

# Nationally Significant Wildlife Health Issues

**John Fischer**

Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study

College of Veterinary Medicine

The University of Georgia

MAFWA Directors Meeting

June 26, 2018

# West Nile Virus



- Growing concerns about impacts on game birds, especially grouse
- MI, MN, PA, WI, others -- discussing surveys for antibodies and virus to better understand exposure and impacts
- Possible experimental inoculation of wild turkeys, other species



# **Virulent Newcastle Disease (VND)**

- **Ongoing outbreak among “backyard” flocks in California**
- **If this spills over into commercial poultry there will be a large emergency response**
- **An “all hands on deck” response could impact USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services attention to other issues, such as CWD**
- **(VND occurs in cormorants without implications for poultry if adequate biosecurity)**



# Longhorned Tick

*(Haemaphysalis longicornis)*

- Detected on a sheep in NJ in Nov 2017
- Native to Asia; earlier introductions to Australia and New Zealand
- Carries human, livestock, & wildlife pathogens
- Infestations may number in the 100s or 1000s
- Has been detected in AR, NC, NJ, VA, WV dating back to 2010 after review of collections





# **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)**



- Has been found in wild cervids in 23 states- Montana and Mississippi are new since we met last year**
- Still detectable in 22 of those states (NY is the exception)**
- Has been found in new areas in states where it already was known to occur (MI, MO, WI, others)**

# Chronic Wasting Disease



- **Unmanaged, CWD foci expand and prevalence increases**
- **Population impacts documented in WTD and mule deer**
- **Effective CWD management strategies remain elusive**

# Chronic Wasting Disease



- ***WAFWA Recommendations for Adaptive Management of CWD in the West*** – assessable and adaptable
- **3 key strategies**
  - **reduce artificial host concentration points (baiting, feeding, mineral licks, etc.)**
  - **increase buck harvest, timing for post-rut harvest**
  - **post-season targeted sharpshooting**





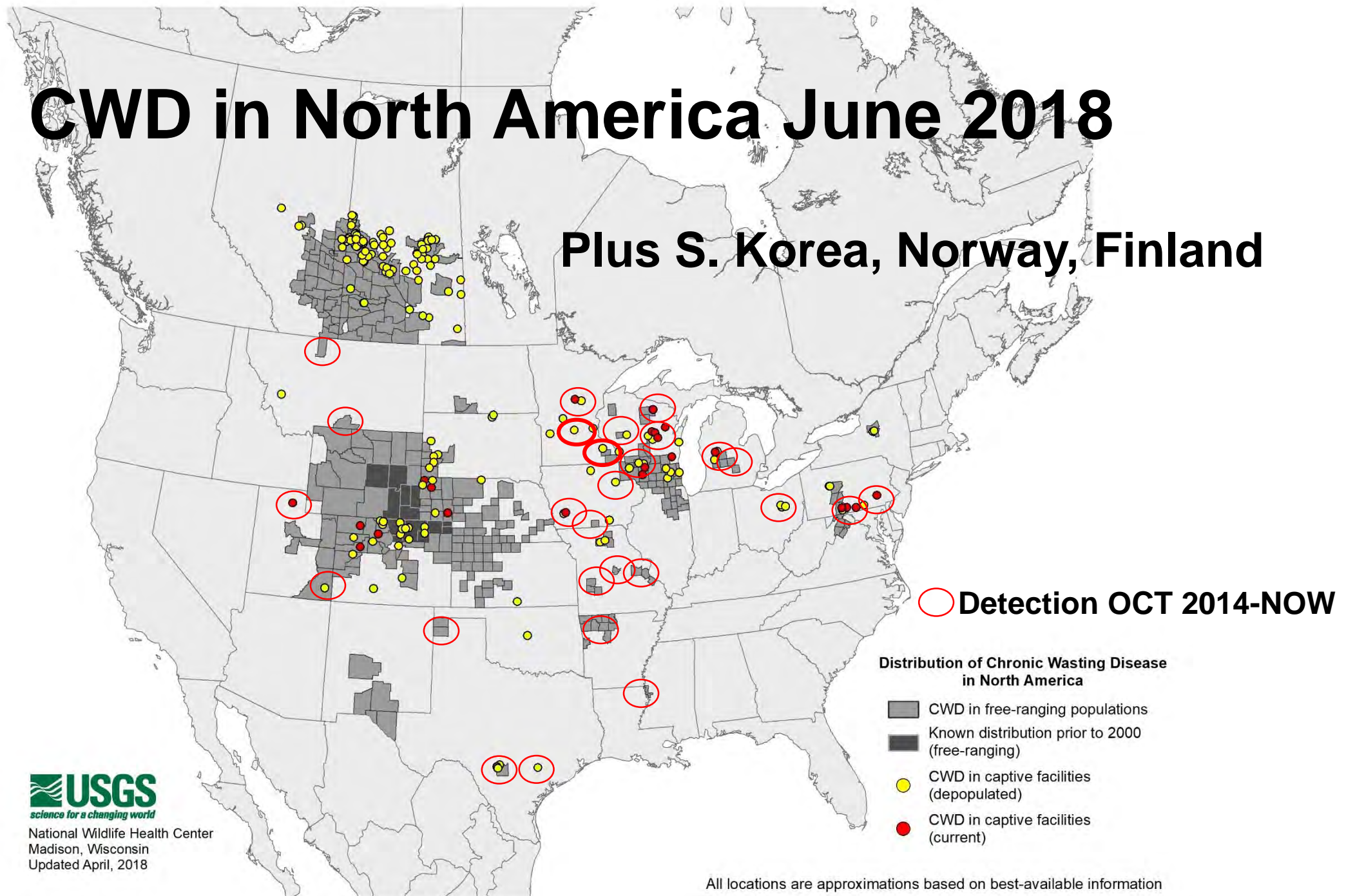
# CWD in Captive Cervids

- 100 captive cervid herds (16 states) since 1997
- 37 herds since HCP implementation in 2014
- Since October 1, 2017 = 15 herds including at least 5 herds certified “as being at low risk of having CWD”
- First documented interstate shipment of CWD+ deer from certified herd (PA -> WI)
- First captive reindeer in the USA (IL)
- More than 300 public comments were received by APHIS on the revised CWD Program Standards; publication pending



# CWD in North America June 2018

Plus S. Korea, Norway, Finland



# Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

## NORWAY



- Since 2016, CWD in 18 reindeer, 3 moose, and 1 red deer
- Exterminated the reindeer population in the affected region (~2000 animals); will remain open for years, then repopulate

# CWD in Norway

- **Reindeer cases resemble North American CWD: pathology, protein profile, found in younger animals**
- **Moose and red deer cases differ from NA cases: pathology & protein profile not the same, found only in very old animals; believed to occur sporadically and arise spontaneously**





# CWD Research News:

## Mineral Licks

- CWD prions found in soil at 7/11 sites in endemic area in S WI; in water at 4/9 sites; in 6/10 fecal samples at a positive soil site
- **CONCLUSION:** Mineral licks can serve as reservoirs of CWD prions, facilitate transmission, and provide opportunities for cross-species transmission





# CWD Research News: Cattle Study

- Some cattle orally inoculated
- Other cattle cohoused in outdoor pens where CWD was enzootic
- Common paddocks, feed, water and daily contact with infected cervids
- No neurological disease after 10 years
- No evidence of prion accumulation
- **CONCLUSION:** Transmission risk to cattle is **LOW**



# CWD Research News: 2018 Macaque Study

- Macaques inoculated orally or intracerebrally with CWD
- No disease/detection of CWD prions 11-13 years post inoculation
- **CONCLUSION:** No evidence of CWD transmission to macaques in this study



# **CWD Research News: 2018 Macaque Study**

- **Results differ from macaque study made public in 2017**
- **There are several differences in the Materials and Methods that may explain the difference in results**



# Best Management Practices for CWD

- **First draft was distributed to states for comments; comments & recommendations incorporated**
- **Final draft is undergoing editing; will be forwarded to directors in advance of the AFWA meeting**
- **There will be a resolution in support of the BMPs**









