

**Midwest Association of  
Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, June 28, 2015  
5:00 p.m. CDT  
Room: Duluth Room  
Radisson Hotel, Duluth, MN**

**Call to Order** –President Ed Boggess called the meeting to order at 4:56 pm.

**Quorum** – Ed Boggess, Minnesota; Bob Ziehmer, Missouri; Scott Zody, Ohio; Jim Douglas, Nebraska; Keith Sexson, Kansas; and Bill Moritz, Michigan were present. Also present were Ollie Torgerson, Executive Secretary, Sharon Schafer, Treasurer, and Sheila Kemmis, Secretary. Guests: Dale Garner, Iowa; Kelly Hepler, South Dakota, Naomi Edelson, Jim Hodgeson, Mike Larson, Tom Melius, and photographer.

**Agenda Review** – Ed – Proposal to change order of MAFWA 2016 and CPI discussions.

**Approval of May 5, 2015 Excom Minutes** – *Jim Douglas, NE moved to accept minutes as presented, Keith Sexson, KS second. **Approved.***

**Financial Report** – Sharon – Balances as of June 22, 2015. The General Account revenue \$5,000 MI DNR for MFWC, \$500 from NWTF for Deer and Turkey subcommittee, interest was \$4.80; and expenditures of \$1,060.55 to pay DMEM for Michigan Midwest F&W conference for balance of 61,042.07 (Michigan and Kansas money we are holding from MFWC). In the Conference Account we had revenue from registrations \$800, sponsors of \$32,500 (\$54,000 expected), Southern Wings administrative fee (\$1,625) and interest of \$8.39 for \$34,933.69; and expenditures for Ollie's salary for April & May (\$6,891.80), Ollie's and my travel to the Minnesota (\$4,969.55), 990 preparation \$1,500, MN conference expenses (boat rental \$412.50, shuttles \$750, printing \$423.72); for balance of about \$119,060.02. Southern Wings – no revenue, checks for ABC and 5% admin fee ending with \$9,505. No activity on federal grant account (will be closing) or share account (needed to be member of credit union). In money market \$374,000 with dividends and interest and change in market value for balance of \$380,551.77. Conservation Enhancement Fund, no change from last meeting, no statement received. *Bob Ziehmer, MO moved to accept treasurer's report, Bill Moritz, MI, second. **Approved.***

**CPI Application Discussion** – Sharon – Dues will increase due to CPI as well as Ollie's salary, however it is negative this time. Net change is not material if adjust membership dues, net change less than \$400, Ollie would be \$158 lower. Several options: you can make no adjustments; adjust Ollie and not the dues; or vice versa; or do nothing to both. Ed – Bylaws determine the CPI, can't change dues without changing by-laws which requires 30-day notice. Comfortable with CPI going up and down, and changing dues, but not with salary going up and down. Not sure of COLA adjustment, if CPI is negative than raise is \$0; not the intent to have salary go down. Can modify Ollie's contract if we

choose to do that. Leave dues alone with no change. Ollie – On my contract, that was our intent, we had this discussion, we made it clear between us that it would float with CPI, but nobody thought it would go down. Keith – Did not talk about negative, based on how WAFWA does it. Ollie – Had set fee for dues and then every four years a big jump which made it difficult to justify, so put in CPI clause. Keith – How long is contract? Ollie – Five years. *Bob Ziehmer, MO – moved Ollie's salary stay consistent with what it is now, not go backwards; Jim Douglas, NE second.* Ed – Base contract on when last adjusted, amend contract language, and work on that. *Bob accepted friendly amendment.*

**Approved.** Bob – I see benefits for clarity to keep dues the same and not go backwards, let Association accept when significant change; so change the by-laws. Ed – CPI could go down for several years and we may need to adjust. Bob – Appreciate clarity and discussion on this. Ed – Refer to by-laws committee. Jim – What are current dues? Sharon - \$2,323. Jim – It might be discussed so it rounds to nearest dollar. Ollie – Vote on it in by-laws change for 2016. Adjust bylaws to CPI from last June, but never be adjusted backward. Ed – Previous 12 months, based on changes since previous adjustment. For this year, dues adjustment, but no adjustment for Ollie.

**MAFWA 2106 Budget** – Sharon – Adjust dues to \$30,103 (down \$400), Canadian dues \$302 (also down a little), affiliate dues (16@ \$75) \$1,200, sponsorships \$54,000 (where we are this year), registrations \$22,000 (includes LE), hotel supplement (ranges from \$1,500 to \$2,400), put \$1,000, exhibitors (one) \$500, Southern Wings \$500 and interest of \$75 for estimated revenue of \$109,680.65. Could have additional income, but like to be conservative on revenue numbers. Expenditures: Ollie salary \$41,500, travel \$6,000, Secretary travel \$1,500 (one meeting), my travel for three meetings, but attend two \$4,500, accountant \$1,500, insurance \$1,200, bank charges includes credit card fees charged to us from Delaney \$600, web hosting \$250, miscellaneous \$1,000, conference expenses (DMEM \$11,000, rooms \$30,000, conference gifts \$2,100 and award plaques \$2,100) for total conference expenses \$46,015 with total of \$104,000 and surplus of \$5,500. Ed – Good go be sitting positive. *Scott Zody, OH motion to recommend budget to directors, Keith Sexson, KS second. Approved.*

