

**Minutes**  
**MAFWA Business Meeting**  
**June 25, 2014**  
**Park Place Hotel**  
**Traverse City, Michigan**

**Wednesday, June 25, 2014**

*Breakfast – Sponsored by National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF)*

**Improving Engagement Models with NGO's (Panel Discussion)**

*Erin McDonough, MUCC – Could not come.*

*Julie Clark, Executive Director TART Trails (PowerPoint – Exhibit 33) –*In 2012, the Governor declared Michigan the trail state. Other states have great trails out there, but when Governor announces in his State of the State, initiatives begin. We have 12,000 miles of trails, hiking, snowmobiling, water trails. Governor did something that people have been enjoying, which provides opportunity for stability and growth. Governor wanted a new trail, to showcase trail from Belle Isle to Ironwood to connect public spaces. Already had a great system on west side of state so now two cooperating trails out there. As great as Governor's initiative was, people wondered where they were in the trail world so this was an opportunity to talk about where their trail was. Rail trails and several other trails already exist. Governor made state trails system which became something we could all be a part of, which was a fundamental shift in the way we think and act. State given authority to work together, DOT can talk to DNR, and talk to other counterparts and locals such as Friends Groups. Need top and bottom communicating, empowerment and engagement; talk about all of the different aspects of it. Trail system can help with a variety of other needs; tie communities together and economic well being. Utilize pathways in different ways and recreational access. Excite locals and volunteers. Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail is a great example of working together.

*Glen Chown, Executive Director TC Regional Land Conservancy (PowerPoint – Exhibit 33) –* The Land Conservancy was founded in 1991 by Rotary Charities of Traverse City, found oil on Boy Scout camp 40 years ago, now a \$50 million foundation. Growth is good for areas, but if not managed and balanced with natural resources it could become a problem. We have 37,000 acres protected, and a staff of 23 individuals. Trust Fund toured region last week. We have helped with 50 natural resource trust fund projects. Shift is harbinger of things to come; how state agencies can partner. Arcadia Sand dunes, home of power plant – in Ludington, from fish and wildlife perspective it was a disaster, turbines serve as blender for fish, sued power company and the settlement created Great Lakes Fisheries Trust that said no second pump storage facility; this power company lost \$2 million, liquidated underutilized assets and we came up with plan to purchase this property and protect it for all time (6,000 acres). We thought we could have DNR buy it. This property was under threat of development so we thought; let's make a new state park. DNR under pressure of protecting what they already had under management, so we told them to come up with different strategy. Knew we had to do

something, nothing else out there like this property. In fund raising campaign (\$30 million goal); wanted to get coastal grant for \$500,000 for this project, but there is bias towards east and west coasts and gulf coast. Called astronaut Jerry Linenger, he submitted letter to send to trust; letter stated this place is visible from space and they got a grant. Rather than buying whole thing, nearly 3,000 restricted with conservation easement and sold back to local farmers who invested millions of dollars. Public Nature Preserve has permanent easement for protection and public access. DNR would have had to spend \$25 million, but spent \$7 million because we invested in private entity. Partner with private entities to get same type of leverage. World class trails, grassland (controlled burns), invasive species control, grant sources, dune alliance, burning marshes to increase fish and wildlife, dropped water temps 10 degrees, birding; partnering in all areas. How do we bundle them into Pure Michigan, a lot of money gets spent by wildlife viewers as well as hunters and fisherman; provide trails for 30-somethings and communities where people want to live. Taking trail skill and using other places in the region.

