W E Scott

PROCEEDINGS
FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE
ORGANIZATION MEETING - ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST
FISH AND GAME COMMISSIONERS.

MEETING OF FISH AND GAME COMMISSIONERS
FROM NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, NEBRASKA, MINNESOTA, IOWA, ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN
HELD IN THE
SAVERY HOTEL, DES MOINES, IOWA
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1934

The meeting was opened at 9:45 A.M. by Dr. W. C. Boone, Chairman of the Iowa Fish and Game Commission, who explained the purpose of the meeting and asked the representatives to name a temporary chairman to conduct the conference until a permanent organization had been effected.

Upon motion made by Mr. Oscar Johnson, South Dakota, and seconded by Mr. H. W. MacKenzie, Wisconsin, and unanimously carried, Dr. W. C. Boone, Iowa, was named temporary Chairman of the Conference, and the effecting of a permanent organization later in the meeting was favored.

The Chairman appointed Mr. H. M. Sanderson, Iowa, Temporary Secretary.

Mr. I. T. Bode, Iowa, was asked to explain in detail the purpose and objectives of the Conference.

He stated that for some time a number of the states had been feeling the necessity of some sort of unified effort in fish and game matters in this section of the country and that the suggestion had come from a number of the states that a permanent organization be effected so that this part of the country might express as unanimous an opinion as possible on matters of mutual interest to them and with regard to national game and fisheries policies which are being brought to the fore at this time. He felt, also, that conferences and a permanent organization of the type mentioned above would bring to light many important mutual problems of this group of states and that these conferences might be a means of solving important and confusing problems which now exist.

As examples of the necessity for unified action, he cited the importance of this part of the country taking a uniform stand on the waterfowl situation, and especially on the question of an open or closed season in case this matter had to be considered another year. He also indicated the trends in the development of a national fisheries policy and felt that an organization such as proposed would be the proper channel through which to consider and set forth unified opinion as to what a national fisheries policy should include.

It was the unanimous opinion of those present that such a program of effort was worthwhile and that this group should look forward to the crystallization of unified action as outlined.

DISCUSSION—WATERFOWL SITUATION:

The Chairman opened the meeting to a general discussion on the waterfowl situation.

Mr. Frank O'Connell, executive from the Nebraska Department, opened the discussion, explaining the status of waterfowl in Nebraska. He was certain that there were fewer ducks, and that this was particularly true in the sand hill region, that there was practically no hatch in Nebraska, and that the ducks shot were practically all local ducks. He also felt that the continuous thirty day season which Nebraska had chosen was not proving satisfactory to the Nebraska sportsmen in view of the rest day idea adopted by the other states.

Mr. Thoralf Swenson, North Dakota, made a brief statement with regard to waterfowl in that state. He indicated fewer ducks, very small hatch, if any, and a decided decrease in breeding areas.

Mr. Charles McFarlane, Minnesota, in discussing the situation in that state, explained that they had experienced no particular difficulty in their enforcement work because of the closed days. He reported a distinct shortage of waterfowl in the state, especially in the northern part, and stated that the ducks taken to date were very largely local ducks. He said that a large percentage of the Minnesota sportsmen had felt that there should have been a closed season this year.

Mr. H. W. MacKenzie, Wisconsin, reported that information gathered from his state indicated an increase in the number of ducks this year. He explained that the hatch of ducks was greater this year, due, no doubt, to the drought not affecting the Wisconsin water areas as seriously as it did other states. He stated that a good amount of water remained in the waterfowl areas. He stated, further, that the 4:00 o'clock closing hour was being well received by a large number of the hunters of that state, and felt that the future would bring a uniform state regulation for 4:00 o'clock closing of shooting migratory waterfowl. He reported, also, that they have experienced no particular difficulty in the enforcement of the federal waterfowl stamp regulation or in the matter of enforcing closed days.

Mr. Oscar Johnson, South Dakota, reported that the physical condition of ducks taken by hunters during the present season to date was better than 1933, when many of the ducks were found to be emaciated and in poor physical condition. He reported that there had been practically no hatch, and that there had been very few geese in flight. He also emphasized the value of uniform action by the states, and cited the difficulty that South Dakota had in cooperating with the other states on uniform seasons because of the fact that at the meeting at which this was discussed there were not enough of his Commissioners present to take the action necessary to permit South Dakota to cooperate.

