

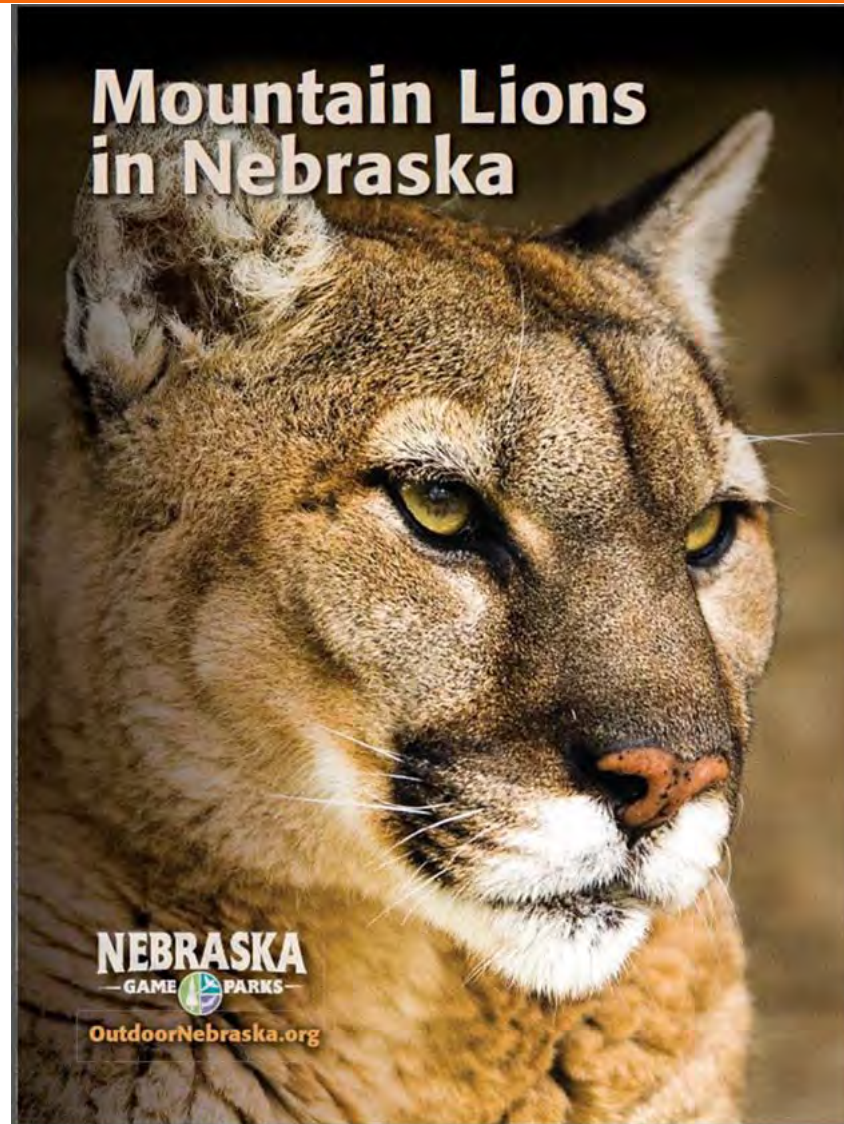
# Mountain Lions in Nebraska





# Mountain Lion Timeline

- ☞ 1890s last historic confirmations
- ☞ 1991 first modern confirmation
- ☞ 1995 listed as a game animal in statute
- ☞ Mid-2000s recolonized the Pine Ridge
- ☞ 2013/14 evidence of resident breeding populations in Niobrara River Valley and Wildcat Hills
- ☞ NGPC research projects since 2010



# History in Nebraska

## Historical Accounts in Nebraska:

- 1880: Aughey reported seeing lions “a few times on the Niobrara and the Loup”

- 1886:

### NEBRASKA

Wolves are numerous in Boone county.  
Creighton has organized a G. A. R. band.  
St. John of cold water fame was in Lincoln on the 25th.  
A mountain lion weighing 250 pounds was killed near O'Neill the other day.  
A greenhorn was condemned out of \$180 at Lincoln by a dogus check game.

- 1887:

A mountain lion was killed by Wm. Long, about two and a half miles south of Rushville, on the creek, Saturday of last week. The animal was lying in the grass near the road and seemed peaceably inclined. Several parties passed along the road without noticing it, and it made no effort to escape. The beast measured about nine feet from the nose to the tip of the tail.

- 1890: D.W. Lindeman reported lion killed near the head of Soldier Creek





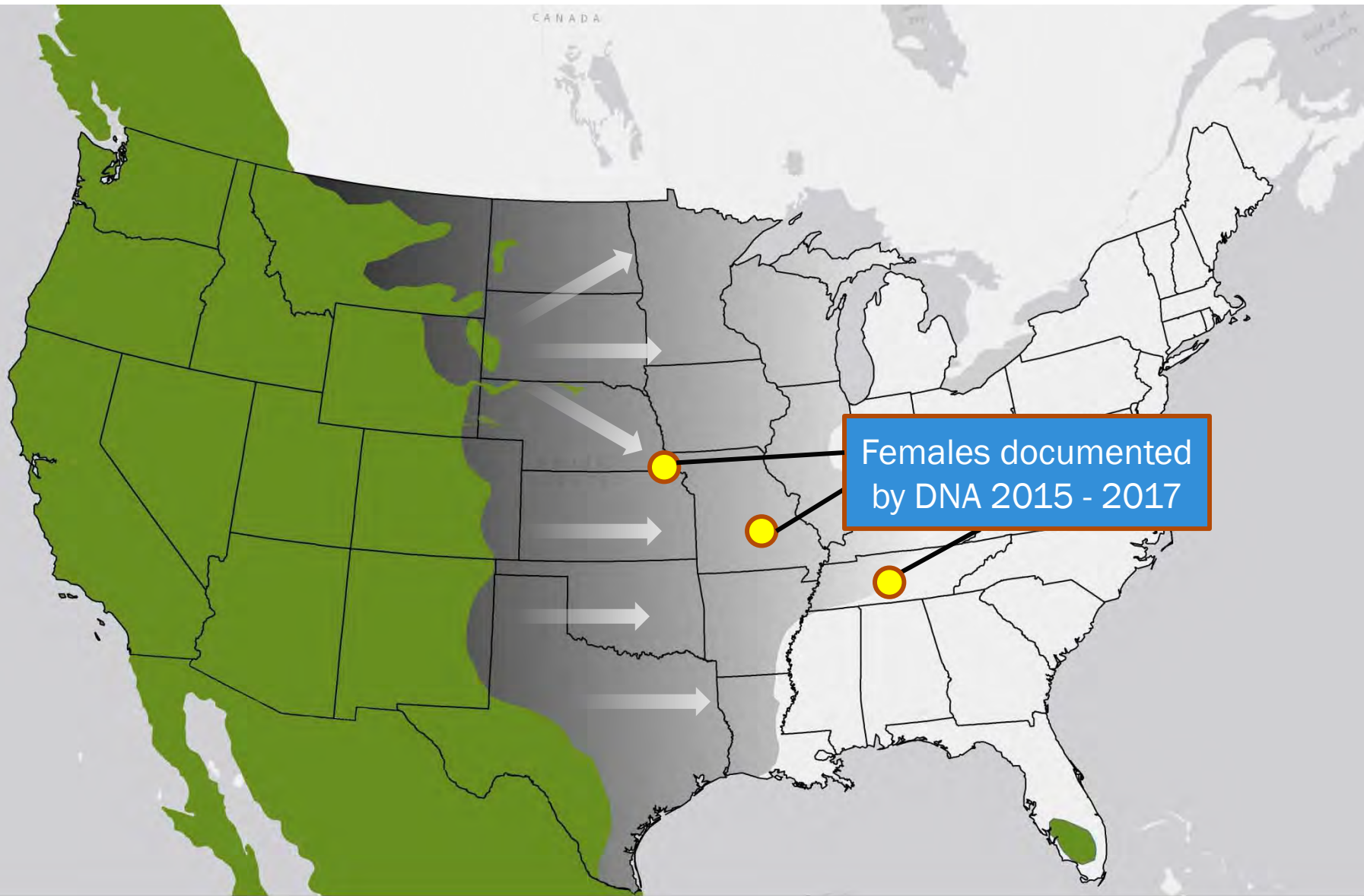
# Return



- Prey species recovered throughout 1900's
- Mountain lions protected as game animals in western states 1960-70s
- Mountain lions walked back into Nebraska from neighboring states
- 1<sup>st</sup> modern confirmation in 1991





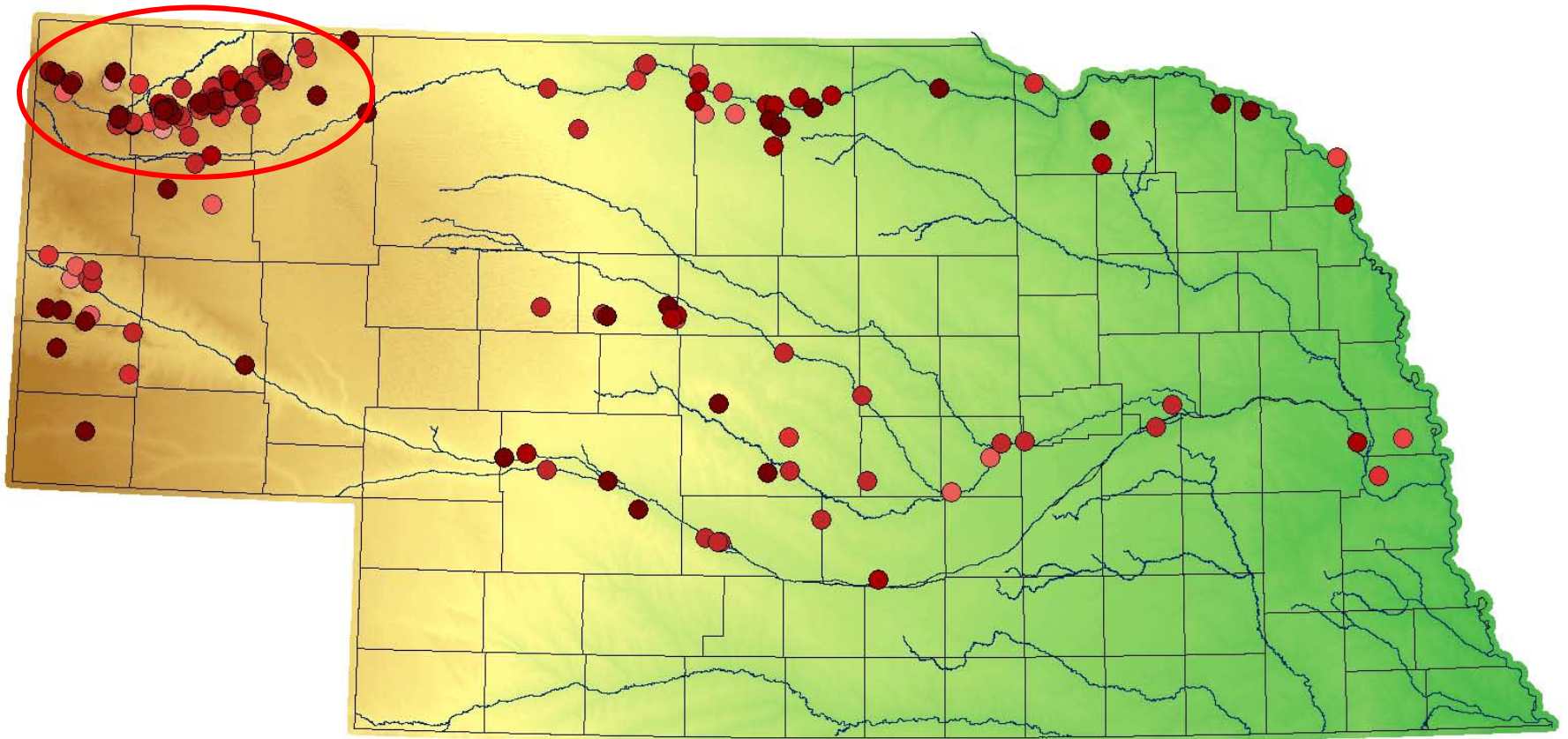
# Recent Expansion of Mountain Lions in the Midwest



-  Established breeding range
-  Area with confirmed presence of dispersing mountain lions 1990 - present

# Recolonization

Time: 2013

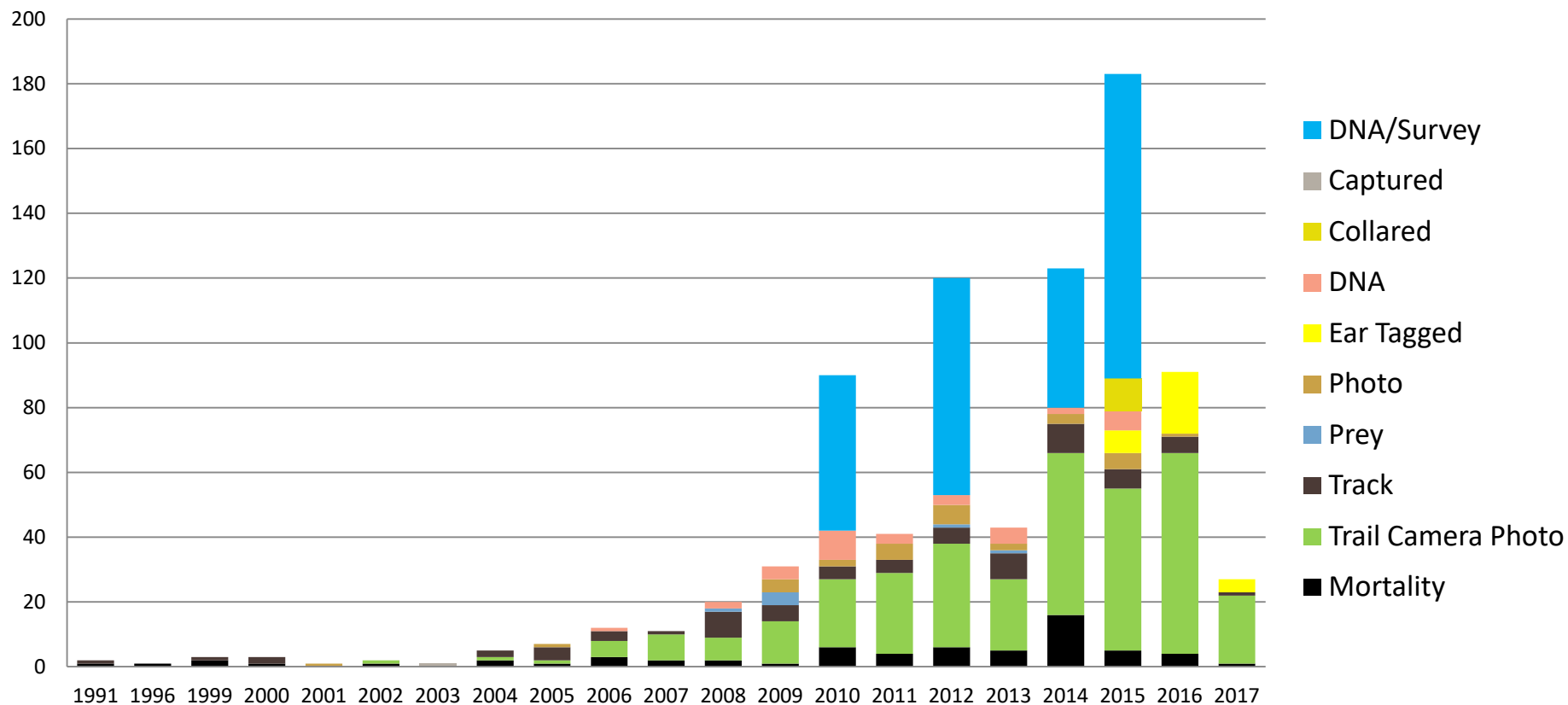


Confirmations fit pattern of young male dispersers from  
1991-2005



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## Confirmed Presence by Type