***Helen Taylor, State Director TNC (PowerPoint – Exhibit 33) – Improving engagement with NGOs, working on Great Lakes issues for 25 years and there have been changes, but when leadership at the top says something it makes it really important. Get to scale, bread and butter has been small projects, but more and more are thinking more of watershed, coastal, forest protection and more of what we own but shared natural assets and different relationship dynamics. Reduced resources have changed nature of how we engage. We talked about improving engagement with NGOs, had to by definition of facilitating and convening, not what you own, extension and partner of you as a resource. When we do that less about, coming to the mountain in the past (DNR), now side by side in what we want to solve. Harnessing assets of NGO community is different way of working together. No longer notion of NGO wanting something, but seeing us as a partner. Leveraging your assets and shifting to solutions and outcomes. Have long histories of doing things a certain way, look at where we want to go and think outside the box. Couple NGOs fretting issue, parcel being bundled in auction for gas rights, attorneys already hired, asked them if they had called Director Creagh; they felt calling was intimidating. I ended up looking like a hero because I called Keith and in 24 hours the problem was solved. Create culture with NGO world and trickle down within your agencies, work together on natural assets of the state and makes for different outcomes. The transformational project (map showing ownership of DNR, forestry, etc.) timber companies sold out about 10 years ago and questioned of how we manage forests. Who had \$150 million to buy that stuff? protected 271,000 acres, 423 miles of forest, lakes and rivers, 517 miles of rivers and streams, 660 lakes, 52,000 acres of wetlands and 60 miles of buffer to natural areas. We had to define the problem; larger forest matrix of Upper Peninsula; not about who was going to own what, DNR and TNC don't own the land, it is in long-term forest easements. What is our goal; make sure in right practices, not necessarily in our control; solutions can be done cheaper faster and more nimbly. Achieved huge outcomes; owning as state park would have not been good for the community. A different way of thinking; forest – constituencies – values – strategies; we will get more done together.***

**Discussion:** *Gunderson* – Point on easements, makes a lot of sense, need to leverage dollars as we don't have the money; timber companies have wholesale fire sale going on. Easements are the way to go, I'm sure there are problems with it, like access because we weren't clear on easements, closing roads and gates, etc. *Taylor* – Financing, trust fund money or enough bake sales; forget about private sector capital, want buffer, more social impact objectives, wealth that wants to solve problems. Philanthropy wants outcomes and all working together on shared space. Solutions we have not looked for in the past. When looking at air and water and not land, need support of that politically unified approach. Difficult to do as regions, not just states. *Al Stewart* – How do we work to educate these people? Young forests are falling through the cracks, and show species living here and help us manage those lands? *Taylor* – Depends on audience you are talking to; 25,000 acres of sugar maple we own; accelerate use of that forest, for investor you have one set of messages, with industry use key ecological message. Different messaging lines, a lot of it is about money; that sounds cold, make it advantageous to bring in revenue; outcomes that are meaningful. *Chown* – Managing 30,000 acres at Arcadia Dune, wanted to cut red pines because of beetle issue, had targeted education sessions to let people know why. Where burning marsh, took photos and did YouTube video of before, during burn, right after, and three months after and improvement to the fisheries. Adults have responsibility to bring young people to connect with natural resources. *Clark* – You know why you are doing what you are doing, but no communication to the people or user groups. Talk with and explain the why of how managing succession and not about what you see today, but about what your kids will see. People deal with a lot if they know why. *Taylor* – Come out of communications with why what we do is important, speak in terms of win-win, not just our interests; don't define how we are different, but what we have in common and accommodate other interests. Start with what we have as common ground. *Mark Sergeant* – Water quality, increased interest in southern Michigan. *Taylor* – RCPP, measuring by outcomes be sure metrics and outcomes are meeting goals, that is a breakthrough program; we need to make that work and demonstrate how that works. *Chown* – Kudos to Governor on leveraging federal dollars with own state programs. Seize the opportunity, now is the heyday, not back in the 70s. *Creagh* – Raising dollars is a side note, industry, hook and bullets, etc. are around the table, it is exciting times.

### **MAFWA BUSINESS MEETING**

***Keith Creagh, MAFWA President*** – Officially called to order at 9:00 AM

#### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

All states present, except Iowa. Have proxies for Kentucky (Ron Brooks), Missouri (Tim Ripperger), Nebraska (Scott Taylor), North Dakota (Scott Peterson), and Wisconsin (Scott Gunderson) (*Proxies - Exhibit 34*); no Canadian provinces present.

