

# **Midwest Fish and Wildlife Health Committee**

## **Annual Report**

### **May 27, 2022**

#### **Meeting Time and Place**

Our annual meeting took place at the National Energy center of Excellence, Bismarck State College in Bismarck, North Dakota and via video conference. The meeting began on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from 12 – 5:30 pm, and continued April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from 8:00am – 5:00pm. An optional field/technical training was provided on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am – 12:00pm. Travel restrictions and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic reduced available travel opportunities for some of our members.

#### **Attendance**

The 2022 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Health Committee Meeting was attended by representatives from 11 state or provincial wildlife agencies in person (MAFWA Members included: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Manitoba, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, and Wisconsin). The remaining 5 states and provinces attended virtually (Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Nebraska, and Ontario). Three federal agencies: USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services, USGS-National Wildlife Health Center, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service representatives also attended virtually as did a number of invited speakers (see Appendix 1 and 2).

#### **Executive Summary**

Each state or province in attendance provide an update during the annual meeting on wildlife health initiatives, disease concerns, ongoing research in their jurisdiction, and work adjustments or problem solving to accommodate ongoing public health initiatives and emerging disease response, most notably highly pathogenic avian influenza. Additional discussion focused on emerging disease surveillance, CWD testing and research including improvements in data collection, RHDV2, and efforts to streamline and more efficiently and effectively receive citizen reports of wildlife morbidity and mortality especially in response to events that involve wildlife.

In addition to updates and discussion on ongoing state programs, a number of outside speakers were invited to provide detailed information on a range of wildlife health topics. Chyna Pei from NDSU presented on habitat site selection of native and exotic bee communities and the diversity of their function on a landscape level. Dr. Dave Stalknecht provided further details on the evolution of the currently circulating Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza virus that all of the represented states are currently seeing affect a variety of avian and a few mammal species. He provided further details on some of the trends observed in Europe and how NA has had some parallel features. Discussed the species specific impacts that we seem to currently be observing and initiated further discussion on integration of surveillance, research, and management.

Nick Hollingshead from Cornell provided an update on the CWD SOP Project. The principle aim of the project was to develop a new framework for CWD surveillance, using mathematical modeling and data science. Questions were focused on where is CWD most likely to be introduced, how many samples are needed, and what is most efficient sampling for state agencies. The states that provided data to develop the modeling efforts have their information accessible through a dashboard that can provide visualizations of their respective questions.

An update on the Wisconsin SW Deer Study was provided by Drs. Dan Storm and Marie Gilbertson discussed the findings from the adult deer mortality analysis. Some of the main findings include that females are more likely to die in end stage CWD than males (males likely harvested in earlier disease stages) and that emaciation and fat atrophy are strongly associated with CWD.

Claire Beck provided further introductions and updates on the Midwest Landscape Initiative. Dr. Tom DeLiberto provided an update on the ongoing research being conducted on the SARS-CoV-2 virus and susceptibility of wildlife. Next steps include evaluating susceptibility of species to the variants, assessing if there are significant state and regional differences, improve approaches for monitoring and surveillance, what transmission routes are in species such as WTD, are their potential risk to people, and are their mitigation strategies. The goal is to contact states by early August with surveillance plan and what they may need for samples in the next effort. To end out the meeting, Bryan Richards provided discussed current federal funding and research initiatives for CWD programs.

### **Director Action Items**

The committee reviewed the Organizational Guidelines for the committee and provided updated objectives to better align with the current standing of the committee and MAFWA member agencies. A name adjustment was also made to reflect how the committee has been referred to for a number of years: Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Fish and Wildlife Health Committee. This document is provided in Appendix 3.