Mr. S. B. Locke, Illinois, reported a very small flight to date and conditions very similar to those expressed by the other states. He indicated that Illinois did have a distinct violation problem in certain territories.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETING:

It was recommended by Chairman Boone that a meeting of the states represented here be held in July, 1935, for the purpose of determining waterfowl seasons far enough in advance so that such recommendations can be forwarded to the Advisory Council on Migratory Waterfowl and to federal authorities in Washington.

It was recommended by Mr. Oscar Johnson, South Dakota, that each state be represented at the July meeting by at least a quorum of its Commission, and

that each state's representative be given power to act in the matter of determining seasons and regulations. This matter was considered later in the adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws.

During the discussion on waterfowl the following suggestions were made for the purpose of providing the July meeting with the greatest knowledge possible of the existing conditions of migratory waterfowl:

> That a complete and official report be obtained from Canada as to conditions there, the total hatch, species affected, and whatever else in the way of authentic information it would be possible to procure.
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> That a similar official report be obtained from the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey.
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> That each state come to the meeting prepared to cover all points that the Advisory Council usually selects for its consideration.
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> That each state come prepared to take a definite stand on a closed or open season.
>
> That each state send as complete and detailed a report as possible to every other state in the organization dealing with conditions existing in that state with respect to waterfowl; that such reports be sent to the other states far enough in advance of the meeting date to receive the proper study and allow the proper time for comparison, so that all states might acquaint themselves with the existing conditions; that all of the reports named above be supplied to every state in the organization at the same time, if possible; and that the Secretary be supplied with a copy of all such reports submitted for compilation of data and information, for the guidance of the Advisory Council in making regulations and in the naming of open seasons, if any.

It was moved by Mr. Karl Mundt, South Dakota, seconded and carried, that the subject of waterfowl be assigned to one state in the group for the purpose of study and follow-up, and that this state gather as much detailed information as possible for the benefit of all states in the group; also, that other questions or topics of important nature brought up at this meeting be assigned to specific states for the same purpose.

Chairman Boone assigned the subject of "Waterfowl" to South Dakota.

The matter of closing or opening areas to public shooting and the matter of refuges, particularly as conditions exist in the Upper Mississippi Wild Life Refuge, were then brought up for discussion. The Bureau of Biological Survey's policy of closing or opening certain areas was explained. Hunting on boundary waters apparently is a problem for most states were bounded by federally controlled waters, and it was recommended that a study of the conditions be made, that the organization work out a plan for the retaining of sufficient jurisdiction by states over such lands and waters outside of present established refuges, and that such plans include cooperation with the Bureau of Biological Survey in the wisest and most methodical manner possible, both as to refuges and public shooting grounds.

Chairman Boone assigned the subject of "Open and Closed Shooting Areas on Boundary Waters" to the States of Wisconsin and Nebraska.

DISCUSSION OF FISHERIES:

The Chairman called for a discussion of fisheries problems.

Mr. E. V. Willard, Minnesota, and several of the other members present discussed freely the various trends in fisheries work, and especially some of the problems in regulation and enforcement as between the various states. The discussion turned toward consideration of national aspects of the fisheries problem. It was the consensus of opinion of the meeting that the program of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries and the effort to establish a national fisheries policy were exceedingly important matters, and that this organization should give careful study and consideration to both the national policy and the program being mapped out by the Bureau of Fisheries; also, that such study should include especially the effects of the various proposed programs upon the individual state programs. It was the conclusion of the meeting that this topic should be assigned specifically to one of the states for further study and presentation of the findings to the entire group.

Chairman Boone assigned the subject of "Federal Fisheries Program" to the State of Minnesota.

DISCUSSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS:

The balance of the morning was devoted to a discussion of the administrative problems of the various Commissions, most important of which were enforcement work and personnel.

Chairman Boone called for an explanation of the warden systems of the various states. Information given by the various states was as follows:

North Dakota - by Thoralf Swenson: They have 12 deputies, who receive a salary of $75.00 per month. They receive about $100.00 per month expenses. The wardens work on a budget, and amounts are set by appropriation. $123,000.00 was appropriated for the operation of the Fish and Game Department. Volunteer wardens receive no salary or rewards.

Wisconsin - by H. W. MacKenzie: Deputies are selected by civil service. They now have about 70 men. They have a junior and senior classification of wardens, the junior salary ranging from $125.00 to $175.00 per month, and the senior salary from $175.00 to $225.00 per month. The men average $80.00 per month on expenses, which includes $30.00 for car. The Department pays for gas and oil. There are no volunteer wardens. The age limit is fixed at not over 35 years, and applicants must be 5 feet 9 inches tall. A new man works with a regular warden for sixty days, and is given about one year's trial on a merit basis. No politics are involved. The men are uniformed. There are no district supervisors. Written examination consists of true and false questions. Oral test and recognition tests are also given.