#### **Agenda Review**

*Gunderson* – In new business, talk about Northern long-eared bats.

*Ollie* – John Frampton asked to talk about support for national plan on recruitment and retention.

**Scott Peterson, North Dakota moved to amend, Marc Miller, Illinois second to approve amended agenda.**

**Approval of 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Scott Gunderson, Wisconsin moved to accept minutes as printed, Tim Ripperger, Missouri second. Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Sharon M. Schafer, MI – (Exhibit 35)** – There were four checking accounts when I started, so we started separating them last year. I am reporting on accounts on a calendar year basis, so these figures will be as of December 31, 2013. The general checking account is now the pass through account for banking services. On January 1, 2013 we had \$28,356.57: revenue included Michigan Fish and Wildlife Conference funds of \$10,000; membership dues of \$2,300; affiliate dues of \$150; and Southern Wings administration fee of \$1,375 (these last three were put in this account before last year's decision) also had a federal grant which was active last year of \$1,190.81; and interest of \$7.87; for total revenue of \$15,023.68. Expenditures included: Ollie's payroll account, paying from this account up to June, starting July will take from conference account; accounting fees of \$1,550; Delaney for Michigan Fish and Wildlife conference \$1,000; and miscellaneous expenses of \$300; for total expenditures of \$26,170.30; for an ending balance of \$17,209.95 (Holding funds for Michigan and Indiana as a pass through account). The conference account as of January 1, 2013 was \$82,900, revenue included: sponsors of \$31,000 (did collect \$7,000 more in 2014 not shown here and USFWS only gave \$5,000 instead of the \$10,000); registrations of \$18,450; membership dues of \$24,500; and miscellaneous of \$4,283.68; for total revenue of \$78,235.72. Expenditures included: executive secretary salary \$17,000 (bonus paid in 2014) and travel for Ollie - three conferences, Sheila – one conference and myself - one to two conferences \$7,600; DMEM charge for Indiana Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference \$1,500; DMEM charge for Kentucky conference \$11,000; insurance \$1,000; Hotel including room rental, AV charges, etc. for Kentucky and Michigan \$24,400; awards for MAFWA conference \$1,300; shooting clays and gun rentals for Kentucky conference \$1,300; food and beverage at shooting range and hospitality room for Kentucky conference \$2,000; credit card charges (Cindy accepts we incur charges); and miscellaneous including director gifts, printing, etc. \$1,553.20; for total expenditures of \$69,383.22; and a balance of \$91,885.93 as of December 31, 2013. Southern Wings Account as of January 1, 2013 \$14,000, revenue included: \$37,500 from Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska; expenditures included: administrative fee and AFWA fee and a total pay out to the American Bird Conservancy of \$47,500; for a balance of \$5 to keep the account open. The federal grant is now completed for fish habitat; grant was \$398,000, paid out \$379,000. Balance as of January 1, 2013 was \$25,351, revenue included: sponsorship from USDA-FS sponsorship which was placed in this account because entity could only have one big account for ACH so monies were placed in this account and moved out; grant draw-downs of \$17,591.64; for total revenue of \$20,599.37; expenditures included: downstream strategies \$20,000; Tom Niebauer, grant coordinator \$9,000; transfer USDA-FS funds out \$3,037 (different amount than above because did it at ATM and did not have exact figure with me); and DJ Case \$8,500; for total expenditures of \$40,472.64

