**Director Action Item**

**Joint Resolution in Support of Discontinuing the Use of Neonicotinoids on State Managed Lands under the Authority of the MAFWA Directors**

The Midwest Wildlife and Fish Health Committee at its annual meeting in Galena, Illinois on April 12-13, 2016 and the Public Lands Working Group at its annual meeting in Columbia, Missouri on May 10-12, 2016, both discussed and proposed the following resolution in support of discontinuing use of neonicotinoids on seeds and plants on State managed lands.

**Support for Discontinuing Use of NeonicotinoidS on State managed Lands UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE MAFWA DIRECTORS**

WHEREAS, neonicotinoid pesticides, including but not limited to imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, clothianidin, and acetamiprid, are insecticides that are applied as seed treatments, in foliar sprays, applied granularly to pastures, and injected into trees;

Whereas, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) states are concerned about the deleterious effects of broad spectrum pesticide use on seeds and in plants as it pertains to declining native pollinator populations;

WHEREAS, neonictinoid pesticides are increasing in use and wide range application and are considered to be moderately persistent in the environment;

Whereas, native pollinators are defined as, but not limited to, bees and butterflies (e.g. Poweshiek Skipperling, Dakota Skipper, Monarch Butterfly, Regal Fritillary, Rusty patched Bumble Bee, Western Bumble Bee, and Yellow Banded Bumble Bee);

Whereas, the MAFWA states are concerned that the loss of these pollinators will potentially have wider scale impacts on the biodiversity needed to maintain healthy and sustainable wildlife populations;

WHEREAS, recent studies have shown native bird populations may also be at risk from neonicotinoid treatments;

WHEREAS, insects and other invertebrates are a critical source of food and protein for native wildlife;

WHEREAS, the MAFWA states utilize private cooperators with a variety of skills and philosophies related to regional agricultural practices;

WHEREAS, the MAFWA states recognize the social, political and logistical challenges of implementing abrupt, wholescale changes to agricultural practices and recommend a practical, moderate, phased-in approach; and

WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has already implemented a program to phase out the use of neonicotinoid pesticides in agricultural practices on National Wildlife Refuges by January 2016;

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the MAFWA Directors at its annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri on June 29, 2016 encourage additional evaluation about discontinuing the use of neonicotinoids on those State managed lands under their authority, while concurrently pursuing and investigating wildlife-friendly alternatives as available and practical.