Minnesota - by Chas. McFarlane: They have 150 game wardens, at $125.00 per month, and 4 supervisors at $135.00 per month. The average monthly expense per man is $68.00. 5¢ per mile for

car is included in above expense. No civil service examination is required, selections being made by appointment.

South Dakota - by Oscar Johnson: They have22 full-time deputies at $100.00 per month. Expense is limited to $900.00 per year. If a warden exceeds the maximum expense allowed before year is up, he must lay off. An allowance of 5¢ per mile is made for car. No examination is required.

Illinois - by Stanley B. Locke: They have 60 wardens, who are paid from $1,200.00 to $2,400.00 per year. Cars are furnished. Expense will average approximately 15% of the total salary. There is a civil service law, but it is now inoperative. Appointments are political for the most part.

Nebraska - by Frank B. O'Connell: They have 15 wardens at from $80.00 to $120.00 per month. Average expense is $40.00 per month. Cars are furnished by the state. Wardens are selected by the executive officer of the Department after an oral examination. Wardens keep a daily record, and are required to send same in to the main office each week. The wardens are uniformed.

Iowa - by I. T. Bode: There are 42 wardens, the maximum number allowed by law. The men are paid $3.50, $3.75 and $4.00 per day, seven days a week, and allowed $3.00 per day for the use of their cars. The average expense per month is $28.00. There are 3 district supervisors at $4.50 per day, and 5¢ per mile for cars.

ADJOURNMENT FOR LUNCH

The afternoon session was called to order by Chairman Boone at 2:00 o'clock.

Chairman Boone asked Mr. Bode of Iowa to continue his explanation of the Iowa plan, after which Mr. Bode answered several questions.

Chairman Boone then announced the following assignment of subjects to states:

"Migratory Waterfowl" - South Dakota
"Open and Closed Areas for Shooting Grounds and Refuges" - Wisconsin and Nebraska
"Federal Fisheries Program" - Minnesota
"New Regulations Policy and Interstate Cooperation of States" - Iowa (Assigned to Mr. A. E. Rapp, Council Bluffs, Iowa)

Mr. Karl Mundt, South Dakota, recommended that the group as represented at the Conference adopt a resolution of appreciation for the splendid progress

made by the Bureau under Mr. Darling's direction, and offer of cooperation, and communicate the same to Mr. J. N. Darling, Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey.

The recommendation was unanimously approved, and Chairman Boone appointed Mr. Karl Mundt to draw up the letter and resolution and present it to the meeting for approval and signature of those present. This was done, and the Secretary was instructed to mail out the letters in accordance with the recommendation.

Mr. A. E. Rapp, Iowa, asked for expressions from the delegates and suggestions as to his part of the program in proposing uniform regulations and outlining definite policies. After discussion, it was decided that Mr. Rapp outline the policy and send it to each state for comments.

Chairman Boone also instructed the Secretary to outline in detail each subject of study as assigned to the various states, including an outline of the information needed, and to send the same to each state.

A discussion of the place of the next meeting followed. Mr. John R. Foley, Minnesota, invited the group to St. Paul. It was unanimously approved to consider St. Paul, Minnesota, for the next meeting, unless otherwise decided in the meantime.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION:

It was moved by Mr. Oscar Johnson, South Dakota, seconded by Mr. Dennis Goeders, Iowa, and unanimously carried, that a permanent organization be effected, and that a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and Directors be elected.

It was moved by Mr. Goeders, Iowa, and seconded by Mr. Johnson, South Dakota, and unanimously carried, that a Nominating Committee of three be appointed by the Chairman to nominate the Officers and Directors.

Chairman Boone appointed the following Nominating Committee:

Mr. E. V. Willard - Minnesota
Mr. H. W. MacKenzie - Wisconsin
Dr. H. E. Fankhauser - South Dakota

which Committee retired to prepare the list of officers for presentation to the group.

DISCUSSION OF WILDLIFE RESEARCH:

Chairman Boone then called for a discussion of wildlife research. At the close of the discussion, an understanding was reached that each state in the group would send to the other states copies of its findings in research, and exchange ideas, and obtain suggestions on various problems. It was also decided that the importance of the subject of research was great enough to warrant study and consideration in the same manner as other subjects and should be assigned to a state.

Chairman Boone assigned the subject of "Research" to Mr. Charles McFarlane, Minnesota.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO MR. DARLING:

At this point Mr. Mundt, South Dakota, presented the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Des Moines, Iowa
October 28, 1934

"To
J. "Ding" Darling
Chief, U. S. Biological Survey
Washington, D. C.