United States Department of Agriculture

*Welcome to North Dakota*







United States Department of Agriculture







United States Department of Agriculture







United States Department of Agriculture





United States Department of Agriculture





United States Department of Agriculture







United States Department of Agriculture

# NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE SERVICES

(701) 355-3300

**Ryan Powers**  
District Supervisor  
(701) 355-3304

**John Paulson**  
State Director  
(701) 355-3308

Gary Larson  
Contract Pilot

Brent Ternes  
Crewmember  
(701) 355-3303

Wade Jones  
Wildlife Disease  
Biologist  
(701) 355-3306

Dale Waites  
Wildlife Biologist  
Minot AFB  
(701) 403-0611

Leah Wetch  
Budget Analyst  
(701) 355-3302

Terry Haggart  
Contract Pilot

Rubbert Aerial  
(Jan & Chris)  
Contract Pilot

Andrew Wiseman  
Bio. Science Tech  
(701) 355-3301

**Josh Kuechle**  
Wildlife Biologist  
Grand Forks AFB  
352-258-5314

Vacant  
MIS Data Tech  
(701) 355-3305

**District 1 – Tyler Haase**  
Kenmare, ND  
701-339-5738 - C

**District 2 – Aaron Freund**  
Towner, ND  
701-390-7186 - C

**District 3 – Dean Janzen**  
Inkster, ND  
701-331-7067 - C

**District 4 – Kirby Morgenstern**  
Beulah, ND  
701-301-1046 - C

**District 5 – Cody Krause**  
Carrington, ND  
701-649-6700 - C

**District 6 – Brent Belland**  
New England, ND  
701-440-6939 - C

**District 7 – Mike Halstead**  
Elgin, ND  
701-226-5083 - C

**District 8 – Jeremy Duckwitz**  
Moffit, ND  
701-319-9576 - C

**District 9 – Joel Lyons**  
Walcott, ND  
701-934-3845 - C

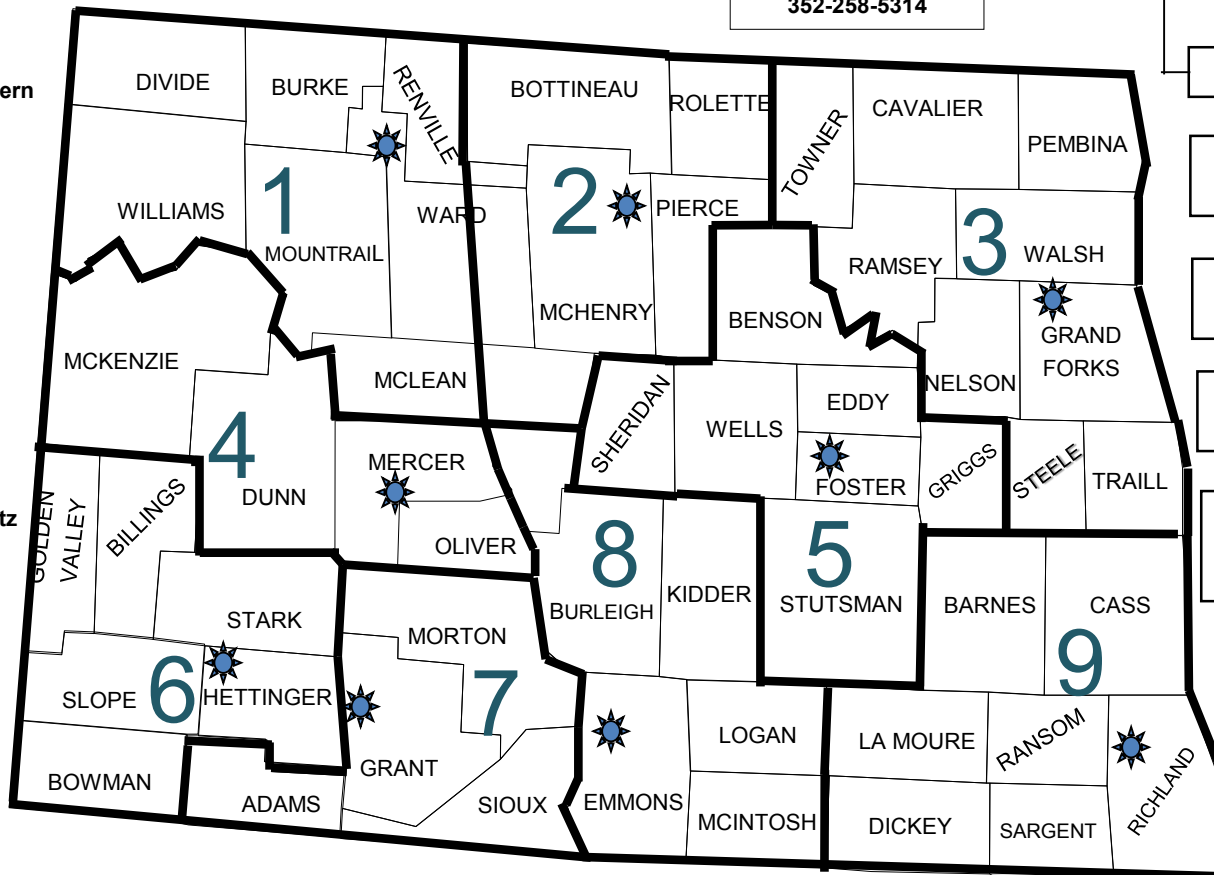
Seasonal

Nat Bornsen  
701-425-1876

Mark Monti  
701-390-3715

Rick Tischeafer  
701-390-3714

Rodney O'Clair  
(Contractor)  
701-390-4001







United States Department of Agriculture

## SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE SERVICES

(701) 355-3300

**John Paulson**  
State Director  
(701) 355-3308

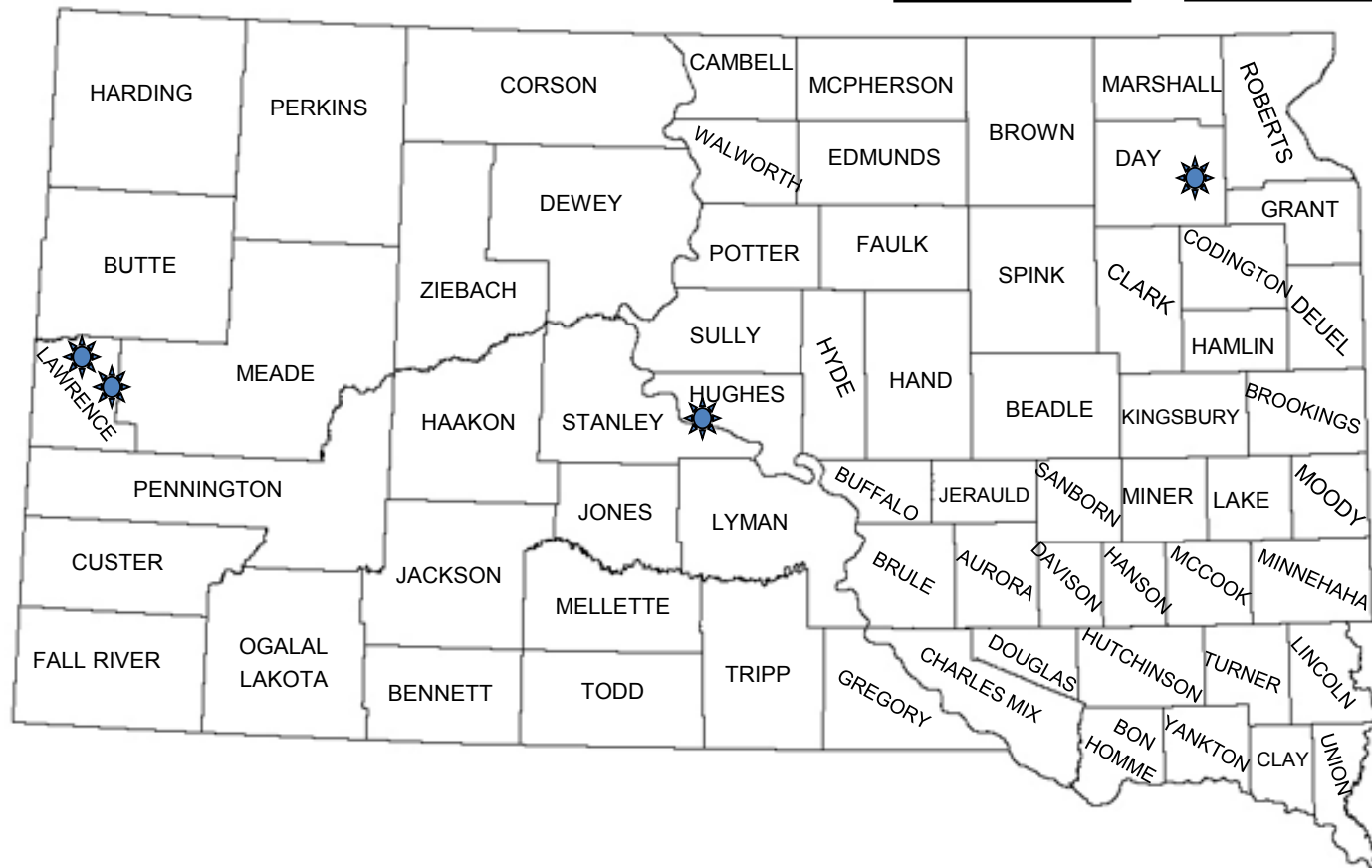
Leah Wetch  
Budget Analyst  
(701) 355-3302

Shane Huseby  
Agency Pilot  
605-641-7396

Tony DeCino  
Agency Pilot  
720-236-9058

Dan Turgeon  
Crewmember  
605-430-1725

Colt Abel  
Bio. Science Tech  
218-671-1212





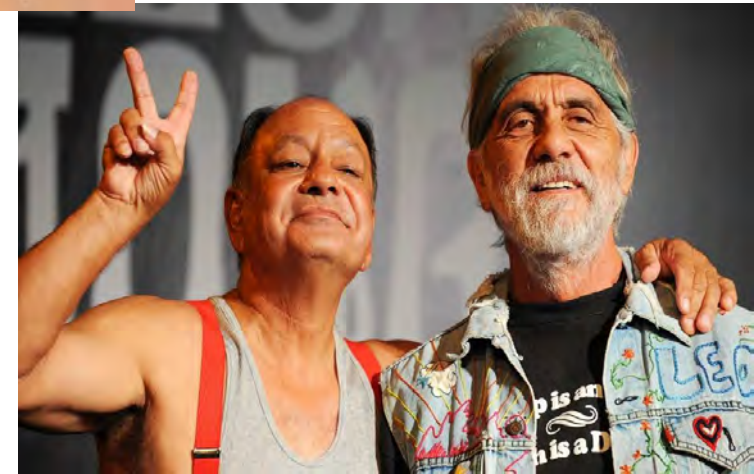
United States Department of Agriculture

# Protecting Agriculture, People, Natural Resources and Wildlife





# Long-term partnerships (relationships)



Doc.

378.15  
N814e  
1916

## North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

### The Work of the Experiment Station

26 <sup>th</sup> REPORT OF DIRECTOR  
Thomas P. Cooper

#### RODENT CONTROL

In 1914, a co-operative arrangement was affected with the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for a study of methods of control and extermination of ground squirrels, pocket gophers, prairie dogs, and other rodent pests occurring in the state. Because of the damage caused by the flicker-tail or Richardson ground squirrel, and since no satisfactory method had been discovered for its control, the first experimental work under the Agricultural Experiment Station was undertaken upon this species. This work was started near Bottineau in April, 1914, and an extended series of experiments was conducted there and at other places in the state until September, 1914. The experimental investigations developed a method of control and extermination which field tests showed to be especially efficient and economical. This method was published in Experiment Station Circular No. 4.

The 1915 legislature appropriated a revolving fund of \$3,500.00 to enable the Experiment Station to co-operate with counties, townships, and farmers' organizations in conducting systematic extermination campaigns against these rodents. Plans were perfected to present the method to persons living in the infested areas of the state by means of field demonstrations financed by the Agricultural Extension Department. Two experienced men were engaged upon this work from early in May, 1915, to July of the same year. Two additional men were similarly employed during the month of June. These men met with gatherings of interested persons throughout the entire infested area of the state, and demonstrated the method of preparing the poisoned grain. They explained and demonstrated the manner of using it to destroy the ground squirrels without injuring domestic animals. One hundred and eighty field demonstrations were carried on in this manner.