# DispeCan Easily Walk Anywhere in NEances

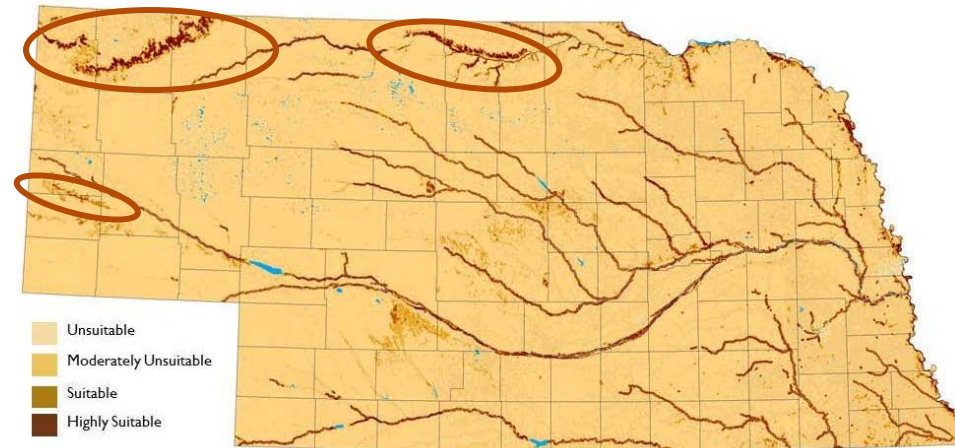




# Overview of Past Research

## Research Timeline:

- ∞ 1991 – Present: investigation of presence
- ∞ 2010: Pine Ridge genetic survey and suitable habitat model
- ∞ 2012: Pine Ridge genetic survey
- ∞ 2014: Pine Ridge and Niobrara genetic surveys
- ∞ 2015: Pine Ridge and Wildcat Hills genetic surveys



# Genetic Surveys

## Primary objectives/expected results:

- Population estimates
- Identify breeding females
- Minimum number

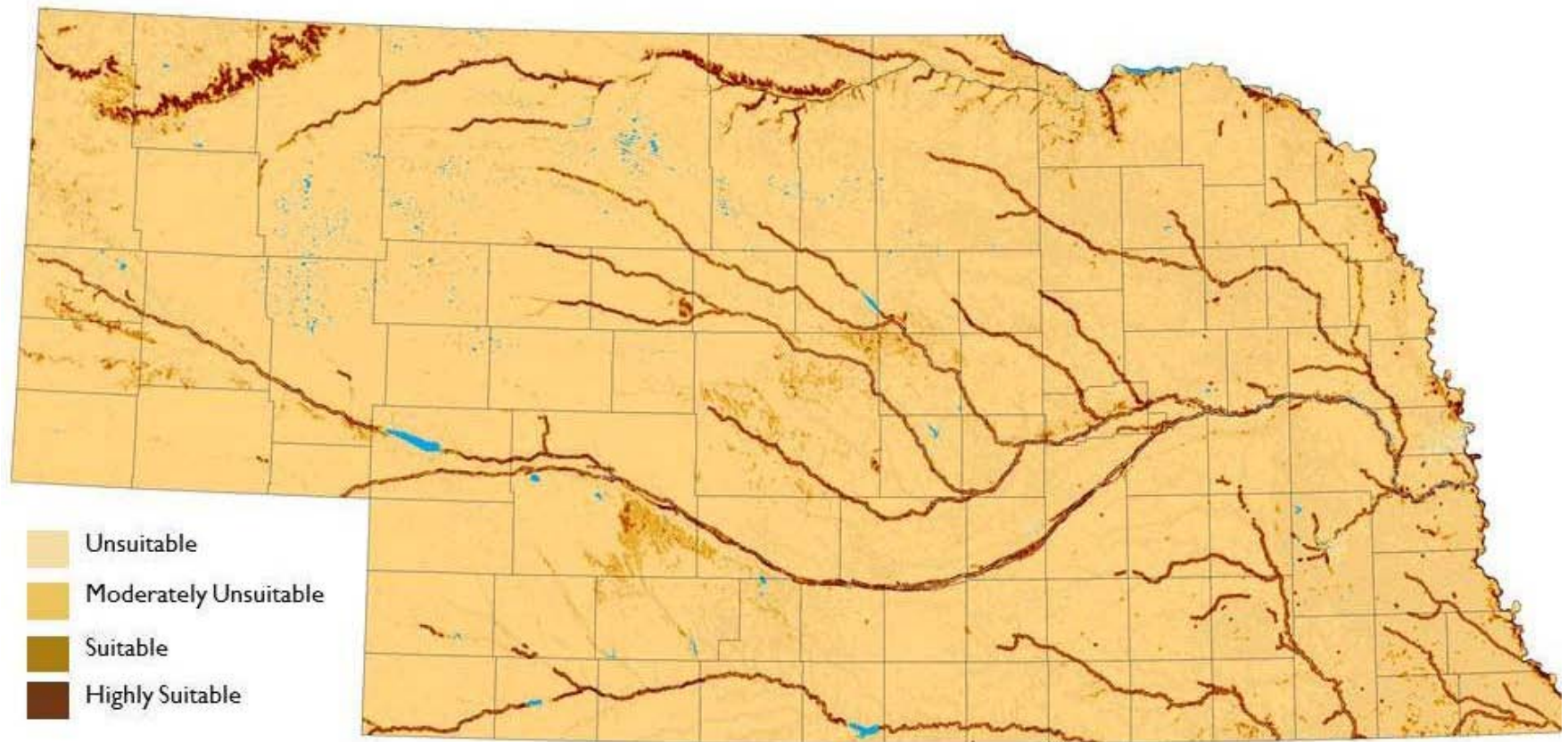
## Results:

- Pine Ridge population estimates during 2010 – 2015 genetic surveys: 22–33 total animals (kittens & adults)
- Population estimate for Pine Ridge only. No estimates for Niobrara/Wildcat Hills/Prairie





# Model of Suitable Habitat



# 3 Documented Populations



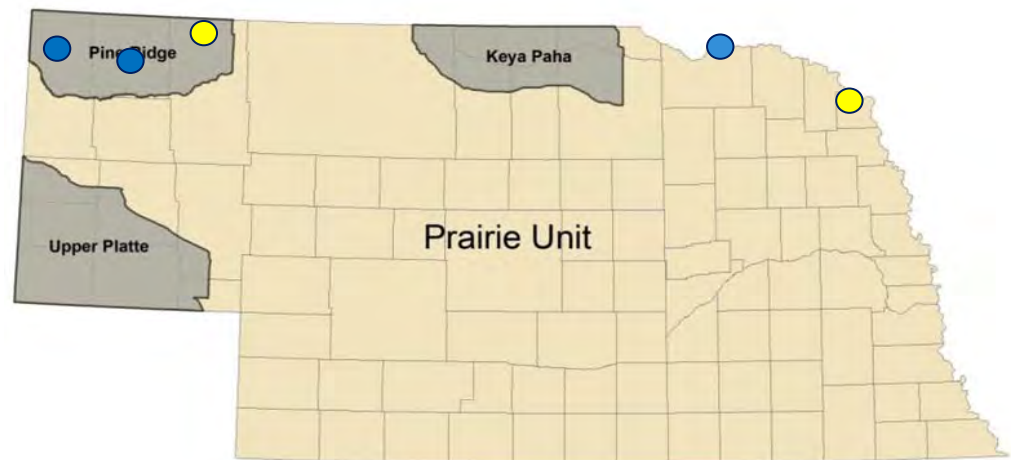


# Management in Nebraska

- The Commission's goal in management is to maintain mountain lion populations in Nebraska over the long term as we do with all game animals.
- Mountain lions are game animals and will be managed like other game species (deer, elk, bighorn sheep) including hunting seasons when appropriate.

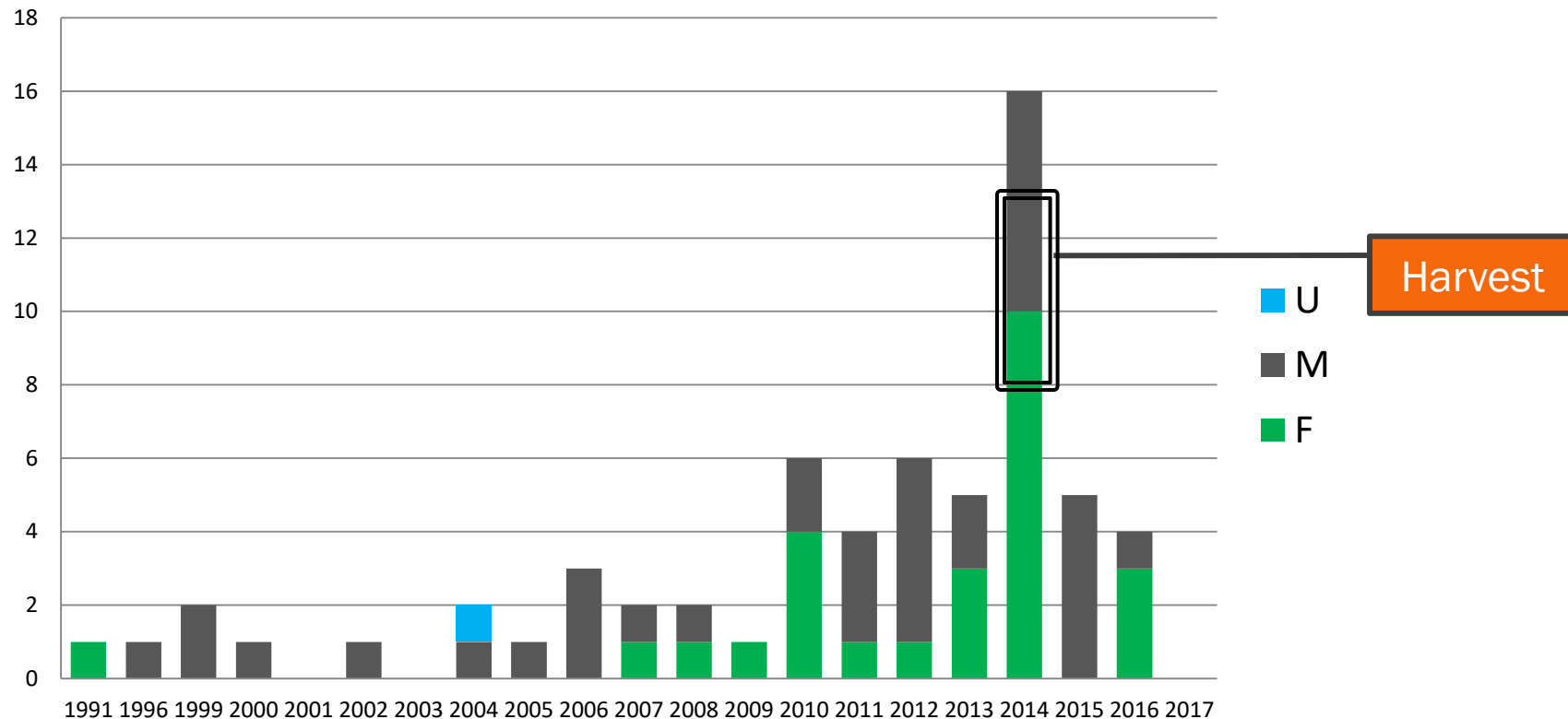
2014 was only hunting season

- Pine Ridge season 1: 2 males
- Pine Ridge season 2: 1 female
  - ❖ ear-tag from SDSU/SD/WY
- Prairie Unit: 1 adult male Knox County, 1 sub-adult female in Dakota County
- 2,663 permits/applications sold in 2014
- All proceeds go toward research/management



# Unusual # of Mortalities Documented in 2014

Known Mortalities by Gender and Year



=No harvest 2015 - 2017



# Additional Research

Research comprised of 3 primary components:

1. GPS-collaring mountain lions
2. Camera grid surveys
3. Continue scat-based genetic surveys



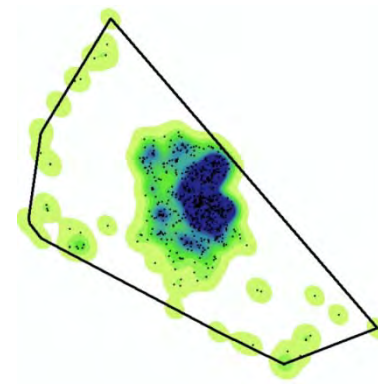
# GPS Collar Research

GPS collars placed on individuals in the Pine Ridge – and statewide as possible

## Primary objectives/expected results:

1. Additional/possibly best population estimate to compare with DNA estimates for Pine Ridge (CMR)
2. Provide Nebraska specific data on impacts to prey species in Pine Ridge (bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer)

