

**Midwest Association of
Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2009, 2:00 p.m. (CDT)
Conference Call**

Call to Order – President Mike Conlin called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

Quorum - Mike Conlin, Illinois; Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado; Joe Kramer, Kansas; and Dave Schad, Minnesota were present. Also present were Ollie Torgerson, Executive Secretary; Sheila Kemmis, Recording Secretary; and guest Gary Potts, Illinois.

Agenda Review – None

Approval of March 20, 2009 Executive Committee Minutes – *Jeff Ver Steeg moved to approve the minutes, Joe Kramer second. Approved.*

Financial Report – Everyone received an email with attachments of the Balance Summary Sheet and Accounts yesterday. Rex contacted Shane at Hampton and Hampton and discussed the status of investment funds and Shane convinced Rex we should leave funds where they are for a little longer. Ollie – Will Rex give a report from the Investments Committee in Illinois? Mike – I was more comfortable after seeing the report from Shane. A report from Shane for the annual meeting would be helpful and it would help everyone if they could hear it from him. Sheila – I believe Shane is planning on coming to the annual meeting. Joe – When do you want him to talk? Mike – During the business meeting on Wednesday, July 1.

Southern Wings –MAFWA participation in Southern Wings was approved during our March meeting and an MOU from Missouri is on its way to Mike for signature. Missouri and Iowa want to participate; Iowa is sending \$5,000 a year for the next 3 years, and Missouri sending \$15,000 a year for 3 years. Iowa may need a bill from Sheila and Joe. Missouri needed a signed copy from us by next week to get the \$15,000 for this fiscal year. Sheila and Joe will set up a new checking account and MAFWA will get 5 percent for administrative fees. Joe – It says that on the second page, not more than 5 percent. *Joe Kramer moved to accept Missouri agreement, Jeff Ver Steeg second.* Mike will sign and send in as soon as it arrives. Ollie sent copy of Missouri agreement to Iowa for them to decide if they want to fashion a similar agreement instead of just getting an invoice.

Farm Bill Assessment – Sheila stated that Kansas had received a bill from AFWA and wasn't sure whether to pay it even though all of the Midwest states probably received a similar bill for the Farm Bill Assessment have probably already paid it. However MAFWA voted to support this for three years at our annual meeting in 2005 and last year was the last year of that three-year period. Mike – They hope to have a multistate grant in place in 2010. Ollie – Maybe the directors approved that at the AFWA level. Gary – This was brought up at the Private Lands Committee meeting and Jen thought her funding would end next year. Ollie – Don't remember, we did hear

from Matt, but we don't know if action was taken. Mike – I already paid our bill in Illinois. Sheila – Most states already paid. Mike – I can't believe Matt would send out a bill without talking about it. Jeff – Colorado did not budget for it, so MAFWA should encourage those who can to pay, but if they can't because of budget constraints then that is the way it is. Ollie will check with Angela and let directors know. (Post script—AFWA Director's approved a fourth year of Farm Bill invoicing during the AFWA annual business meeting in Saratoga Springs, NY in September, 2008.)

Private Lands Committee Action Items – Mike-- we were pleased to host private lands committee meeting here in Illinois and to host the upcoming annual meeting. Ollie – Gary Potts is present for the Private Lands Group. They have five letters for approval, but are asking us to approve three right now so they can get them mailed. I sent copies of letters to each of you by email. One letter is in regards to Voluntary Public Access (VPA) and is addressed to the Secretary of U.S. Department of Agriculture. We will take each one individually for vote. Mike – We have been waiting forever for these rules and they are still not out yet. This letter urges their action quickly. *Jeff Ver Steeg agreed we should send the letter and all agreed.* Gary Potts summarized the letter as Dave did not have a copy with him. No interim rules established yet, for 4-year program, not get first year of funding, plan for 2010 and beyond and need to get letter in. *Consensus.*

Next letter is to Jonathan Coppess. Gary Potts summarized letter: once quota acres are reached, how can we get additional acres from federal government, same with CP38, may be several categories, one may be filling quickly, but the others are not; how can we get those acres moved to the slower programs to get habitat acres on the ground. Dave – This is important without CRP signups, we have already maxed out on a couple of these programs. Ollie – Who should we “cc”, there are none listed on this letter. Gary – I contacted Bill White and we are working on that. Our Committee has summarized this in our report for the annual meeting on pages 6 and 7 so you can look at that in detail when you get that report. Jeff – You should “cc” AFWA on each of these. On the one we haven't talked about you had Doug Carruso and Jonathan Coppess, we may want both of those on this one also. *Consensus.*

Last one to Secretary of Ag again. Summary: picked landowners to get 1.5 million acres, some may not want to renew, because of high commodity prices, won't get all landowners renewing, ought to work with as many landowners as needed to get all 1.5 million acres. The way they are doing it now they probably won't reach that maximum acreage. Mike – I think this letter is good. Jeff – Great job and we appreciate your work at getting these in front of us. Ollie – Add “ccs” and I found a typo in the last paragraph. Ollie - Can I apply your electronic signature Mr. President? Mike – Yes. *Consensus.*

Organization of Retired Conservation Administrators – Ollie – I am stalemated on this. Can't get Matt to answer questions or get Laura MacLean to add a couple of things to website. Eventually we will send something to every director, NGO, heads of universities, etc. to send out to their retired conservation leaders. No response to my emails to AFWA.

