited about the concept of interns in Attorney General's offices and state offices. This would provide grounding in wildlife management issues. Again, the Midwest is a leader; filed Amicus brief on wolf case and that was the first time a regional association had done anything like that; and this is the first time any pilot program has ever been done like this. **Michelle Helleran** – The Law School is committed to this program, and is talking with partners. There is not a lot of education available and this is a premier program nationwide, which will have the ability to help your agencies. No action items. **Ollie Torgerson** – Legal Committee has endorsed it, but maybe MAFWA needs to. Law students are getting anti-hunting education, but not education in wildlife utilization. Did you mention your endowment? **Becky Humphries** – Boone and Crockett (B&C) is doing fund raising to make this an endowed program, they will hire a coordinator to get course work and curriculum up and rolling. **Carol Bambery** - B&C will raise \$5-\$7 million, ambitious but doable. **Ollie Torgerson** – We can call for motion. *Ken Herring moved and complimented the program, Matt Frank second. Approved.*

Wildlife and Fish Health (*Report – Exhibit AA*) – **Ollie Torgerson** - Becky Humphries is the director/liaison. **Becky Humphries** --Seven states attended this meeting, hosted on May 19 and 20, 2009 at Fort Collins, Colorado. The full committee report is on the MAFWA website, also a short executive summary. Discussed status of the National Fish and Wildlife Initiative; lead in venison (Dave Schad asked for recommendations); disease reports from each state agency; AI surveillance efforts; wild sheep issues; CWD; lyme disease in Tennessee; bovine TB in Minnesota; plague in Colorado; and feral swine. Action item: For your consideration, this will be taken up tomorrow, we want to remain a sanctioned committee. This will be done during the by-laws committee report. Information items: The third CWD symposium will be July 22-24, 2009 in Park City, Utah; we encourage participation and have some funding available for travel assistance. On feral swine populations in Midwest: consider writing letter to Congressional delegations for funding; for control/eradication of species and disease testing; contacting support from USFWS and Associations to enlist support to establish feral swine control/eradication grant program; and contact U.S. Animal Health Association to enlist support to establish grant program; and energize stakeholders. We have a resolution to address lead and lead fragments, came up with a statement that reads: "Lead can be toxic for both wildlife and humans and there are numerous routes of

exposure. State fish and wildlife agencies maintain authority over wildlife management while state public health agencies have authority over human health issues.” We found common ground and came up with some statements. The next meeting is in 2010 in North Dakota in late April or early May. **Ollie Torgerson** – Strong recommendation to develop a resolution. Should there be a position statement too subsequent to a resolution? **Dave Schad** – That will come from my AFWA committee.

Furbearers (*Report – Exhibit BB*) – **Ollie Torgerson** - Joe Kramer is director/liaison – **Joe Kramer** – We met on April 14-17, 2009 in Frankfort, Kentucky. Jon Gassett did not disappoint the group, he showed up at the fun events; and when you are a field person, having someone like that come, with that small of meeting, meant a lot to them. We appreciate what you did Jon, and for Kentucky for hosting the meeting. We had 25 participants, however only six furbearer biologists. Had representation from USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services, USFWS, SE Cooperative Disease Study; United Trappers of Kentucky, Furtakers of America, KDFWR, KDWP, MAFWA CITES, University of Kentucky, University of Tennessee, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Missouri-Columbia, and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. We were welcomed by Dr. Karen Alexy, KDFWR Wildlife Chief, who gave us an elk update, an outstanding presentation. Several speakers presented on river otters and Laura Patton, Kentucky’s Furbearer Specialist was an excellent host. We had three director action items and since meeting, could work with delisting on wolf. **Ollie Torgerson** – Two of the action items: stand behind BMPs for trapping, which is not an action item, but has worked well for us; and a request to send furbearer biologists to meeting, which is also not an action item. As directors, you asked for a white paper on coursing pens, which was sent to you in the report, you also passed a resolution on coyote transfer because Indiana was having trouble. Suggest that we adopt a position statement on coursing pens, my suggestion is that directors ask committee to develop position statement and bring forth as an action item next year and then we can build a resolution from that if you want. **Joe Kramer** – A take home point on sending furbearer biologists, half of Kansas’ last Commission meeting was spent dealing with one beagle that was caught in a body-gripping trap on COE property. A bleeding heart police officer lost his dog and tried to explain why it didn’t make sense on incidental take. Everything the trapper did was legal, but not a good thing. The Farm Bill was the biggest thing to come to Kansas, but seeing more mountain lion issues, dogs and stuff. It is important to send biologists, obviously those with wolves, etc. We only had six biologists at the meeting. Talked to Matt Peek on wolves and he mentioned that you actually have wolf biologists that work on your staffs. Minnesota and Michigan have wolf biologists that are not tied to the Furbearer Working Group. From the standpoint of delisting the wolf, we could put something together on incidental take which would support delisting. We brought a resolution before the Executive Committee and could with the Furbearer WG. **Jon Gassett** – We appreciate you bringing the furbearer committee to Kentucky. **Ollie Torgerson** – *I think we have consensus to bring coursing pens position statement to next meeting.*