Timeframe: 2015 – 2019





# Capture/Collar Info 2015 - Present

- 14 mountain lions with working collars (12 P. Ridge, 2 WCHs)
- 16 ear-tagged kittens (14 PR, 2 WCHs)
- > 2,000 GPS locations (home range/habitat/movement data)
- Investigated several hundred kill sites (GPS clusters)
- Documented movement between NE/SD/WY





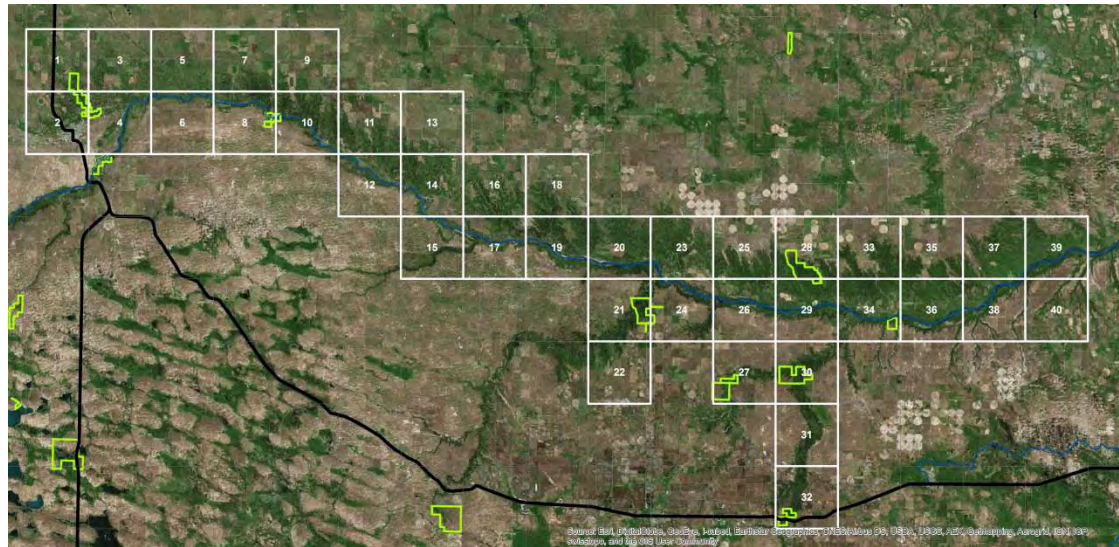
# Camera Trap Surveys

Trail cameras systematically placed in the Niobrara Valley and Wildcat Hills

## Primary objectives/expected results:

- ☞ Document expansion/contraction of resident animals within habitats
- ☞ Document reproduction/resident breeding females

Timeframe: 2015 – ???





# Southeast Female

- 2016 documented a female from blood in track – couldn't ID the individual
- Jan 2017 ID'd individual female through high quality DNA from urine and hair in tracks
- No evidence of males or kittens
- Monitoring via trail camera array



# Overview

Mountain lions are expanding into/exploring the Midwest

- Prey species are abundant
- Mountain lions are adaptable and resilient

Mountain lion populations have been documented in 3 areas in Nebraska

Large scale research taking place statewide

Future looks secure in Nebraska



# Questions

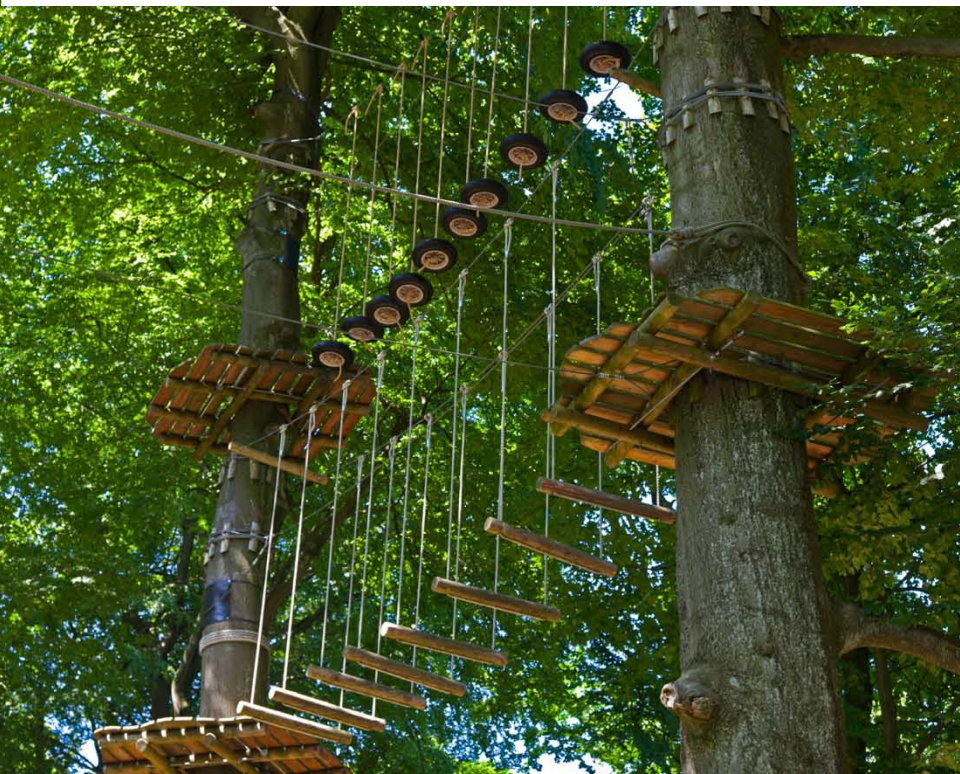




# GREAT NEW FUN IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS



MAKING THE BEST OF OUR NEBRASKA PARKS EVEN BETTER





# WELCOMING A NEW GENERATION OF PARK GOERS.

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# GETTING FAMILIES BACK OUTSIDE

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TODAY'S PARK VISITOR WANTS  
VARIETY

A BIT OF TRADITION BLENDED WITH

A DOSE OF NEW AND DIVERSE FUN



They want exhilaration and excitement...





They want to learn by **DISCOVERING** and  
**EXPERIENCING** the outdoors.....





They want “FAMILY TIME” and opportunities to build treasured memories and life-long traditions.







# NEBRASKA'S OUTDOOR VENTURE PARKS

.....  
PARKS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION



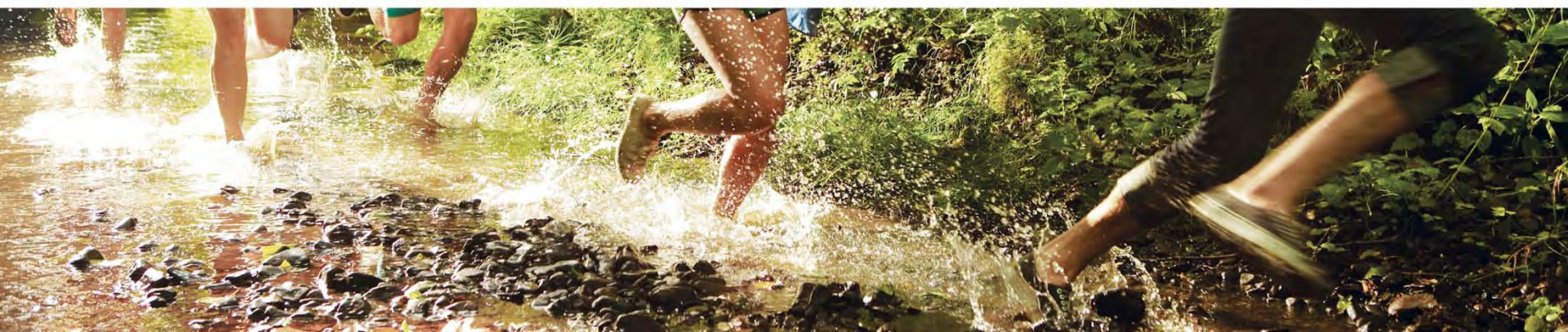
# Venture Parks



# NEBRASKA'S OUTDOOR VENTURE PARKS ZONES

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- DISCOVER
- EXPLORE
- EXCITEMENT
- SERENITY
- IMAGINATION





# MAHONEY STATE PARK - ACTIVITY CENTER



**NEBRASKA OUTDOOR VENTURE PARKS**  
ACTIVITY CENTER EXTERIOR - MAHONEY SP

*Nebraska Game & Parks*  
FOUNDATION





# MAHONEY STATE PARK - CLIMBING FEATURES



ELDORADO  
CLIMBING WALLS

NEBRASKA OUTDOOR VENTURE PARKS  
ACTIVITY CENTER ROCK CLIMBING AREA - MAHONEY SP

*Nebraska Game & Parks*  
FOUNDATION

NEBRASKA  
- GAME & PARKS -



# MAHONEY STATE PARK - SLEDDING HILLS



**NEBRASKA OUTDOOR VENTURE PARKS**  
MAHONEY TUBING AND SLEDDING HILL - MAHONEY SP

*Nebraska Game & Parks*  
FOUNDATION







## EUGENE T. MAHONEY STATE PARK

Go Ape Cabin

Initial Concept – April 2017







# PLATTE RIVER STATE PARK - GLAMPING CABINS



NEBRASKA OUTDOOR VENTURE PARKS  
GLAMPING CABIN EXTERIOR - PLATTE RIVER SP

*Nebraska Game & Parks*  
FOUNDATION

NEBRASKA  
- GAME & PARKS -



# PLATTE RIVER STATE PARK – SPLASH PAD



**SPLASHTACULAR**  
Waterparks and Waterpark Attractions

**NEBRASKA OUTDOOR VENTURE PARKS**  
SPLASH PAD - PLATTE RIVER SP

*Nebraska Game & Parks*  
FOUNDATION

**NEBRASKA**  
- GAME & PARKS -



CRAWDAD CREEK – JENNY NEWMAN LAKE



# SCHRAMM SRA - INTERACTIVE EXPLORATION CENTER



**NEBRASKA OUTDOOR VENTURE PARKS**  
INTERACTIVE EXPLORATION CENTER EXTERIOR - SCHRAMM SRA

*Nebraska Game & Parks*  
FOUNDATION

**NEBRASKA**  
- GAME & PARKS -



# INTERACTIVE EXPLORATION CENTER - FRONT LOBBY



**NEBRASKA OUTDOOR VENTURE PARKS**  
INTERACTIVE EXPLORATION CENTER LOBBY - SCHRAMM SRA





# INTERACTIVE EXPLORATION CENTER - AQUARIUMS



ZEROEDGE®

NEBRASKA OUTDOOR VENTURE PARKS  
INTERACTIVE EXPLORATION CENTER AQUARIUM - SCHRAMM SRA

*Nebraska Game & Parks*  
FOUNDATION

NEBRASKA  
- GAME & PARKS -



# INTERACTIVE EXPLORATION CENTER - NATURE CENTER



**NEBRASKA OUTDOOR VENTURE PARKS**  
INTERACTIVE EXPLORATION CENTER NATURE CENTER - SCHRAMM SRA





# LOUISVILLE SRA - FLOATING PLAYGROUND



# OTHER PHASE 1 PROJECTS:

- Bike Trails and Challenge Course Trails
- Natural Playgrounds and Activities
- Interpretive Programming
- Platte River access sites
  - Canoe/Kayak launch sites at Schramm and Platte River State Park
  - Air Boat ramp and canoe/kayak landing at Louisville SRA
  - Eventual access site on Salt Creek near Ashland



## Outdoor Venture Parks

## “A RECREATION DESTINATION”



From: Gregory K. Johnson, Commissioner KY Fish and Wildlife

Date: 6/19/17

RE: Proxy - MAFWA Annual Director's Meeting

I hereby authorize Steve Beam to vote my proxy at the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Directors' Meeting on 06/28/2017, and to act in my stead, authorizing this person fully to do all things that I could or might do if personally present. I also authorize this person to do every act whatsoever necessary or proper to be done in all matters that may lawfully come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof. Further, I hereby revoke any proxy or proxies previously given by me to any person or persons.

Signature: Gregory K. Johnson /s/

Printed Name: Gregory K. Johnson

Title: Commissioner

Agency: KY Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources





# SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

523 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE | PIERRE, SD 57501

To: Whom It May Concern

Via email: [Sheila.Kemmis@ks.gov](mailto:Sheila.Kemmis@ks.gov)

From: Kelly R. Hepler

Date: 6.14.17

RE: Proxy - MAFWA Annual Director's Meeting

I hereby authorize **Tony Leif** to vote my proxy at the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Directors' Meeting on 06/28/2017, and to act in my stead, authorizing this person fully to do all things that I could or might do if personally present. I also authorize this person to do every act whatsoever necessary or proper to be done in all matters that may lawfully come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof. Further, I hereby revoke any proxy or proxies previously given by me to any person or persons.

Signature:

Printed Name: Kelly R. Hepler

Title: Cabinet Secretary

Agency: South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

State of Wisconsin  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
101 S. Webster Street  
Box 7921  
Madison WI 53707-7921

Scott Walker, Governor  
Cathy Stepp, Secretary  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463  
TTY Access via relay - 711



June 5, 2017

Proxy - MAFWA Annual Director's Meeting

I hereby authorize Arnon Buchholz to vote my proxy at the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Directors' Meeting on 06/28/2017, and to act in my stead, authorizing this person fully to do all things that I could or might do if personally present. I also authorize this person to do every act whatsoever necessary or proper to be done in all matters that may lawfully come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof. Further, I hereby revoke any proxy or proxies previously given by me to any person or persons.

Signature:

Printed Name:

Kurt A. Thiede

Title: Deputy Secretary

Agency: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



**Minutes**  
**MAFWA Business Meeting**  
**June 29, 2016**  
**Chase Park Plaza Hotel**  
**St. Louis, Missouri**

Wednesday, June 29, 2016

*Breakfast – Sponsored by Bass Pro Shops*

Bob Ziehmer, MO – Accolades to Denise, Donna and Kim for their help on this conference.

