

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies State Wildlife Action Plan Technical Working Committee

Meeting Time and Place: Wednesday July 29, 2009, 1:00 – 2:45 p.m.
Hotel Boulderado, Boulder, Colorado

Attendance: A total of ten individuals representing nine Midwestern states participated in the meeting. The list of attendees is included in the meeting report (Appendix 1).

Executive Summary: The second meeting of the MAFWA State Wildlife Action Plan Technical Working Committee was held as a break-out session of a national State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinators Meeting July 27-30 2009. It was decided to forego our regularly scheduled annual meeting in the spring when it became clear that the National Plan Coordinators meeting would take place; due to budget constraints and their attendant travel restrictions, it was deemed unlikely that enough committee members could travel to both a regional and a national meeting in one year. This Midwestern section meeting was facilitated by Katy Reeder (IA). The Technical Working Committee is chaired by Katy Reeder (IA) and co-chaired by Dennis Figg (MO). The meeting agenda is attached (Appendix 2). The meeting provided an important opportunity to chart our course in the near-term and to develop a strategy for continued regional coordination. The group expressed a desire to work collaboratively to tackle large upcoming hurdles, primarily the development of climate change adaptation strategies. The group will also work to coordinate monitoring strategies and identify multi-state priorities.

Director Action Items: No actions by the directors are requested at this time.

Director Information Items:

1. The group discussed the need to address climate change in State Wildlife Action Plans. In June, the House of Representatives passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009. In the House Bill, a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of carbon allotments would be used to fund natural resources adaptation to climate change. Each year, an average of \$1.7 billion would be distributed to state and federal natural resource agencies to address climate change. If a climate change bill passes the Senate, it will be important for the wildlife adaptation strategies that are developed as a result of this legislation to be aligned with State Wildlife Action Plans.
2. This committee will work to draft a white paper on how we will work together to address climate change. Given the large-scale natural of climate change and limited funds, it is crucial that we collaboratively move forward efforts on climate change. There was discussion at the meeting to break up into the Great Lakes states and the Great Plains states due to the regional differences of climate change issues. We plan to accomplish this thru webex's, email, and possibly a spring meeting.

3. This committee will work to identify opportunities for regional monitoring, including:
 - a. Identify list of overlapping SGCN
 - b. Coordinate monitoring strategies for high priority species
4. Through email and 'webex' conversations, this group will re-visit and update our standing list of multi-state projects.
5. The group discussed ways we could help guide "green" energy for the future of wildlife. The risks to wildlife from wind energy development are not well understood yet, and research on the subject is underway but not keeping pace with the rate of wind farm development.
6. This committee plans to coordinate a regional approach for developing future Competitive State Wildlife Grant (SWG-C) proposals, as well as other funding opportunities. This will be based on our overlapping priorities.

Time and Place of Next Meeting: The target date for the next face-to-face meeting will be April 2010. The meeting location has not yet been determined but the meeting will be located so as to minimize travel distance for the greatest majority of states. A "web-ex" meeting will be scheduled for October 2009.

Appendix 1

MAFWA Wildlife Action Plan Technical Working Committee attendees list

Katy Reeder (Iowa)

Jim Renn (Illinois)

Ken Brunson (Kansas)

Danna Baxley (Kentucky)

Faith Balch (Minnesota)

Kristal Stoner (Nebraska)

Rick Schneider (Nebraska)

Rebecca Schroeder (Wisconsin)

Amy Derosier (Michigan)

Eileen Dowd Stukel (South Dakota)

Terra Rentz (AFWA)

Steve Jose (US Fish and Wildlife Service)

Mike Sweet (US Fish and Wildlife Service)

Appendix 2

Agenda for State Wildlife Action Plan Regional Working Group Breakout Session

1. What will this group do in the next year to support implementation of state action plans?
2. What are the big unmet needs related to action plan implementation in the region?
3. If there was a next meeting for SWAP coordinators and conservation partners, what topic/theme would be the most important to you?
4. What specific steps will we take in the short-term to ensure we make progress on the list developed during discussion of item #1?