

# **12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE MIDWEST PHEASANT STUDY GROUP**

## ***FINALIZING THE NATIONAL WILD PHEASANT CONSERVATION PLAN***



**HOSTED BY THE INDIANA DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

**SEPTEMBER 20 – 23, 2010  
ROSS CAMP  
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA**

**N. BUDD VEVERKA, CHAIRMAN**

**2010 REPORT**  
**12<sup>TH</sup> MIDWEST PHEASANT STUDY GROUP MEETING**

**THE MIDWEST PHEASANT STUDY GROUP IS A TECHNICAL WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE  
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES**

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STATE REPORTS

NATIONAL WILD PHEASANT CONSERVATION PLAN LAYOUT



# MIDWEST PHEASANT STUDY GROUP

Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri,  
Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin

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## AGENDA 12<sup>TH</sup> MIDWEST PHEASANT STUDY GROUP MEETING

### Monday, September 20, 2010

4:00 pm – 10:00 pm Check-in

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Evening Social

### Tuesday, September 21, 2010

7:00 am – 8:00 am Breakfast (provided)

8:30 am – 12:00 pm Morning Session

Introduction – *Budd Veverka, Indiana DFW*

State Status Reports – *Group*

The New NBCI – *Don McKenzie, NBCI Coordinator*

NBCI Activities – *Don McKenzie, NBCI Coordinator*

12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch (provided)

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Afternoon Session

Private Lands Programs in Indiana

– *Dean Zimmerman, Indiana DFW*

National Pheasant Conservation Plan: Review – *Group*

National Pheasant Conservation Plan: Discussion – *Group*

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Field Trip – Pine Creek Bottoms Game Bird Habitat Area

– *Dave Spitznagle, Indiana DFW*

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Dinner (Off-site Cookout hosted by Sagamore Pheasants Forever)

## **Wednesday, September 22, 2010**

7:00 am – 8:00 am Breakfast (provided)

8:30 am – 12:00 pm Morning Session

National Pheasant Conservation Plan: Discussion – *Group*

12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch (provided)

1:00 pm – 5:30 pm Afternoon Session

National Pheasant Conservation Plan: Discussion – *Group*

5:30 pm – 10:00 pm Dinner (on your own) – Transportation to West Lafayette provided

## **Thursday, September 23, 2010**

7:00 am – 8:00 am Breakfast (provided)

8:30 am – 12:00 pm Morning Session

Chick Imprinting Techniques – *Todd Bogenschutz, Iowa DNR*

Use of Georeferencing in Survey Data Collection  
– *Travis Runia, South Dakota DGFP*

National Pheasant Conservation Plan: Wrap-up – *Group*

AFWA Federal Budget Appropriations Recommendations – *Group*

12:00 pm – 12:30pm Final Thoughts & Meeting Adjournment (Box lunch provided)



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## **MEETING SUMMARY**

### **12<sup>TH</sup> MIDWEST PHEASANT STUDY GROUP MEETING**

Eight Members (IN, IA, KS, NE, ND, OH, SD, and WI) of the Midwest Pheasant Study Group (MPSG), along with representatives from PA and the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) arrived on Monday, Sept. 20, 2010 at Ross Camp A-Frame in West Lafayette, IN. The evening was spent getting acquainted and discussing the next day's agenda.

Tuesday morning began with formal introductions and a review of the meeting agenda. Following introductions, State representative delivered their state reports, summarizing last year's hunting activities, ongoing management activities, and current pheasant research (Appendix 1).

Don McKenzie of the NBCI presented an overview of the new structure of the NBCI, including the addition of personnel, and updated the group on the second incarnation of Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative Strategic Plan. Don discussed with the group and detailed the timeline for the original plan, the lessons learned between writing the first and second plans, and where improvements could have been made in the first plan to expedite the process faster and more efficiently. Dean Zimmerman of the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife followed Don with a presentation on the private lands program in Indiana, detailing the duties of Indiana's District Wildlife Biologists.