**State Commitments Related to Trapping**

*Ed Boggess, AFWA* (Exhibit 34) – I’m here as a volunteer, appointed a year ago to chair an AFWA Presidential Task Force on Trapping Policy. I was a furbearer specialist in Minnesota starting in 1982, and chaired first AFWA Technical Subcommittee for Fur Resources in 1991, then chaired Fur Resources Committee before it broadened out to the Sustainable Use of Wildlife Committee. My role is to remind and inform people of all the previous work on international trapping and trade because of significant turnover of directors. To get regional associations’ information and knowledge on what states have done through AFWA. It has been about sustaining trapping programs. Want you to be aware of commitments we made over the years, track progress and keep staff involved. Dave Hamilton, furbearer specialist Missouri, was key in early stages of best management practices (BMPs), want to acknowledge him; Bryant White, AFWA employee from Columbia, Missouri leads a lot of this effort. Regulated trapping is legal in U.S. in all states except Hawaii; 250,000 trappers in U.S., sustainable use regulated by the states, consistent with the North American Model of Conservation. Regional differences on how trapping occurs, four regional associations represent that, but Alaska has some different issues. In northern areas, there is more trapping for fur value; more trapping for nuisance control in south and parts of the west, like beaver trapping. Louisiana was a key state in helping to launch this effort. Data from trappers is used for population monitoring, research, nuisance damage and to protect rare species like piping plover and whooping cranes. Fur trade is global, and wild fur trapping is highly regulated in the states. Fur garments are sustainable, uses range from durable fiber to high fashion; there is a wide range on types of uses. Trapping supports over 1 million jobs globally. Involvement of states started 40 years ago with active anti-trapping initiatives and ballot initiatives and got a number of states involved. Gordon Batcheller, Ollie’s counterpart at NEAFWA formed their fur technical committee in 1974, MAFWAs was formed in 1979, the Fur Resources Committee of AFWA was also formed in 1970s. The emphasis was on having well-managed programs. Also, there were global political efforts in 1980s; effort by European Union (EU) to require labeling of furs; in 1991, EU adopted a regulation prohibiting import of furs from countries that hadn’t banned “steel-jawed leghold traps” or did not adopt international standards for humane traps. Took many years of negotiations before enacted. First meeting of the Technical Subcommittee

for Fur Resources was in 1991, but got authorization to start working in 1989. Association has provided great leadership on this issue. AFWA has been representing the states of competent authority (as known in negotiations) not a federal trust to manage trapping, so federal government has to do negotiating. Paul Lenzini was AFWA counsel at the time and was heavily engaged as was the Executive Committee; Louisiana (Greg Lipscomb) was chair, I was vice chair and Missouri contributed heavily and so did biologists from Alaska, Arizona, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, South Carolina and Vermont. U.S. trade representative in the State Department negotiated on behalf of the states, but all worked through AFWA Executive Committee, from 1991 to 1998. Throughout this process AFWA adopted resolutions and policies and developed programs to make sure we were actively engaged and working to off-set the threat of loss of market for furs. This work included developing BMPs and national trapper education program. AFWA has led the largest trap testing program ever conducted. It is ongoing but much of the work has been done. There were some multistate grants and appropriations through APHIS-WS that still continues to fund this effort. **Senator Boudreaux**, from Louisiana was instrumental in this, unfortunately it wasn't earmarked, and it got rolled into their base budget. Federal nexus with international community, USDA is providing that. BMPs served the need and were used to fulfill international agreements. BMP traps are divided into those that can hold animals alive and those designed to kill humanely and quickly. These traps are thoroughly described in Wildlife Management Techniques Manual published by The Wildlife Society. BMPs have also been useful in states and some states were able to add tools they didn't have before. BMPs are based on science and consistent with North American Model by using fur for legitimate purposes. Criteria determining the best traps certified by BMPs is welfare, injury or effectiveness, selectivity, efficiency, practicality and safety. There are 43 states that have cooperated in development of BMPs. Also, there was an extensive outreach component with the trapping community and state agency staff. Initial skepticism and distrust from trapping community has changed to acceptance and support. As far as agreements, EU regulation included imported furs from Canada, Russia, U.S. and EU; and Canada, Russia and EU signed binding agreements. In the U.S. we ended up with an "Agreed Minute" a good faith commitment executed by state department on behalf of the states as competent authorities; so have nonbinding but strong commitment to carry it out. A lot of information came out 15-20 years ago, nuance terms included in this, which included "phase out", process to improve and adopt over time, not a hard ban; "conventional trap", traps manufactured without modifications; and "restraining", any trap set to hold an animal live. For example, foothold trap used to capture and hold aquatic animals underwater is not a restraining trap, but is a killing trap because it killed the animal in this instance. Fairly innocuous words, but a lot of discussion and intent behind them. Canada and Russia have a joint committee that meets regularly, the U.S. is not a party to that, but participates as an official observer and that is where we present our reports on progress. What prompted the formation of this Presidential task force was some members of the European Union have questioned whether U.S. is fulfilling its commitments under the Agreed Minute. This reinforced the importance to make directors aware of what we are doing. The AFWA Executive Committee felt all directors needed to be reminded that we have made commitments. As part of follow through, BMPs are posted on AFWAs website as well as all of this information and have also done periodic



surveys. Concluding a third survey using multistate grant money and responsive management. We also did surveys of state programs and federal programs on refuges to document what changes are occurring over time. Trying to keep technical staff informed through the technical fur committees in the regional associations and also had professional development workshops for staff with more ongoing. Encourage your staff to go to those. Trapper education is an important tool to incorporate BMPs and helps with the phase out commitment. Have ongoing commitment to develop and maintain BMPs. Deb Hahn, AFWAs International Affairs Director, is actively engaged because of international parts of it. Continue to collect scientific and human dimensions data. Whole effort is to protect interests of states and ask directors to support surveys and AFWAs role. Get staff to workshops and every regional association is active on the Sustainable Use of Wildlife Committee. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Appreciate Ed’s work with Association on this topic; appreciate you referenced Dave Hamilton, Bryant White and others. Sport of trapping topic could be used as an example, should we be talking to the public or should we only talk to trappers and hunters? *Zach Lowe* – Workshop in Midwest will be at McGraw, a no cost opportunity for your staff; IN has agreed to send some people as well as IL and WI; I will send to Ollie; good one-day training and easy location near O’Hare airport. *Wayne Rosenthal, IL* – In Illinois we recently passed bobcat trapping bill, HSUS used that issue as their number one fundraiser throughout the country; they kept coming back and trying to do away with leg-hold traps, wanted to eliminate trapping altogether, so they will make niche anywhere they can, so be aware. *Ed Boggess* – BMP process and testing results helps counter their arguments. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Heard new term, “agreed minute”, a nonbinding good faith agreement.

### **MAFWA BUSINESS MEETING**

*Bob Ziehmer, MAFWA President* – Officially called to order at 8:26 AM

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

*Ollie* - All states present, except Michigan, Bill Moritz was here earlier, but may have left. We have one proxy for Kentucky assigning Ron Brooks in place of Gregory Johnson (Exhibit 35); no Canadian provinces present.

#### **Agenda Review**

Copy of our agenda is listed in programs. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Investments Committee Report, there will not be one today, I did not connect with Shane. *Terry Steinwand, ND* – Dave Chanda asked me to have directors talk about his request for funds for NCLI, whether to push to Executive Committee or take action. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Can add to new business.

#### **Approval of 2015 Annual Business Meeting Minutes**

Annual meeting minutes (Exhibit 36); *Kelly Hepler, SD moved to accept minutes as printed, Keith Sexson, KS second. Motion carried.*

#### **Treasurer’s Report**

*Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Welcome Roger appreciate everything you have done over last six months, thank Sharon for active participation in the transition, we did not miss a step.

**Roger Luebbert** (Exhibit 37) – As in the past, report shows account balances, summary of receipts and disbursements for all MAFWA accounts for most recent fiscal year, calendar year 2015. On page one you will see a list of account balances as of the end of 2015, but I have also added account balances from 2013 and 2014. The **General Account** is where we handle banking services, balance has been increasing and at the end of 2015 the balance was \$135,390; the reason for increase in 2015 is because we have been collecting the 2015 commitments from the states on the Pheasant Coordinator. In the **Conference Account**, which handles receipts and disbursements for this annual MAFWA conference, as well as membership dues and on the expenditure side we have Executive Secretary and Treasurer pay as well as other miscellaneous expenses like tax form 990 preparations. The account balance has declined; it is \$99,368, due to timing difference with change in treasurer, 2015 dues weren't collected until beginning of 2016 which amounted to about \$28,000; if included balance would have been \$127,989. In **Southern Wings Account**, a pass through account, with balance of \$52,255, this has since paid out. **Federal Grant Account** has not changed for a couple of years, the previous treasurer; Sharon has been very helpful on transitioning through this and still responds now when I call and I appreciate that. This is MAFWA money that is left after several federal grants have long been closed; she suggested closing account and moving funds to the conference account, which I have done and this account is now closed. If we get involved in another federal grant this will give us the opportunity to open a new account and start with a clean slate. **Credit Union Share Account** is a place to maintain a minimum balance to part of the credit union; it requires a \$25 balance. The **Money Market and Securities Account** which is interest and dividends income as well as change in market values. The **Conservation Enhancement Account** is basically the same thing, interest and dividends income and change in market values. There was one expenditure for a holding reporting fee of \$50. On the bottom of page two I do want to point out the note at the bottom, the balance as of the end of 2015 of \$135,390 includes money from Michigan \$1,900, MAFWA Deer and Turkey \$2,905, which has since been closed out, Pheasants \$87,000, and Kansas \$39,472. The agency conference account summarizes the receipts and disbursements, the top line shows annual dues which has an asterisk that points to a footnote at the bottom that states 2015 membership invoices were mailed in early 2016, \$28,000. The rest of the report shows receipts and disbursements. I am flexible so if you want to see something different in the future I would be happy to do that. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – The Executive committee reviewed this on Sunday and gave full support on accepting Treasurer's Report. **Kurt Thiede, WI moved to accept Treasurer's Report, Kelley Myers, IA second. Motion carried.**

*Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Roger has signed contract for 5-years, 400 hours-a-year to assist MAFWA. We will review this yearly to be sure the 400 hours is adequate as we step into federal grant activity.

### **Audit Committee Report**

**Bob Ziehmer, MO** (Exhibit 38) – Missouri's internal auditor reviewed records from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. In the review staff looked at the general ledger entries, bank statements, profit and loss schedules as well as supporting documents for revenue and disbursements. A few of the objectives for the audit were to be sure bank statements accurately reconcile with general ledger; also looking closely at revenues as



well as expenditures to ensure accurately recorded and supported. Our internal auditor has documented this and no material differences were noted. This was a good audit.

**Wayne Rosenthal, IL moved to accept audit report, Mark Reiter, IN second. Jim**

**Douglas, NE** – When was it done? **Bob Ziehmer, MO** – Completed in last 30 days.

**Motion carried. Ollie** – Thanks to Missouri for conducting professional audits for us for a number of years, if we had to pay for this it would be very expensive. John Hoskins offered their services prior to Bob and Missouri Department of Conservation has performed these audits for no fee. Thanks Bob, appreciate directors stepping up where they can. **Bob Ziehmer, MO** – Missouri stands ready to continue this activity.

### **Investments Committee Report**

**Bob Ziehmer, MO** – No report.

### **Resolutions Committee Report**

**Terry Steinwand, ND** – There are three resolutions; one is a joint resolution asking for restored funding for CWD management and research submitted by the Wildlife and Fish Health Committee and Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group (Exhibit 39); “Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Directors, at its annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri on June 29, 2016, encourages AFWA to request restoration of federal funding for CWD management and research in both free-ranging and captive cervid populations to levels greater than those of the early 2000s and commensurate with the needs of the states to (1) conduct adequate surveillance among free-ranging herds and (2) indemnify owners of depopulated positive captive herds.” **Kelley Myers, IA moved to pass CWD resolution, Keith Sexson, KS second. Bob Ziehmer, MO** – One question of clarification, as now therefore is stated we are working through requests to give direction to AFWA and one sentence says levels greater than those of early 2000s, pulling from the report that the Health Committee gave yesterday and the exact numbers given, would there be an interest in changing that sentence to levels no less than \$30 million. Seeking clarity, I was unaware that we had staff that had some up with more specific numbers as far of needs in CWD until Dale’s report yesterday. Thoughts? Overall support either way. **Kurt Thiede, WI** – Like being specific, if we have adequate numbers that seems reasonable. **Ron Brooks, KY** – Could stating amount be a deal breaker? **Dale Garner, IA** – Put out numbers knowing that and advice to committee was, don’t ask for less than you need, looked at all of those expenses from all the states and what they are spending even without a budget; looked at all of the needs, Wildlife Services was there as well as USDS, USFWS and that is how we got that number. We remind you that it is not only for surveillance of the wild herd, but without money for captive industry we pay for indemnity; came at that number for a good reason. **Kelley Myers, IA** – If being specific are we setting up ourselves for that number, if we may have gotten more? **Ron Brooks, KY** – In experiences I have had in dealings with DC, we ask for more than you expect to get and hope you get what you need. **Kelley Myers, IA** – This resolution is a conversation with AFWA, so I think if needed to get more specific and define these numbers, we can when AFWA comes forward. **Bob Ziehmer, MO** – Motion and second as presented. **Motion carried.**