**Monarch Butterfly Initiative** – Naomi Edelson, NWF (also Tom Melius present) – This region is most significant for monarchs as well as Oklahoma and Texas. First generation born in TX and OK, second in Midwest and third generation also in Midwest (cornbelt) and goes back to Mexico for the winter. Those found in Mexico are eating milkweed from the cornbelt. A lot of players and interest (including school kids and ag. committees) no one wants them listed. Pull together regional, coordinated, strategic effort and put more milkweed and other pollinator plants back on the ground; small plots to big acreages. State agencies can pull those interests together or at least be one of the main players. Talked about this in the past with Ohio, Missouri and others. In talking to state agencies, USFWS and AFWA, proposing three things: put in funding request \$250,000, ask MAFWA or National Wildlife Federation to put in request; put together workshop like NLEB, define acres and greatest need and contribution, share science and facilitate discussion; how we would work together afterwards to make something happen. Other potential monies, hire a coordinator, full time or part time, at least a staff person; Third piece \$10,000 to \$20,000 per state (what would state-based plans be like and wrap up to

regional plan). Tom Melius – NLEB workshop was helpful, NFWF has three areas they want to give money to engage in state-based proposals (look at handout). Have two-year money and requires one to one match. Dale – Kelley wanted me to let you know Iowa is interested in hosting a meeting, have consortium in place already, also strong support from Governor and Iowa State University. Ollie – July 15 proposal deadline – all three proposals done by then? Naomi – Workshop in spring and hire coordinator and do follow-up after – could be 24-month process. Looking at three states for pilot program and use them as match; over a two-year period. Jim – By July 15 decide whether this is whole enchilada and identify match? Naomi – Yes. Another pot of money could be up to \$500,000. Timeline is very short. NFWF happy to do most of the work on the proposal. Ed – If just workshop, what would be size of grant match? Naomi \$40,000 to \$50,000 for travel money for most states and some coordination money for Jonathan Mawdsley and myself; individual state plans could be \$20,000; could reach \$250,000 or scale back. See if you are interested in concept and assign a committee. I can make changes at this meeting. Jim – In-kind match counts? Naomi – Yes. Jim – How much is happening or pledged to happen in IA and MO? Dale – Groups interested and will lead whether we want to or not, some commitment salaries made, in-kind and cash. Bob – Have staff working with seed mixtures, million acres, broader landscape perspective, do what is right for monarchs as well as other species. A lot going on tied to this effort as well as working with school groups. IA put together a nice publication. I can connect you to right staff. Naomi – Could go back a year with match. We will work through that. Kelly Hepler – Non-federal dollars for match? Don't double dip with monies already committed as match to feds. Need to know where the money is. Naomi – Can't use wildlife grant money. Time counts for people showing up at meetings, but need to work all this out. Figure out match and the rest will fall out. Ed – Endorsement for NFWF grant, invite TX and OK to join in. Will discuss in full conference on Tuesday and on business agenda for Wednesday. No time today to decide. Have idea by Wednesday to see what match is already out there. Don't believe we will be able to come up with \$50,000 match; MO, IA and call TX to get idea by business meeting. Naomi – Like basic concept? Ed – Support for workshop and figure out implementation later.

**National Pheasant Plan Coordinator Funding** – Ed – Moving forward thanks to Jim, and Keith and Scott. Jim – Subcommittee had two conference call meetings and working with technical committee to create job description and refine that and invoicing states to get dollars into the coffers. Advertisement for coordinator out in July and open for three weeks; some states could not pledge full \$5,000 so two contributing lesser amounts and working with a few others. Some states have stepped up and will be giving all three years in advance to help stock coffers. Ollie – Have just short of \$90,000 pledged. Sharon – Have \$5,000 collected so far. Ollie – Asked for money in 30 days. How will job announcement be sent out? Jim – Respondents respond to one of tech committees (Jeff Lusk) as contact person at bottom of announcement to be sent out. Will send out through you and states.

