**Director Action Item**

**Joint Resolution in Support of Restoring Federal Funding for Chronic Wasting Disease Management and Research**

The Midwest Wildlife and Fish Health Committee and the Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group both discussed and proposed the following resolution in support of restoring federal funding for chronic wasting disease management and research.

**Supporting restoration of federal funding for chronic wasting disease management and research.**

Whereas, chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease of mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, moose and reindeer/caribou;

Whereas, CWD has been detected in captive and/or free-ranging cervid populations in 24 states (including all but 2 of the Midwestern states), 2 Canadian provinces, the Republic of Korea, and Norway;

Whereas, the geographic distribution and prevalence of CWD continue to grow;

Whereas, CWD poses a threat to the health of cervid populations wherever it occurs;

Whereas, consequent to the ongoing spread of disease, domestic livestock and human exposure to the causative agent of CWD are increasing;

Whereas, effective surveillance of free-ranging and captive populations is a critical component of CWD management;

Whereas, public demand for hunter service testing will likely increase as the size of CWD affected areas increase;

Whereas, indemnification of captive cervid producers has been important for timely depopulation of CWD-positive herds;

Whereas, there remain research needs that are critical for disease control efforts in captive and free-ranging cervids including development of an effective live-animal test and construction of a successful vaccine;

Whereas, the USDA declared CWD to be a national emergency in 2001 and Congress appropriated more than $18 million per year in the early 2000s to USDA for CWD surveillance, management, and research;

Whereas, recent federal appropriations for CWD management have decreased markedly to approximately $1 million to $3 million per year and surveillance has consequently diminished; and

Whereas, in the early 2000s CWD had been detected in free-ranging cervid population in only a handful of states, and the level of federal appropriations for CWD surveillance reflected this level;

Now, therefore, be it resolved,that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Directors, at its annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri on June 29, 2016, encourages AFWA to request restoration of federal funding for CWD management and research in both free-ranging and captive cervid populations to levels greater than those of the early 2000s and commensurate with the needs of the states to (1) conduct adequate surveillance among free-ranging herds and (2) indemnify owners of depopulated positive captive herds.