### **Director Information Items**

- ❖ Submission of an initial proposal to AFWA's Multistate Conservation Grant Program titled: Protecting the future of wildlife conservation and hunting heritage through increased use of non-lead ammunition for MAFWA was coordinated through the committee with members of the MAFWA R3 committee as co-investigators. The submission was approved by the executive committee at their April Meeting.
- ❖ AFWA Federal Appropriations Recommendations for 2022 Federal Budget  
We recommend the following funding is needed to support state and tribal monitoring, research and management of these diseases in free-ranging wildlife:
  - Chronic Wasting Disease-Equine/Cervid Health line item for CWD surveillance, research and management on wild, free-ranging cervids (USDA APHIS): \$30M
  - Fish, Amphibian and Reptile Health-surveillance, research and management of emerging fish, amphibian and reptile health issues. (USGS DOI): \$30M Avian Influenza surveillance, research and management on free-ranging wildlife (USDA APHIS, USGS DOI, SCWDS and NIH DHHS): 20M
  - White Nose Syndrome-surveillance, research and management efforts (USFWS DOI): \$15M
  - Emerging Contaminants-research on impacts of (examples neonicotinoids and PFAS) to wildlife species (USFWS DOI): \$5M

- SARS-CoV-2 potential, research and management on free-ranging wildlife, determination of susceptible species and transmission. (USDA APHIS, USGS DOI, CDC DHHS): \$10M
- Bovine Tuberculosis- Ruminant Health line item for bovine TB surveillance, research and management on wild, free-ranging cervids (USDA APHIS): \$5M
- USGS National Wildlife Health Center. The USGS National Wildlife Health Center is the only national center dedicated to wildlife disease detection, control, and prevention in the United States. Its mission is to provide national leadership to safeguard wildlife and ecosystem health through active partnerships and exceptional science.: \$3M
- Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS), a state-federal wildlife health cooperative providing research expertise, diagnostic capacity, and training to agencies. SCWDS is instrumental in the protection of this nation's wildlife resources, domestic livestock interests, and human health.: \$3M
- Wildlife Disease Monitoring and Surveillance program (USDA). This program provides wildlife disease assistance to states, such as CWD and bovine TB surveillance, feral hog control, and participation of wildlife disease biologists in state agency wildlife disease management activities.: \$3M

#### **Time and Place of Next Meeting -**

The next in person annual meeting is planned to be scheduled in April of 2023. Currently destination is being determined through state agency approvals.

#### **Appendices**

Appendix 1. Midwest Fish and Wildlife Health Meeting Attendees and Contact Details