Tuesday afternoon was spent reviewing the process of writing the National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan. The review included the proposal at the 2006 meeting in Nebraska, the planning outline devised at the 2008 meeting in Ohio, and the development of the Introduction and habitat model from the 2009 meeting in North Dakota. High turnover in the group membership made an extended review necessary.

After the National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan review, the rest of Tuesday afternoon and evening was spent in the field. Dave Spitznagle of the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife led a guided tour of Pine Creek Bottoms Game Bird Habitat Area, Indiana's largest such area purchased with money from the Game Bird Habitat Stamp program. Following the tour, the Sagamore Pheasants Forever Chapter hosted the MPSG for a wonderful steak dinner.

Wednesday was used by the group to discuss the development of the National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan. After lengthy, but constructive debate, the group created a layout of the written plan, based on the 2002 NBCI Plan and taking into account the recommendations from Don McKenzie. After determining the plan layout, members were assigned sections of the plan to be written, and the group put together a timeline to complete those section and have a plan compiled (Appendix 2).

The meeting wrapped up on Thursday morning with presentations from Todd Bogenschutz of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Travis Runia of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks. Todd presented information on chick imprinting techniques developed during recent research projects, and Travis presented information on methods developed for survey data collection using georeferencing. Following these presentations, the group selected South Dakota for the next meeting in 2011, and a few final thoughts and items were addressed. The meeting adjourned just before noon.

**Director Action Items** – None

**Director Information Items** – Update on the timeline for organizing, editing, and releasing National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan

**Time and Place of Next Meeting** – Autumn 2011, South Dakota

**ATTENDEE CONTACT LIST**  
**12<sup>TH</sup> MIDWEST PHEASANT STUDY GROUP**  
**MEETING**

**Indiana**

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**National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative**

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## **ORGANIZATIONAL GUIDELINES OF THE MIDWEST PHEASANT STUDY GROUP**

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Provide an informal forum for common management problems concerning the pheasant and associated upland game (where applicable) in Midwest upland/farmland habitats.
2. Stimulate an exchange of information between states on survey techniques, harvest regulations, research, and habitat management.
3. Provide an opportunity to define and set priorities for common research needs and to minimize duplication of efforts among member states.
4. Provide an opportunity to develop cooperative research projects that one state could not address by itself.
5. Act as a source of detailed information on pheasants in the Midwest (and other applicable states) for the public and other resource agencies.

### **ORGANIZATION:**

The Midwest Pheasant Study Group shall consist of representatives from the member states who, as wildlife biologists, are directly responsible for research and management of pheasants and associated upland game birds. States invited to join the Group are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Other states are encouraged to participate. The Midwest Pheasant Study Group is sanctioned by the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) <sup>a</sup>.

### **OFFICERS:**

The offices of chairperson and secretary shall be filled by biologists from the state selected to host the next meeting. Their term of office shall be from their selection until completion of all responsibilities for their Group meeting. Officers will be selected by the host state with recommendations made by the group. Their responsibilities will include organizing the meeting to be held in their state, selecting a meeting site and dates, arranging for lodging and meeting rooms, formulating an informal program, publicity and meeting announcements to member states, and publication of a meeting summary and updated biologist directory.

### **COMMITTEES:**

Committees may be selected to investigate specific problems and make recommendations to the entire group. Committees will be selected by the chairperson after reviewing requests for committee action submitted by the membership.

### **MEETINGS:**

At each group meeting the date and host state for the next meeting will be decided. Meeting sites will be rotated among member states on a volunteer basis. If no volunteer comes forward, the first member state (proceeding alphabetically) that has not yet hosted a meeting, or the member state with the longest elapsed time period since it last hosted a meeting, will be chosen if agreeable to that state. Meetings will generally be 2-3 days in duration with meeting costs kept to an absolute minimum. A general theme shall be selected for each meeting; site chosen should enhance the selected topic. Field trips are encouraged to investigate management practices and/or research projects.



