

## **RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCY ENGAGEMENT IN THE ONE HEALTH APPROACH**

**WHEREAS**, the first stated objective of MAFWA is to protect the right of jurisdiction of the Midwestern states over their wildlife resources on public and private lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the One Health approach is understood to acknowledge the fundamental interconnectedness of human, animal (wild and domestic), and ecosystem or environmental health; and

**WHEREAS**, the One Health approach is increasingly accepted and adopted as necessary for the optimization of public health, animal health, and ecosystem or environmental health; and

**WHEREAS**, the increasing emergence of zoonotic diseases, exemplified by the current global COVID-19 pandemic, demands increased attention to wildlife health and wildlife disease prevention, surveillance, and response; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 70% of emerging zoonotic diseases are caused by pathogens with a wildlife origin, arising from human activities that increase interspecies interactions, and recognition of this fact requires engagement and collaboration of partners across health disciplines for effective management; and

**WHEREAS**, wildlife both can be negatively impacted by and can serve as sentinels for environmental contaminants or conditions and infectious diseases affecting both humans and animals; and

**WHEREAS**, management of human and domestic animal health can impact wildlife and ecosystem or environmental health and vice versa,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fish and Wildlife Health Committee hereby urges the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies directors to adopt and promote the One Health approach in wildlife health management within their agencies; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Health Committee encourages member states and provinces to work towards defining, clarifying, and strengthening the role and authority of fish and wildlife agencies in health management within their state; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Health Committee urges the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Directors to support active engagement and establishment of official representation for their agency in state/provincial discussions and decision making regarding One Health issues. This interagency collaboration should include agency wildlife health veterinarians or wildlife health representatives interacting with federal, state/provincial, and local public health and agricultural and domestic animal health management partners to represent the wildlife perspective on relevant health and disease concerns affecting their state or province and to collaborate on solutions promoting One Health; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Health Committee encourages the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies directors to adopt this resolution at their annual meeting in 2020.