Following the demonstrations, extermination campaigns were undertaken in many parts of the state. County Commissioners, Township Supervisors, Farmers' Clubs, Commercial Clubs, and progressive citizens co-operated in developing this work. In the demonstrations and in the organization of these campaigns, the County Agricultural Agents rendered especially effective service. The effectiveness and economy of the method used were so evident that heavy demands arose for large quantities of the poison materials. Owing to the difficulty of procuring locally sufficient strychnine alkaloid and saccharine to meet the demand, the Experiment Station effected arrangements with druggists to bring the supplies into the state in large quantities and distribute it at cost. In this way the demand was met and all orders were filled promptly up





United States Department of Agriculture

# North Dakota/South Dakota Partners

- ❖ North Dakota Department of Agriculture
- ❖ North Dakota Game and Fish Department
- ❖ South Dakota Game and Fish Department
- ❖ North Dakota Water Commission
- ❖ North Dakota Water Users Association
- ❖ North Dakota Board of Animal Health
- ❖ US Fish and Wildlife Service
- ❖ US Forest Service
- ❖ Bureau of Land Management
- ❖ Bureau of Indian Affairs
- ❖ Native American Tribes throughout ND & SD
- ❖ US Army Corps of Engineers
- ❖ North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers
- ❖ North Dakota Stockman's Association
- ❖ United States Air Force
- ❖ National Sunflower Association
- ❖ North Dakota State DOT
- ❖ Numerous County and City governments
- ❖ Numerous part 139 Airports in ND & SD



# Qualities of long-term partnerships

- ❖ Trust
- ❖ Collaboration
- ❖ Mutual respect
- ❖ Common goal identified

# Maintaining long-term partnerships

- ❖ Communication
- ❖ Honesty and Integrity
- ❖ Learn from mistakes and move forward
- ❖ Share knowledge and expectations
- ❖ Lots of BEER!







# **Leverage: The power to act effectively. {Having knowledge and ability gives a person *leverage*}**

- ❖ **Wildlife Damage Management is an integral part of Wildlife Management, and will continue to evolve along with societal values and perspectives.**
- ❖ **USDA-Wildlife Services provides Federal leadership and expertise to resolve wildlife interactions that threaten public health and safety, agriculture, property and natural resources.**
- ❖ **WS has expanded its operations and research to include the protection of public health and safety, disease surveillance, T&E species conservation, emergency response and invasive species.**
- ❖ **WS will continue to foster the many important partnerships we have developed in North and South Dakota, and welcome new partnerships as WS strives to create a balance between people and wildlife damage.**

This is THE END of the tale!



Questions?



# The Importance of Partnerships in the Prairie Pothole Region



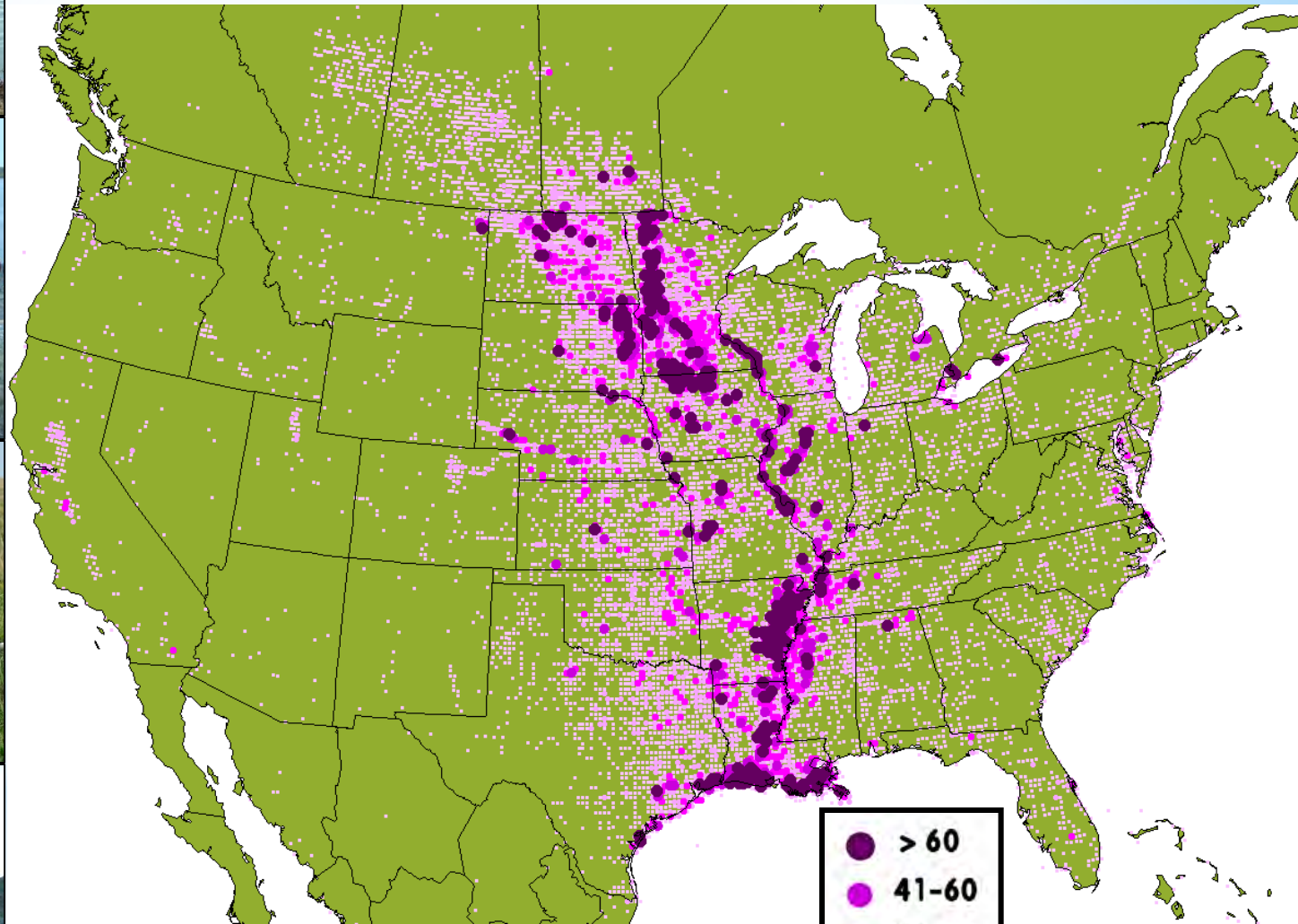


# Prairie Pothole Region

The most productive Migratory Bird Habitat  
in North America



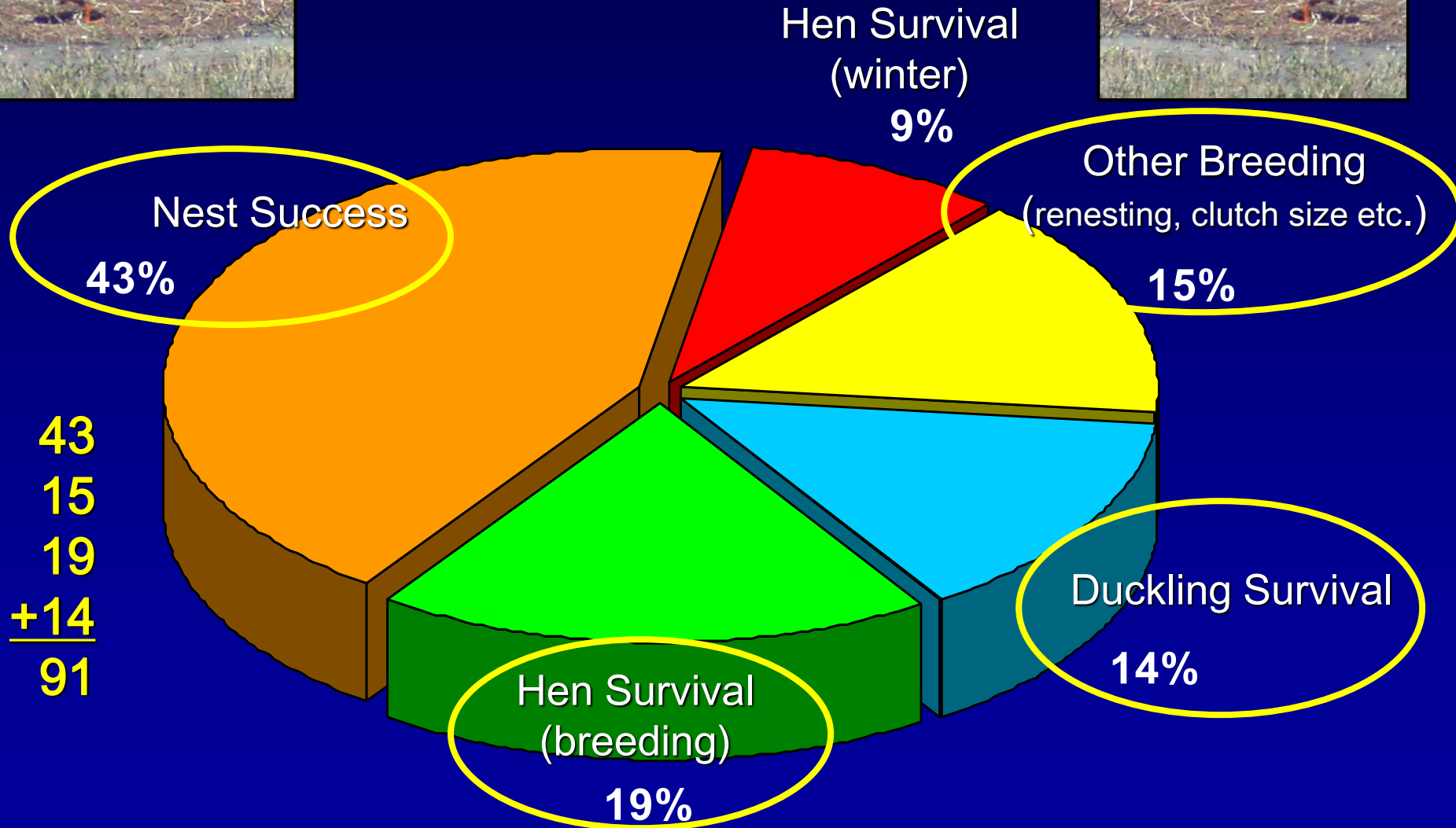
# Distribution of Band Recoveries for All Waterfowl Banded in the Prairie Pothole Region of the U.S. (~99,000 Recoveries)



# Factors Influencing Change in Population Size of Mid-Continent Mallards

(Hoekman et al.)