and balance as of December 31, 2013 of \$5,477.73. We were going to close out this account, but because we have applied for another federal grant we decided to leave it open. *Sexson* – Does the Forest Service still need this account to donate? *Sharon* – No, Cindy collects now so that is simpler. The share account is so that we can have checking accounts at the credit union, it remains \$5. The Jaschek money market and securities account as of January 1, 2013 had a balance of \$312,000, revenue included: interest of \$12,600; and dividends of \$5,700; change in market value was a gain of \$16,000; no expenditures, for a balance as of December 31, 2013 of \$346,732.48. There will be an investment committee report later. *Vonk* – What is the purpose of this account? *Ollie* – this money fell from the sky, have a policy for this account which shows purpose and use of fund include: 1) Supporting the enactment of new national legislation which will increase the funding and/or enhance state authority for the development and implementation of fish and wildlife programs such as: Teaming With Wildlife, CARA (Conservation and Reinvestment Act). Support may take the form of: direct contribution to the IAFWA for information and education efforts, supporting the expenses of state staff who are assigned temporary duty on behalf of the AMFWA to work on these issues; supporting the collection, publication and distribution of information which will have a positive impact on Congressional decision makers. 2) Supporting re-authorization of existing national legislation such as the Farm Bill, Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, for the purposes of maintaining and/or strengthening these types of legislation. Support may include: contributing to IAFWA efforts to dedicate staff to work on re-authorizations, supporting studies and evaluations to provide background information reflective of Midwest states needs; paying the expenses of staff to participate on behalf of the AMFWA on national advisory groups or study groups related to re-authorization of these types of legislation; supporting the collection, publication and distribution of information which will have a positive impact on Congressional decision makers. 3) Supporting AMFWA participation in CITES. This should be limited to paying no more than the necessary travel expenses of state personnel who are working on behalf of the AMFWA. 4) Sponsoring and/or co-sponsoring conferences and symposia which provide a forum for the presentation, discussion and sharing of research findings and management programs of importance to AMFWA states. A condition of sponsoring such conferences should be the timely publication of the conference proceedings in some fashion, in a form useful to practicing fish and wildlife managers. *Vonk* – When was last time we used funds? *Ollie* – In 2008, for the Farm Bill coordinator. *Vonk* – When we use funds we need to remember we have this money. *Creagh* – Northern long-eared bats may use some of these funds for the symposia. *Sheila* – Application available for use of funds. *Sharon* - The conservation enhancement account beginning balance was \$3,400 with interest of \$0.12 and dividends of \$56.83; expenditures were a \$35 charge for inactivity. There was a change in market value, a gain of \$458.47 and balance as of December 31, 2013 of just under \$4,000. We have decided to add \$100 periodically to this account to stop the \$35 inactivity fee. **Scott Gunderson, Wisconsin, moved to accept Treasurer's Report, Keith Sexson, Kansas, second.** *Vonk* – On southern wings account, what does the Bird Conservancy do with that fund? *Ollie* – Work in Latin America and Caribbean for birds that migrate back through our states, money funnels through us; we take administrative fee and then goes back to Bird Conservancy. *Vonk* – We do meetings and have reports, but don't know the benefit of this. The bottom line is, as organization, we

need to have reports on what they are accomplishing as an organization for this money. *Ron Regan* – Fair question, Southern Wings have tried to do that, I will talk to Deb and provide something in writing. *Vonk* – At least provide write up of what is happening at annual meetings. **Motion Carried.** *Sexson* – Where is Kansas dollars? *Sharon* – Off the record here, holding check for 2014.

#### **MAFWA Investments Committee Report & Portfolio**

*Tim Ripperger, MO* – Committee consists of Scott, Joe and Bob Ziehmer. Met last week. Two page summary from Shane Hessman (*Exhibit 36*). The last two years investments have been very good. Talked about opportunity to invest in green fund, but truly hard to come up with. One goal is to keep \$10,000 to \$15,000 in money market. Will have recommendation to buy another bond ladder fund. We can get Shane on phone if any questions. ***Tim Ripperger, Missouri, moved that money market be moved to another bond and authorize Shane to acquire another bond for \$10,000; Scott Gunderson, Wisconsin, second. Motion carries.*** *Gunderson* – Shane mentioned, since he does this for no cost for us and he is doing a good job, if we could bring him here to go over these accounts. I think it would be good for us to bring him in next year and for us to cover his costs to come.