Appendix 2. Agenda for the Annual Meeting

Appendix 3. Fish and Wildlife Health Committee Organization Guidelines

**Appendix 1.**

**MAFWA Fish and Wildlife Health Committee Annual Meeting Attendees**

	<b>State/province/agency</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>
<b>In person</b>	Illinois	Chris Jacques	<a href="mailto:Chris.Jacques@Illinois.gov">Chris.Jacques@Illinois.gov</a>
	Illinois	Daniel Skinner	<a href="mailto:Daniel.J.Skinner@Illinois.gov">Daniel.J.Skinner@Illinois.gov</a>
	Indiana	Mitch Marcus	<a href="mailto:mmarcus@dnr.in.gov">mmarcus@dnr.in.gov</a>
	Kentucky	Christine Casey	<a href="mailto:christine.casey@ky.gov">christine.casey@ky.gov</a>
	Manitoba	Richard Davis	<a href="mailto:richard.davis@gov.mb.ca">richard.davis@gov.mb.ca</a>
	Michigan	Megan Moriarty	<a href="mailto:moriartym1@michigan.gov">moriartym1@michigan.gov</a>
	Minnesota	Michelle Carstensen	<a href="mailto:michelle.carstensen@state.mn.us">michelle.carstensen@state.mn.us</a>
	Minnesota	Kelly Straka	<a href="mailto:kelly.straka@state.mn.us">kelly.straka@state.mn.us</a>
	Minnesota	Kelsie LaSharr	<a href="mailto:kelsie.lasharr@state.mn.us">kelsie.lasharr@state.mn.us</a>
	Missouri	Jasmine Batten	<a href="mailto:jasmine.batten@mdc.mo.gov">jasmine.batten@mdc.mo.gov</a>
	North Dakota	Brent Weston	<a href="mailto:bweston@nd.gov">bweston@nd.gov</a>
	North Dakota	Charlie Bahnson	<a href="mailto:cbahnson@nd.gov">cbahnson@nd.gov</a>
	Ohio	Mike Tonkovich	<a href="mailto:mike.tonkovich@dnr.state.oh.us">mike.tonkovich@dnr.state.oh.us</a>
	Saskatchewan	Iga Stasiak	<a href="mailto:iga.stasiak@gov.sk.ca">iga.stasiak@gov.sk.ca</a>
	South Dakota	Steve Griffin	<a href="mailto:steve.griffin@state.sd.us">steve.griffin@state.sd.us</a>
	Wisconsin	Lindsey Long	<a href="mailto:lindsey.long@wisconsin.gov">lindsey.long@wisconsin.gov</a>
<b>Virtual</b>	Iowa	Rachel Ruden	<a href="mailto:rachel.ruden@dnr.iowa.gov">rachel.ruden@dnr.iowa.gov</a>
	Kansas	Shane Hesting	<a href="mailto:shane.heisting@ksoutdoors.com">shane.heisting@ksoutdoors.com</a>
	Missouri	Sherri Russell	<a href="mailto:sherri.russell@mdc.mo.gov">sherri.russell@mdc.mo.gov</a>
	Missouri	Sara Parker pauley	<a href="mailto:Sara.Pauley@mdc.mo.gov">Sara.Pauley@mdc.mo.gov</a>
	Nebraska	Todd Nordeen	<a href="mailto:todd.nordeen@nebraska.gov">todd.nordeen@nebraska.gov</a>
	Ontario	Larissa Nituch	<a href="mailto:larissa.nituch@ontario.ca">larissa.nituch@ontario.ca</a>
	USDA/APHIS/WS	Tom DeLiberto	<a href="mailto:thomas.j.deliberto@usda.gov">thomas.j.deliberto@usda.gov</a>
	USFWS	Lee Jones	<a href="mailto:lee_c_jones@fws.gov">lee_c_jones@fws.gov</a>
	USGS/NWHC	Bryan Richards	<a href="mailto:brichards@usgs.gov">brichards@usgs.gov</a>
	Tennessee	Dan Grove	<a href="mailto:dgrove@utk.edu">dgrove@utk.edu</a>

## Appendix 2.

### Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Health Committee Meeting

#### Agenda

April 26-27, 2022

Bismarck State College, Bismarck, ND

#### Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>

12:00	Welcome	Charlie Bahnson
12:15	Opening remarks and Introductions	Lindsey Long
12:30	State Summaries	State Representatives
2:30	Break	
2:45	State Summaries Continued	State Representatives
4:00	Open Discussion	
5:00	Dinner, TBD	

#### Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>

8:00	Monitoring Bee Communities Across North Dakota	Chyna Pei, NDSU
8:30	Update from Director Pauley	
8:45	Influenza Virus Update and Discussion	Dave Stallknecht
9:30	Non-lead Partnership Update	Lindsey Long
10:00	Break	
10:15	CWD SOP Project Update	Nick Hollingshead
10:45	Wisconsin SW Deer Study Update	Dan Storm, WI DNR
11:45	MLI	Claire Beck (15 mins)
12:15	Lunch Break Prep	
12:30	Name and Committee Charter Discussion	Lindsey Long
1:30	SARS-CoV-2	Tom DeLiberto
2:30	CWD Surveillance and Management	Bryan Richards
3:15	Break	
3:30	Additional Health Concerns	
4:00	Business	
5:00	Wrap Up	

#### Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

8:00-12:00	Fish Health Wetlab	Tom Loch, MSU
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### Appendix 3.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES FISH AND WILDLIFE HEALTH COMMITTEE

***Mission: Advance fish and wildlife conservation in the member states and provinces of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) by promoting collaborations, sharing subject matter expertise, and developing best management practices to support healthy fish and wildlife populations and by extension healthy people and environments.***