(Journal of Wildlife Management 2002)





# In The PPR there are 2 Major Habitat Components That Influence Waterfowl Populations and Productivity

**Wetlands: Attract Breeding Ducks, Drive Nesting Intensity and Re-nesting Effort, and Provide Brood Habitat**

**Grasslands: Provide Nesting Cover That Influences Nest Success and Hen Survival**







Wetlands are being drained



Grasslands are being converted to cropland







# *Wetland and Grassland Easements*

- The FWS's easements are designed to complement traditional farming and ranching practices which conserve wetlands and grasslands.
- Easements provide an alternative to fee-title acquisition and allow the land to remain in private ownership while protecting unique habitats.
- Easements help to ensure a diversified landscape and economy that includes crop, livestock, and wildlife production.

# **The Wetland Easement . . .**

*. . . is a perpetual agreement between the FWS and the landowner which protects wetlands on private land from burning, draining, filling, or leveling. The wetlands may be farmed, hayed, and grazed when natural conditions allow.*



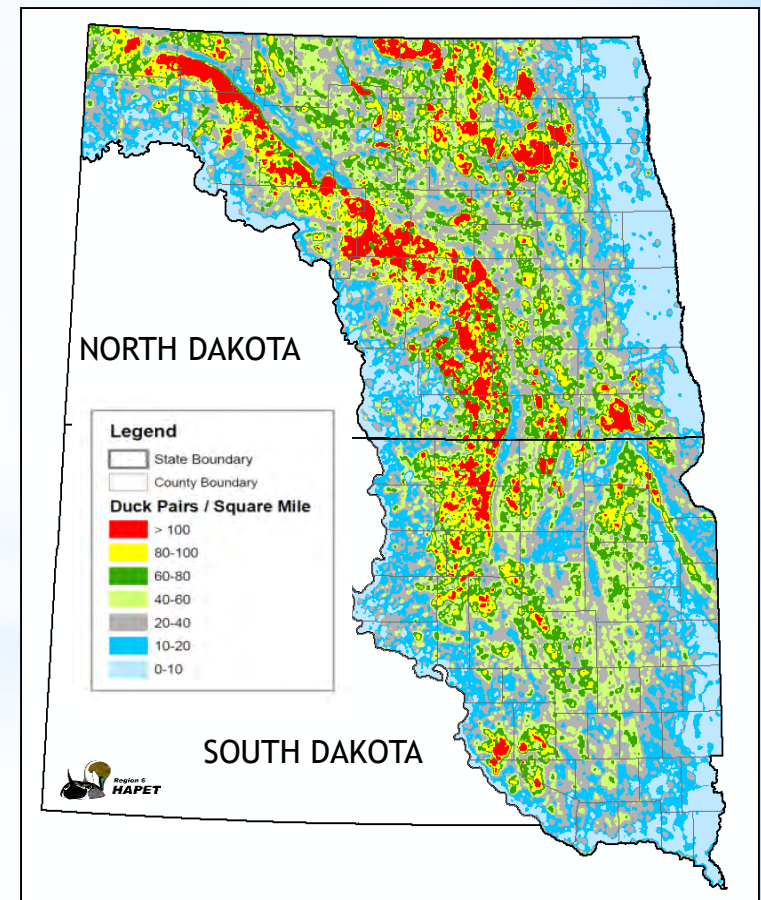
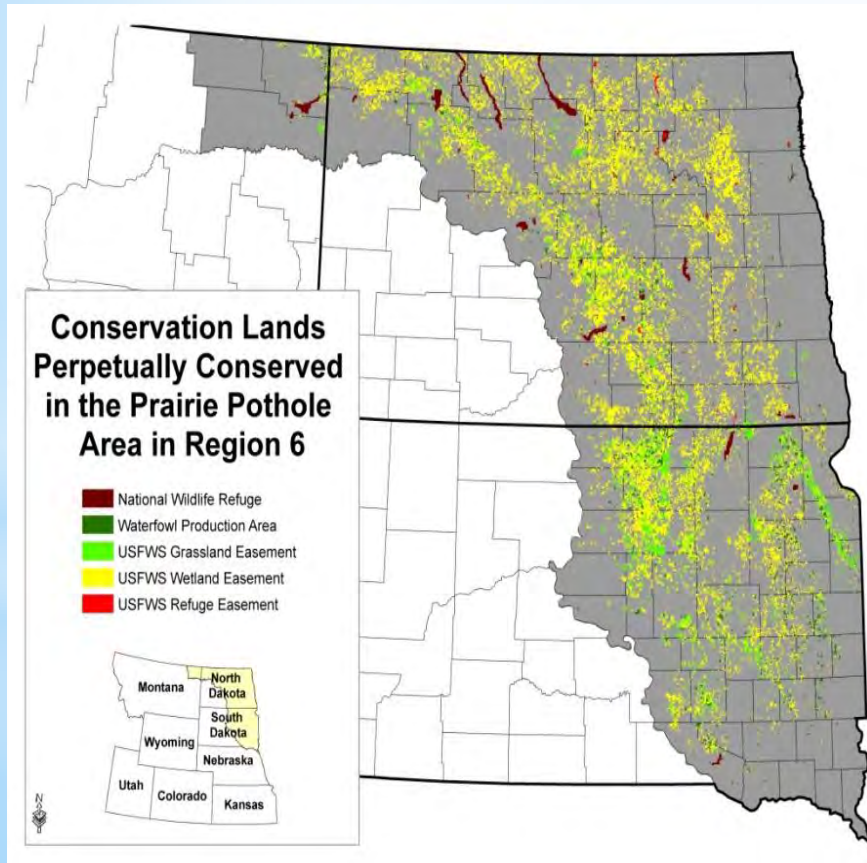
# The Grassland Easement...

- \* Perpetual
- \* No haying, mowing or seed harvest until after July 15<sup>th</sup>
- \* No alteration of the grassland by digging, plowing, disking, or otherwise destroying the vegetative cover.
- \* No crop production
- \* Grazing is unrestricted





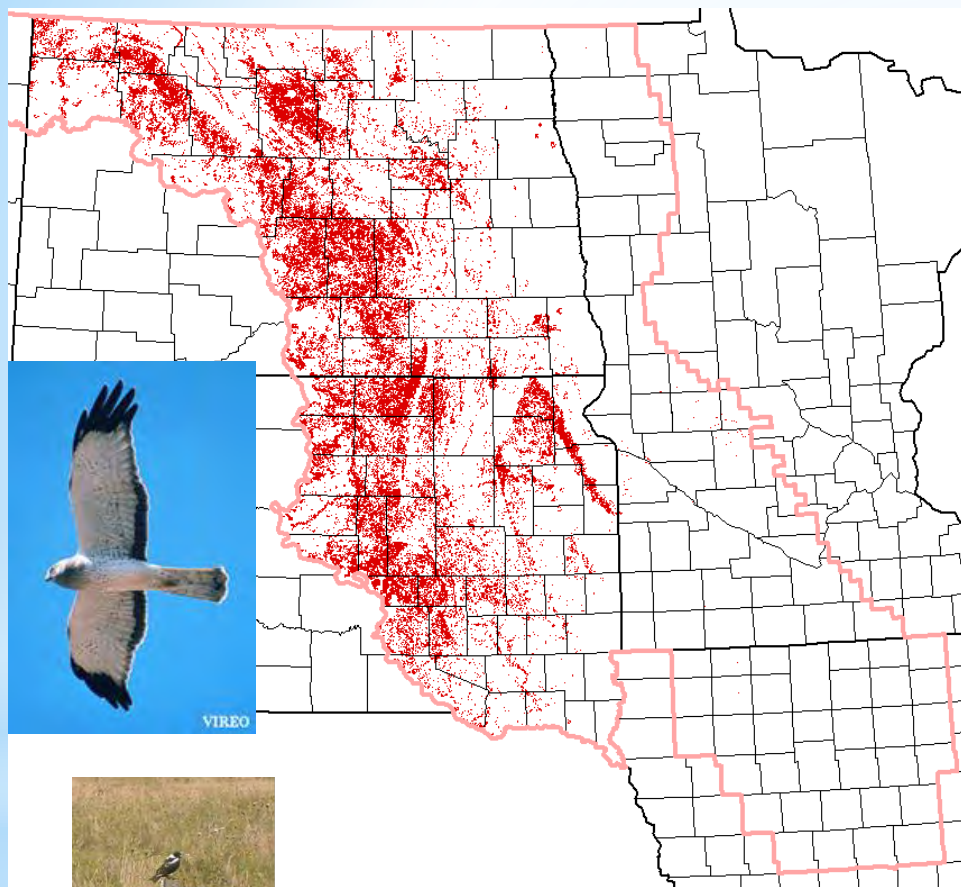
# *Protecting Habitat Where the Birds Tell us to!*



# Grassland Conservation Priority Areas For Wilson's Phalarope, Northern Harrier, and Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow, W. Meadowlark, and Dickcissel



## Grassland Conservation Priority Areas For Ducks



VIREO







### Legend

State Boundary

County Boundary

#### USFWS Fee and Easement Interests

National Wildlife Refuge

Waterfowl Production Area

#### Easement Type

Refuge

Wetland

Grassland

Conservation/FHA/ROW

Flowage

## Accomplishments:

- Grassland Easements
  - 1.3 million acres
  - 207 thousand associated pairs
- Wetland Easements
  - 537 thousand acres
  - 589 thousand pairs

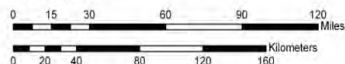
## Remaining Priority Resources:

- Grasslands
  - 9.4 million acres (88%)
- Wetlands
  - 1.6 million acres (75%)
  - 1.6 million pairs (73%)



UTM ZONE 14  
NAD 83

Scale: 1:1,550,000



#### DISCLAIMER

The USFWS makes no claim as to the accuracy or completeness of the displayed information. Shaded areas depicting USFWS NWRS fee and easement lands are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent legal boundaries. The quality of the data used to develop digital boundaries is variable, consequently, the digital representation of all boundary information is subject to change as higher quality data becomes available. All fee-title and easement arcs are attributed to allow for replacement. For more detailed information on the boundaries of fee-title land or easement areas, please contact the USFWS Realty Office, Bismarck, North Dakota or Aberdeen, South Dakota.