#### **Audit Committee Report**

*Ed Boggess, MN* – The audit committee consists of Terry Steinwand, Jim Douglas and myself. I and the two Scott's (Scott Peterson and Scott Taylor) met with Sharon. Have periodical audit by real auditor. No problems. *Sharon* – In 2013, Missouri performed a professional that said everything was in order, done about every three years. *Vonk* – Another Association has never done an audit and that has led to concerns, I encourage us to continue these outside audits. *Ollie* – That was a recommendation of the Audit Committee one year and Missouri does these at no cost. *Sharon* – When I write a check, I do not sign the checks at all, Director Creagh does. ***Jeff Vonk, South Dakota moved to accept Audit Committee Report, Scott Peterson, North Dakota, second. Motion carried.*** *Scott Peterson* – Shout out to Sharon for the work she does and Michigan for allowing her.

#### **Resolutions Committee Report**

One resolution thanking Michigan (Ed read) (*Exhibit 37*): 1) Thank hosts," NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at its annual business meeting in Traverse City, Michigan on June 25, 2014, acknowledges the hard work and wonderful hospitality of Director Creagh and the staff from the great state of Michigan, and hereby passes this resolution in a showing of great appreciation." ***Scott Taylor, Nebraska, moved to accept, Scott Zody, Ohio, second. Motion Carried.***

#### **Awards Committee Report**

*Keith Sexson, KS* – (*Exhibit 38*) Thanks for states sending in nominations, we all have people we want to recognize. Some states don't and nominations and that is okay. Also, want to thank the rest of Committee. Had good candidates that were well-deserving of awards. *Creagh* – Echo chance to appreciate staff.

### **Bylaws Committee Report**

**Marc Miller, IL** – (*Exhibit 39*) Only change is to extend five committees life under this Association, add three years. They are Legal, NCN, Midwest Deer and Turkey, Law Enforcement (AMFGLEO) and Hunter and Angler Recruitment and Retention; they will go until 2017. **Marc Miller, Illinois, moved to accept report, Scott Gunderson, Wisconsin, second. Motion carried.**

*Refreshment Break – Sponsored by Bass Pro Shops*

### **Executive Secretary's Report**

**Ollie Torgerson** – (*Exhibit 40*) – Annual report is a look back at last year, highlighted by this conference. Personal pleasure to have meeting here in Michigan; highlight for me is working with Keith Creagh, two years ago Rodney Stokes resigned and Governor asked Keith to move over from Dept of Ag, no experience but jumped right in, thanks for leadership. Jon Gassett resigned last year and Keith immediately became president. Chuck Corell left in middle of winter. Greg Johnson will be new Commissioner for Kentucky, former NRCS director, had previous vacation scheduled, but Ron Regan and I will visit him on July 9. Iowa has selected Kelley Myers as their representative to MAFWA, Ron and I have been in touch and will meet with her. Openings for committees: by-laws, resolutions, investments, National bobwhite conservation initiative (2 positions) and AFWA federal budget committees. Also, Jeff Vonk wants to be replaced on Council to advance hunting and shooting sports. *Zody* – I have interest in taking that Council spot. *Ollie* – Any others? Director/Liaison openings to committees: Midwest private land, furbearer, wildlife action and LE. Did get one volunteer for enhancement fund board (Scott Gunderson). Banking/grants – more involved in banking: Southern Wings, NBCI, three states asked us to do banking for Midwest F&W conference, banker for national wildlife grant (Big Grant) which requires a vote to accept. Great sponsorships this year, Michigan raised over \$10,000 in sponsorships alone this year; lost some but gained back \$5,000 from USFWS. New affiliate: Healing Our Waters Coalition. Established new technical committee; service policy; letter to Dan Ashe on LCCs, no response; letter to USGS on SCWDS budget cut; requested budget proposal for national Pheasant Plan coordinator, established Ad Hoc Feral Swine committee, and wrote in support of wolf delisting. Joe Kramer is hero of this Association, if not for Joe we would have folded in 1990s, Joe brought Sheila on board to manage books and finances; he has been a great supporter of us. Vicki Brown and Keith Creagh have been involved in putting together this conference as well Cindy Delaney and I. Couldn't do this without these two gals: Sheila and Sharon. I call Dan the burglar since he is a locksmith, he helps us too. Sheila maintains archives as well and Sharon has done an excellent job with finances too. The next conference will be in Duluth, Minnesota, June 28 to July 1, 2015 at the Radisson Hotel.