*Terry Steinwand, ND* – Second one is a joint resolution in support discontinuing the use of neonicotinoids that we discussed yesterday (Exhibit 40); “NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the **MAWFA** (spelled wrong) Directors at its annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri on June 29, 2016 encourage additional evaluation, while concurrently pursuing and **implementing** wildlife-friendly alternatives as available and practical, and **support the** discontinuing use of neonicotinoids on those State managed lands under their authority.” “Investigating” replaced “implementing” and about replaced “and support” *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Good discussion yesterday, everybody conceptually on the same page, need to do more research and evaluate and move down the correct path with answers that would allow us as stakeholders to be successful for citizens and wildlife. *Kelly Hepler, SD moved to pass resolution on neonicotinoids, Jim Leach, MN second.* *Kelly Hepler, SD* – Still awkward, but you could wordsmith so it flows, but it wouldn’t change the intent; I am comfortable with it. *Ron Regan, AFWA* – Is there a typo up there, should it be “about the discontinuing use” or “about discontinuing the use”, is “the” in the right place? *Kelley Myers, IA* – A good observation. *Jim Douglas, NE* – If you did want to wordsmith it, where it says “about”; everything after “about” put after evaluation, “while...” at the end. *Kelley Myers, IA* – I agree, I think that makes it clearer and makes it flow. The point of this is we are encouraging additional evaluation of discontinued use. I know there were conversations about this last year and the team went back and looked at it and I think it is good we are doing this resolution to keep this moving in that direction. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Could Nebraska or Iowa restate? *Terry Steinwand, ND* – “NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the **MAFWA** Directors at its annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri on June 29, 2016 encourage additional evaluation **about** discontinuing the use of neonicotinoids on those State managed lands under their authority, while concurrently pursuing and **investigating** wildlife-friendly alternatives as available and practical.” *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Different than motion on the floor. *Kelley Myers, IA - Friendly amendment as reread, Keith Sexson, KS second.* *Wayne Rosenthal, IL* - It is important, overall nationwide we are a small organization, so important that we work closely with the Ag industry and they are onboard, the way it is worded now says that, we don’t want to get in fights with our friends and that is sometimes difficult to avoid. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – It allows states to continue down the path we all want to conceptually evaluate and pursue, but at the same time it will allow us to deliver encouraging words to staff. *Dale Garner, IA* – Ollie or Sheila send to me so I can share the new words with Health Committee and Public Lands Committee. *Sheila Kemmis* – I will. **Motion carried.**

*Terry Steinwand, ND* – Third one I will read in entirety (Exhibit 41); “WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Conservation has so efficiently and enthusiastically organized and conducted the 2016 summer meeting of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; WHEREAS, Director Bob Ziehmer, Norman Murray, Denise Bateman and support staff have worked together with local and national conservation organization partners making all the state representatives welcome; WHEREAS, the members of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies wish to express their gratitude for all the collaborative efforts of the Missouri Department of Conservation; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at its annual meeting in Saint Louis, Missouri on June 29, 2016,



acknowledges the hard work and hospitality of Director Ziehmer and his staff and hereby passes this resolution in a showing of great appreciation.” ***Terry Steinwand, ND moved to pass thank you resolution to Missouri, Jim Douglas, NE second. Bob Ziehmer, MO –*** My staff makes me better every day and to citizens who created the conservation fund in our state. ***Motion carried.***

#### **Awards Committee Report**

***Keith Sexson, KS*** – Had 18 nominations for the awards MAFWA puts forth, appreciate you sending in nominations and encourage to you continue. When the call comes, to reach out and take a look across your agencies because you all have deserving staff. Down one member on the committee and would like a volunteer. Appreciate your participation and Sheila who helps me with that process and orders the awards and keeps things straight as we go forward. ***Bob Ziehmer, MO*** – Volunteers? At awards lunch yesterday, rewarding to hear about the staff and see young law enforcement officer who was recognized. We ask a lot of staff each and every day and to take the time to review that across the Midwest it is important. ***Ollie*** – I will work with Keith; I see Jim Leach’s hand up. ***Jim Leach, MN*** – I will volunteer. ***Keith Sexson, KS*** – It is basically a once a year thing, when we get the nominations in, we review and make selections. I would like to encourage Directors to make an opportunity for recipients to come to Midwest meeting. Thanks to Indiana and Iowa for bringing their recipients.

#### **Bylaws Committee Report**

***Bob Ziehmer, MO*** – Kelley brings unique skill set, background and qualification to this committee. ***Kelley Myers, IA*** (Exhibit 42) – I actually really like legal documents, a comfortable place for me to be. I put together PowerPoint to see the changes. MAFWA is incorporated in the State of Kansas; bylaws incorporate the charter, the legal document you file with the state and there are some statutes that set the state law, in K.S.A. 17-1759, et seq. and also it has tax exempt status and is recognized at a 501(c) 6 of the Internal Revenue Code. MAFWA has operated as an association since 1934 but recognized by federal law as a non-profit organization since 1968; is comprised of members and affiliates; governed by a Board that functions through committees and employs a part time Executive Secretary and Treasurer. I am the chair of the Bylaws committee, but committee is not active, looking for anyone or a group that wants to help. Ollie and I worked throughout the year, had conversations with the Executive Committee to see if we were going in the right direction with a few of these changes. Proposed amendments require 30-day notice to the Board. The charter was not reviewed as part of this process, but would recommend review in the future. Everyone should have gotten a copy of the proposed changes (Exhibit 43). Throughout there are some minor reference modifications, included reference to the Conservation Enhancement Fund, modified reference to number, alpha-numeric numbering and removing parenthetical and duplicative references to improve consistency. Wrote justifications: wanted to clarify the role and responsibility related to the management of the Fund; improve consistency and clarity. Going through the document I went page by page. On page 1: inserted language to specifically reference legal authority for the Association and existence of the Conservation Enhancement Fund to make it clear these are authorized to function under Kansas cited statutes. On page 5, when talking about the Treasurer; had more discussion

here and modifications to understand the Treasurer's role and obligations to align function, provide oversight, clarify responsibilities, particularly in writing checks and filing tax documents, and require regular reports, official obligation. On page 6, Article V: changed authority to call a meeting by allowing Executive Secretary, in addition to President, in case of President's absence for any reason; and shortens notice required to hold meetings and promotes more communication (shortened time to 30 days from 120 days); also authorizes sponsorship and exhibits for meetings according to sponsorship and exhibit policy giving the Board greater authority to limit sponsorships not consistent with Association's values. WAFWA did this, so we have taken their policy and rewritten for MAFWA. Remove ceiling cap on meeting cost to allow flexibility. Removed ceiling for annual meeting costs by removing "not to exceed \$13,000", we don't spend more on the meeting than we take in, but some locations are more expensive than others and we wanted to give some flexibility. In Article VI: requires requests for voting to be reasonable; requires reason for a ballot-vote request to be reasonable, which at the very least requires explanation for the request; clarifies that a majority of the Executive Committee, and not the whole Board, may act between meetings. On page 7, Article VII, dues: adds requirement for upcoming dues to be reported by the Treasurer at each annual meeting, because dues are on a sliding scale and adds clarity, having that number out there will help everyone be on board. Article IX: made one standard for how we are voting. Article X: inserted language to authorize only amendments that are allowed by law; reaffirms legal compliance of bylaws and governance of the Association. Pages 7-10, Article XI, committees and boards: insert minor clarification and requirements to make annual reports, reduce time frame to pass a resolution to 15 days instead of 30, sometimes asked to support something that requires short time frame, and inserts text to allow a majority of members of the board to authorize ad hoc committee and update references and remove non-existent committees. On page 11, Article XII, adoption date: include date of amendment, which would be today. We spend a lot of time on these amendments, like role of the treasurer. Other considerations for future review: role of executive secretary and treasurer, are they meeting the needs of the organization; role of the executive committee; review charter, good idea for next year; and look at affiliate membership and sponsor amounts, we look at our dues every year and may be the time to do that. Things to discuss if I raise up a committee. *Ollie* – I have two items I think we need the Board to discuss. On behalf of the treasurer, on page 5, under number 3, on check signing, it says co-signed by director and "co" is the word I want to direct your attention to, from experience with Sharon Schafer, she did not want to sign checks. What I think this means is the treasurer signs and so does a director. What does co-sign mean? *Kelley Myers, IA* – It would be a co-signature in this case; if we didn't want that, I can understand why; the idea is that the treasurer draws the funds and there needs to be director approval. *Ollie* – Right, Sharon, did not want to. Sheila did you? *Sheila Kemmis* – Yes. *Roger Luebbert* – Obviously I prefer not to, but I don't mind signing it as I am writing the check anyway. *Ollie* – He writes them out and takes them up to Bob for him to sign them; that is the way we have worked since Michigan. I just wanted to draw attention to the word "co", keep it in or not. *Kelley Myers, IA* – On that point, if it is clear in here that it is the treasurer's job to prepare those documents, signing it is not as important, but we were trying to make sure a director signs them. If you are not comfortable signing them, I don't think co-signing is necessary, as long as we are clear a



director signs them. *Kelley Myers, IA moved to accept with changes and expands to include whoever executive committee delegates as director to sign, Jim Leach, MN second.* Ollie – One other point, since Bob is leaving on July 16, not clear who will sign checks and bylaws are not clear, says first vice-president presides as the president in president's absence. When this came up, didn't know what Missouri Commission was going to do when Bob left, not real clear in here who the president is so I sent Kelley an email. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – We have a 2½ month gap, before the President transitions in, late September? Ollie – Middle of October; in the meantime Missouri is putting in an interim director, Tom Draper, who was here. For the future we need to clarify does acting/interim director qualify to become president or does it go to the first vice-president become the president, not real clear in our bylaws. That comes around to check signing now also, have Tom sign or have Jim as first vice-president sign? *Kelley Myers, IA* – The way I read the bylaws, because president is the duly authorized voting representative of their member state, that is the position, so I read it would be the interim director. If we look in history I believe that is how it has been done. It does raise a good question if that is the most effective situation for the Board, alternative would be to look at a modification in future bylaws to make it that subsequent, but then need to look at term, Tom would have a 2½ month term, maybe that is good, maybe bad. We need to have that conversation, but for now the acting would come in and be the president and sign the checks. Ollie – That will work for this time, since Tom Draper is in the same office as Roger. Clarify next year in bylaws. Tom will act as President in next meeting in August and at AFWA meeting. **Motion carried.** *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Outstanding job, work with Ollie and others in coming year if you feel adjustment needs to be made. *Kelly Hepler, SD* – I apologize for having to leave early, no disrespect. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Safe travels.

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

*Ollie Torgerson* (Exhibit 44) – Zach Sheldon joined us from Congressional Sportsman Foundation, Chris Horton usually attends but he couldn't come this year; Zach would like to make sure community surveys that have been sent out to states get completed. Every year I give a snapshot of things that are happening in MAFWA since previous annual meeting. We left Duluth with good momentum on pheasants and pollinators. There was a quandary with treasurer position because of notice from Sharon Schafer to leave at end of 2015. We had a smooth transition officers 30 days after AFWA annual convention, in mid-October; Ed Boggess transitioned to Bob Ziehmer with great leadership from both, but Bob is bailing early. We lost two directors, Scott Zody resigned in the fall and Ed Boggess decided to retire in the winter, and very unfortunately Scott Zody passed away shortly after he left. Welcomed two new directors Ray Petering and Jim Leach; Ron Regan and I traveled to Columbus Ohio in April to meet with Ray and his staff and introduce them to our Association and will be going to the Twin Cities on August 10 to meet with Jim and his staff; Ron and I tag-team on that regularly when we get a new director to get them here at the table. Welcome to you two directors, nice to have you with us. Had a success treasurer transition. Ed, when he was president, sent out couple of notices to try and get a volunteer treasurer to replace Sharon. Kansas provided treasurer services for years and then Sharon in Michigan for 6 years; but nobody offered. In Duluth, Ed said we may have to hire or contract a treasurer. With that in mind I reached

out to a long term colleague and friend from Missouri to see if he might be interested and he was. There was a lot of discussion with the Executive Committee before they executed a temporary, six-month contract using existing surplus funds to bring Roger Luebbert onboard on January 1. That contract expires right now. the Executive Committee authorized two votes, one to increase our dues to create funds to enable us to have a permanent staff treasurer and if that passed a vote to revise our 2016 budget to include that treasurer. Both passed unanimously. On Sunday, a five-year contract was executed to hire Roger Luebbert as our treasurer continuing from July 1. Roger retired from the Missouri Department of Conservation with 31 years of service as Chief Financial Officer, he has a master's degree in Public Administration, is a CPA and a Certified Financial Planner; and he is just what we need. Happy to have you onboard Roger; had a really good transition from Sharon to Roger. National Pheasant Conservation Plan, a lot of momentum, our Midwest Pheasant Study Group was disbanded because of this plan; they worked hard developing a national conservation plan; national coordinator was needed to implement the plan so we raised the money and hired the coordinator; will hear more under Old Business; in Pittsburg in March signed MOU with Pheasants Forever and Dr. Scott Taylor was hired; key guys involved from our association were: Keith Sexson, Ed Boggess and especially Jim Douglas. Workshop on monarch butterflies you authorized was held in Des Moines in October, brought in butterfly experts to assemble the science; MAFWA was awarded a small NFWF grant last fall, which we are executing at the present time; applied for second NFWF grant and you heard about that from Kelley; give credit to Kelley Myers and Bill Moritz for their leadership on this monarch/pollinator effort. As you can see there is much to be proud of in MAFWA and you directors are making a difference. Planning this annual meeting takes a lot of my time and I have to give credit to Denise Bateman, Jim will have to appoint someone in Nebraska to take the reins for next year. Denise was my office manager when I was in Missouri and she had to work with me on the planning. This conference has been really a good one; 12 of our 13 sitting state directors are around the table, your presence makes this Association go. Ours is a small meeting, everyone meets together the whole time and it is short and intimate, NGOs and Federal partners love that because of access to directors the whole time which leads to action on the ground and financial support and sponsorships. Need your help on sponsorships, started in 2002, when I came onboard, had a couple groups who bought meals, but bills did not come through us; Sheila and I couldn't come up with good financial numbers, but in 2004, we came up with \$5,000 in sponsorships. We peaked at near \$59,000 in 2014 in Michigan with Keith Creah, Bill Moritz and staff reeling in significant state sponsorships; thought last year would take a big dip because of Minnesota's legislative gag on state employees for solicitation of gifts and sponsorships, but we came in at \$55,000; this year we stayed at same level, but only because Missouri brought in two major sponsors this year. I need your help because we are losing some important sponsors. Region 6 USFWS sponsorship of \$5,000 was pulled but I appealed that and they came back with partial sponsorship, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation dropped their sponsorship as did U.S. Sportsman's Alliance and the National Wildlife Federation. So we've lost substantial sponsorships and if you as Directors can exert influence or sit on boards and can help bring them back that would be great. I have reached out to other groups, without success; American Sportfishing Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Safari Club International. If there are



other prospective sponsors you know of let me know; at any rate I need help or we will have a dip next year. MAFWA offers affiliate memberships and we have one application from the National Rifle Association which will be the next item on the business agenda. Sheila, Roger and I put together a draft Operations Manual for MAFWA and will continue to work on this. I manage our website and apologize that host company server issues we had the last two weeks (corrected now). I mentioned new laptop computer I got from Wisconsin, thanks Tom Hauge. "Other duties as assigned" includes a lot of things, but it includes networking with federal partners, state fish and wildlife agencies, NGOs; working with six standing committees and 13 technical committees; carrying out assignments of the Executive Committee, networking with directors and whatever the President tells me to do. I am not nearly as busy as you Directors, the pressures you are under is immense and constant, but you keep pecking away like a woodpecker, but I know there are days you feel more like the tree. Thanks for all you do. Thanks for allowing me to be your staff member; it is an honor and privilege for me. We had a good year in the Association; good movement on pheasants and pollinators, a new treasurer, solid finances, good committees and strong partnerships with federal agencies and NGOs. Thank Missouri Department of Conservation and Delaney Meeting Management. Thank Missouri's planning group, Sheila and Roger. The next meeting is June 25-28, 2017 at Mahoney State Park in Nebraska. *Jim Douglas, NE* – A lot of good things happened this year, a lot to be proud of. *Ollie* – Key is you being here and taking ownership; having 12 of 13 Directors is a record attendance. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Good report and thanks for what you do. A small example of Ollie being available, he was on annual leave, but gave up some of his time to attend conference call meeting.