Notice of arrangements for the meeting shall be distributed to member states at least 4 months in advance to allow time for securing out-of-state travel authority and preparation of presentations/status reports.

MEETING AGENDA:

The program shall be informal with ample time for open discussion. Each state shall submit a written report on hunting regulations and harvest, population surveys and trends, new research and management projects, university research, and any other topic that the state representatives deem important. Also, the chairperson may invite guest speakers to present reports on the selected theme of the meeting or other topics that may be of interest to the group. Short field trips may be utilized to point out areas of special interest to the group.

ATTENDANCE:

To enhance an atmosphere of total participation and exchange of ideas, the attendance shall be limited to 40 persons. The chairperson will be responsible for limiting the size of the meeting to that number. Forty seats will be allocated in a manner that allows the 11 non-host states to send a maximum of 3 individuals apiece, the host state is allowed 5 seats, and 2 seats will be available for national-group representatives such as Pheasants Forever and Quail Unlimited. If pre-meeting registration indicates that some states will not send their full allotment, the chairperson can delegate unfilled seats to the host state or to states requesting extra attendance. Persons invited by the host state to participate in the program would not be counted toward the allotment.

BUSINESS MEETING:

The agenda will include a short business meeting. Topic of discussion will include selection of the next host state, date of the next meeting, future topic(s) of interest, selection of officers, committee reports, and any other information pertinent to the operation of the group.

MEETING SUMMARY AND MINUTES:

The secretary of the group shall be responsible for preparing a summary of topics discussed at the meeting to persons attending and any other organization or agency making a request. The meeting summary shall contain a synopsis of information presented and items covered at the business meeting, including committee reports. Any written reports submitted at the meeting shall be included as well as a list of persons attending the meeting and their addresses. Group chair will provide a copy of the meeting summary to the president of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies<sup>b</sup>. Duplication of status reports and related material to be placed in the meeting summary shall be the responsibility of member state representatives and adequate copies must be turned in at the meeting. Funds for distribution of the meeting summary and other materials will be furnished by the host state.

<sup>a</sup> Revised at the 2004 meeting by unanimous vote.

<sup>b</sup> Revised at the 1996 meeting by unanimous vote.  
Previously revised at the 1993 meeting.



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## **APPENDIX 1 STATE REPORTS**

State Reports to be sent in hard copy form via postal mail.



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## **APPENDIX 2**

### **NATIONAL WILD PHEASANT CONSERVATION PLAN LAYOUT, ASSIGNMENTS, AND TENTATIVE TIMELINE**

# NATIONAL WILD PHEASANT CONSERVATION PLAN (LAYOUT)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY-*TBA*

## INTRODUCTION

ADD: ECONOMICS PARAGRAPH-*TRAVIS RUNIA*  
EASTERN HISTORY PARAGRAPH-*SCOTT KLINGER*  
WESTERN HISTORY PARAGRAPH-*JOE MCCANNA (COORDINATED BY STAN KOHN)*

**THE GOAL FOR THIS PLAN AND INITIATIVE IS TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN SELF-SUSTAINING WILD PHEASANT POPULATIONS IN EACH STATE THAT PROVIDE MAXIMUM RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.**

## METHODOLOGY-*TODD BOGENSCHUTZ/KURT HAROLDSON*

## RESULTS

STATE SECTION-*STATE BIOLOGISTS*  
OR  
MIDWEST REGIONAL SECTIONS-*TBA COORDINATORS*

## STATE/REGIONAL SUMMARY-*BUDD VEVERKA*

## PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

### PERSONNEL-*TODD BOGENSCHUTZ*

*Objective:* Identify and hire a National Ring-necked Pheasant Conservation Coordinator.

*Actions*

- Within one year of plan approval seek funding for and hire an individual for the position.
- Establish a national wild ring-necked pheasant technical committee within 2 years of plan approval.