**Ron Regan** – Forest service meeting coming up, I will drop hint for conference support.

*Ollie* – I met with Rob Harper (the new Ann Zimmerman), sent nice letter, but he doesn't control the region and Milwaukee had total turnover, Mary Maj knew about their letter of cooperation, and she shared with administration, but nothing was done. WAFWA has had trouble in the past too. *Boggess* – Date of next year's meeting, in talking with Cindy; in

transition year. There is another option for that meeting, Sunday June 21 through Wednesday June 24 if you prefer? **Consensus to leave it where it is.**

## **Old Business**

### **MAFWA/Midwest F&W Conference Relationship**

**Ollie Torgerson** – (*Exhibit 41*) (few changes to this statement). - We are covered with liability insurance and host state is immune from these; but event is not covered. Cindy found a liability policy for \$300. Changes recommended are to “delete financial loss and replace with liability insurance” and “10% of contract fees clarified to 10% of meeting event planner contract fees” so executive committee did move to bring to the board these new changes. **Scott Zody, OH, moved Ed Boggess, MN second. Motion carried.**

## **New Business**

### **Approval of Affiliate Memberships**

**Ollie Torgerson** – We have 28 affiliate members and have a request for an affiliate membership from Healing Our Waters Coalition (HOW). **Scott Peterson, ND moved to accept new affiliate, Tim Ripperger, MO second. Vonk** – Stated purpose and goal?

**Torgerson** – That is why we have this procedure. HOW consists of 119 environmental, conservation, and outdoor recreation organizations, zoos, aquariums and museums. They represent millions of people who share a common goal of restoring and protecting North America’s greatest freshwater resource, the Great Lakes. **Creagh** – Tammy Newcomb, are you familiar with that organization? **Newcomb** – What organization? **Zody** – Heavily involved in water issues with use of Great Lakes, familiar with Todd Ambs; over-arching goals are inline. **Miller** – Healing our Waters as a coalition has been working with Great Lakes Commission and have seen what they do to support our Great Lakes agenda, like most natural resources types. Could add interesting support and dialog to support our cause. **Motion carried.**

**National Pheasant Plan** – **Creagh** - Off the agenda, dealt with that yesterday.

### **FY15 Budget Approval**

**Sharon M. Schafer, MI** (*Exhibit 35, part of Treasurer's Report*) – On page 9, recap of last year’s budget, did end with \$9,000 deficit which is just a timing issue. Last year requested calendar year change to end December 31, when adopting this budget for this current fiscal year, then get on cycle to work on right budget, working with Ollie on 2015 budget. The 2014 budget is on page 10 of financial report. Have 13 states with dues of \$2,323 each, \$30,000; annual dues for three provinces are \$101 each, \$303, a \$3 increase; affiliates 16 at \$75, \$1,200 plus \$75 for new one; sponsorships, \$57,000, Ollie beat the bushes on these; conference registration, received check from Delaney for \$20,000 already so should surpass budgeted amount; did not receive hotel supplement last year so left off; exhibitors estimated at \$500, Southern Wings \$1,500, and interest at \$75. For total estimated revenue of \$112,000. MAFWA and WAFWA have applied for a federal grant and if awarded could result in additional revenue. Revenue estimates do not include investments because it is reinvested. Expenditures – Ollie’s salary \$41,000, which



includes cpi index; travel at \$6,000 for three conferences and meetings with new directors; secretary travel \$1,500; my travel three conferences which sometimes I attend and sometimes I can't, \$4,500; accountant fee to file 990 and 1099s, \$2,000; insurance \$1,200; bank charges is \$600; web posting and hosting for Chris Durrill who helps Ollie, \$250; miscellaneous supplies, etc. \$1,000; conference averaged at \$50,310 for total expenditures of \$108,696.20 for surplus of about \$3,330.80. Last year showed deficit of about \$5,000. **Scott Gunderson, WI moved to accept budget, Marc Miller, IL second. Motion carried.**

*Ollie* – Asked by John Frampton to support effort on National Hunting & Shooting Sports Council. Asked regional association to join other three regional associations. **Keith Sexson, KS moved, Scott Taylor, NE second.** *Vonk* – That is the next logical step for that Council, and their work will enhance this Association. *Gunderson* – Echo Jeff's comments, heading in right direction, 48 states are in and gave funding; I have staff I have committed to this; need to keep thinking outside the box and moving in right direction, think this will help. **Motion carried.**

Northern Long-eared bat – *Creagh* – Discussion on that. *Miller* – Significant announcement in our meeting yesterday with Dan Ashe saying they want state's input in this so we have an opportunity. Had a great deal of discussion in Executive Committee, bring together for summit for 1½ to 2 days and work. Think we need summit and take it on and host it and bring everyone together. **Marc Miller, IL moved to have MAFWA host summit to discuss science and conservation on Northern Long-eared bat, Scott Gunderson, WI second.** *Gunderson* – Lot of discussion going on, bigger than just bat going on there. Glad we have a chance to move forward for 2-day conference. Secretary Stepp has been very active in this and she really wants to move forward on this. Wisconsin passed out thoughts we had outside of this meeting and Secretary Stepp would like to know if feeling within summit to look at proposal we put forward as concept, I believe I heard to use it as a guide and move forward. That six month deadline will be here and gone. Keith, I know you talked about hosting this and Jeff brought up we have a fund to use for that type of summit. With work we had done in Wisconsin; done survey with 32 of 39 states responding back on that issue; we are willing to put staff on this to move forward with more data gathering or whatever needs to be done to keep this issue moving. Could affect our state tremendously and it could affect yours. *Vonk* – I support idea of holding the summit and use of funding from association; I'm not sure we are sure of what we are summiting about. Need to set a limit on use of fees, but more importantly have subcommittee that will form this. Even though we are not forest state have forest in Black Hills and this has caused an up rise in our state. You could have 1,000 people at this meeting, move forward with concept and get Directors involved in planning and set limit or target on how to use funds. *Creagh* – From Michigan's viewpoint, MN, WI, OH looked at what summit would look like; identify science gaps to make determination; start with science. Wisconsin had pretty good plan. Put parameters and side boards on it. Those four states put together technical workgroup. *Miller* – Is there benefit to having MAFWA Executive Committee work on that? *Creagh* – We could vet through MAFWA executive committee. *Boggess* – I have not been point person on this issue in MN, so cannot commit. Role of MAFWA, broader than our Association, there are two other

regional associations involved. To Jeff's point, need steering group and facilitator and program. Looks good to me. Vet through all states that have an interest. Steering group might be bigger than just the Midwest and incorporate that. Our role today is to become the host, but not set entire conference. *Creagh* – Reach out and make sure state foresters and others within our states and limit number of attendees. *Gunderson* – Core group together, lot of data collected already; states still data collecting now and doing research. Need to have core group go out and reach out and bring data in. *Creagh* – Good to see if we can help. *Sexson* – Is one of goals to maintain state control of management of this species, which means you are setting management conservation programs around regional issues, this is huge and lots of land use issues and trying to meet criteria, could see regional differences built into the plan whether, Southeast, Northeast or Midwest; identify each as different. Those six months will come up fast; took us 1 ½ years to develop range wide plan to cover five states LPC plan. *Creagh* – Guidance plan was put out with little time to deal with this issue. Stopping \$80,000 interchange in one state right now very complicated and goes on and on. One of Wisconsin's proposals was industry segment conservation practices. *Sexson* – Focal point is habitat and restrictions and critters are still dying, will cutting a tree still make a difference because this is a disease issue. *Zody* – Due to disease not habitat loss, has to be fundamental part of this issue. Develop recognition of public and private land management and gains and level of mitigation and credits built into this process; has to be a different approach. *Miller* – Scott said, "There are smarter people than you", no there isn't. Faced with unusual things, trade issues, climate change, etc. Have opportunity to develop framework to put states in the driver's seat. MAFWA can flex muscle on state's side and tackle something that will hit a lot more frequently. *Creagh* – USFWS is asking for help. Need friendly amendment Jeff said we need dollar amount. **Sheila read recommendation: "2-day conference hosted by MAFWA – for natural resources agencies and sister agencies to recoup adequate costs from participants. Purpose – share science and discuss state roles and discuss potential strategies to inform the response to white nose syndrome – in northern long-eared bats."** *Creagh* – put dollar amount to compensate speakers, make application for \$20,000 through (change to "partnership" agency rather than "sister"). Ollie already passed money to spend on the bond; do you want us to spend on both? There is \$21,000 in money market. *Sharon* - Leave investment account alone; on page three in conference funds have \$92,000 in that account and you could take money out of that. It will look like budget is negative, but will be fine at end of the year, like a fund balance. *Creagh* – Trust Executive Committee to do that and put \$20,000 limit on that and run by Executive Committee. *Gunderson* – Steering committee consists of four states, OH, MI, MN and WI. *Vonk* – By invitation also? *Creagh* – Yes, this is not a public hearing. *Ron Regan* – Talking to presidents of other regional associations? They are looped in? I never heard them discuss Northern long-eared bats at their meetings. *Creagh* – They were managing fine, but because of chatter and guidance document there has been some scrambling. *Dan Forester* – Southeast may be willing to underwrite as well. *Creagh* – I will contact them, this is a 39 state issue. *Gunderson* – USFWS will be integral part of this too. *Creagh* – We will reach out to other states. *Taylor* – Identify science gaps and process, make sure right people at the table from other groups. **Motion carried.**

*Ollie* - Send letter about continuation of funding, need to update letter? *Tammy Newcomb* – Last year sent letter of support to Senator Levin and Senator Kirk and so two directors sent letter, asked for reauthorizing Great Lakes Restoration Act; funds are managed by USFWS for process for projects is completely run through proposal review committee. Meeting twice a year and making recommendations to USFWS, one of only groups with this much state interaction. Need letter to co-chairs of House and Senate Great Lakes task force to continue on with that. We will send draft of letter and red line version to you for review and comment and briefing packet on what action has done over last 10 years; as well as your agency. *Creagh* – Circulate letter for your signature. **Scott Zody, OH moved to send letter, Ed Boggess, MN second.** *Vonk* – Letter circulated to whom? *Vonk* – Signed by all and sent to House and Senate. *Vonk* – Wouldn't it be better just as Association and sent by President? *Miller* – I like that and list out Great Lakes states. *Boggess* – If felt power in multiple states; then send to Great Lakes states directors. **Scott Zody, OH – Amend to send MAFWA letter on behalf of Midwest states, Ed Boggess, MN second. Motion carried.**

Keith Sexson presented past president's award to give Keith Creagh. *Creagh* – I was still trying to figure out the acronyms and we were off running down the road, Ollie has been tremendous help. It has been a great experience.

#### **Passing of Gavel to Minnesota**

Keith Creagh, MI passed gavel to Ed Boggess, MN. *Boggess* – Invite everyone to come to land of 10,000 lakes, actually 15,000 lakes; bar set high by Michigan. Express great appreciation to Keith and DNR staff.

#### **Conference Adjourns**

**Scott Gunderson, WI moved to adjourn, Scott Zody, OH second. Conference adjourned at 11:23 am.**

*Shuttle Service to TC Airport*

***Great Lakes LCC Meeting (through Thursday noon)***

*Optional Post Meeting Field Trip – Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes*

*Appendix A – PowerPoint Photos*