***Objectives:***

1. Identify common challenges, opportunities, and responses to develop joint strategies for addressing fish and wildlife health issues.
2. Stimulate an exchange of information among member states and provinces on legislation, administrative rules, program implementation, education, funding, and research as related to fish and wildlife health issues.
3. Enhance coordination among state and federal agencies to address fish and wildlife health issues and programs that affect member states and provinces.
4. Inform/advise the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Wildlife Health Committee, Wildlife Health Committees of the three other Regional Associations, the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, the National Wildlife Health Center, the National Wildlife Disease Program and other institutions, organizations and groups working on fish and wildlife health issues.
5. Inform and advise the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency directors on pertinent fish and wildlife health issues and solutions.
6. Advance One Health by defining, clarifying, and strengthening the role and authority of fish and wildlife agencies in health management within member states and provinces.
7. Provide a forum for the discussion and guidance regarding organizational structure, policy, delivery systems and effectiveness of fish and wildlife health programs in member states in particular and North American in general.

***Membership:*** The membership of the MAFWA Fish and Wildlife Health Committee is open to employees of member states and provinces. Representatives of federal agencies, agricultural and conservation organizations, private citizens and other individuals may be invited to attend Committee meetings.

***Officers:*** The committee shall elect a Chair and Vice-chair. The Chair shall be an employee of a member state or provincial agency. The Chair and their member agency shall provide for clerical support needed for conducting committee business and shall maintain a file of all minutes of committee meetings, correspondence and other items as necessary. The Chair's responsibility shall include, but not be limited to, organizing a minimum of one Committee meeting per year, maintaining Committee files, preparing necessary correspondence and preparing a report of all Committee activities for submission to the MAFWA Executive Secretary. The duties of the

Vice-Chair will be to assist the Chair and perform the duties of Chair in the event that the Chair is unable to perform the duties.

***Sub-Committees:*** Ad-hoc Sub-committees may be appointed by the Chair to investigate and report on specific issues. Sub-Committees will be appointed by the Chair upon review of requests from members or the MAFWA Executive Committee for specific Committee action.

***Meetings:*** The MAFWA Fish and Wildlife Health Committee will meet at least once per year. The meeting may be held in any member state or province. The schedule and duration of each meeting will be determined by the Chair after consultation with other members of the Committee. Notice of meeting dates and locations will be made available to members far enough in advance to enable them to secure out-of-state travel authorization for attendance.

***Meeting Agenda:*** The program will be organized to permit adequate time for discussion of agenda items. One aspect of the agenda will be a short 10-minute report from each state on disease issues from that state. Other topics on the agenda will reflect the current issues reference wildlife disease in the Midwest. The Chair may request special reports from states and individuals on current disease topics. State and special reports will also be submitted in written format to permit the forwarding of them to agency directors, maintenance of proper files and provision of reports to other appropriate persons. Guest speakers may be invited to Committee meetings to make presentations on topics of interest. Short field trips may be arranged in conjunction with the meetings.

***Attendance:*** To enhance an atmosphere of participation and exchange of ideas, attendance from all member states and provinces is strongly encouraged.

***Business Meeting:*** A formal Committee business meeting will be held in conjunction with any Committee meeting. The business meeting will discuss and determine specific recommendations to the MAFWA Board of Directors. Recommendations to the Board must represent the majority view of member states/provinces. Each member state/province will be allowed one vote when voting is necessary. Invited agencies, private citizens, NGOs are encouraged to participate in discussions but are ineligible to vote.

***Report:*** Following the annual spring meeting of the Committee, the Chair will request, through the chain of command in the host state, at least 15 minutes of the agenda at the summer meeting of the Executive Committee of the MAFWA. The Chair will send the report the director's liaison to share with the Executive Committee and , at the same time. to all members of the Committee. Committee members are encouraged to provide the executive summary of the meeting including any director information and action items to their own administration immediately following the Committee meeting. The report shall contain a summary of the information presented at the Committee meeting, items covered in the business meeting, any recommendations from the Committee, appropriate handouts obtained at the meeting and names and address of all attendees. This report shall be submitted to the MAFWA Executive Secretary within 30 days of the close of the Committee meeting.