#### **Approval of Affiliate Memberships**

*Ollie Torgerson* (Exhibit 45) – We received an application from NRA for affiliate membership. Those have to be into me by April 1 each year. Bryan Hyder from NRA is here and he was also a sponsor for a couple of years; approval requires vote of directors. *Kurt Thiede, WI moved to accept NRA as affiliate member, Mark Reiter, IN second. Motion carries.*

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **National Wild Pheasant Plan Coordinator**

*Jim Douglas, NE* – Ollie made reference to great progress made on national plan front by hiring coordinator. Thank Keith and Ed for being a big part of that, as well as Dale Garner. Dr. J. Scott Taylor has been hired as the Coordinator of the National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan. Progress made in hiring the coordinator; solicited contributions to fund this for three years from a wide variety of states, 18 states and Pheasants Forever (PF) responded positively. In addition, PF, as well as some other entities, offered to provide support for the position. PF offered not only support of office space, but administrative assistance, computer equipment, etc. in their new office in Brookings, SD and Dave Nomsen who is here runs that new office. They also offered to administer the benefits. It was accepted by the Executive Committee, a great offer in a variety of ways. The synergy that is going to occur from Scott being headquartered in that office as we approach weighty questions like, what kinds of things need to be done through all the members and affiliates of the national plan, that effort along with PF and

other conservation groups will come to bear in a good way. One of first orders of business was to create a Management Board that would oversee this work. We put out invitations to all of the states that decided to support financially, many expressed interest in making sure they remain a part of the team and quite a few expressed interest in having representation on board. The board has been formed and we are calling it Interim Management Board because we entertain the possibility that there may be some additions. At this point in time it consists of representatives from – Idaho, Sal Palazzolo; Iowa, Todd Bogenschutz; Kansas, Keith Sexson; Nebraska, Jim Douglas; North Dakota Jeb Williams; Michigan, Dr. Russ Mason; Ohio, Dave Kohler; Pennsylvania, Brian Burns; South Dakota, Tony Leif; Texas, Clayton Wolf; and PF, Dave Nomsen. Group had first couple of conference calls and done a couple of things; developing governance principals which could turn into bylaws at some point, good guidelines to start business. Solicitation made for a chair. We will have an in-person meeting at AFWA meeting in September. Technical committee, who was involved in putting the plan together, has provided inputs on work objectives for Scott and priorities that need to be accomplished first, that was reviewed by the Board. Things are moving and we will be making great progress on this plan.

*Scott Taylor* – Thank members and contributing states for forming this partnership. It is an exciting time to be pheasant biologist in terms of new horizons. It was difficult to leave Nebraska, but I still get to work with friends there and across the Midwest. We are in the process of scheduling our first meeting in conjunction with AFWA conference and I invite folks to attend that. In contact with Don McKenzie with National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative to make sure we are not overlapping. In the meantime, tech committee will be meeting in Kansas in September, encourage you to allow staff to travel to that. Discussing dialog between the newly formed Board and their vision of where they want the partnership to go; the tech committee has been flying without adult supervision for the last couple of years. The Midwest Pheasant Study Group has been dissolved and became this national group, the Board will provide that oversight and direction and make sure we are all flowing in the same direction. Thinking about ways to roll the partnership and the pheasant plan out to a broader audience. Invite Dave to talk about that and anything else he would like to add.

*Dave Nomsen, PF* – Welcome Scott to office in Brookings, excited to have him there. Jim, want to thank you for bringing in the states and participants for the Board. I do think PF is just one name on that list Jim read; just one of partners to provide guidance and support. Been a long effort to get plan up and running and Scott's employment, important that this not remain the best kept secret so I would ask you put next February, 17-19, on your calendars; Scott mentioned we have started discussions of a pheasant plan rollout event, as part of Pheasant Fest in Minneapolis; you are all welcome to attend. Next spring perhaps we can talk about that further.

*Scott Taylor* – Happy to answer any questions. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Great report, Jim, Scott, Dave appreciate your time and partnership. *Dave Nomsen* – Ollie, I was so compelled by your presentation on sponsorship for next year; at the risk of not having that annual banter back and forth, I would like to start your sponsorship list for next year with a \$3,000 contribution from PF/QF. I work for a bean counter, close to the end of our fiscal year so with that in mind if you could expedite invoice and I will process as soon as possible. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Any others who want to step forward and make a donation?



Ollie mentioned Zach Sheldon, and referenced a survey sent to the states, Zach tell us the background of the survey, need of the survey and timeframe on that.

*Zach Sheldon, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation* – A few months ago we sent a survey looking at local ordinances in your states who may try to set their own hunting and fishing regulations; follow up and engage everyone to remind them about that. I will be following up with an email. I can even resend the survey, they are not very long. We are hoping to have results by the end of the year; have annual national sportsman caucus meeting in late November, early December. I will go through my list; a lot of you have already sent this in, so will only touch base with those still missing. *Jim Douglas, NE* – Did that include county jurisdiction? *Zach Sheldon* – Yes.

*Refreshment Break – Sponsored by Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers (AMFGLEO)*

### NEW BUSINESS

#### **Greater Prairie Chicken and Sharp-tail Grouse Plan**

*Keith Sexson, KS* – About two years ago, the North American Grouse Partnership, an NGO, began talking about the need for strategic management plan for greater prairie chicken (GPC) and for plains and prairie sharp-tailed grouse (PPSTG). Some of us had the experience of being involved in the interstate working group concept as it related to the lesser prairie chicken (LPC) that came as result of the listing and the fact that there had been an interstate working group for LPC for a number of years. Struck us that instead of allowing or leaning on NGO alone to go forward with a management plan effort that involved a state trustee species, we should work with this group to involve states and others using this interstate working group concept. There is also a Prairie Grouse Technical Council that operates on a two to three year cycle. They describe themselves as a Midwest group, but are not affiliated with MAFWA for a variety of reasons. This group has a broad contingent of individuals from academy, NGOs, state and federal partners that come together to talk about issues relating to prairie grouse species. So, we had two groups essentially dealing with and discussing concepts of planning for prairie grouse and specifically GPC and some specific sharp-tail species. Got our heads together and thought it best to put together organizational structure with the states in equal driving position relative to this planning efforts for these two grouse species groups. Began to look at where the best place would be to locate that effort; in WAFWA we had established, under the Habitat Committee, a Grassland Initiative with Bill Van Pelt as a paid coordinator. It has been within this initiative where some of the issues, mostly listing issues have been discussed. We started with prairie dogs and swift fox.. I came to this group and also went before WAFWA with the idea of doing some planning for GPC and sharp tails in cooperation with the North American Grouse Partnership and Prairie Grouse Technical Council. We got green light and support from directors of both associations to begin pulling together states under umbrella of WAFWAs Grassland Initiative and began tackling this idea of developing management and strategic plans for GPC and PPSTG. At this point and Bill Van Pelt began working with John Haufler. John is a member of Ecosystem Management Research Initiative (EMRI), a private group and he was an instrumental member within the North American Grouse Partnership. Bringing John and Bill Van Pelt together we have been able to coalesce around those folks and with the naming of representatives from states involved with these two species,

essentially your grouse biologists. From Michigan across the north to North Dakota and from Illinois to Kansas and everywhere in between are part of this planning effort. Individuals have been identified for each of those states and since there are two species some states have two individuals involved. We did include states with prairie restoration programs and remnant populations of GPC and an interest in maybe reintroducing GPC into those restored prairies. They are an important part of overall planning. Some emphasis goes back to attention prairies are getting from a listing standpoint. Those from the outside are watching changes occurring on the landscape relative to large prairie systems and impacts these changes may have on those species. LPC management plan came as result of five states and others including USFWS working together to develop a rangewide plan initially to offset the need for listing. But as it turned out, the species was listed as threatened initially and plan became a part of overall recovery strategy and was endorsed by USFWS and implemented under 4d rule to bring management, research and survey efforts together relating to LPC. Just as a matter of note, a west Texas judge vacated that ruling and at this point LPC is back to candidate listing and USFWS is not going to appeal that. The important thing here, that leads into GPC and PPSTG, is we will go through another species assessment process and that could take a couple of years to complete. Everything implemented in rangewide plan can be considered in status review again and will play an important role in final decisions that are made. Another important grouse species to note is the sage grouse process, a similar situation, ended in not finding for listing, but heavy attention on its management plan. Cooperation occurred between private/public/state entities to manage that species. All this leads to why it is important to look at GPC, the tallgrass prairie which it requires and the sharp-tailed and things on the landscape impacting it. Maintaining and restoring grassland and shrubland ecosystems is a challenging task given the number of competing land uses and lack of specifics on needed amounts and distributions of these ecosystems. Prairie grouse, including GPC and sharp-tailed grouse can serve as excellent flagship species for grassland and shrubland ecosystem planning and restoration. The social and cultural value of these species, along with requirements for large tracts of grass and shrub habitat makes them excellent flagship species for landscape scale restoration and multistate coordination of efforts. Interstate working groups for GPC and PPSTG, a subspecies of sharp-tailed grouse, are focused on maintaining and restoring sufficient habitat amounts of native grassland and shrubland ecosystems across the range to support sustainable populations of each species, while also providing for the wide diversity of other grass and shrub dependent wildlife species. The group has been meeting with one face-to-face and a couple of teleconferences and has come around to focusing on the landscape as opposed to any one given species, but with the understanding those species are iconic and the flagship for management efforts that go into this ecosystem approach. Within this overall goal a number of tasks have been identified to be accomplished by each interstate working group, to evaluate population size across the range of these species and subspecies; develop ecoregional divisions based on habitat and population needs; develop consistent data collection and reporting for population and habitat status within each ecoregion; set population and habitat goals within each ecoregion; delineate a system of desired core areas within each ecoregion needed to sustain populations; develop a crucial habitat assessment tool; define a specific desired ecosystem restoration condition for ecological sites within the core areas for each ecoregion; engage broad coalition of



partners, including additional state and federal agencies, NGOs, industries, landowner organizations, academia and other stakeholders in the planning process; direct involvement of industries in planning including the mitigation framework; coordinate systems for focus delivery of on-the-ground practices and their specific applications in core areas within each ecoregion; identify additional research needs; develop a rangewide plan; and identify funding and implantation strategy for plan delivery. I envision tasks will take three years to accomplish, for each interstate working group from the time of their formation. Kicking around these ideas and discussing digging into data files and sharing information; leaders have stepped up and taken responsibility to collect this information and put it together to see if we can be more consistent as we collect information. A lot of talk about ecoregions and determining, within this large landscape, where we have these differences that occur on the landscape and identify those as focal areas. A lot of work yet to be done, but a very energetic and interested group of biologists are on this team. With these two leaders, Bill and John, both are very good. John was instrumental in writing LPC plan. Both have good experience on how to bring folks together, focus and move forward with a planning effort. In the end, we want to continue to be cognizant of including USFWS representatives from Regions 3 and 6, in this effort for guidance on how to develop the plan in such a way that it would provide information needed if either species is petitioned for listing. The other important thing, as I understand from what I have seen coming from USFWS, is that all of the petition efforts will be pushed out to states for state input. The states are going to be more involved in bringing information to the table as a part of responding to the petitioners. It positions us to have accumulated our data and bring the best information we have plus determine what better information we can gather to be more consistent across the range of these species. That is the intent of our effort and we are off and running. We have good participation on conference calls with engaged employees who ask good questions. *Ollie* – Mentioned Prairie Grouse Technical Council was maybe considering coming in under our umbrella? *Keith Sexson, KS* – No, I only mentioned that because we had that discussion here. They never really wanted to be attached because they felt they were more independent, but I never understood that kind of thinking. They are an important group and have been working on grouse for a long time, they bring a different dimension to this because a lot of academia involved as well as NGOs and other groups interested in prairie grouse; and we would not want to discourage them. We will continue to communicate with them; most of our states probably have employees who attend their meetings. *Jim Leach, MN* – Supportive of grouse plan and grouse initiative in general, but it leads me to think implementation, we as state agencies can't do it all for prairie grouse, big elephant in the room again is agriculture, getting them to the table. Brings home the point that our discussions on the next Farm Bill are important for prairie grouse and butterflies and unless USDA is willing to commit resources and change practices they will not get us where we want to go. *Keith Sexson, KS* – Kansas' NRCS and FSA are very tuned into state wildlife plans, so when their technical group goes to work on what programs are going to be implemented that plan is playing an important role and focus on species. Of course you can imagine the LPC has been one of those species, anytime you have a candidate species listed for a short period of time they get real interested in that. So there are programs geared for towards the management of those programs that come down through the Farm Bill. LPC Initiative is one such program that provides

opportunity for landowners. They get some cost share for programs that benefit, in this case, LPC. In the whole scheme of things we need to have a good dedicated integrated plan like this that has the support of many, including industry and agriculture. You then build platform for going to Washington to get that kind of support for those farm bill programs important for management of some of these species that could easily end up in a petitioning situation, if not in a listing scenario. It has been my experience in Kansas, you can get people behind a program when a species is threatened for listing or becomes listed. It changes their outlook. Play off of that and get ahead of prelisting planning instead of waiting until you are behind the eight ball and something is petitioned. These are just two prairie species but we are looking at landscape because they are other things out there, like butterflies and regal fritillary that need help. It is a chance to bring people to the table to get them focused on a couple of grouse groupings then expand out from that. You are right, if it wasn't for Farm Bill programs and what they bring, it would real difficult to put together the kind of finances needed. *Kelley Myers, IA* – Getting ahead of it is where our constituents expect us to be and that is the engagement we are having with our agricultural producers in Iowa. They are at the table to start helping us. It has been a big driver for us to stay ahead because that is the service we can provide to our constituents and is very powerful for conversations. Question, is there conversation about expanding CHAT (Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool) nationwide at some point, is that still being discussed? *Keith Sexson, KS* – I think it is, it started when WAFWA took this on, but AFWA was involved too. *Ron Regan, AFWA* – There are still ongoing discussions, WAFWA has the lead, at least with western specific CHAT, but we are looking for ways to help facilitate the exploitation of some of those concepts into other region work going on. It is still alive and well. *Keith Sexson, KS* – Kansas is part of Great Plains LCC, that particular LCC, along with Gulf Coast LCC, was where some land cover mapping efforts took place in Texas and Oklahoma, as a result of partnership with LCCs to bring money to the table. We are looking at Kansas and Nebraska to be next two states in Great Plains LCC to try to repeat land cover information. It is real important that kind of information ties into what CHAT represented. We have some experienced people who are involved in the Western Governor's Initiative, or CHAT. Mike Houts is part of Western Association group and is instrumental in working with Western on updating that CHAT. We've got the expertise out there and every state has folks involved with mapping efforts. It is just a matter of bringing it all together. Appreciate your support. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Incredible update. Excited over next few years to see action items working items be checked off. Thanks for your leadership.