**TWS/NCS-MAFWA Leadership Proposal** – Ed – North Central Section would like to make proposal. Mike Larson, President, Minnesota – At May 15 meeting made proposal. Address leadership training; conduct an annual workshop at the Midwest Fish and

Wildlife Conference. Pull off by 2016, partner with MAFWA, need endorsement and need your support for staff to attend. Ed – Request was for \$3,000, do you have dollar amount? Mike – Anticipated \$2,600 that would not be covered and would need those funds. Ed – Asking for three things: endorsement, staff and dollars. Propose we endorse this, and send staff. In terms of financial support, I would support that. We would be plowing some new ground. Ollie – MAFWA is not a granting Association, but this leadership training is for our group and they are trying to get on the ground running. Scott – Agree with Ed, endorse and encourage staff to attend, give up to a certain amount \$1,000 to \$3,000 at the most. Where would those funds come from? Ed – The most is \$2,600. Add stature to this group and promote and support staff. Scott – Asking individual states to try and help out with leadership of this as well? Mike – Five of six speakers identified all from Midwest, this is as far as we will go to get off the ground; reaching out to AFS folks in the future. And get potential presenters at future events. Mike – Budget based on attendance of 50. If we can fill the room, we would be happy to, that is for budgeting purposes. Idea to get training, limited access on number of participants. *Jim Douglas, NE moved that MAFWA support workshop and provide sponsorship for half of unrecovered cost not to exceed \$1,500. Scott Zody, OH second.* Bob – Clarification, bring to entire body on Wednesday? Ollie – Good idea so everyone knows about it. Ed – Will put under new business. Jim – Be part of budget? Ed – Would need to amend that. We will recommend to directors.

**NLEB 4d Rule Comment Letter** – Ed – Approached by Foresters to sign onto comment letter. Ran by our staff, would abstain on this. Ollie – Comment period closes on Tuesday. Tom Melius – Could include part of administrative record and comments received. Ed – Foresters will send on Tuesday. Several states sending individual letters. *Bob Ziehmer, MO – moved to sign onto this, but had some timber management concerns. Bill Moritz, MI second.* Scott – Some items very forestry specific, last page caught my eye on clarity and implementation, crucial and needed to interpret and provide direction. Terms like roost tree and maternity roost tree, consistency important; concerning from Ohio's standpoint. Providing same feedback as Indiana bats and we don't want to do that. Ed – Difficulty in determining roost trees and maternity roost trees. **Approved.** Ollie – I will send our logo and your signature.

**MAFWA Treasurer Replacement** – Ed – Sharon wants to transition out of her role by the end of this calendar year. Appreciate what she has done for last six years. We did send a letter to all Midwest directors. No candidates so far, let us know. Talked about contracting for those services, more involved job, no good handle for cost and would have to amend budget if that is the route we decide to go. Sharon – I suggest somebody who is good at budgeting or CPA or interest in conservation, this expands your ability to understand conservation issues and many opportunities came across my desk because of this. It takes time and continues to take more time. Generally a couple hours a week; more at tax time and conference time. There are five other executive committee meetings besides this one each year. My assistant does all invoicing for me, may be a two-person job. Keith – Pursuing contractual side of things is well worth exploring. Ollie – How much per hour do you think? Sharon – Not sure. Scott – In Ohio, state forestry hires an Association Management business to work on that. Keith – What does SE do? Bob –

Curtis is Executive Secretary and person is now on board to do the books, we hired someone. Ollie – I have that contract, calls for pay of \$36,000 with no hours or time listed in the contract. Bill – Someone in Rhinelander you might know? Ollie – Who you want to sign the checks is what it comes down to. Ed – A small group needs to look into contracting – volunteers Bill Moritz, Scott Zody – look at options and let me know if I can help.

**MAFWA Committees Meeting in Conjunction with Midwest Director's Annual Conference** – Ollie – I put this on the agenda because Legal Committee is meeting here and LE is meeting here too. That is typical of the other regional associations, but that has not been our history. Do you want to change your venue or not, in past our committees have met on their own? Don't know where we are going with this. Ed – My understanding LE wants to meet every third year with us. Keith – Legal is just trying to get something going, have had trouble getting staff to attend. Private and public land committees meet together, encourage staff to attend and numbers go up on what you are sending to a conference. Same in WAFWA, don't get actual field people to summer meeting so some meet separately. Ed – Last couple years, most committees rotate in whatever state is hosting our meeting. Private and public lands had 50 people attend. Problematic if meeting here with us. Scott – If it works for LE and legal committee I think it is okay for them to meet here. Keith – Hard to get legal counsel to attend meetings. Keith – I am the director sponsor, but you don't have much say over attorneys. Ollie – It is not our direction to have MAFWA committees meet with us, is it? Keith – They are just trying to find a system that works for them. Ed – LE wants to meet one year with directors, one with hunter education instructors and one year by themselves. I think is what they want to do. Ollie – Delaney will need to know. Ed – Rather than cosponsor they registered as MAFWA attendees and meet separate. No direction, they can meet. Bill – Coordinate with host state.

**Other Business** – Ed – *None.*

**2016 Conference Update (if any)** – Bob – Coming together for Springfield, Missouri, fishing day opportunity and a visit to National Hunting and Fishing Museum (what is conservation, how shaping the past, today and future). Museum is well done. Working with Cindy, dates are June 26-29, 2016. Save the date cards will be going out soon. We will be looking for topics and work with Ollie.

**Next Meeting Date** – Ollie – Teleconference in August set for August 4, 2015 2:00 pm Central Standard Time.

**Adjourn** – *Scott Zody, OH, Bill Moritz, MI second. Adjourned at 6:30 pm.*