"At a meeting of the Game and Fish Commissioners of the States of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, Nebraska, and South Dakota assembled here today to develop methods of co-operative activity conducive to securing more effective administration of the game and fish affairs of these States and to exchanging experiences and ideas of mutual helpfulness, the following special resolution was unanimously adopted by those present at this meeting, who have hereto affixed their signatures as evidence of their sincerity of purpose:

"Be it hereby resolved that this body of game and fish administrators of the seven States represented at this meeting send to J. "Ding" Darling, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C. a statement of the deep appreciation which we feel for his unselfish devotion to the problems of the U. S. Biological Survey and our hearty congratulations to him for the splendid progress he has already made in the conservation of our waterfowl by securing the limitations incorporated in our present waterfowl hunting season and the advancements he has achieved in the control of the abuses of waterfowl baiting.

"Be it further recorded that this body of men are highly gratified with the work the U. S. Biological Survey is doing in the development of breeding places and waterfowl sanctuaries in order that America may begin to build back her once bountiful supply of migratory waterfowl. This group of signatories pledge themselves to continue to cooperate with J. Darling in his efforts to conserve the hunting and fishing privileges of America and in the realization of his vision to restore these advantages in greater abundance.

"It is our unanimous belief that J. Darling has brought a wealth of energy, vision, and ability to this department of government and we are eager to work with him in the development of every worth while movement which he may undertake.

"This original resolution with the signatures of the men present is to be sent to Mr. Darling and typewritten copies of the same are to be forwarded to President Roosevelt and to the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Wallace."

(signed) W. C. Boone, Chairman
Iowa State Fish and Game Commission

H. E. Fankhauser
South Dakota Fish and Game Department

George F. Walters
South DakotaFish and Game Department

W. E. Hughes
South Dakota Fish and Game Department

Thoralf Swenson
North Dakota Fish and Game Commission

P. E. Collins
North Dakota Fish and Game Commission

H. W. MacKenzie, Director
Wisconsin Conservation Commission

E. V. Willard
Minnesota Conservation Commissioner

C. McFarlane
Minnesota Division of Game and Fish

John R. Foley, Chairman
Minnesota Conservation Commission

D. H. Goeders, Member
Iowa State Fish and Game Commission

W. M. Rosene, Member
Iowa Fish and Game Commission

Frank Cundill
South Dakota Game and Fish Commission

O. H. Johnson, Director
South Dakota Game and Fish Department

Stanley S. Locke, Ass't. Forester
Illinois Department of Conservation

Frank O'Connell, Secretary
Nebraska Game and Fish Commission

Guy R. Spencer
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Arthur E. Rapp, Member
Iowa State Fish and Game Commission

R. Ripple
South Dakota Superintendent of Fisheries

Jas. K. Stepp, Member
Iowa State Fish and Game Commission

Karl E. Mundt
South Dakota Game and Fish Commission

REPORT OF NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE ON SELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The Nominations Committee returned to the meeting, and reported nominations as follows:

President - John R. Foley, Minnesota
Vice-President - Frank O'Connell, Nebraska
Secretary-Treasurer - I. T. Bode, Iowa
Director - Frank Cundill, South Dakota
Director - C. F. Thompson, Illinois
Director - H. W. MacKenzie, Wisconsin
Director - Thoralf Swenson, North Dakota
Director - Wilbur C. Buford, Missouri

It was moved by Dr. J. K. Stepp, Iowa, seconded by Mr. A. E. Rapp, Iowa, and carried that the report of the Nominations Committee be accepted and the men named be declared the Officers and Directors of the new organization.

ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS:

Mr. Johnson, South Dakota, read the proposed Constitution and By-Laws for the new organization.

It was moved by Dr. Stepp, Iowa, seconded by Mr. O'Connell, Nebraska, that the proposed Constitution and By-Laws be adopted. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Rapp, Iowa, and seconded by Mr. Johnson, South Dakota, that the name of the new organization be "The Association of Midwest Fish and Game Commissioners." Motion carried.

A discussion of expenses, such as postage and stationery, followed, and it was proposed to assess a small annual fee to each state for such purposes.