#### **USFWS/MAFWA Monarch Butterfly NOFO (notice of funding opportunity)**

*Ollie Torgerson* – When executive committee met in Pittsburg, Tom Melius told us of his desire to hire a person to help his staff and liaison with the monarch/pollinator initiative and he was exploring a sole source contract and funneling that money through our Association to hire that person, who is Ed Boggett. The Executive Committee had discussion in May about that, our standard banking fee is 5% and that was in the NOFO, but then we learned we are eligible for 10% in this agreement. When we worked it all through Tom's shop that fee was changed from 5% to 10%. The executive committee was reluctant to move forward on their own, but they passed a motion to recommend to the Board of Directors to enter into this NOFO. There are 15 pages of forms which was



boiled down into a one page summary, which I shared with you. The one-pager basically outlines the responsibilities of the parties. We would do some of the paperwork with Tom's staff assisting. Roger would do that paperwork, receive the funds from the U.S. government under this agreement, but the USFWS would supervise Ed, approve the timesheets and send requests for funds to Roger, who would write the checks to Ed. Also, we would have to do the close-out reports at the end. It is an 18-month contract which would start as soon as it is signed and approved. It is basically to give Tom to help with a well-known entity (Ed) to do some of the liaison work across the states in the monarch flyway. In the NFWF grant there is a coordinator too who would have some key leadership so Kelley and Bill don't have to spend all their time on this. The NOFO is a noncompetitive, direct grant which we didn't know the Service could do. *Tom Melius, USFWS* – Use those contracts sparingly when we want to move something quickly along. We do have to go out and advertise, which we have done. While a 15 page document might seem ominous to work through, I told Roger anytime he wants to visit with our fiscal people to streamline the process we are more than open to do that. We have a good candidate who fits into this issue without having to learn a whole lot because he has been instrumental in moving on behalf of this association and working with AFWA on this issue. It will help me out a lot and the Director is hoping for positive response so await positive action from this Board. *Ed Boggess* – This is an exciting opportunity for me. I have dealt with pretty controversial subject matter in my career, but everyone loves monarch butterflies. As Kelley alluded to we are bringing together a lot of interests on something that could really advance conservation. Habitat is the key to monarchs and milkweed is part of that, but not the whole thing. Exciting opportunity if the Board sees fit to enter into this. I really like the idea MAFWA having a role in it in addition to the federal side of it. *Tom Melius, USFWS* – With what Keith was just saying, and Kelley also, I have an 18-month window to do species status assessment before a decision is going to be moved to Washington on what this petition has been asking us to look at. It is much better to get ahead of the game and this will help us do that; make sure we have good planning, good coordination, good information to make final decisions we have to make, which hopefully allows the people to do restoration work that benefits thousands of species. *Ollie* – This is entering us into Federal contract work, which has been a concern of the Executive Committee because it can take a considerable amount of time on my and the treasurer's part because there are a lot of reporting and forms. We have stayed away from federal grants in the past, but felt this would give us soft entry into the process because it is an 18-month grant with not a lot of paperwork (as far as we can tell) but we are also getting a NFWF grant. This means we have our eyes open as we go down this road of federal grants. We don't know how much time it will require from us, but we are going to find out it may take more hours than we think right now, particularly Roger's time. Had several discussions in executive committee and we think this is a good one to enter into to feel our way. WAFWA is very heavy into federal grants and has 4-5 financial people and full time executive secretary. We have a recommendation from the Executive Committee for you to approve MAFWA entering into this contract; need your endorsement. ***Motion from Executive Committee, second by Kelley Myers, IA.*** *Jim Leach, MN* – Would work on grant come from 400 hours? *Bob Ziehrmer, MO* – Yes, got input from Roger and the way it is streamlined, a pass through, he doesn't see a lot of hours; we will monitor and continue to have this discussion as we go through future

Executive Committee meetings, and if need be we can modify his contract to raise those hours. *Kelley Myers, IA* – Want to generally speak in favor of this, working on monarch issues and the kind of care this position can give, at this level, is needed and important at this time. The NFWF grant we have applied for would fund that technical piece.. It was all considered together to be part of this package, so it completes this planning. Keith's presentation shows the amount of coordination we are getting into when it passes planning phase and goes into implementation phase. Having all of our ducks in a row going to help us. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – I'm speaking in favor. Question, Tom, as you were speaking on monarch/pollinator effort, using monarchs as something the public can relate to, in this position will Ed be coordinating and be able to communicate back to states with more clarity? Exactly what is Mexico doing because I have no doubt the U.S. is going to send them millions of monarchs. What assurance do we have, as we are creating plans, that Mexico has a commitment also on protecting the habitat where the butterflies are going to overwinter? Yesterday, the presenter pointed out the lack of forest resource next to where the butterflies overwinter, do we have clarity of Mexico's commitment? *Tom Melius, USFWS* – There is strong Mexican federal level commitment and at the state level. Land ownership is different down there, the slide that showed all the monarchs in those valleys, come off land that is owned by communities, so there is a potential for enforcement of logging regulations that we are concerned about. That is one of the issues being discussed. We have a trilateral summit meeting coming up this week or next week in Ottawa, part of that strategic plan, if signed both those three, logging enforcement in those communities in wintering area is very important and high on that agreement. In Canada, both on federal and provincial side, there is good agreement to work for restoration of the habitat. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – All ties back to Ed today. ***Motion carried.*** *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Congratulations Ed.

### **Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow**

*Zach Lowe, Director* (Exhibit 46) – I am also vice-president of Center for Conservation Leadership in northern Illinois. Those unfamiliar with CLfT will get this overview, but most of you are familiar with this or someone on your staff is. We focus on the consumptive use of wildlife, specifically hunting, but we do deal with angling and trapping to a certain extent. We ensure, at professional level, there is training and advancement of and understanding of the role consumptive use of wildlife has in conservation. We are a conservation organization, a nonprofit. If you look at how we perform and what we do, the feedback we get from agencies is summarized in a number of ways. The take home message is these four things: advance professional understanding of hunting and consumptive uses of wildlife; preserve hunting, angling and trapping for the benefit of conservation; deliver needed and relevant curriculum; and, apolitical in delivery and design of that curriculum. Behind the scenes people look at us as a recruitment and retention program and while there is some effort to make wildlife professionals hunters and that is not necessarily the case, even though CLfT plays a critical role in recruitment and retention. Our role is to make sure agencies have staff that have an understanding of what hunting means for conservation. If all of our programs out there continue to gain ground that is a wonderful thing. We would have more constituency base to draw from, but it is still up to us as agencies to have a staff that interacts with that resource and interacts with that constituency group. The one



educational goal we have, and how we advertise nationally, is “to identify the future and current leaders of the natural resources profession who do not hunt and provide them with an understanding of the diverse values and important roles of hunting and its impact on conservation”. We are very transparent in that mission and it is a straightforward directive. On a national scale, 43 states( BLM, USFS & USFWS) have signed on (in blue on map) and have sent individuals. Most have sent more than a dozen and Texas, Florida and Georgia have sent close to 40 individuals each. States (green plusses on map) are the states that have come on last few years, and federal agencies (red stars), mostly USFWS, but increasingly BLM and USFS. We run workshops for universities. We have 32 professional workshops starting in 2010, at request of state and federal wildlife agency directors. Next year we will have eight professional workshops spread out throughout the U.S., working on expanding private and federal partnerships and working with federal agencies with greatest need (USDA and NRSC particularly). We are a small nonprofit organization, so bring one federal agency on a year-- a productive plan for us. Want to discuss entering into a cooperative state agreement with MAFWA, a number of you have seen a draft of this agreement about a year ago, questions emerged and I wanted to answer those. These agreements we are offering regionally across the nation: we have a SEAFWA agreement signed and in place for 3 years now, MO and KY participated in that agreement. We have a NEAFWA agreement and WAFWA just signed their agreement this spring. Covering bases with MAFWA, but specifically answering questions you have and shaping what this would look like in Midwest should you chose to participate. For those of you who have sent staff to CLfT it would operate as it has in the past, we handle most of the logistics, take them from their doorstep and back again; we handle travel, meals, lodging, we pick up bill. We have tried to extend as many opportunities throughout the Midwest as we can, but we need shared cooperative financial support. Cover all travel costs, tuition and room and board as part of the agreement. States can use PR dollars if they choose and we provide the match and documentation. Something that came out of other regional Associations, a state may nominate any wildlife professional. In the past directors have said they don’t have staff that need to attend because they typically hire an individual with a hunting background. But increasingly, as agreements have matured, states have used for their own staff and partners as well. The USFWS last year had a pollinator biologist in Region 5 and they opted to send to ensure that person, who primarily had an entomology background, could be conversant with hunting public on habitat and how this is going to work in the refuge system. A couple of other states have followed that lead. Also used for sister agencies, like NJ who used it for parks personnel, who are not in the same house. A number of states have sent commissioners and some states have sent their secretaries above the director. We cover a wide breath of who agencies work with, not only your staff. Think of it as a way to ensure not only your staff, but your partners understand the role of consumptive use in wildlife. Nuts and bolts: this is a three year agreement, each state at \$10,000 a year which ensures a minimum of four positions from each state. This covers our absolute operating cost. All of the money goes back into this program. The McGraw Foundation underwrites my salary and Dave Windsor’s along with our travel expenses. An agreement would mean participating states would receive an invoice from MAFWA and all of that money would come collectively back to us and then be issued as a single check to McGraw. It doesn’t require every state to opt in only those that want to, but it

cuts out overhead for us. Use any eligible funds you chose as a state, most states use PR funds and it doesn't require writing an additional grant. You can tie into advanced Hunter Education grants. This is already vetted through USFWS and the process runs smoothly. We provide the match and it is no cost to line item budget, just allocation of PR funds. Some other states have used training budgets. I mentioned it can be allocated to partners and finally something that offers assurances, any state or organization can withdraw with 60 days notice, so this does not tie anyone into a long term financial commitment other than showing us intent and good faith. This allows us to plan at a national level, put logistics together, know the demand to line up facilities because there is a cost related to that. This allows you as state agencies to build it into your training and professional development plans. Some years we get two positions from states and other years we might get five, so it is hard for me to know where I can move executive staff. What I hope to achieve today: helpful for us to know which Midwest states would like to cooperate in an agreement. We can't offer service for free in perpetuity because we don't have the endowment funds to run the program. Current cost is \$750,000 a year and we have been footing that bill. We will continue to provide matching funds. Knowing what states would like to participate would be helpful for myself and Ollie if you agree to an agreement. That can be confirmed through recording of the minutes, or email to myself or Ollie, or if you have another preferred mechanism within Midwest. If you know today you are interested in participating we will in good faith move forward and get your staff the recruitment material and allow you to make the selection process. It is about a three month process for us to confirm where they are going to attend and make travel arrangements. I would stress the importance of a liaison, some directors have acted as liaison, but usually a deputy director is the one. Need a person who can broker decisions, someone trusted to reach out to partners and prioritize the list of people coming in and who should attend this year versus next year. *Wayne Rosenthal, IL* – How long? *Zach Lowe* – Essentially they show up on Monday around noon and leave Friday around noon, 42 direct contact hours, so a long week. That is something you will see on selection criteria, it needs to be somebody who is not personally familiar with hunting, preferably in a leadership position, someone who can step away for essentially four days. *Jim Douglas, NE* – Logistically in identifying states that want to participate, does that start today and how often is it reviewed? *Zach Lowe* – Helpful for us if starts today so we can get your people the sign up information needed. My commitment is to show up every directors meeting in spring or summer. The idea is a three year commitment because that will allow us to go out and procure the facilities, but if at the end of the second year you decide it is not working for you that is all we need to know, basically an annual review. *Kurt Thiede, WI* – Minimum or maximum number of participants per state, reference to four, as part of this agreement some expectation to send maximum number? *Zach Lowe* – Four is the safe number, but often times opportunity to get an alternate, usually select four and provide two alternates. We like to run 16-24 people at a workshop. Four is the reasonable expectation and four is where we break even on the costs. Four is the target number and knowing it will never be less than that, but may be more is a good way to do it. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – From Missouri's prospective this has been great training. Individuals we often send are tied to our communications outreach arm and may live or be stationed in an urban environment and just not had that experience. Zach could provide template to Ollie of cooperative agreement used by other Associations and Ollie