South Dakota





# **Landowner Interest in Grassland and Wetland Easements Remains High**



**From 2013 through 2017 New Easement Acquisition in North Dakota:**

- 1,109 new wetland easement contracts conserving 72,146 wetland acres and paying landowners \$91,446,638.**
- 385 new grassland easement contracts conserving 116,429 grassland acres and paying landowners \$53,589,222.**

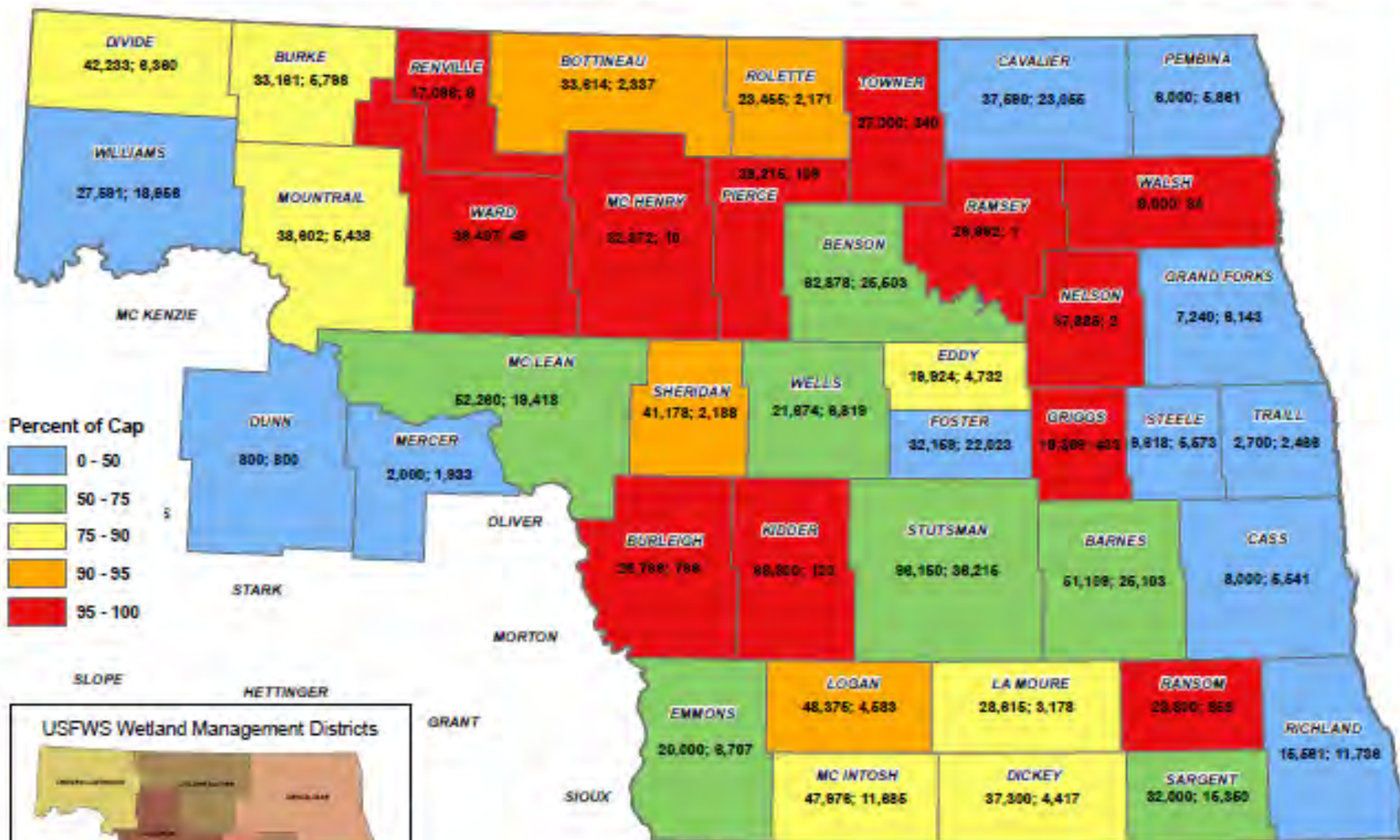
**As of March 2018, due to limited funding, there are 1,067 Landowners awaiting an easement acquisition offer.**





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# North Dakota USFWS County Easement Cap Acres - Percent Acquired, Goal, and Remaining Acres (2018)



Goal Acres; Remaining Acres

## USFWS Wetland Management Districts





# The Bookend Approach – A Working Model for the Dakotas



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

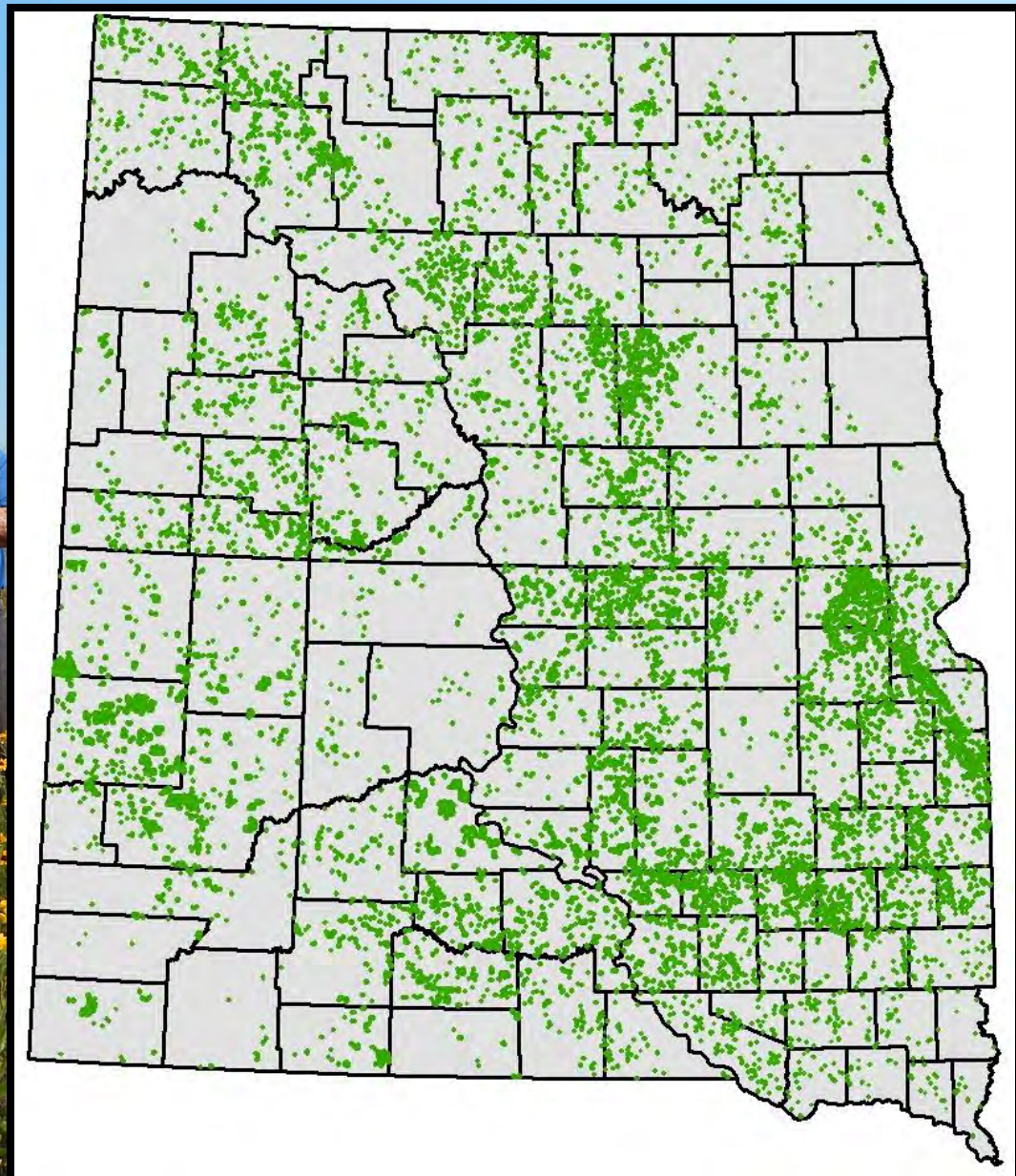
America's National Wildlife Refuge System





# ND/SD PFW Accomplishments 1987-2016

- More than **10,000** farms and ranches have partnered with the PFW program in the Dakotas
- ND = 400,000 acres