CITES (*Report – Exhibit CC*) (*International Trade in Endangered Species Convention Notes – Exhibit DD*) – **Ollie Torgerson** - Mike Conlin is the director/liaison and Dave Risley will be giving the report. **Dave Risley** – All flyway council members are capable of reading so I will not read this report to you. Carolyn Caldwell, the MAFWA CITES representative, went to Saratoga Springs, New York in September, 2008. She couldn’t make it to Peoria because of out-of-state travel restrictions. The paddlefish issue in Tennessee has the potential to impact paddlefish in other states. A workshop with Fisheries Chiefs and the USFWS was held in January to discuss management measures to ensure sustainability and another meeting was held in March as a first step in developing an understanding of diverse issues. The current situation of paddlefish management represents a case of shared responsibility

with treaty obligations and state management authority; inter-jurisdictional resource management; increasing commercial demand; and volatile allocation politics. This will not affect sale of caviar domestically, but does in Tennessee and could impact other states. Issue on lynx look-alikes, perception problem has the Service coming up with alternative tagging. For 32 years they have used the plastic pelt seal on river otter and bobcats and significant progress is being made to implement a new procedure for 2010 hunting and trapping season that will save time and money. **Matt Hogan** – That is our ultimate hope, we met with USFWS and counseled them that eliminating the tag could be problem. **Dave Risley** – It is not done yet, but studies show that bobcat populations are doing well in the U.S., they have significant range and good populations. The CITES Technical Working Group is working on a spreadsheet questionnaire from the range states of six turtle species proposed for inclusion in CITES. Expect further discussion next year. The NCN Committee selected CITES for a multi-state grant which was submitted to allow consistent oversight and participation. **Ollie Torgerson** – We would like to thank Ohio for allowing Carolyn Caldwell to be our representative.

NCN (Report - Exhibit EE) – Dan Zekor – The NCN Committee provided a report which is available on the MAFWA website. Since Tom Niebauer retired, Mike Conlin appointed Dave Risley, Don Buhnerkempe and Dan Zekor. We annually advise on submittal of NCNs, and many came up this year, several from Wisconsin. For 2010, the grant cycle approved the Regional Climate Change workshop NCN, one of seven. The Committee also submitted and scored eight and returned them to AFWA.

Pheasant (Report - Exhibit FF) – Rex Amack – The Pheasant Study group is a work in progress. There next meeting is scheduled for fall of 2009 in North Dakota.

Wildlife Action Plan – No report.

Law Enforcement – No report.

Mike Conlin – We would like to thank all of the committees for their hard work. *Round of applause.*

Dinner on your own

Hospitality Room – Sponsored by the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers