

Minutes
MAFWA Annual Business Meeting
Wednesday, June 27, 2018
Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center
Bismarck, North Dakota

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Breakfast – Sponsored by Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever
Remarks by Rick Young

MAFWA BUSINESS MEETING

Terry Steinwand, MAFWA President – Officially called to order at 8:10 AM

Call to Order and Roll Call

Ollie - All states present. We have three proxies, Wisconsin (Aaron Buchholz), Indiana (Amanda Wuestefeld) and Kentucky (Steve Beam). (Proxies - Exhibit 34); no Canadian provinces present.

Agenda Review

Terry – Copy of our agenda is listed in the program; do you have additions or corrections? I need to move people around, Dave Chanda will be right after the reports.

Approval of 2017 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Annual meeting minutes (Exhibit 35); *Kelly Hepler, SD moved to accept minutes as printed, Dale Garner, IA second. Motion passes.*

Treasurer's Report

Roger Luebbert (Exhibit 36) – Passed out two reports, Treasurer's Report we will discuss now and 2019 Proposed Budget we will discuss later. This treasurer's report summarizes actual receipts, disbursements and account balances for all MAFWA accounts for the most recent completed fiscal year, MAFWA uses a calendar year so this report is as of December 31, 2017. The first page is account balance summary comparing 2016 and 2017, increases in all accounts except for Banking Services account. Page 2 is banking services account which handles banking services for any conferences or special projects such as national pheasant coordinator; this account balance decreased in 2017 as a result of closing out 2016 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference held in Michigan, shown on third line under disbursements; another major factor is national pheasant coordinator contributions were less than disbursements, shown on first line under receipts and first line under disbursements. One of the reasons receipts were under disbursements was because Pheasants Forever paid their \$30,000 three-year commitment all in 2015, so nothing is included in 2017 receipts; one state followed the same process and paid their \$15,000 up front. Scott Taylor, the national pheasant coordinator does a projection of national pheasant coordinator balance and keeps that committee informed. The note at the bottom of the page lists the designations for the December 31, 2017 balance. Page 3 is the

conference account which is our main operating account; it receives dues from the states and receipts from annual MAFWA conference and main expenditures are MAFWA conference expenses, executive secretary and treasurer pay and travel expenses and other various expenses such as tax form preparation, fees and insurance. Line numbers were added to the left side of this page to facilitate easier reference; line one shows balance at beginning of calendar year 2017 and line 43 shows balance at end of 2017. Essentially the 2017 increase is \$25,774; one of the reasons is total conference receipts exceeded conference disbursements, receipts on line 6 and disbursements on line 28. Page 4 is Southern Wings account, a pass-through account, receives contributions from various states which are disbursed primarily to the American Bird Conservancy, typically balance is very small as was the case the end of 2017. Page 5 is the Federal account and the major revenue source is contributions from the states for Monarch Strategy conservation projects, reimbursements from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for monarch state liaison and from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the monarch strategy project which includes reimbursements for the monarch coordinator. Major disbursements are monarch state liaison, monarch coordinator and indirect costs. Page 6 is the credit union share account where we have \$25 required minimum balance at end of 2017. Page 7 is money market and securities investment account showing interest, dividends and capital gains income as well as positive change in money market value of underlying securities; 2017 was a good year for investments, a little over \$50,000 or 12.4 percent. There were no disbursements from this account. Page 8 is conservation enhancement fund account that is held with broker along with previous money market securities account. Receipts for this account shows interest, dividends and capital gains and positive change in money market value of securities. There were no disbursements; overall increase of a little over \$700. Concludes report. ***Keith Sexson, KS moved to accept Treasurer's Report, Wayne Rosenthal, IL second. Motion passes.***

Audit Committee Report

Mike Miller, OH – Dale, Bill, Roger, myself and Mike Luers, our assistant chief in charge of fiscal, had a conference call to review MAFWA records. Mike is chief fiscal officer for the division and he did a thorough review, he had conversations with Roger. We had over 40 questions and went through them thoroughly, Mike was impressed, and he is a 28-year accountant. Roger continues to do a fine job and he was prepared to answer any and all questions we had. Discussed mail being opened by someone other than Roger, particularly if checks involved, and we suggest keeping a register to say what comes in all envelopes, so we stay above board. Talked about audit control where we used new audit control, which wasn't necessary but much more thorough. We were very impressed, Roger did a fine job. ***Roger*** – It was very thorough. ***Terry*** – Having been chair last year, fun being biologist/CPA. ***Aaron Buchholz, WI moved to accept audit report, Dale Garner, IA second. Motion passes.***

Investments Committee Report

Wayne Rosenthal, IL – We did not schedule a call, so I have no report. I will call advisor, Jim Douglas and Jim Leach when I get home.

Resolutions Committee Report

Jim Leach, MN (Exhibit 37) – There are three resolutions, two we discussed partially yesterday, and I believe we have modified language to those. *Bill O’Neill*– Documents on the screen show the proposed resolution on the top of the page and three options. The first option is narrower and then gets broader and includes a couple of other points in options two or three. Part of discussion, rather than ban baiting, because you heard a number of states talk about the problems they would have, we recommended banning baiting in states that still allow it. This makes a statement about science of baiting and feeding without declaring our desire to ban baiting. *Terry* – Have original resolution discussed yesterday and three options. Start discussion with option one. On handout it is missing some of the whereas statements, are their citations or literature that show economic impacts? One of the things I feel is if you don’t have the North American model to back it up you probably shouldn’t be making that statement. Agree with concept and context, mechanism that would transfer this from individual to whole herd. Speaking on behalf of North Dakota, and every state would have to speak for themselves, want to be sure a politician or public doesn’t read this and say we want to mandate the situation, we have to deal with science and do it fairly. I think I have my governor convinced on a baiting ban in northwest part of the state, been beat up by legislature in two past sessions. *Jim Douglas* – Like result of efforts put in to steer this away from a ban that is producing negative effects also, like you stated, what science do we have to back this up, not sure of that, recommendations made with practical application, rather than disease transmissions specifically. Should have explored with John Fischer, I think white paper coming out on CWD, don’t know if it addresses baiting and feeding, but another option might be to wait to see what that says. *Ron Regan* – Best management practices document, we plan to bring that to Tampa for adoption. I talked to John Fischer about it yesterday and this sort of stuff is in that document with literature to back it up. It has had extensive review by wildlife professionals. *Kelly* – Thanks for looking at this and taking a run at it. It is interesting if passing it in a positive way I think it would be detrimental to some of the discussions we are having in our state. Not sure resolution will make a difference one way or the other if you are already moving down that road. With AFWA have more credence to these discussions, with timing also gives us a chance with transition report of best management practices after Tampa meeting would hold more weight. I said I would probably abstain, but I would probably vote against all three of these and it has nothing to do with respect to other states, but it is like being out front breaking the ground. In my state we are being more methodical than this. *Dale* – Appreciate what you said Kelly, even within the health group various states think about political end, the problem we have is CWD and we don’t understand it, but if we wait for national the question is still going to come, it is not an individual state issue, it is national issue and until all states get on board we are not going to solve the problem, in fact it may be too late already. *Jim D.* – Do these three options flow well with what is immediately proceeded it? *Jim L.* – May be of value to have Bill explain what he has done here and what potential would be by adding one of these. *Terry* – Bill? *Bill* – Yesterday’s conversation with a number of you and the audience talking about what our comments were and most had to do with reluctance to say we support banning of baiting. There was some agreement to make a statement about the science of baiting and feeding and disease transmission, so that is first option. There was also conversation about sensitivity of social and political

conversations regarding baiting, number two has that added. A statement acknowledging some of social and political sensitives of baiting without taking a stand one way or the other and not obligating yourself. The third, after Ron's comments about upcoming meeting in Tampa and opportunity to talk more broadly at national meeting, we added a suggestion that AFWA pick this up and add it to the AFWA conversation coming this fall. Depending on where you stood, could have basic statement on baiting and feeding; could acknowledge political sensitives; and ask AFWA to take up the conversation; or you could say no to all three or no to the original and move on; or edit any one of those.

Terry – That helps. *Wayne* – As we talked yesterday we had legislation introduced in our House for supplemental feeding, the approach the proponents take is that there are elements missing in whitetail diet and they are supporting and increasing strengthening the immune system. When you talk to biologists and ask for data that it doesn't work, when present to legislators and nobody can say no because there isn't any research on it. We want to do a study and agree to support study because then we have input. When you talk to the public and whitetail hunter, approaching as EHD, not CWD, they say we need to increase the immune systems and it would have effect on CWD also. When you talk to the public and these guys are promoting that we can increase health of the deer herd, public hears that is what they want to hear. Consideration on how you go forward. ***Jim Douglas, NE moved to accept resolution as originally written, Bill O'Neill, MI second. Roll call vote: IL – no, IN – no, IA – yes, KS – yes, KY – abstain, MI – no, MN – yes, MO – yes, NE – yes, ND – no, OH – no, SD – no, WI – no (7 no, 5 yes, 1 abstain).***

Terry – ***Motion fails.*** *Sara* – I would like to see vote on number three, third option (read). ***Sara Parker Pauley, MO moved to accept option 3, Jim Leach, MN second. Jim D.*** – Would it be out of line to ask Ron Regan whether he thinks this is proper motion? *Ron Regan* – Whole section on baiting and feeding in document. Number three is fine from my perspective. *Sara* – This would be substitute language from original resolution, replacing all of the other now therefore and be it further resolved. *Terry* – Ollie, do we need last now therefore on MAFWA? *Ollie* – No. *Bill O.* – Suggest edit to the title of this, reads “in opposition of baiting and feeding”, suggest striking “in opposition to” and replace with “regarding”, “Resolution regarding the baiting and feeding of cervids to reduce the risk of disease transmission and establishment”. *Terry* – Suggested amendment? *Bill O.* – Yes. ***Bill O'Neill, MI moved to amend title in addition to Sara's motion, Dale Garner, IA second.*** *Ron* – Think motion is fine, when directors from other parts of country exercise the BMP document that is 75 pages long and 2 pages devoted to baiting and feeding, will be position on whole host of issues on CWD. I think this is fine. *Terry* – Action in Tampa? *Ron* – Yes. *Terry* – First motion on amendment? ***Motion passes.*** On original motion? ***SD and IL abstain, Motion passes.***

Jim L. – Two more resolutions proposed, the second one was one we lumped in with first one yesterday but is distinctly different. We need to discuss as individual resolutions and decide what the board would like to do. It talks specifically about artificial movement of non-endangered cervids. *Terry* – It received some discussion yesterday. *Kelly* – Need to have in form of a motion for purpose of discussion. ***Motion to accept as worded by Kelly Hepler, SD, second by Dale Garner, IA.*** *Kelly* – I have greater concerns with this one than the other one, spoke with Kelly (Straka) yesterday, discussions around carcasses and things and I am two weeks out of a commission meeting where this is central part of discussion which is a concern. We also have an active cervid industry, which we need to

engage on how to get in front of that. From South Dakota perspective I would abstain on this. Would like further discussion. *Dale* – Carcasses is covered in that. Those of you that sat on national director's call this topic came up and we heard the same from West Virginia and we all understand that. When you are dealing with CWD and working with captive industry this will get shoved down your throat. This is an attempt to bring out, hard to get into discussions with someone who tells you they can't do something unless we do it ourselves. I understand science is one thing but both of these resolutions from the health committee is an attempt to bring it forward to help on national scope. *Aaron* – Repeat statements I made yesterday, from Wisconsin's perspective we are close to finishing an elk restoration project, to support this would be counter to completing that project. Understand and appreciate what the committee has done but we can't support it as written. *Wayne* – Within Illinois, pen-raised cervids are under Department of Ag, not our department so I would feel uncomfortable supporting something we don't control. *Steve Beam* – I would echo Wisconsin, don't have CWD in the state but there are other things in this in addition to the big issue, getting ready to send elk to Wisconsin. It is so broad it is difficult like orphan deer across county lines, we just dealt with this regulation and we tightened it up but there are people with position that there should not be rehabilitation of whitetail deer until you look at what will happen if you do that, there will be barns and basements full of whitetail deer and could make the problem way worse. Sometimes some practicality but I don't think this resolution is it. *Terry* – Ron, is this issue addressed in that white paper? *Ron* – Yes. *Mike* – Ohio would act similar to Illinois and Wisconsin, we are having internal discussions and at same time our Department of Agriculture oversees captive deer industry in Ohio. We do restrict movement of carcasses with at least mandatory reporting but at the same time we don't rehabilitate fawns. Taken number of steps to moving carcasses, looking at officially classing ourselves as a red state for CWD even about our hunters going out of state and bringing carcasses back but fact that we don't control the captive industry and looking at reintroduction in next five to ten years, we wouldn't be able to support this. *Terry* – From North Dakota perspective, we don't allow any transport of deer from states with CWD. We have some control over captive herds, we are doing what we can within the law.

Motion fails.

Jim L. – Third resolution is to thank you and your staff for exceptional three days here. Everybody had a great time, you and your staff did a superb job. ***Sara Parker Pauley, MO moved to pass resolution, Mike Miller, OH second.*** *Terry* – As directors we get credit for stuff we didn't do and blamed for stuff we didn't do. In this case I get credit for something dedicated staff did; Lynn Timm, Scott Peterson and others, thank you all.

Motion passes.

Awards Committee Report

Keith Sexson, KS (MAFWA Award Winner Nominations – Exhibit 38) – Thank members of committee, Terry Steinwand, Mark Reiter, Dale Garner and Jim Leach. We had 20 nominations for the awards we presented and encourage directors that when solicitation comes take a little time. We all have our own awards programs within our states, always encourage solicitation, I am sure we all have deserving employees and appreciate the nominations. Looking for a new chair for this committee, the incoming president will have the honor of selecting that, there are fine people on existing

committee that would make great chairs. The only real task of the chair is to give this report and break ties. *Terry* – Thank you Keith and Sheila, you do an excellent job of keeping everybody informed. *Keith* – I was derelict in my duties, I should have had Sheila in this first part of this list, she knows her way around this award program and how to get them done and I think she will continue to do that for the awards committee. *Terry* – Lynn can be a bulldog, but Sheila can be too and that is good. Thank you, Keith and Sheila.

Bylaws Committee Report

Sara Parker Pauley, MO (Constitution and Bylaws with proposed changes - Exhibit 39) – Go through changes quickly, Ollie’s email of May 30 outlines the changes clearly. Mainly we are separating Conservation Enhancement Fund (CEF) and making two separate sets of bylaws; inclusion of recently adopted internal controls document; and three-year rotation of technical working committees. In the preamble we took out reference to CEF. Made a few editorial changes, added additional language to budget and reports, added internal controls for cash policy, editorial change on resolution committee, changes of dates to add three-year extension to committees and amended date at the end. *Aaron* – Private lands group extended to 2021, they meet in conjunction with public lands, are you extending them too? *Ollie* – Formed at separate times, so public lands sunsets on a different year. ***Dale Garner, IA made a motion to accept revisions; Keith Sexson, KS second. Motion passes.***

Executive Secretary’s Report

Ollie Torgerson (PowerPoint - Exhibit 40) – Each year I report highlights and each one is different, in 2015 northern long-eared bats; in 2016 national pheasant committee and established paid treasurer; last year it was all monarchs and bringing Ed and Claire onboard and renegotiating my contract; and this year full bore on monarchs and engagement with USFWS, the science application priorities. Talk about our relationship with federal agencies, especially USFWS, we have had good history with excellent cooperation with Region 3 and now Region 6 of USFWS. In the last couple years some of our directors now engaged with USFWS, Kelley Myers and Ed Boggess, and we have a director who is former USFWS person, Jim Leach, and our relationship has strengthened over time. Work with the Service on how we go forward, more than just USFWS, any agency with natural resource responsibilities. It is important for states to work cooperatively with the federal agencies, they face the same challenges and have same common enemies and we don’t have time to fight amongst ourselves. Picture (of federal partners) exemplifies relationship, proud of how you directors work well with federal partners. Left Nebraska and found out we were going to lose two more directors, Ray Petering, Ohio and Bill Moritz, Michigan then later Kurt Thiede, Wisconsin and Greg Johnson, Kentucky. Ron Regan and I team up to meet with new directors when appointed, been doing that for a number of years; went out and met with Mike Miller, Ohio, Bill O’Neill, Michigan, Dan Meyers and Sanjay Olson, Wisconsin. These trips are well worth it, we not only greet them but explain who we are and what we do and get directors engaged beyond state borders. A lot of behind-the-scenes work went on for monarchs this year, standing up the strategy at this meeting which is one of the major highlights of the year. The USFWS provided grant money to keep Ed on board, and

successful in third application for NFWF grant to keep Claire Beck on board to implement the strategy. When we were in Spokane, Larry Kruckenberg shared a story of employee misconduct which caused substantial heartache for WAFWA, so our board established three new policies to protect us. Internal controls for cash was the first one; a confidentiality policy for employees and contractor volunteers; and conflict of interest and compensation policy for our directors. In October we changed officers went from President Douglas to President Steinwand. In November renegotiated my contract, extended six months to end of this year. Learned about hunting and fishing chiefs' initiative to align federal hunting and fishing regulations to state regulations on refuges, expand recreational access on refuges and promote R3 activities, was another highlight. Talked about priorities of science applications and Jim Douglas and Kelley Myers provided a lot of leadership on that. There are a lot of other people engaged as well. First of year we start our push for annual conference, give North Dakota credit, they started way before that. Worried about money because we lost USFWS sponsorships, but we were able to maintain at same rate as last year. If would have had USFWS sponsors we would have topped out on this graph, thank our sponsors when you get a chance, very important to hear from directors. Learned a new term here in North Dakota, "bombdiggy", which means you are incredible, beyond anything you can imagine and awesome to the fullest extent, and that is how I describe North Dakota Game and Fish and especially their planning team. Several member states urging us to enter into cooperative agreement with Max McGraw Foundation, so they can funnel money through us for the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLfT) program, so we executed that in March. Our executive committee decided in Norfolk, after years of discussion, to take responsibility of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, a big move on our part. Many people thought this was our conference, but it has never has been; initiated in 1935 and has been around since then. Due to struggles and issues in recent years to sign hotel contracts, set up banking accounts and sole-source meeting event planner contracting we have taken on fiscal oversight for that conference. That resulted in bylaw changes to officially and legally separate our Association from our Foundation because our Foundation will be managing that oversight service. Mike hosts that conference in Ohio in January and this conference in June. Delaney presented us our third three-year contract to manage this conference and executive committee is negotiating with Cindy. There has been a lot of contracting this year as well as behind the scenes coordination. Thank North Dakota Game and Fish and Delaney Meeting and Event Management for putting on such a successful conference; it takes a lot of people to put this on, lots of details, a great team Terry and Scott. Shout out to Sheila who does a lot of behind-the-scenes work for us, and her partner Dan with her and helping out. Sheila updated MAFWAs past 10 years of history this year. She will combine this 10 years with total history and get updated later this summer. Thank Roger for his work, Claire and Ed, we have staff, it used to just be just Sheila; then me and Sheila; then me, Sheila and Roger; then me, Sheila, Roger, Ed and Claire. We will meet next June in Ohio. *Mike* – Maumee Bay State Park is where we will be meeting next year.

Approval of Affiliate Members

Ollie Torgerson – When I came on board we had one, Wildlife Management Institute, we have 27 affiliate members now. Last year the Wildlife Society and the American

Fisheries Society came on board. We have no applications this year, but one coming next year, Northern Bobwhite Initiative is going to apply I believe. If you have organizations, you feel should be an affiliate member let me know and I can go recruit them.

OLD BUSINESS

National Wild Pheasant Plan Update

Scott Taylor, Executive Director – (Power Point – Exhibit 41). In 2013 the National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan was approved by AFWA directors, fund raising effort began to hire a coordinator and concluded in 2016 and I was hired in April 2016. I completed second full year and our management board consists of 14 members from 15 state agencies and Pheasants Forever, a number of board members here, Wayne, Keith, Jim, Jim and others in this room. I have given you a copy of annual report (Exhibit 42). The report is available on our website, nationalpheasantplan.org. Our current chair is Tony Leif, SD, appreciate his help and guidance, particularly early on. The mission of our partnership is to foster science-based policies and programs that benefit pheasants, hunters and communities. On policy front, spend a lot of time on Farm Bill priorities of partnership and pushing to decision makers in Washington through a variety of methods. We are fortunate to be included in Association visits and fly-in events, oral testimony, listening sessions on House side, written testimony on Senate Ag committee side as well as personal letters detailing our priorities and recommendations to each House and Senate agriculture committee member. On senate side that bill will move by end of the week. Try to keep in touch with Pheasants Forever partners who are in Washington providing input to Congressional staffers. On science side, tried to aggregate information out there, synthesize it and make it easier for partners to use; a great deal of literature is available on our website organized by topic. Also, asked to synthesize the existing science on the effects of diversion programs like soil banking or CRP on pheasants historically and make recommendations at request from USDA-FSA at Washington level; published yesterday in Wildlife Society bulletin, serve as resource for policy makers for years to come. Not well covered because of lack of space in the annual report, took a look at pheasant hunter component of our mission, want to look at state data and compare annual participation and see if that led us to action items. Provided a few slides looking at results of 25 years of national surveys, wanted to point out, with regard to increased emphasis on R3 activities and concern for hunter declines it is obviously that is driven by losses in small game hunter participation. On average nationally lost over 160,000 participants a year, from Midwest perspective like losing state worth of participation every year for 25 years. Coming from an individual state, we know that's true individually, but haven't seen it aggregated this way, a common problem. Regarding pheasant hunting participation, follows same trend and we were interested in how habitat, in particular CRP, affects hunter participation. That information helps when communicating why we need CRP to policy makers. In heydays of CRP hunter participation climbed and ever since had statutory reductions in CRP see loss accelerating. It is not only birds we are trying to promote through CRP, but end users as well. National decline in hunter participation is mostly driven by small game hunter declines. CRP acreage clearly influences pheasant hunter participation, habitat is an R3 issue. At national wildlife symposium in Lincoln last month, habitat didn't come up because we all understand it,

but it helps to say it out loud every once in a while. Hunter losses likely to continue as CRP acreage caps are being discussed at Washington level, more acres is a good thing, but even we get a few more acres still have R3 challenge to overcome. Need to start giving more emphasis to other approaches beyond CRP, still a centerpiece as long as 20 million-acre range but need to start adding things to the table. Managing pheasants in an era of diminished CRP, in partnership talking about ways to more evenly distribute CRP enrollments, develop tools to do that within states and among states, don't want to create winners and losers. As an example of those tools Nebraska developed a habitat program and a number of states are prioritizing enrollments. At partnership exploring ways to help states and we submitted a letter of intent to develop some of these tools through multi-state conservation grant program; partners on application were Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, Playa Lakes Joint Venture and USDA-FSA who all have interest in developing these types of plans for a number of bird species. FSA has funding interest in developing these plans, in next 3-4 months funding picture will be clearing and we can move forward in developing those tools. Talked about promotion of soil health in certain ag. approaches, selective because there is some that have a lot of promise for conservation but also have potential to be used in a negative way depending on the landscape. Kansas has current research project looking at pheasant use of cover crops. Depending on way cover crops are managed could be negative productivity. In precision ag, good to know where non-profitable acres are because we could point out to landowners that they could make more money by converting some grasslands to crops. As we learn more about these approaches and innovate delivering hunter satisfaction. One of issues that came up at R3 symposium was there is diminishing participation because feeling of overcrowding and we want more hunters, could be message problem there. Need to be innovative on how we put hunters, habitat and access to the field, can accommodate more hunters without overcrowding. Last management board meeting, talked about innovating ways to come up with funding for habitats, potential changes to PR policies and statutes to make them beneficial as well as a way to direct some of that money to farmland habitats. Underlying premise of partnership is to speed the rate of which we learned by cooperating rather than state-by-state approach. The National Pheasant tech committee meeting this year is in Pennsylvania the week after the AFWA meeting, encourage you to allow your pheasant biologists to attend, very valuable in talking about these issues and moving forward.

Terry – If Farm Bill passed that will help more with state cooperation.

Greater Prairie Chicken/Sharp-tail Grouse Plan Update

Keith Sexson, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism – Two-page summary of what activities has been taking place with this group (Exhibit 43). This effort to develop an interstate working group to address greater prairie chickens and sharp-tailed grouse came about in 2014, at a special meeting at the North American. A large group got together to talk about developing a strategic plan spearheaded by the North American Grouse Partnership. As state representatives started to communicate with them and suggest an approach to put states out front with Grouse Partnership alongside them on these issues. In 2015, WAFWA directors approved establishing the Interstate Working Group and then came to this group for additional support from MAFWA because crossing two regions. We ended up with representatives from 14 states to serve on the two committees, states are listed, and Oklahoma is included because of range of chickens

in tall grass prairie and they wanted to be a part of this. Appreciate director's support for your folks attending, we have had five in-person meetings and six conference calls. Holding meetings in the Omaha area because central location. Your people are engaged in this process. Some states don't have populations of greater chickens that Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas have, but they do have aggressive grassland restoration efforts underway in addition to reintroductions. When they come to talk they know how many chickens they have and what the range looks like. Working Groups focus is mainly on maintaining and restoring sufficient amounts of native grassland and shrubland ecosystems across the range to support sustainable populations. To date have operated joint efforts under WAFWA Western Grassland Initiative and also with help from Ecosystem Management Research Institute (EMRI). John Haufler (EMRI) and Bill Van Pelt, who was coordinator for Western Grassland Initiative, who have been guiding and coordinating this. In Kansas we put forth a PR proposal to submit for funding but could only fund efforts under greater prairie chicken and think we did one time release some sharp-tails, but we haven't claimed those as species. The grant is going to help with coordination of planning process, meetings and to help participants attend and match is coming from states. We have engaged USFWS as well and have some of their folks attend this meeting. Part of this was putting together information so if petitioned we would have foundation of information. We learned that from lesser prairie chicken (LPC) and planning efforts of sage grouse which are planning efforts that provide good guidance. It is a different situation here, not under listing threat, but put information in order, should it occur. Have a number of bullet points that are tasks completed to date, a fair number include compilation and examination of data states have, including distribution of species, habitat, compilation and harvest information. Working on having consistent monitoring methods across state lines within range of species. There have been a number of occupancy and habitat models done that is giving us information to pull in and determine what we need to do. Important part is identification of additional species of concern that can be addressed with management of two grouse species. While these species are flagships of this conservation effort, a number of other species like grassland birds will benefit. Grasslands are one of most endangered ecosystems in the world. Bringing these other species to the table is important and this group recognizes that as a result of SWAP plans. An important source of information is how they integrate into this effort. Another important part is identification of additional partners and how to engage them in process like NGO community, industry, other scientists and folks interested in this area of conservation; working on integrating these folks into planning effort. They weren't included in the beginning because states and other partners felt they needed to get their arms around it and decide how to move forward. Realize other folks have valuable information that can go into this process so integrating other potential partners. Also want to establish a science advisory committee comprised of experts on each species and others to help develop landscape considerations for grassland conservation. It is good to have science and scientific community together on these efforts and if in conflict could work out those issues. We soon recognized we were missing the science needed to fill the holes that is where we are the weakest; having good science foundation. When USFWS is petitioned they look to states for information. Working together we can develop a research plan to address questions that come our way from petitioners. Five ongoing tasks are: modeling and habitat conditions for each species; developing process to set

population habitat goals, eco-regional concept similar to LPC (like flint hills and sand hills and different eco-regions that need to be identified that deserve special attention); funding mechanism as we reach out to partners and begin to look at funding some of these efforts and particularly habitat conditions, when bring information to the table in such a way to identify needs and how addressing those needs can move the needle then folks will put arms around it in a financial way. Imperative to insure linked to other conservation efforts with species of greatest conservation concern, while grouse species are flagship, iconic species for agencies entities outside the conservation arena is limited and need to address other species that exist within that landscape. We took a look at and supported planning document from Midwest landscape conservation working group and many things highlighted crossed right into what we are trying to do in that grassland landscape (like prioritizing at risk species conservation and wind energy). While wind is out in front there are other industrial impacts with oil and gas, transmissions, pipelines and transportation that seem to have an effect on these grouse species. In support of having better information on impacts of wind towers on our grouse species. On the right track, like idea that this effort at a lower level and landscape they exist in nests in very well with purpose and objectives of landscape conservation efforts. These can be adjusted, not set on one path, as priorities change we can adjust our programs. Other impacts in the Kansas in GPC range and tall grass prairie, while we have been able to keep wind out of there and not a lot of oil and gas formation, we do have rangeland management that has some impact, annual burning and more people are starting to look at rotational burning programs. We need landowners to engage in management programs and a need to change cultural aspects of range management. If one can begin to show cattle production and ranching can benefit from management programs that benefit grouse, we are headed down the right path. As rancher said the other day, lets engage in conversation. In work with landowners that have entered into contracts with us they recognize that well. The programs come with financial benefit are also equally good or better for their ranching and cattle operations. It has been a pleasure and being involved in these kinds of things keep you young and vibrant because so many good things yet to come. The future is bright for wildlife conservation and we have great young people taking these things on, they are thinking about the science, population modeling and monitoring. Can have a lot of energy, but something up here (head) too. The Midwest has come a long way.

Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

Sara Parker Pauley – Missouri Department of Conservation – A charge was given to me as chair of this committee and board of MFWC on May 29. The approved charge is “to provide CEF oversight managing the cooperative agreement between MFWC host states and CEF, monitor host state succession and coordinator selection and performance, hotel contracting and finances. Annually recommend to CEF board of trustees a MFWC proceed distribution budget and execute auditing of conference coordinator and accounting records. Direct preparation of conference operating manual and best management practices and present a report of committee accomplishments at each annual meeting of MFWC board of trustees”. My first charge of business was to identify a couple of additional committee members and I am grateful to Dale and Kelly who have agreed to be committee members. If any other directors are interested in this important

charge I would love to have your involvement. Also looking to identify some doers and go-getters for a subcommittee to look at an operating manual for the conference; Norman Murray from Missouri is going to chair that subcommittee, also Kendra Wecker, Ohio and Vicki Brown, Michigan have agreed to be on that subcommittee. We have cooperative agreements signed by all 11 states who agreed to host the conference; four states already paid their \$5,000 in start-up funding, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri and South Dakota, Indiana and Iowa payments are in the works. There may be additional work that has gone on this week, so we are eager to have startup funding complete and ready to go. Preparing for 2020 conference in Illinois, which will be the first time we will be able to provide funding, grants and scholarships, have operating manual ready to go and have oversight in place. Proceeds from conference we have agreed to split between the Wildlife Society and AFS to administer student travel grants to attend the conferences.

NEW BUSINESS

RBFF Update

Dave Chanda, Vice President State Agency Engagement (PowerPoint – Exhibit 44) – We have been working with AFWA about a bogus website that is at least misleading, it is an advertising site. A lot of people are buying a \$24 electronic guide that tells them nothing about fishing, thinking they are buying a fishing license for your state, if you googled fishing that recreationallicenses.com would come up first. It says it is an ad, but many people have complained to us and your states about that; Doug Grann formerly of Wildlife Forever fell for it. The strategy we took was that we asked state directors to give us letters of complaint, we received 36 letters, thank you. It is with our lawyer right now and we are going to work with AFWA to see how we want to send it out, jointly or just RBFF. We know a few states have sent a complaint to FCC and got a nice blow off letter, saying to take it up with your AG but our lawyer believes the magnitude of 36 states and RBFF coming together might be able to draw the attention of FCC to take action, hopefully take down the site. They make a lot of money, they do it on marriage licenses, engineering licenses, they have it figured out. For any of you who do anything with paid engine search, it is costing you more money. They are not appearing on a google search because they didn't put money into it, guide costs \$19.99 and \$4 electronic processing fee and if you complain they might give you a \$20 reimbursement and they keep \$4. This also tells me how undervalued some of our licenses are if people are willingly to shell out \$24 for a fishing guide. We all know challenges we are facing out there with R3. Fishing is a little different, been seeing an increase in participation, but we face issues because vast majority of license buyers are approaching 50 years old and if we don't bring in anglers behind them in 25 years we will see a significant decline; working hard to see that doesn't happen. We do that through resources we provide states, like planning documents, doing marketing work to help you assess where you are with R3 work. Help with management plans and Stephanie Hussey has been working with your staff on how to implement or step-down the national plan. Council to Advanced Hunting and Shooting Sports had done a great job and we have picked up Wildlife Management Institute and DJ Case Associates on contract to come in and help states develop their plans, take a look at existing plan, to train you, work with you or do whatever you need; we will pay for it.

Texas has DJ Case helping them bring their plan down the home stretch, we are covering half the cost and Turkey Federation the other half. We provide a lot of good tools; many states are working hard on churn rates. Figure out a way to collect emails, sending out all kinds of useful information on marketing, etc. Seeing a huge interest in R3, yet no training available from R3 practitioners. Held first four-day training session two weeks ago, had 60 people including 30 states, USFWS employees and had Guam and Puerto Rico represented. They spent four days going into how to develop a market and evaluate planning process. It is clear the states are all over the map on delivery of these services, so marketing component was boring to some states, but a great, tip your toes into the water, presentation for staff there. This could lead into some more advanced courses being offered, on advanced marketing or helping evaluation. It was a good start and look forward to follow-up meetings. RBFF invests in marketing and driving recruitment for states, all about awareness and interest and ultimately pushing folks to decide they want to participate in angling. We have developed whole program around that, have very specific target audience we are after and work hard targeting multicultural families, like Hispanics, women and grandparents who are taking over families and have time to take kids fishing. Targeting people who have kids 6 to 17 and we developed a whole media blitz around that. It is a 12-month effort to drive traffic and interest and hopefully drive people to your website to pick up a fishing license. Heavily involved in social media, have Carlos Carrera and had him do a couple of public appearances for us right after he won the world series, he was a hot commodity. Most have seen PSA we developed, one of my favorites tells value of your fishing license, in 60 seconds or less, which helps you with resource and pays for conservation. We received over \$18 million of in-kind play on that. Just recently received top one percent award from Nielson Media for public PSAs we put out there, proud of that work; thank states that put their tags on it and helped push it out. Trying to figure out which states are taking advantage of those PSAs to leverage efforts we have out there. Within our target audience we are going to focus on women. If looking at state data will see more and more participants are female I like to think that is result of state efforts over the last 20 years with Women in the Outdoors programs, magnify 50 states for last 20 years and believe states are responsible for seeing more women in the sport. Also, we know from research we are doing, women are important component from teaching sons and daughters to fish, more than the dad. One thing we are seeing is that only 19 percent of them feel like they belong or look like an angler, we need to do a better job of changing that visual. I went to iCast last year, big show that shows all of fishing gear coming down the road and saw stereotypical older white guy with fly rod, some are changing that. We developed media messaging around this, hope states will grab, put tags on it and run with it. This campaign kicked off Mother's Day weekend and will continue throughout next year (*played video*). This is called "get your fish on" and we have made it available, generating a lot of excitement, there are shorter versions of it and we hope it will change the mantra out there and let women know they are a big part of it. We are seeing visuals coming out of state agencies with that message as well. To help push national boating and fishing week was to list top places to boat and fish, every state nominating top five places to go and put a twist it, we took list and used firm to survey women to give their top 50 mom-approved places to go. We will whittle that down to top 10 and ultimately come up with top 10 mom-approved list of places to go anywhere in the country. Guys have some catching up to do because the last I checked

Nebraska's Lake Ogallala is in the lead right now. We appreciate the way states have embraced this and are helping push the message out. We are seeing improvements in work we are doing with the Outdoor Foundation who has done survey for us 10 years in a row. Seen increase in youth anglers and Hispanic participation around the country, due to efforts of states and targeting those audiences. The most recent report, which will be available shortly from Outdoor Foundation, tracking 49 million anglers ages 6 and above; the bottom line is the trend is going up, a good thing. When Nick Wiley was president of the Association he put together a task force to figure out how to implement R3, the report was adopted at the North American and has five steps to follow. One of the first recommendations is to develop a plan on where you want to be on Hunter R3 or Angler R3, if you want to grow, if no plan, how do you know you are getting where you want to be. We will be happy to help develop plans in the states. This is not any one person's job, needs to be integrated throughout the agency, it takes a lot of people. If we believe in recommendations in the report, we need to reallocate resources to be sure the program is a success. The third is to have a manager, somebody needs to be responsible and in charge and report to you. The ideal in the report, is it needs to be somebody that has access to you, high enough in chain to implement or affect some of your policy decisions. If you bury that person three people removed from you, you will get filtered information and not be able to react to opportunities out there. May not be high level position but give them access to you or your policy makers. The fourth recommendation is relationship management system, states getting better at that. Anything bought online you immediately get a message, that leads you to other products, we need to be better at that and tracking customers. If you host an outdoor event, those are potential customers you need to grab them and get them into database, they showed an interested in what you are doing. That is all connected to fourth R, relevancy. The final recommendation was to develop a repository where states share successes and failures, so you can replicate what works and avoid what didn't work. We have that on our website, any time we give a state grant they have to provide summary of, did it work, why didn't it work, was it a great success. So perhaps a mechanism; don't have arms wrapped around that yet, how do you get information out to all 50 states. We are all doing great stuff, but don't always share so well, maybe there is a role for RBFF to help facilitate that repository. December 4-6 is our state marketing workshop, we will pay for travel expenses for two staff to travel. If you came to workshop and didn't go home with an idea for your state changes to make, I will take you for a steak dinner. I never heard one leave without ideas. Last year, 14 directors indicated they wanted to come, ended up with nine and five assistant directors. So, after morning plenary we took those folks and spent three hours talking about how RBFF could help them, what was going on in their states and we would be more than happy to do that same thing--to exchange information and bring in speakers to facilitate that conversation. Specifically targeted those dates because AFWA has their Executive Committee meeting in town and can fly from DC to Atlanta, December 5 is plenary session and workshop for the directors. We put out request for bids, probably Southwick Associates, for someone to work with us and take a look at Fish and Wildlife Service data, multiple years of data from state agencies. We are going to have them look at four to six states that have shown consistent growth in license sales versus five or six states that have gone flat or declining. We are going to look at everything from weather patterns, talk to staff and see if commonalities that show good management practices to

grow license sales. One of the conditions of the grant is want information by state for marketing workshop so we can discuss it in plenary and be happy to give to directors after that. *Jim Leach* – Dave, is there information on hotels, or agendas for the workshop? *Dave* – We will be getting “save the date” invite to come from our deputy director and I will follow up with a message. I try not to inundate folks with emails. I probably did on the phony website stuff, but at the end of the day we got 36 letters. We would love to have you down there and see it; contact me if you want a person in director’s-only retreat.

Refreshment Break – Sponsored by Mule Deer Foundation and North Dakota Petroleum Council

Mid-Continent Monarch Strategy Report

Bill Moritz, Wildlife Management Institute – As chair of the Midwest Monarch Strategy Board of Directors I would like to bring forward the monarch strategy for your consideration and approval. We have already talked about everything that has gone into it. There will be a meeting concerning implementation of the strategy, November 29 and 30, in Nebraska City, Nebraska. *Terry* – The executive committee approved the monarch strategy and we need a motion for the full board to consider. ***Dale Garner, IA moved, Kelly Hepler, SD second. Motion passes.*** *Terry* – Ed, we have a letter to sign? *Bill* – We have a letter to insert into the document for the record that shows it was approved by the monarch board of directors as well as the MAFWA board of directors. I will sign as Chair of the monarch board and *Terry* will sign as President of MAFWA. *Roger, Ollie, Claire and Ed observed (picture of signing).* *Terry* – Thank *Bill*, *Ed* and *Claire* for all of your work on this.

2019 Budget Approval

Roger Luebbert, Treasurer (Exhibit 45) – On 2019 budget, page one is budget versus actual which shows how account did compared to last year. Page two is budget status for current year and the last page is actual proposed budget for next year. On 2017 budget versus actual page, line numbers on left for easy reference. On line 14, total receipts were \$130,221 for 2017 versus \$157,046 actual receipts, about \$26,800 higher than the budget; line 5 shows budgeted conference receipts of \$70,500 and actual receipts of \$84,825, which is about \$14,300 higher than budgeted; line 11, indirect cost USFWS for NFWF is one reason total receipts were high, nothing was budgeted but total receipts were \$15,249. The budget was prepared seven months before the year starts so we weren’t sure of the status of these grants at that time. Line 31, total budgeted disbursements, \$122,762, actual \$131,272 which is over budget by about \$8,500; line 20 total conference disbursements is one major player for this variance with a budget of \$49,730 and actual disbursements of \$52,878, a little over \$3,000 higher than the budget; keep in mind actual conference receipts were over by \$14,000. The other variance was executive secretary and treasurer pay, which are lines 22 and 25, budget did not include cost of living or other adjustments made in the middle of calendar year 2017. Overall, line 34 shows actual receipts exceeded actual disbursements by just under \$26,000. The next page is current year budget and actual disbursements as of June 4, 2018. As called for in internal cash control, I will continue to give status reports on this at future meetings. Third page is 2019 proposed budget and the method we use is to use the best number available and the

description column identifies the source we use for each line. On receipt side, line 2, conference sponsors; line 3, conference registration; line 10, national pheasant coordinator; line 11, indirect costs; and line 12, interest; are based on 2017 actual amounts rounded up to nearest \$5. Line 4, hotel commissions is the same as 2017 budget. Line 8, affiliate dues and line 9, Southern Wings are the same as the 2018 budget. Line 6 and 7, annual membership dues for states and provinces are increased based on consumer price index (CPI) of 1.642 percent and show what the dues would be for each state or province membership for calendar year 2019. Overall proposed budget receipts of \$159,165. On disbursement side, line 15, Delaney, is based on draft contract amount. Other conference disbursements, lines 16, 17 and 18 are based on calendar year 2017 actual or 2018 budget amounts. Executive secretary pay on line 21 is contract amount and treasurer pay on line 24 is adjusted for inflation of 1.642 percent. Travel lines 22, 25 and 26 are same as 2018 budget. Lines 27-30 and 32 are calendar year 2017 actual or 2018 budgeted amounts rounded up to nearest \$5. Line 31, leadership workshop is same as 2018 budget. Overall the proposed budget for disbursements is \$152,567 as shown on line 33; on line 34, shows estimated receipts exceed estimated disbursements by \$6,600. *Dale* – Appreciate line numbers, makes it easier to follow. ***Kelly Hepler, SD moved to accept proposed budget, Dale Garner, IA second. Motion passes.***

Terry – One item not on agenda, clean up from Monday. We appointed steering committee on landscape conservation collaborative and I neglected to appoint a lead on that. The committee appointed Kelly as a lead on this, which is what I was going to do. Also, I did not provide a charge for this committee (Handout – Exhibit 46). Jim Douglas developed this and gave it to me. *Jim Douglas* – There were other people who had input in this as well and are on national group. *Kelly* – It is necessary to work with other regional associations, we want to be clear to committee members. *Terry* – Great latitude to the committee.

Ollie – Had discussion of timing of this meeting, maybe moving this a week earlier. Looked at previous conference evaluation surveys and it doesn't seem to matter to people whether a week earlier or nearer to July 4. In the meantime, Ohio decided to stick with this week next year and Kelly also decided to stick with this week in South Dakota, correct? *Kelly* – Yes, we will have 2020 meeting at Custer State Park June 21-24, a week earlier is Father's Day. *Ollie* - Both of those are at state parks. Then Wisconsin will be next in line. It looks like we are going to stick with this week. It is the week before the July 4 weekend, last week of June starting on Sunday and ending on Wednesday. For Ohio, June 23-26, 2019. *Mike* - Toledo is closest city.

Closing Comments

President's Remarks – Terry Steinwand, ND – Don't talk a lot, not in my nature, but I want to thank all of you for making this a successful conference. One thing I enjoyed the most was meeting old friends and making new friends. We all have partners, some uncomfortable partners, like Farm Bureau, maybe just want to fight; we are addressing issues and direct impacts of wind energy right now and have some traditional non-partners that are now supporting us. Always great to have partners, we all do partnerships across the board, but Josh Dukart talked about accommodation part, not sure I agree but

sitting down and discussing and knowing what differences are. Hosted meeting three months ago between conservation groups and Stockman's Association, but all groups went away saying they got it and they understood better, be willing to listen, some like to talk and some like to listen, but hope I am both. I don't want to be totally accommodating but will listen to their point of view and have them listen to mine, changing attitude a little. I told Lt. Governor when I go into a meeting I try to hack both sides off, but tired of getting beat up by both sides. Mike, I know you and Mike Reynolds are going to do a great job in Ohio. Blue shirts, stand up (staff), *(received applause)*. These people are the core of making this a success and Lynn Timm was the glue that held it together; I had 549 emails just on this conference and I had to tell Lynn to back off. Lynn, you deserve major credit for pulling this thing together, thank you.

Passing of Gavel to Next State

Terry – It gives me great pleasure to transfer gavel to you, Mike (Ohio).

(Mike read plaque) “2018 Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Past President's Award presented to Terry Steinwand”.

Terry – Need motion to confirm the actions we took on Monday and yesterday outside the business meeting. **Sara Parker Pauley, MO moved, Bill O'Neill, MI second. Motion passes.**

Terry Steinwand, ND passed gavel to Mike Miller, OH.

Conference Adjourns

**Bill O'Neill, MI moved to adjourn, Sara Parker Pauley, MO second.
Meeting adjourned at 11:07 pm.**

Appendix A – PowerPoint Photos

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MIDWEST LANDSCAPE INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, landscape-scale conservation efforts are characterized by conservation of connected and healthy ecological systems, use of science-based and culturally sensitive conservation planning, collaborative network structure and meaningful multi-sector stakeholder engagement;

WHEREAS, conservation challenges unique to the Midwest region of the United States and Canada require coordinated and collaborative efforts of the members as well as those of federal agencies, tribes, private landowners and conservation groups;

WHEREAS, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Association) recognizes the important role and unique responsibility of state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies in conserving fish and wildlife and their habitats;

WHEREAS, the Association, in cooperation with historical Regions 3, 4 and 6 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, had established the Midwest Landscape Initiative (MLI) Steering Committee in June 2018 to identify shared priorities and define how to best address them;

WHEREAS, the MLI Steering Committee has developed preliminary co-identified priorities, goals and objectives related to them; has established a Technical Committee, which is developing work groups around the priority areas; and has developed preliminary governance documents for operation of the MLI;

WHEREAS, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) adopted a resolution to promote Landscape Level Collaborations at Landscape Levels, which provides guidance to the development and implementations of forums like the MLI.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association, in annual assembly on June 26, 2019 in Oregon, OH hereby enthusiastically supports and endorses the continuation of the Midwest Landscape Initiative and further directs the following:

1. The work groups must be populated with robust and diverse membership from groups and individuals interested in fish and wildlife conservation in the Midwest Region.
2. The MLI should continually evaluate the co-identified priorities and make recommendations for adjustments or modifications to them. The MLI may hold workshops or use other appropriate mechanisms to engage in such evaluation.
3. The MLI should develop a Comprehensive Regional Conservation Action Plan (Action Plan). This Action Plan will be a regional framework intended to address the co-identified conservation priorities of the MLI and to coordinate voluntary conservation actions and investments in the region. The Action Plan should include clear, specific, practical and measurable objectives, performance measures and outcomes.

4. All work of the MLI must be based on sound scientific principles, including but not limited to social science and human dimension.
5. The work of the MLI should align to the principles of the AFWA Resolution described above.
6. The work of the MLI should, to the extent possible, integrate with and inform the work of other regional landscape initiatives, particularly in instances where landscapes overlap.

RESOLUTION THANKING OHIO

WHEREAS, the Ohio Division of Wildlife has so sufficiently and enthusiastically organized and conducted the 2019 annual meeting of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies;

AND WHEREAS, Director Kendra Wecker and staff have worked together with local and national conservation partners making all of the participants feel very welcome;

AND WHEREAS, the members of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies wish to express their extreme gratitude for all of the collaborative efforts of the Ohio Division of Wildlife;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at it's annual meeting at Maumee Bay State Park, Ohio, on June 26, 2019, acknowledges the hard work and hospitality of Director Wecker and her staff and the great state of Ohio and hereby passes this resolution showing great appreciation.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS



MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

JUNE, 2018⁹

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

PREAMBLE

The name of this organization shall be the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Association). The Association shall be organized and operated as a non-profit professional association as described in 501(c)(6) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code with the purpose of promoting the protection, preservation, restoration and management of fish and wildlife resources.

The Association was incorporated in the State of Kansas on August 19, 2005. The Association shall comply with K.S.A. 17-1759, et seq., known as the "Charitable Organizations and Solicitations Act." To the extent these bylaws conflict with a provision of the Act, the Act shall govern.

The objectives of the Association shall be:

- (a) to protect the right of jurisdiction of the Midwestern states over their wildlife resources on public and private lands;
- (b) to scrutinize state and federal wildlife legislation and regulations and to offer support or opposition to legislative proposals or federal regulations in accordance with the best interests of the Midwestern states;
- (c) to serve as a clearinghouse for the exchange of ideas concerning wildlife and fisheries management, research techniques, wildlife law enforcement, hunting and outdoor safety, and information and education;
- (d) and to encourage and assist sportsmen's and conservationists' organizations so that the fullest measure of cooperation may be secured from our citizenry in the protection, preservation, restoration and management of our fish and wildlife resources.

The Association met for the first time on October 28, 1934 in Des Moines, Iowa. At that time the group was known as the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Commissioners. The Association first received its non-profit status in 1968. The Association's name was changed to the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Commissioners in 1972, to the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 1977, and to the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 2001.

ARTICLE I

OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers of the Association shall be President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice-President. The President and both Vice-Presidents shall be the duly authorized voting representative of their member state or province and shall be selected on an alphabetical rotation basis, with the First Vice-President being from the state or province next in order of rotation following the President and the Second Vice-President being from the state or province next in rotation following the First Vice-President. The term of office shall commence 30 days following adjournment of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' (AFWA) annual meeting and conclude 30 days following adjournment of the succeeding annual AFWA meeting. The First Vice-President shall automatically succeed to President if he/she remains eligible. If the President separates from a member agency (or is replaced by that agency), the First Vice-President shall fulfill the remaining term, followed by their regular term.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the officers identified in Article I, Section 1 and one representative from each state and province except those represented by the officers. Such state or provincial Board member shall be the chief executive officer of the fish and wildlife agency of his/her state or province, or his/her designee. A Board member may, by written notification to the President, designate a voting proxy from the Board member's state or province. However, Executive Committee members may not designate a proxy for the conduct of Executive Committee business. [All Board members are required to annually sign a conflict of interest and compensation policy form.](#)

ARTICLE II

OTHER ASSOCIATION POSITIONS

Section 1. The Association shall establish the position of "Treasurer." An Association member agency may provide an individual to serve in this capacity or the Association may contract with a member agency or an individual to fill this position. This is a nonvoting position.

Section 2. The Association shall also establish the position of "Executive Secretary." An Association member agency may provide an individual to serve in this capacity or the Association may contract with a member agency or an individual to fill the position. This is a nonvoting position.

Section 3. The Association may establish the position of "Recording Secretary." This is a nonvoting position.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall be by states and provinces and representation of each state and province at meetings shall be by its duly authorized representative or representatives.

Section 2. The area of membership in the Association shall be the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, and the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario and such additional states and provinces as may request membership and be elected by majority vote of the member states and provinces in annual meeting.

Section 3. Membership in the Association of an individual shall terminate upon the expiration of the member's term of office as a state fish and wildlife administrator.

Section 4. Other professional organizations may be granted affiliate membership in the Association based upon demonstration that the Constitution and Bylaws of said organizations meet the basic standards of the Association. Application for affiliate membership shall be forwarded to the Executive Secretary at least 90 days prior to a regular meeting of the Association and shall include a current Constitution and Bylaws and a letter stating the organization's justification for affiliate membership. Affiliate membership shall be voted on by the voting representatives and must attain a majority vote of a quorum. Affiliated membership dues shall be \$75.00 per year; however, this fee may be waived by a majority vote of a quorum. The fee is automatically waived for affiliated conservation agencies or organizations that provide annual financial resources to support the Association through the following sponsorships: Major Sponsor (\$5,000 or more); Gold Sponsor (\$3,000-4,999); Silver Sponsor (\$2,000-2,999); Bronze Sponsor (\$1,000-1,999); and Sponsor (\$500-999).

ARTICLE IV

DUTIES OF OFFICERS and OTHER POSITIONS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, appoint all special committees, preside at meetings of the Board of Directors, and perform such other duties as are naturally incumbent upon the office to serve the Association and the Fund. Copies of the annual proceedings shall be forwarded to each member in good standing, with the cost of preparation and handling to be paid out of Association funds. All other copies are for distribution at the discretion of the host state or province.

Section 2. The First Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the latter's absence, and specific duties may be assigned as deemed necessary by the President.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall conduct the business of the Association.

Section 4. The Executive Secretary shall perform the following services for the Association:

- (1) Function as the official “Executive Secretary” for the Association carrying out liaison services by keeping in communication via e-mail, mailings, phone contact and personal visits with member Directors, or their designated representatives, to enhance the viability of the Association.
- (2) Work to obtain direct involvement and commitment of member Directors and affiliate leaders to build strength in the Association as a leading force in the Midwest on behalf of fish and wildlife issues.
- (3) Assist the Executive Director of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in coordinating actions and communications relevant to the Midwest Association.
- (4) Respond to inquiries for information regarding the Association and to routine correspondence.
- (5) Develop and maintain a web site for the Association.
- (6) Carry out directives of the President and/or Executive Committee of the Association.
- (7) Assist with the scheduling of meetings and conference calls and notify appropriate members.
- (8) Record minutes in the absence of the Recording Secretary.
- (9) Provide such other services as may be mutually agreed upon by both parties.

Section 5. The Recording Secretary shall perform the following services:

- (1) Record and publish the annual proceedings of the Association.
- (2) Record and retain the minutes of all meetings of the Association, and perform such other duties as are naturally incumbent upon the office.
- (3) Assist other officers and positions with correspondence and record keeping.
- (4) Serve as the custodian of all permanent files and records of the Association.
- (5) Other duties as assigned by the President.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall perform the following services for the Association and the Fund:

- (1) Be custodian of all funds of the Association.
- (2) Establish and have access to Association bank accounts.
- (3) Draw all warrants for payment of claims properly presented and expend funds necessary to pay appropriately invoiced bills, provided such warrants are signed by a director selected and approved by the Executive Committee.
- (4) Invoice members and sponsors and collect dues and funds.
- (5) Review monthly account reports and monitor income and expenditures.
- (6) Prepare reports to the Executive Committee detailing income, expenditures and asset values.
- (7) Perform record-keeping, reporting and filing actions to ensure the Association complies with its governing documents and any other relevant laws or regulations, including but not limited to any required filings with the state of Kansas or the Internal Revenue Service to maintain the Association's status as a tax-exempt non-profit organization and legal entity, and provide a report of any such required actions to the Executive Committee at its next meeting.
- (8) Develop, present and oversee budgets, accounts and financial statements and reports and present such records for auditing purposes.
- (9) Ensure that appropriate accounting procedures and controls are in place and comply with the Associations' Internal Controls for Cash Policy.
- (10) Serve as liaison with any staff and volunteers about Association and Fund financial matters.
- (11) Monitor the Association's investment activity and ensure its consistency with the Association's policies and legal responsibilities; liaise with the Investments Committee and review reports submitted thereby.
- (12) Ensure independent examination or audits are executed and any

recommendations are implemented; provide report of results at the regular annual meeting.

- (13) Make formal presentation of the accounts at the regular annual meeting and more frequently as requested by the Executive Secretary, the President or the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS

One regular meeting shall be held annually. The meeting will be held in and hosted by the state or province in which the President has administrative responsibility, or in such other locations designated by the Association. It is the intent of the Association that the costs of the annual meetings and related business functions may be paid by the Association. When necessary, special meetings may be called by the President or the Executive Secretary. Members shall be given 90 days' notice of regular annual meetings; 60 days' notice for special, in-person meetings; and five days' notice for special, telephonic meetings and telephonic meetings of the Executive Committee.

The Association may authorize members, affiliates and other groups to exhibit at its meetings, subject to the Exhibitor/Sponsor Policy approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI

VOTING

Voting shall be by states and provinces, as units. Each state and province shall have one vote. All voting shall be by voice vote, except that a reasonable request by any member state or province for a secret ballot shall be honored. Any matters of Association business requiring action in the interim between meetings may be handled by the Executive Committee, by majority vote of that committee.

ARTICLE VII

DUES

Annual Dues shall be \$3,800 per member state and \$100 per province, payable in advance, at, or before each annual meeting; provided that annual dues may be suspended for any given year by a majority vote of a quorum. Dues shall be adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Dues shall be adjusted using the annual change in the CPI-U for the month of January of the previous fiscal year. The annual dues for the upcoming year shall be

reported at the Association's regular annual meeting by the Treasurer.

ARTICLE VIII

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Association shall be January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE IX

QUORUM

A quorum is defined as a simple majority of the states.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENT

The Constitution and Bylaws (Bylaws) of the Association may be amended at any regular meeting by a majority vote of a quorum; provided, however, a written copy of such proposed amendment shall have been received by the President and the Executive Secretary and sent to members at least 30 days before the regular annual meeting or special meeting called for that purpose; and provided that such changes shall be effective only to the extent they are authorized by applicable law. Proposed Bylaws amendments should be presented to, or generated by, the Bylaws Committee and reviewed by the Executive Committee prior to submitting to voting members of the Association for their consideration. With approval of the First Vice-President, the President may call for voting by mail (including electronic mail) in lieu of a meeting. In this event, the 30-day notice shall still apply, the date of opening ballots shall be previously announced, notice sent to each member within forty-eight hours of vote tabulation by the Executive Secretary and all ballots shall be kept for one year following the vote.

ARTICLE XI

TYPES OF COMMITTEES/BOARDS

Section 1. There shall be three kinds of committees: Standing, President's Ad Hoc, and Technical Working.

Section 2. The following Standing Committees shall be appointed by the incoming President within 30 days after assuming office, they shall serve during the period intervening between annual meetings and at such meetings, or until the purpose of each such committee has been accomplished and it has been discharged by the President.

- A. The Executive Committee shall be composed of six members of the Association: The President, First Vice President, Second Vice-President, immediate Past President, and two other members to be appointed by the President with specific consideration for geographical balance. Any state or province represented on the Executive Committee by more than one individual shall be restricted to a single vote on this committee. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Association between its business meetings, make recommendations to the Association as necessary and shall perform such other duties as may be specified in these bylaws. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the orders of the Board of Directors and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the Board of Directors. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President as necessary. The Executive Committee may also act via conference call or by mail (including electronic mail). In the event that an officer of the Association or the immediate Past President separates from a member agency (or is replaced by that agency), their replacement in a member agency shall serve for the remainder of their term, with the exception of President. If the President separates from a member agency (or is replaced by that agency), their replacement in a member agency will serve in their place on the Executive Committee for the remainder of the term as a Special Board Member with voting rights, and the First Vice-President will succeed to President for the remainder of the term.
- B. The Auditing Committee shall be composed of three members: The First Vice President of the Association, who shall act as chairman, and two other members to be appointed by the President. The Auditing Committee shall audit the financial records of the Association annually and report the result of its audit at the annual regular meeting.
- C. The Resolutions Committee shall be composed of three members, one of which shall be designated as Chairman by the President. Copies of proposed resolutions should be received by the President and the Executive Secretary and sent to members for their consideration at least 30 days before the regular annual meeting. Courtesy resolutions and resolutions of a last-minute nature may be recommended to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting. Furthermore, proposed resolutions for which an urgent need arises between annual meetings may be presented to the Board of Directors for consideration via mail (including electronic mail), provided members are given a 15-day notice. Members shall be notified of the vote outcome by the Executive Secretary within forty-eight hours of vote tabulation.
- D. The Awards Committee shall be composed of five members, one of which shall be designated as Chairman by the President. The Awards Committee shall administer the official annual awards program of the Association.
- E. The Bylaws Committee shall be composed of at least one member, designated by the President. The Bylaws Committee shall recommend Bylaws changes to the Executive Committee for consideration.

F. The Investments Committee shall be composed of three members. The President shall designate one of the members as Chairman. The purpose of the committee is to review investments, including the Jaschek portfolio, the Conservation Enhancement Fund, and other permanent assets of the Association and make recommendations to the Association per the investment policy statement. The Investments Committee shall make an annual report to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting.

G. The Program Committee shall be comprised of four members, one from the host state of the previous annual meeting, one from the host state of the current annual meeting, one from the host state of the next annual meeting, and the Executive Secretary. The purpose of the committee is to assist the host state with developing presentation and discussion topics and suggesting speakers for the non-business portion of meeting.

Section 3. Ad Hoc Committees may be established as deemed necessary by the President of the Association or vote of the Members and shall serve until the purpose of each such committee has been accomplished and it has been discharged by the President or by vote of the Members.

Section 4. The Association may establish Technical Working Committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Association. Upon establishment, these committees shall adhere to the following:

- A. Within one year from establishment, each committee shall submit to the Association for approval a Mission Statement, a list of specific responsibilities, and a description of operating procedures that will become part of the official minutes of the Association.
- B. All Technical Working Committees shall submit a written report electronically to the President and the Executive Secretary 30 days in advance of the annual meeting of the Association and may choose to conduct necessary committee business during the period between annual meetings as per their approved operating procedures.
- C. Each Technical Working Committee shall be automatically abolished by the first of August every three years unless reinstated by vote of the Association. As the end of the third-year approaches, the Association shall assess the merits of reinstating the Technical Working Committee.
- D. Resolutions from Technical Working Committees for Association action shall be submitted to the Chair of the Resolutions Committee 30 days in advance of the annual meeting for consideration by the Board of Directors.

The Association recognizes the following Technical Working Committees (year of automatic

abolishment in parentheses):

- Climate Change (~~2019~~22)
- Legal Committee (2020)
- National Conservation Need (NCN) Committee (2020)
- Midwest Private Lands Wildlife Management Group (2021)
- Midwest Public Lands Technical Working Committee (~~2019~~22)
- Midwest Wildlife and Fish Health Committee (~~2019~~22)
- Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group (2020)
- Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers (2020)
- Midwest Furbearer Group (2021)
- Wildlife Action Plan Technical Working Committee (2021)
- Hunter and Angler Recruitment and Retention Technical Working Group (2020)

ARTICLE XII

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Association may adopt.

- Adopted 1936
- Amended 1942
- Amended 1944
- Amended 1949
- Amended 1954
- Amended 1960
- Amended 1964
- Amended 1969
- Amended 1971
- Amended 1972
- Amended 1975
- Amended 1976
- Amended 1977
- Amended 1978
- Amended 1980
- Amended 1987
- Amended 1993
- Amended 1995
- Amended 1996
- Amended 2000
- Amended 2001

Amended July 16, 2003
Amended July 13, 2004
Amended July 13, 2005
Amended July 12, 2006
Amended July 18, 2007
Amended July 2, 2008
Amended July 1, 2009
Amended December 23, 2009
Amended June 29, 2011
Amended June 27, 2012
Amended June 26, 2013
Amended June 25, 2014
Amended July 1, 2015
Amended June 29, 2016
Amended June 28, 2017
Amended June 27, 2018
[Amended June 26, 2019](#)

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