Executive Secretary Contract and Performance Appraisal – Mike – Jeff reminded me of this and I need a blank form to fill out for this year. Is this done at the Executive Committee meeting? Ollie – My contract is through June of next year, but we negotiate the new contract between June 1 and October 1 of 2009. Also, my performance evaluation is done in September by the

President, Past President and Vice President and reported to the Executive Committee. A good time to talk about it is at the AFWA annual meeting. In the past MAFWA was interested in a one-year contract, but I was interested in a two-year, but one-year is okay with me now given the uncertain economic climate everyone is facing. Mike – We can address this during the business meeting and ask you to leave the room. Jeff – FYI, we used July through October so that signing could happen at the AFWA meeting in September if need be.

2009 Meeting Report – Mike – We have the registration form up on our website and we have sent an email blast reminding people to get registered for the conference. We are working on final draft of agenda, waiting on confirmations. Ollie – Cindy requested a conference call every week until meeting with Mike, Ollie, Cindy and possibly Jeff. Mike – One month out, we are at \$30,000 in sponsorships. We will be doing one more email blast and may be hitting the mailing list once. If you looked at the draft agenda you have a feel for the major issues which were taken from the meeting last year. You will enjoy an evening on the Spirit of Peoria riverboat ride with supper served onboard and will get to see jumping carp, as well as electro fishing and bow fishing demonstrations while we are out. There was an error on the billing from last year, an expense for 2009 conference was on Jeff's bill, but I think we got that worked out. Ollie – On fund raising, thanks to Jeff and Colorado's \$3,000, we are only \$500 less than last year. Mike – There will be a thank you on the website to sponsors. Ollie has been beating the bushes because these are tough times. Sheila – What about the money, is Delaney Management collecting all of that and will submit it all at once or will I have to be entering the credit cards? Ollie – Invoices were sent to sponsors, but I don't know about registration money or other income.

Other Business – Ollie – Joe, would you talk about your idea for Rex? Joe – Rex sent in his second check for the Conservation Enhancement Fund (CEF) sustainable membership and it might be worth the effort to recognize Rex at the annual meeting. Some NGOs give letter jackets or windbreakers or something like that. Maybe we should recognize him in front of everybody. He is paying on a yearly basis and if we make a big deal at the annual meeting plus let other people know CEF is out there we will get more mileage out of this. We could get a windbreaker at Cabela's for around \$50. Ollie – Get only one? Mike – Better off ordering one for now. Jeff – I think Joe is on the ball. Rex is a pioneer and leading by example and that is a good idea. Joe – We will work on it and we could use the MAFWA logo the size of softball. Let us work on it.
Consensus.

Ollie – The Southeast Wildlife Disease Study is holding wildlife health workshops in each region, and there is a \$3,600 stipend in the West for travel use, but this does not include the provinces. Do you know anything about the grant? Dave – The Midwest workshops were held in Iowa six months ago. Ollie – Did we get any money to send people? Dave – Yes.

Dave – Would like to have a Climate Change committee set up in MAFWA if possible. What is the procedure? Jeff – That is a by-laws change and we missed the window for this meeting, but we can bring that up at the business meeting and vote on it between meetings. Ollie – We can put it on the agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting which is Sunday before the annual meeting. Dave – The other option would be discussion to see if the directors think this is worthy when we discuss climate change. Then we could make a recommendation. Ollie – The President can form a President's Ad Hoc committee at any time. Jeff – Mike could form an Ad Hoc to get

it going. Dave – Could you add an Ad Hoc discussion item? Jeff – Yes, then we could vote at the full meeting on July 1. Ollie – We will call it Climate Change Technical Working Committee and get it on the agenda.

Gary Potts – I chaired The Wildlife Society’s climate change global and in the 2008 fall TWS magazine the whole issue is on climate change. I think Dave Schad had an article in that. I could get copies to bring with me and also bring 20 copies on the lead issue. Ollie – Please do that.

Next Meeting Date - The next meeting is June 28, Sunday at 5:00 pm in Peoria. Jeff will not be there and we don’t know if anyone from Indiana will be there.

Tabled - Midwest Law Clinics - No discussion because Becky Humphries was not present.

Adjourn – *Jeff Ver Steeg moved to adjourn, Joe Kramer second. The meeting adjourned at 3:04.*