send to the states within Midwest not already participating. Missouri signed on through SEAFWA, it streamlines everything for Missouri. Not sure which states are not part of NEAFWA, WAFWA or SEAFWA agreements. Let those states look at and see if they have questions. No real downside to this training. It does streamline things and gets you in cheaper because you are not doing it individually. How can we take this topic and get to action point to move forward with MAFWA cooperative agreement or not? *Ollie* – Zach is asking for two things, what states that are here already participate and if you are interested in entering into agreement with Zach, and that would be between you and CLfT. *Zach Lowe* – no, cooperative agreement will be with MAFWA. *Ollie* – So state would execute a cooperative agreement with us? *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – No, the way SEAFWA did it is they executed a cooperative agreement with the organization and then states could opt in or out, it is rather quick and simple and CLfT is working with one entity. If there are states that want to sign on and this body says we want to move forward and sign a cooperative agreement; that is how it is worded. *Ollie* – Once cooperative agreement is executed, the role of our Association would be to invoice states for \$10,000 each year per the three year agreement, collect money and pass through to you? There is no individual state agreement? *Zach Lowe* – That is correct. The \$10,000 is representative of a number that is tolerable for most states to send to regional association, PR eligible, and fits in advanced hunter education grants. *Ollie* – Second question deals with the policy of the board to collect 5% banking fee for pass through funds; other regions have waived that, but if you enter into this agreement that would have to be included in motion. *Zach Lowe* – We also don't take any money, we claim no overhead expenses. *Jim Douglas, NE* – Is agreement with WAFWA in force right now? *Zach Lowe* – It is, they have handled it a little longer time scale than other regional associations. There are a number of MAFWA states that could sign on to the WAFWA agreement. Part of the conversation we had at the North American is it is more important for the state to decide which regional association they more strongly associate with or would like to be in cooperative agreement with. It is the same agreement whether WAFWA or MAFWA. It is up to each individual state. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Hesitant to move forward with passing a motion when states have not seen this contract. How many states here are not signed on with another Association that would give you an opportunity to participate with CLfT? (7 states raised hands). How many states find yourselves also participating in another Association where a cooperative agreement exists which would allow you flexibility to sign? (3 raised hands, four if you add MO). Looking for direction from you, if I was a director not in the program already, I would want my legal team to review the cooperative agreement. Could we ask Zach to provide that to Ollie, have Ollie share with states on timeline, not looking to delay; what is preference of the body here? How do we move this forward? *Kelley Myers, IA* – Appreciate this opportunity. It is an interesting approach. I like to look at legal documents and we are just starting to look at new budget on July 1. I could spend time over next month looking at this and maybe at next executive committee meeting report to Ollie what those states are thinking. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Zach provide Ollie with template being utilized by other Associations and one page summary explaining what a state would get. *Zach Lowe* – It will happen. *Kurt Thiede, WI* – Also, as part of that information, what it would cost a state to go individually, I know there are other benefits, but having that figure might also help to show what we would be gaining by grouping our efforts.

**2017 Budget Approval** – **Bob Ziehmer, MO** – Looked at and discussed this during Executive Committee meeting and recommended to be brought forward.

**Roger Luebbert** (Exhibit 47) – First page is reference showing calendar year 2016 budget and shows actual receipts and disbursements for this year up through June 9. Second page is 2017 proposed budget. Consumer price index (CPI) change was less than 1%, 0.793%, and that changes state membership dues to \$3,830.12 each, an increase of \$30.12; province dues to \$101.48 each, an increase of \$0.80; sponsorship/exhibitor income of \$47,500 is based on estimate from this conference; Southern Wings administrative fee, we are using 2015 calendar year actual amount of \$4,625; pheasant coordinator administrative fees (5% of calendar year 2015) \$3,725; and all of the other line items are the same as the 2016 budget. Total estimated receipts of \$130,221. On disbursement side, changed Delaney Meeting and Event Management to contract amount, which is \$14,930, and the only other change is executive secretary pay for CPI change, \$40.86, it was \$40.54, a \$0.32 increase. Total estimated disbursements of \$122,761.50. With estimated receipts over estimated disbursements of \$7,460. ***Executive Committee moved to adopt, Keith Sexson, KS second.*** **Kurt Thiede, WI** – Sponsorships that Ollie talked about, how are they reflected here? **Ollie** – This figure is the best guess I have with those sponsors dropping out; \$47,500; it was about \$55,000, I need your help to get these lost sponsorships back or get new ones, we are losing ground. ***Motion carried.***

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**NCLI** – **Bob Ziehmer, MO** – Terry referenced this earlier. Dave Chanda had sent an email out to the directorship indicating there was a shortfall, somewhere between \$60,000 and \$100,000 for NCLI. He is challenging Associations to step forward to make up the gap. We will put out for discussion. Following up with Dave's comments the other day and from my perspective I have a question, where will those funds be spent or how? What is overall budget right now for NCLI and have they clarified it is not just state staff that are utilizing some of these funds, there are partner organizations? More information would benefit me. One action item would be to have Ollie communicate back to get information we are looking for, if we don't get to a motion. **Ron Regan, AFWA** – You might recall, those of you on AFWAs Executive Committee, we had a discussion at December executive committee meeting about a business plan for NCLI, so material is readily available based on background work already provided. The President is trying to drive at here is that it seems like every year (I serve on NCLI Board) they find themselves questioning if there will be enough money to fund and manage through another class of fellows. What the President is suggesting is this is an opportunity for regional associations to make a contribution to help provide a little above capacity, or a little more assurance for financial stability from year to year. I can reach out to Gina Main and help make that happen. She will give you some good background. **Bob Ziehmer, MO** – Missouri is invested in training staff at all levels so as I visited with Dave offline, under the thought process that we usually pay, I know my state is right at the top. We are sending as many people as they will let us. This training is very good. I understand there are other states at other end of the spectrum for solid reasons and I appreciate where you are at. Missouri is willing, and some other states may not have the capability, but we would pay. I don't know if that discussion has been reviewed and not something that is



going to be successful long term. *Jim Douglas, NE* – Nebraska sent four people, we agree with your sentiments, something we want to maintain as something available in the long term. Sense some understandable reluctance to make a move right now in absence of information you suggested we be provided because it is not clear whether what we would do would be as helpful in long term without knowing history of funding. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – The business plan Ron referenced would be helpful. *Terry Steinwand, ND* – Don't think Dave expected a decision out of this board given short time frame he gave us. *Ollie* – Since we only meet once a year, it would be a year from now when the decision could be made; he was asking for \$10,000, comfort from Board to allow Executive Committee to make that decision before next meeting? *Kurt Thiede, WI* – If we have opportunity to review business plan and other information, I would feel comfortable providing feedback to executive board through Ollie, at least provide our perspective. As a state we look at every program and make sure they are being as efficient as possible. *Kelley Myers, IA* – I agree. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – Ron, get something to Ollie before next executive committee conference call in August; shoot email out and stimulate some thought right away.

### **Passing of Gavel to Nebraska**

**Bob Ziehmer, MO passed gavel to Jim Douglas, NE.** *Ollie* – Handing gavel off to qualified person, with amazing skill set, passionate, loyalty, focused, enthusiasm and accountability like nobody else, Jim Douglas. *Ollie* – Passing the gavel is ceremonial only.

*Jim Douglas, NE* – I appreciate all of the kind words. Before you pass it let me say something. When I saw you were moving on to do something else Bob, I truly thought, MAFWA, and AFWA executive committee and on many other fronts we were losing a very thoughtful, reasonable, insightful voice helping guide all of these major efforts, not just in Midwest but nationally. I was glad to hear, without much detail, that you are going to continue to provide that kind of leadership. Even at this conference, which has been tremendous, thank you, but it has been evident the things you advocate for, involvement of the public and holistic approach to conservation is something we all need to be more mindful of. You will serve conservation well in whatever you are going to do. I want to thank you for being tremendous leader for Midwest over last year, which is highly evident you know how to move things forward. You look at all of the accomplishments that have happened and the synergy is going to make even more good things happen. It will be easier for Nebraska to follow those precepts. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – It has been a real privilege. *Jim Douglas, NE* – We have an award for you: (read from plaque) “2016 Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Past President's Award presented to Robert L. Ziehmer”, it should say something about the great state of Missouri, thank you. *Bob Ziehmer, MO* – A true privilege, you are all invited, I have a farm, my lodge, and this will hang in the lodge farmhouse and you are all welcome to stop by and look, have a cup of coffee and enjoy the sunrise anytime you happen to be in central Missouri. This plaque will remind me of you and all of the great work you are doing. There are tough challenges, critics out there in society we serve today. I am amazed at what you do, your focus and desire and fire in the gut. You keep moving conservation forward. Like me, any credit Missouri has coming goes back to a great staff. We have an incredible staff

plus 6 million Missourians who really embrace, forestry, fish and wildlife in our state, so Missouri is in good hands as I transition on and MAFWA is in great hands, thanks again.

**Conference Adjourns**

***Bob Ziehmer, MO moved to adjourn, Mark Reiter, IN second. Conference adjourned at 11:34 pm.***

*Appendix A – PowerPoint Photos*





# **MIDWEST**

Association of  
Fish & Wildlife  
Agencies

®

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016**

**June 28, 2017**

# MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

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**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
ACCOUNT BALANCE SUMMARY**

	<b>As of December 31</b>		
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Checking and Savings Accounts			
General (Banking)	\$55,864.49	\$135,389.89	\$229,098.42
Conference	110,206.28	99,368.04	154,618.56
Southern Wings	5.00	52,255.00	13.22
Federal Grant	5,477.73	5,477.73	42,411.04
Credit Union Share Account	5.00	3.00	25.49
Investment accounts			
Money Market & Securities Account	367,804.73	357,308.53	403,969.28
Conservation Enhancement Fund	4,143.05	4,034.58	4,255.83
Total	\$543,506.28	\$653,836.77	\$834,391.84



**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2016 CASH FLOW SUMMARY  
GENERAL (BANKING) ACCOUNT**

Balance as of January 1, 2016	\$135,389.89
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Receipts

Contributions for Pheasant Coordinator	\$107,000.00	
2016 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference - Michigan	43,739.04	
2015 Pollinator Conference - USFWS Sponsorship	5,000.00	
National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee	44.92	
Interest	<u>363.77</u>	
Total Receipts		156,147.73

Disbursements

Pheasants Forever - National Pheasant Coordinator	\$46,190.28	
MAFWA Deer and Turkey Conference	2,904.92	
Banking Fee:		
National Pheasant Coordinator	9,700.00	
2016 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference - Michigan	<u>3,644.00</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>\$62,439.20</u>

Balance as of December 31, 2016	\$229,098.42
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Note: Designations of the ending balance are MI \$41,995.12, Pheasants \$138,109.72, KS \$39,471.81 and National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee \$44.92.

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2016 CASH FLOW SUMMARY  
CONFERENCE ACCOUNT**

Balance as of January 1, 2016		\$99,368.04
Receipts		
Annual Dues	\$76,106.30 *	
Sponsors	48,000.00	
Registrations	25,410.00	
Hotel Commissions	4,134.20	
Affiliate	1,500.00	
Administrative Fee:		
Southern Wings	1,000.00	
National Pheasant Coordinator	9,700.00	
2016 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference - Michigan	3,644.00	
Interest	243.63	
	<u>Total Receipts</u>	\$169,738.13
Disbursements		
Executive Secretary		
Pay	\$40,529.10	
Travel Reimbursement	6,943.75	
Treasurer		
Pay	11,780.00	
Travel Reimbursement	2,315.15	
Recording Secretary - Travel Reimbursement	377.02	
North Central Section of the Wildlife Society	274.03	
Insurance	1,392.00	
Accounting fees	1,567.50	
Miscellaneous	168.01	
Pheasant Coordinator - NM Contribution - Wrong Account	2,500.00	
Transfer to Federal Account	4,522.27	
Transfer to Share Account	23.00	
Conference		
Delaney Meeting and Event Management	13,006.35	
Hotel	19,487.42	
Field Trip	4,435.00	
Prizes and Awards	1,651.02	
Equipment Rental	1,676.00	
Credit Card Fees	1,094.93	
Printing, Postage, and Advertising	745.06	
	<u>Total Disbursements</u>	\$114,487.61
Balance as of December 31, 2016		\$154,618.56

\* Calendar year 2015 membership dues invoices were mailed in early 2016.

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2016 CASH FLOW SUMMARY  
SOUTHERN WINGS ACCOUNT**

Balance as of January 1, 2016	\$52,255.00
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Receipts

Contributions	\$20,000.00
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Interest	<u>8.22</u>
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Total Receipts	\$20,008.22
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Disbursements

Administrative fee	\$1,000.00
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American Bird Conservancy	66,500.00
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Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	<u>4,750.00</u>
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Total Disbursements	<u>\$72,250.00</u>
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Balance as of December 31, 2016	\$13.22
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**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2016 CASH FLOW SUMMARY  
FEDERAL GRANT ACCOUNT**

Balance as of January 1, 2016	\$5,477.73
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Receipts

State Contributions - Monarch Project	\$30,000.00
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Federal Reimbursements - USFWS	26,774.01
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Transfer From Conference Account	4,522.27
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Interest	<u>22.29</u>
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Total Receipts	\$61,318.57
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Disbursements

Monarch - USFWS Coordinator:

Pay	\$17,907.50
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Travel	5,826.81
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Supplies and Equipment	<u>650.95</u>
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Total Disbursements	<u>\$24,385.26</u>
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Balance as of December 31, 2016	\$42,411.04
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**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2016 CASH FLOW SUMMARY  
CREDIT UNION SHARE ACCOUNT**

Balance as of January 1, 2016	\$3.00
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Receipts

Transfer From Conference Account	\$23.00
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Interest	\$0.49
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Total Receipts	\$23.49
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Disbursements

Banking Charge for Paper Statements	\$1.00
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Total Disbursements	<u>\$1.00</u>
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Balance as of December 31, 2016	\$25.49
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**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2016 ACCOUNT SUMMARY  
MONEY MARKET AND SECURITIES ACCOUNT**

Balance as of January 1, 2016	\$357,308.53
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Receipts

Interest	\$13,343.05
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Dividends	<u>\$8,037.48</u>
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Total Receipts	\$21,380.53
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Change in market value	<u>\$25,280.22</u>
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Balance as of December 31, 2016	\$403,969.28
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**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2016 ACCOUNT SUMMARY  
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT FUND**

Balance as of January 1, 2016	\$4,034.58
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Receipts

Contributions	\$100.00
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Dividends	<u>\$142.19</u>
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Total Receipts	\$242.19
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Disbursements

Holding & Reporting Fee	<u>\$50.00</u>
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Total Disbursements	\$50.00
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Change in market value	<u>\$29.06</u>
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Balance as of December 31, 2016	\$4,255.83
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