It was moved by Mr. Rapp, Iowa, seconded by Mr. Mundt, South Dakota, that the amount of the dues be set at $5.00 per year. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Willard, Minnesota, and seconded by Mr. Mundt, South Dakota, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL

Name	Address	Title or Organization
Stanley S. Locke	Springfield, Illinois	Department of Conservation
Frank B. O'Connell	Lincoln, Nebraska	Secretary and Commissioner, Game and Fish Commission

Name	Address	Title or Organization
Guy R. Spencer	Omaha, Nebraska	Member, Game and Parks Commission
Dr. W. C. Boone	Ottumwa, Iowa	Fish and Game Commission
Frank Cundill	Firesteel, South Dakota	Game and Fish Commission
Dr. H. E. Fankhauser	Woonsocket, South Dakota	Game and Fish Commission
Geo. F. Walters	Edgemont, South Dakota	Game and Fish Commission
W. F. Hughes	Frankfort, South Dakota	Game and Fish Commission
Thoralf Swenson	Bismarck, North Dakota	Commissioner, Game and Fish Department
P. E. Collins	Bismarck, North Dakota	Office Deputy, Game and Fish Department
H. W. MacKenzie	Madison, Wisconsin	Director, Wisconsin Conservation Commission
E. V. Willard	St. Paul, Minnesota	Commissioner, Conservation Commission
Chas. McFarlane	St. Paul, Minnesota	Deputy Director, Conservation Commission
John R. Foley	Wabasha, Minnesota	Chairman, Conservation Commission
W. M. Rosene	Ogden, Iowa	Commissioner, Fish and Game Commission
D. H. Goeders	Algona, Iowa	Commissioner, Fish and Game Commission
Oscar H. Johnson	Pierre, South Dakota	Director, Department of Game and Fish
I. T. Bode	Des Moines, Iowa	State Fish and Game Warden
Karl E. Mundt	Madison, South Dakota	Game and Fish Commission
Arthur E. Rapp	Council Bluffs, Iowa	Fish and Game Commission
Dr. J. K. Stepp	Jesup, Iowa	Fish and Game Commission
C. P. Lechner	Des Moines, Iowa	Fish and Game Commission
H. M. Sanderson	Des Moines, Iowa	Assistant Administrator, Fish and Game Commission
R. L. Ripple	Watertown, South Dakota	Superintendent of Fisheries, Game and Fish Commission

BY-LAWS

ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH AND GAME COMMISSIONERS

ARTICLE I

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section I. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, appoint all special committees, preside at meetings of the Board of Directors, and countersign all warrants drawn on the funds of the Association.

Section II. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the latter's absence.

Section III. The Secretary shall keep a record of all transactions of the meetings of the Association, as well as meetings of the Board of Directors, shall notify members of the time and place of meetings, and perform such other duties as are naturally incumbent upon the office.

Section IV. The Treasurer shall be custodian of all funds of the Association and draw all warrants for the payment of claims properly presented.

Section V. The Board of Directors shall constitute an Interim Committee to conduct the usual business of the Association.

ARTICLE II

MEETINGS

One regular meeting shall be held annually; the place of such meeting to be determined by the Association and the date to be fixed by the Board of Directors. When necessary, special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors. Members shall be given thirty days notice of regular annual meetings and special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors on ten days notice.

ARTICLE III

VOTING

Voting shall be by states, as units.

ARTICLE IV

DUES

Annual dues shall be $5.00, payable in advance at each annual meeting.

ARTICLE V

QUORUM

A majority of all member states in good standing shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VI

AMENDMENT

The Constitution and By-Laws of the Association may be amended at any regular annual meeting.

CONSTITUTION

ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST FISH AND GAME COMMISSIONERS

P R E A M B L E

The name of this organization shall be the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Commissioners. The object of the Association shall be to foster and promote uniform game laws and regulations of the member states; to gather and disseminate information, exchange ideas and lend helpful cooperation in all matters of research and investigation pertinent to the conservation of wild life and general outdoor recreation; to lend its support to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Biologial Survey and U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, in an extension program beneficial to game migratory waterfowl and fisheries; to cooperate in the establishment and creation of Federal migratory bird sanctuaries, refuges and shooting areas, and to submit authentic information upon which the Bureau of Biological Survey may base conclusions in prescribing regulations for the annual take of waterfowl; to cooperate with the Bureau of Fisheries in their program 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 and restoration of our wild life resources.

ARTICLE I

OFFICERS

Section I. The officers of the Association shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and a Board of Directors composed of the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association, and one representative from each state not represented by the officers of the Association.

Section II. Such officers shall be elected by the members of the Association for a term of one year.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be by states and representation at meetings shall be by the Commission or Board administering the State's wild life resources. To be officially represented at a meeting of the Association, a state must have a majority of its Board or Commission present.

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