### POLICY- *TODD BOGENSCHUTZ*

*Objective:* Influence national conservation, agricultural and energy policies, which are beneficial to ring-necked pheasant.

*Actions*

- Influence national agricultural policy (e.g., program availability, rule changes, etc.) to establish **XXX** acres of habitat through federal conservations and commodity programs to obtain a national pheasant harvest of **XXX**.
- Influence national energy and climate change policies that are beneficial to national pheasant goals and objectives.
- Identify economic incentives (income tax, community development, etc.) to promote pheasant populations.
- Identify funding sources for achieving state and/or regional objectives.
- Hire FSA/NRCS liaison.

**PARTNERSHIPS-DAVE DAHLGREN**

Objective: Identify partners in government and non-government agencies, agriculture, economic, and conservation communities to help implement the plan.

*Actions*

- NGOs
  - Pheasants Forever—attend and promote plan at national meeting
- Federal
  - USFWS-habitat?
  - USDA
- Agricultural Commodity Groups
  - Farm Bureau
  - Different “grower” groups
- State and local
  - Sport clubs
  - Universities?
  - Chamber of Commerce
  - Tourism departments
  - State agencies
  - State extension services

**EDUCATION-BUDD VEVERKA**

Objective: Educate stakeholders on pheasant ecology, management, and research.

*Actions*

- Promote national plan to stakeholders
- Host a research symposium
- Outreach at the state-level
- Work with state extension services
- carbon sequestration, other wildlife species, water quality
- Create and maintain a website and social media
- Recruitment & Retention

**RESEARCH-JEFF LUSK AND JENNIFER NORRIS**

Objective: Identify needed science-based research on pheasant biology and habitat needs.

*Actions*

- Climate change *JL*
- Alternative energy –wind farms (*JN*), biofuels (*JL*)...
- Population viability by habitat *JL*
- Evaluate additional benefits of pheasant habitat improvement (e.g., carbon sequestration, other wildlife species, water quality) *JN/JL*
- Influence of agricultural practices *JL*
- Host a research symposium (*JN*)

**MANAGEMENT/ HABITAT-SHARON FANDAL, STAN KOHN, AND TRAVIS RUNIA**

Objective: Identify and implement actions that improve pheasant populations and habitat.

*Actions*

- Annually monitor pheasant populations and harvest rates as determine by each state.
- Annually monitor habitat change
- Monitor additional benefits of pheasant habitat improvement (e.g., carbon sequestration, other wildlife species, water quality)
- Develop best management practices specific to
  - Ag systems
  - Biofuels
  - Grassland systems – CRP, native
  - Food plots
  - Woody cover
  - Water

**RECOMMENDED BMPs-AL STEWART, BETH (COLE) EMMERICK, MIKE WEFER**  
(COORDINATED BY SHARON FANDEL)

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## **NATIONAL WILD PHEASANT CONSERVATION PLAN (TIMELINE)**

NOV 15 – STATE HABITAT DATA TO BUDD VEVERKA

TBA-CONFERENCE CALL TO DISCUSS RESULTS

DEC 15 – GET TIMELINE AND LAYOUT APPROVAL FROM THE MIDWEST DIRECTOR

JAN 15 – EVERYONE IN THE MIDWEST SEND SECTIONS TO BUDD VEVERKA AND JENNIFER NORRIS

FEB 15 – TALK WITH THE MIDWEST DIRECTOR (UPDATE TO WHERE WE ARE AT WITH THE WRITE-UP)

MARCH 1 – ROUGH DRAFT (PROCEED WITH GETTING INFORMATION FROM NON-MIDWESTERN STATES\*)

MARCH 20 – CIRCULATE AT THE NORTH AMERICAN\*

JULY – MIDWEST DIRECTORS MEETING

SEPTEMBER – AFWA CONFERENCE

\*Contigent on Director Approval