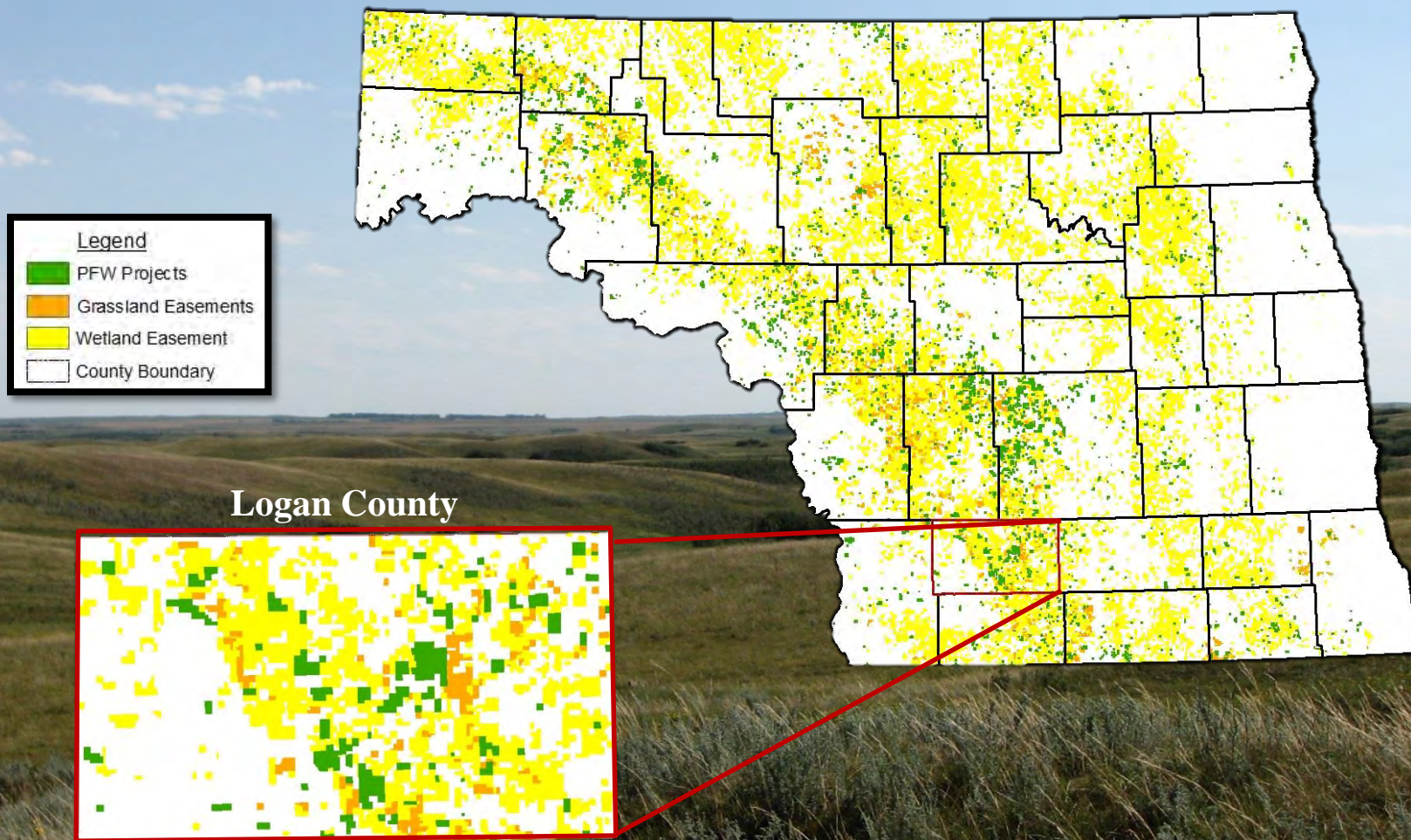
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

America's National Wildlife Refuge System





# North Dakota USFWS easements and PFW Projects

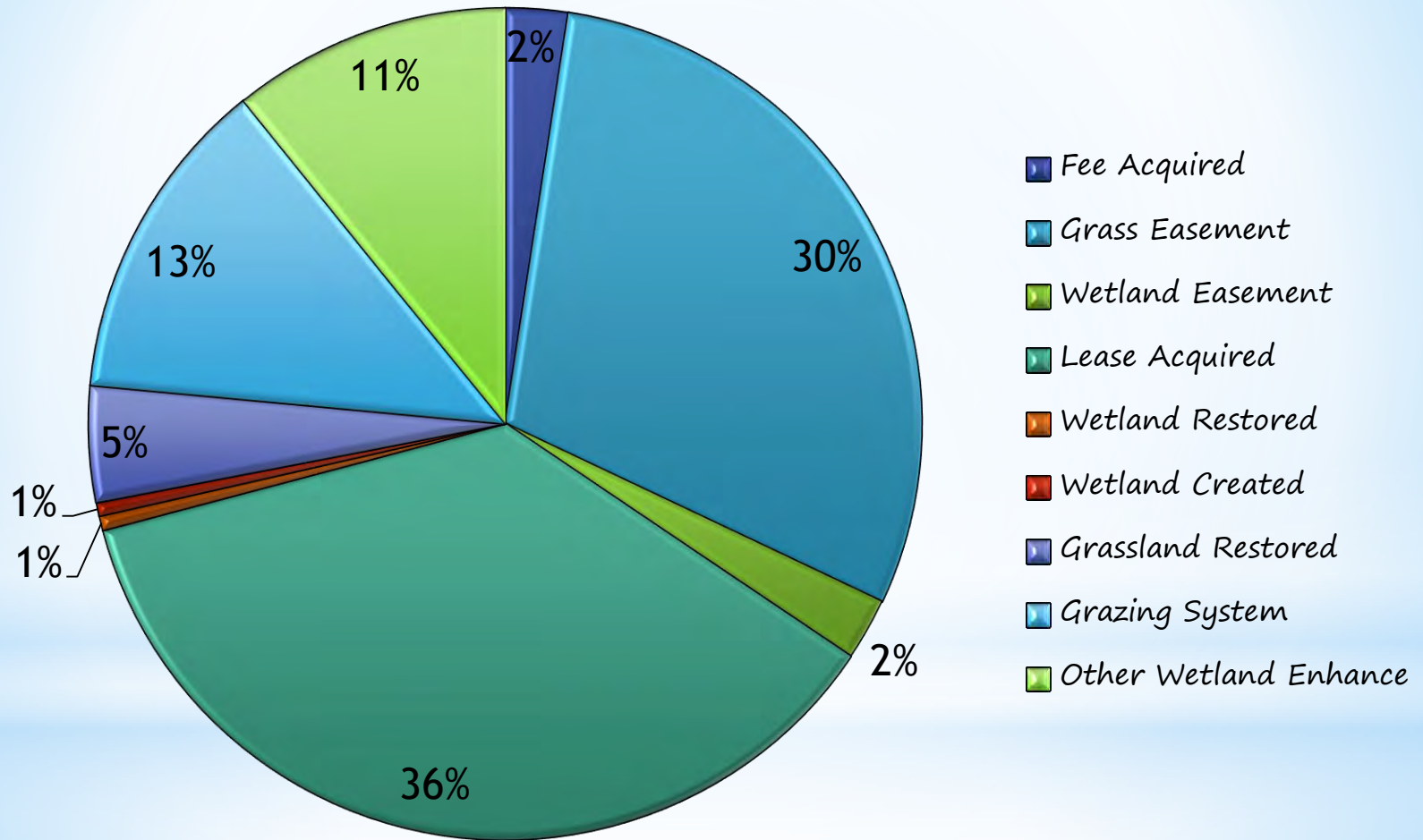


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

America's National Wildlife Refuge System



## North Dakota NAWCA Accomplishments by Habitat : 1990-2016



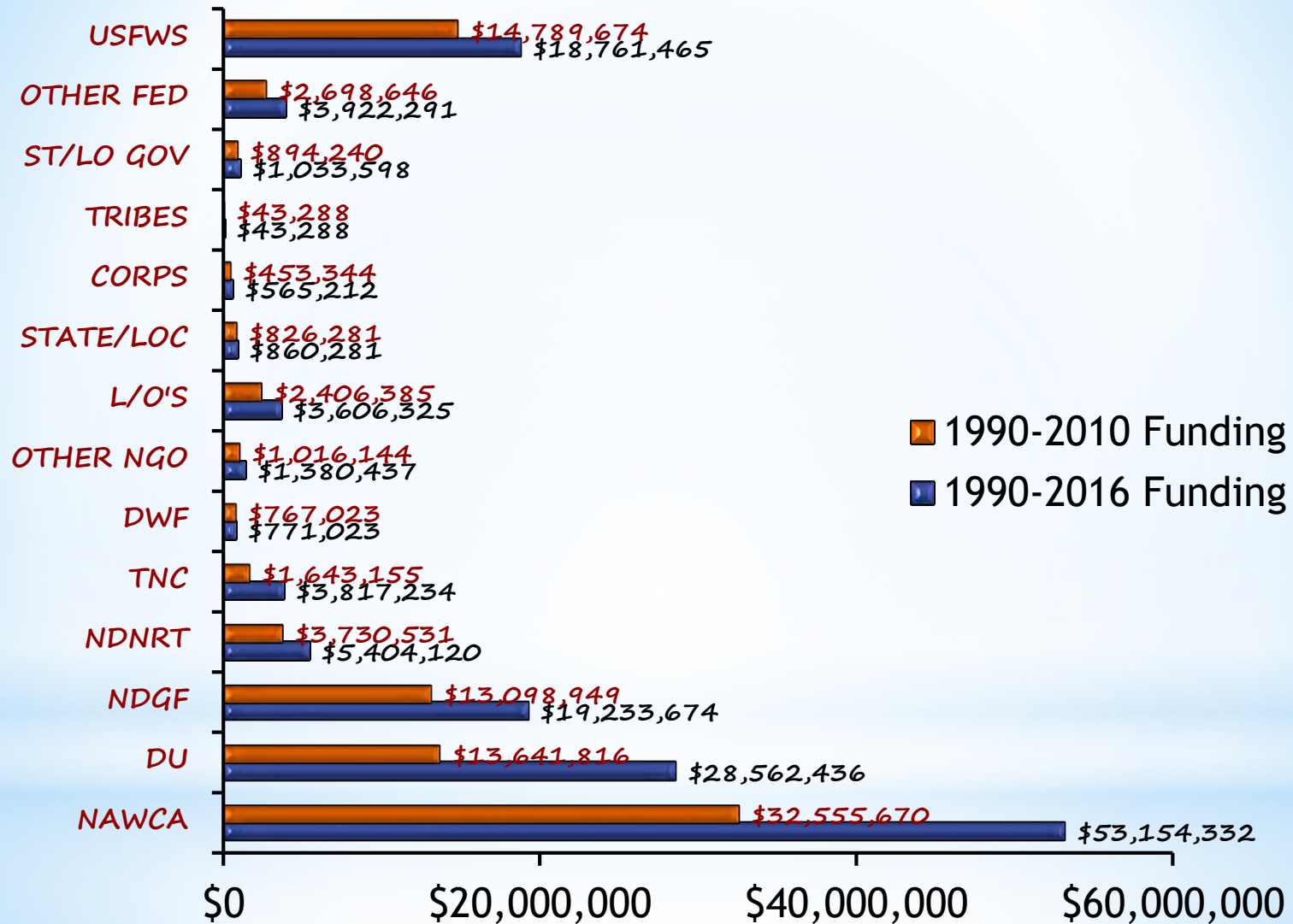


# North Dakota NAWCA Accomplishments

	1990-2010		2010-2016		1990-2016	
Project Type	<u>Upland Acres</u>	<u>Wetland Acres</u>	<u>Upland Acres</u>	<u>Wetland Acres</u>	<u>Upland Acres</u>	<u>Wetland Acres</u>
Fee Acquired	22,804	5,571	6,540	3,882	29,344	9,453
Grass Easement	287,767	76,054	94,486	15,708	382,253	91,762
Wet Easement		30,699		7,531		38,230
Lease Acquired	297,757	38,095	196,605	51,351	494,362	89,446
Wetland Restored		8,074		1,237		9,311
Wetland Created		7,498		591		8,088
Grassland Restored	56,678	6,546	6,965	2,063	63,643	8,609
Grazing System	147,041	18,012	32,056	6,105	179,097	24,117
Other Wet Enhance	135,434	37,583	0	314	135,434	37,897
Total	947,481	228,132	336,652	88,782	1,284,132	316,913

**Total Acres Conserved = 1,601,045**

# The Power of Partnerships in North Dakota!!!!



**Total Funding 1990-2016 = \$141,115,716**



# Partnerships are the Key to Success!!!

## Private Landowners



Soil Conservation  
Districts (SCD's)



Audubon



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

America's National Wildlife Refuge System





***Thank You Partners for helping to insure  
some of this is part of the PPR's Future!!***





**“First Indians lost to Indians, then all Indians lost to civilization’s steeled army, bison lost to the railroads, then cowmen lost to the plows. It is this last skirmish that is our business just now”**

From *Grassland: The History, Biology, Politics and Promise of the American Prairie* by Richard Manning (1995)





**Memorandum**

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Mark Reiter

Date: June 5, 2018

RE: Proxy - MAFWA Annual Director's Meeting

I hereby authorize Amanda Wuestefeld to vote my proxy at the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Directors' Meeting on June 24-27, 2018, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Reiter", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Mark Reiter

Director, Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife





**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET  
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

**Matthew G. Bevin**  
Governor

**Don Parkinson**  
Secretary

#1 Sportsman's Lane  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
Phone (502) 564-3400  
1-800-858-1549  
Fax (502) 564-0506  
[fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov)

**Regina Stivers**  
Deputy Secretary

**Frank Jemley, III**  
Acting Commissioner

**Memorandum**

To: Whom It May Concern  
From: Frank Jemley, III, Acting Commissioner  
Date: June 1, 2018

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 June 24-27, 2018, 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 and Title: Frank Jemley, III, Acting Commissioner

Send to MAFWA Secretary via email at: [sheila.kemmis@ks.gov](mailto:sheila.kemmis@ks.gov)

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

Scott Walker, Governor  
Daniel L. Meyer, Secretary  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463  
TTY Access via relay - 711



May 22, 2018

RE: Proxy – MAFWA Annual Director's Meeting

To Whom It May Concern,

I hereby authorize Aaron Buchholz to vote my proxy at the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Directors' Meeting June 24<sup>th</sup>-June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 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.

Thank you,

Sanjay Olson  
Administrator  
Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks



**Minutes**  
**MAFWA Business Meeting**  
**June 28, 2017**  
**Edward T. Mahoney State Park**  
**Ashland, Nebraska**

Wednesday, June 28, 2017

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

**MAFWA BUSINESS MEETING**

**Jim Douglas, MAFWA President** – Officially called to order at 8:10 AM

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

**Ollie** - All states present. We have three proxies, Wisconsin (Aaron Buchholz), South Dakota (Tony Leif) and Kentucky (Steve Beam) (Proxies - Exhibit 33); no Canadian provinces present.

**Agenda Review**

**Jim D.** – Copy of our agenda is listed in the program; do you have additions or corrections? **Mark** – When we talk about Old Business could we discuss that agreement between MAFWA and Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow again? **Jim D.** – We can do that. Also, brief discussion of initiative that North American Bird Conservation Initiative personnel are undertaking to draft a resolution concerning grassland management they plan to eventually move forward through AFWA committees and wanted to give us a chance to comment on it. A brief comment and a handout during New Business.

**Approval of 2016 Annual Business Meeting Minutes**

Annual meeting minutes (Exhibit 34); **Dale Garner, Iowa moved to accept minutes as printed, Terry Steinwand, North Dakota second. Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Roger Luebbert** (Exhibit 35) – Passed out two reports, Treasurer's Report we will discuss now and 2018 Proposed Budget we will discuss later. As in the past, Treasurer's Report summarizes actual receipts and disbursements for all MAFWA accounts for most recent completed fiscal year; this report covers calendar year 2016. Page one is summary of all MAFWA account balances as of end of calendar years 2014, 2015 and 2016. First account is General Banking Account, which handles banking services for any conferences and special projects such as National Pheasant Coordinator program. The balance is steadily increasing from end of 2014 to end of 2016, due to contributions from the states and Pheasants Forever for the National Pheasant Coordinator Program. The second account is Conference Account, which is essentially the main operating account, it receives the dues from states as well as receipts from the annual MAFWA conference. The major expenditures are MAFWA conference expenses, executive secretary and

treasurer pay and travel expenses and various other MAFWA expenses such as tax form preparation fees and insurance. Looking at the balances we see a decrease in 2015, but a rebound and increase in 2016. The primary reason was in 2015 membership dues were collected in early 2016. The next account is Southern Wings Account, a pass through account of Southern Wings contributions from various states that have been dispersed primarily to the American Bird Conservancy. The large balance you see at the end of 2015 was paid out in early 2016. Typically the balance in this account is very small. Next is the Federal Grant Account and the balance at the end of 2014 and 2015 are MAFWA funds from old federal grants that have been closed out. The larger balance you see at the end of 2016 reflects the activity of two MAFWA grants; first is monarch grant with USFWS and second is contributions from the states for NFWF monarch conservation strategy project. The Credit Union share account, as part of treasurer transition we changed credit unions with current credit union requiring us to maintain a \$25 minimum balance. Moving on to investments, the money market and securities decreased in 2015, but increased considerably in 2016 as the investments did well. The last account is the Conservation Enhancement Fund which has little activity and has maintained a steady balance through calendar years 2015 and 2016. The rest of report has a page for each account summarizing receipts and disbursements for calendar year 2016. I won't go through line by line, but will point out some of the major items. Page 2, general or banking account: \$107,000 under receipts are contributions from states and Pheasants Forever for National Pheasant Coordinator program, other major receipt lines 2016 MAFWA conference held in Michigan (note to Sheila: shouldn't this be Minnesota?). On disbursements side, to Pheasants Forever for National Pheasant Coordinator. Notes at the bottom of the page are designations of December 31, 2016 balance. The Michigan funds were approximately \$42,000 and the footnote shows they were paid out in the first half of calendar year 2017. Page 3 is Conference Account: annual dues line is footnoted to indicate this figure covers both 2015 and 2016 membership dues; also under receipts we see MAFWA conference income of sponsors, registration and hotel commissions and still under receipts see MAFWA administrative fee for Southern Wings, National Pheasant Coordinator and 2016 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Under disbursements we see executive secretary and treasurer pay and travel; further down see transfer to federal account of approximately \$4,500 which provided some start-up funds in federal account to cover timing differences for when payments were made from federal account to when reimbursements were received from USFWS and NFWF. At the bottom we see disbursements for MAFWA conference. Page 4 shows Southern Wings receipts and disbursements. Can see pass through of funds from contributions from various states to American Bird Conservancy and AFWA. Page 5 is Federal Account: see under receipts the contributions from the states for the Monarch Conservation Strategy project as well as reimbursements from USFWS for monarch state liaison. On disbursements side, disbursements for monarch state liaison. Page 6 is the Credit Union Share account where we have the \$25 required minimum balance at the end of 2016. Page 7 is Money Market and Securities Account showing interest and dividend income as well as positive change in market value of underlying securities. Page 8 is Conservation Enhancement Account showing a small contribution and dividend income; under disbursements see a holding and reporting fee of \$50. The investment committee has worked with Shane Hessman, our broker where he will make a small trade so that in the future we should not be



charged this fee. Concludes report. ***Wayne Rosenthal, Illinois moved to accept Treasurer's Report, Bill Moritz, Michigan second. Motion carried.***

### **Audit Committee Report**

***Terry Steinwand, ND*** – Ray Petering and I did not spend a lot of time since there was an actual professional audit performed in 2015 and received report in June 2016. We went through well-kept and organized records from Roger, which was appreciated, and found no inconsistencies. We would recommend that every few years (3, 4 or 5) that either a member agency or we pay someone to do an official audit. I could have spent a month on this and found nothing because Roger does a good job and I am a biologist and I don't know what I'm looking for. ***Jim D.*** – Your recommendation is for no further action. ***Terry*** – Nothing, the records look good. Ray and I did spend some time looking through them. ***Jim D.*** – Appreciate work of your committee. Comment, probably self-evident, but if we continue to engage in some of the larger landscape conservation efforts like monarchs and from discussions earlier today about using our 501 in a different manner where we might handle additional funds, might progress to where annual audit from professional accounting firm may be order. ***Dale Garner, Iowa moved to accept audit report, Mark Reiter, Indiana second. Motion carried.***

### **Investments Committee Report**

***Aaron Buchholz, WI*** (Proposal and Hessman Report - Exhibit 36) – Met February 13, 2017, background was that there had been Executive Committee decision September 14, 2016, to make an action to do a \$100 trade to avoid the inactivity fee, which Roger mentioned in his report. Also, changing investment strategy of moving a little more to a balanced approach between bonds and CDs and stocks and mutual funds, which was primary discussion for the committee. Recommend any balance above \$15,000 be reinvested, a lot of bonds having been coming mature lately. Also, recommendation to move to balanced approach of 50% in bonds and CDs and 50% in mutual funds. Currently that balance is 75/25. There had been a recommendation to bring that to this group, but in the interim some discussion and the Executive Committee had taken that up in March and approved that change in investments. We have no action item before the Board today on that. Roger showed you in his report proceeds and that the account is done very well. In talking to Shane Hessman from Great American Investors, the money market bonds have been called and getting paid off early because they want to reissue those at a lower interest rate, so seeing those come due a little sooner than anticipated. Last year we had 11.92 percent return, the S&P average, for last 11 years, since he has taken over the account, there has been little volatility. We are unlikely to see that return this year, but anticipating 8-9% return, an election year bump back. We are very close to doubling that account since we started working with Shane's firm. ***Jim D.*** – Ollie, remind people of Executive Committee discussion. ***Ollie*** – There was action item brought forward by Investment Committee to change investment policy. The Executive Committee did visit that and has passed a motion to recommend to the Board the adoption of the change in policy from conservative investment policy to more liberal policy. ***Sheila read proposal:*** "Propose that we allocate 50% in fixed income investments such as CD's, Bonds or High Quality preferred stocks. The interest from these investments may be reinvested or may be used to fund current projects upon approval of

the Executive Committee. The remaining 50% shall be invested in well balanced portfolio of mutual funds geared toward consistent growth or in other interest-bearing accounts. The investment allocation will be reviewed annually, and at such other times as the chairman of the investment committee deems necessary. The chairman may request accounts to be rebalanced to reflect 50/50 allocation. The proposed changes would reflect current practice and enable more responsiveness to changing market conditions. In addition, investing more in liquid assets may also be beneficial as MAFWA engages in more reimbursable grant and contract activities to ensure the necessary cash-on-hand to keep work under those grants and agreements continuing while reimbursements are being sought.” Ollie – Current investment policy of the board is 75% bonds and 25% stocks and this was a recommendation to change that to 50/50, so we need a motion. **Bill Moritz, Michigan moved to accept change in policy, Jim Leach, South Dakota second. Jim D.** – I might ask Roger, you mentioned to Executive Committee the other day that fiduciary rule is in flux, as long as we have very specific motion as action of board then our investment firm can follow that regardless of the fiduciary rule. **Roger** – That is my understanding. **Motion carried.**

### **Resolutions Committee Report**

**Terry Steinwand, ND** (Exhibits 37, 38, 39) – There are three resolutions; two discussed somewhat yesterday. The first one regarding Blue Ribbon Panel and I want to thank Sara Parker Pauley and Jim Leach who both looked through those. There were some minor word-smithing changes, but did not change the context. **Jim D.** – Read first and last line. **Terry** – It basically recognizes Pittman Robertson and DJ as current form of financing and talks about Blue Ribbon Panel and \$1.3 billion. “NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes and appreciates the valuable contribution of co-chairs Mr. John Morris and former Governor David Freudenthal and the business and conservation leaders of the Blue Ribbon Panel; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America’s Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies notifies the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies by copy of this resolution that it stands ready to support and participate in national efforts and events of the Alliance for America’s Fish and Wildlife campaign and the Blue Ribbon Panel to work with the U.S. Congress and the Administration to pass legislation to create a 21<sup>st</sup> century conservation funding model that provides states, territories and the District of Columbia with sustained and dedicated funding to conserve all fish and wildlife and their habitats; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies also stands ready to support and implement continuing efforts by the Blue Ribbon Panel to develop recommendations that will ensure state fish and wildlife agencies remain relevant and supported by all citizens into the future.” **Jim D.** – Well-crafted and we could accept this resolution by acclamation, if I see no objection, of full board. **Accepted by acclamation of the full board.** Appreciate content and sentiment. **Terry** - Second resolution is Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) that Kelly talked about yesterday. Last night I changed one, the eighth whereas, need to have efforts to education hunters on importation laws remains, change “remain” to “remains”, add “s”. Also, discussion yesterday, who does this go to



and think we need to have another "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED" to say who we will forward it to, whoever we decide. *Sara* – I think the language, “remain” is correct. *Terry* – Okay, I am not English major either. I stand corrected. *Jim D.* – To your point of where it goes, we talked about sending it to all state directors. *Ollie* – At breakfast, Becky Humphries said she had a conversation with John Fischer, he is vice chair of AFWA’s Wildlife Health Committee and we could forward it there. I think the idea is to get this to be a national resolution. Forward to who, Ron? *Ron Regan* – Send to AFWA and we will get it in the right hands. *Terry* – BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to AFWA. *Jim D.* – For further consideration. ***Dale Garner, Iowa moved to send resolution, Jim Leach, South Dakota second.*** Aaron – Wisconsin statute currently allows for carcasses to enter the state and they can be taken to a licensed taxidermist or meat processor within 72 hours and also includes the exemptions in terms of parts and pieces. Wisconsin’s position on this is going to be that policy. We don’t oppose what is being recommended but a policy of this administration is that we don’t take positions on changes in statute, so for that reason we are going to abstain. *Jim D.* – So noted. I’m not certain, because of timing of events, what my commission will ultimately do regarding the necessary regulations for such an item, but I am in position I can vote for this because it says “may”, etc. I agree with the sentiment. Fully respect Wisconsin and understand and think everyone does. We will call roll since we have abstention. ***Ollie called roll, all yes, except Wisconsin abstained.*** *Terry* - We have one final resolution (read) “Whereas, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has very effectively and enthusiastically organized and conducted the 2017 summer meeting of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; and WHEREAS, Director Jim Douglas and his staff have worked tirelessly together with local, regional and national conservation organizations and partners making all attendees of this great meeting welcome; and WHEREAS, the venue of the meeting has greatly added to the enjoyment and productivity of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies summer meeting; and WHEREAS, the members of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies wish to express their gratitude for all of the efforts of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at its annual meeting at Eugene T. Mahoney State Park on June 28, 2017 acknowledges the effort and hospitality of Director Douglas and his staff and hereby passes this resolution as a gesture of great appreciation.” *Jim D.* – Thank you. It has been a pleasure and I say that wholeheartedly and that goes for staff as well. We have great staff and you got to see many of them last evening and they got to be recognized. There are others that obviously helped with this as well, but I think you can tell from the actions and conversations with our staff that they do actually enjoy having people see what we have in Nebraska; enjoy meeting new people and enjoy being part of this conference so I was glad many of them were able to attend. Many staff weren’t actually able to attend but were part of organizing or part of the program. Thank you for that recognition.

### **Awards Committee Report**

***Keith Sexson, KS*** (MAFWA Award Winner Nominations – Exhibit 40) – Had successful awards ceremony on Monday, we had 20 nominations for the five awards we give out, encourage all states to think about that when award time comes around. I am sure we all

have deserving employees and appreciate the nominations. Thank members on the Awards Committee for taking time to look at those nominations and to place your vote; the process takes time when you receive nominations and provide your evaluation. Very successful and appreciated by those who receive those awards. Thanks to states who had their award winners at the meeting that is a great plus. ***Terry Steinwand, North Dakota moved to accept Awards Committee report, Mark Reiter, Indiana second. Motion carried.***

### **Bylaws Committee Report**

***Sara Parker Pauley, MO*** (Constitution and Bylaws with change - Exhibit 41) – Full board was emailed on or around May 26 proposed revisions to the bylaws that were approved by the Executive Committee. The revisions reflect changes in two topical areas. The first set of changes relate to when the sitting president separates from their member agency before end of his or her term. Changes are reflected in two places, first in Article I, section 1, under Officers and Article XI. In Article I you will see proposed language, “In the event that the immediate (which is grammatical error and will make motion to remove “immediate”) President separates from a member agency (or is replaced by that agency), the First Vice-President shall fulfill the remaining term, followed by their regular term.” In Article XI, section 2, paragraph A, the very end “If the President separates from a member agency (or is replaced by that agency), their replacement in a member agency will serve in their place on the Executive Committee for the remainder of the term as a Special Board Member with voting rights, and the First Vice-President will succeed to President for the remainder of the term.” The second topical area reflecting changes, also Article XI is just the extension of the three-year term of our technical working committees. The ones now being extended include: Legal Committee, National Conservation Needs (NCN) Committee, Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group, Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers and Hunter and Angler Recruitment and Retention Technical Working Group. ***Sara Parker Pauley, Missouri made a motion to accept revisions with friendly amendment of taking out the word “immediate” as proposed; Bill Moritz, Michigan second. Jim D.*** – Those are fairly simple changes, but not always simple to figure out what to say and what needs to be addressed. Appreciate time spent by those who contributed to this. ***Motion carried.***

### **Executive Secretary’s Report**

***Ollie Torgerson*** (PowerPoint - Exhibit 42) – Normally at this time I give review of the past year particularly focusing on highlights. I altered report a little this year because I want to talk about the future first. I will soon be completing my 15<sup>th</sup> year as your executive secretary and at the end of this week I will be entering the last year of my contract. The contract states that “review of the terms of the contract as vehicle for future years shall be considered and negotiated by Executive Committee between July 1 and October 1, 2017”. This means in next three months both parties have to decide whether I should be your Executive Secretary beyond next year. I am not going to review success and growth of the Association for past 15 years because I sent that to you in a memo a couple of weeks ago. Credit goes to you directors. When I began this job in 2002 (compliments of Missouri Department of Conservation) there was a total of 31 people at this meeting and very few directors, they sent staff to represent them. Since then you



have taken ownership of your Association and that has made all the difference. You have directed the growth, strength and influence of the Midwest Association. In recent years you have taken on national leadership beyond our geography with pheasant conservation effort, northern long-eared bat listing and now pollinator conservation work. You should be proud of your Association, I certainly am. I am interested in continuing to serve. I enjoy the challenge so we shall see what the future holds. When we left St. Louis last year after a successful conference our president, Bob Ziehmer resigned and went to Bass Pro Shops and you decided that acting director Tom Draper should fulfill Bob's term as president and Tom did a good job. Had another director leave, Kelley Myers went to USFWS and Kelley provided great leadership for us the short while she was on our board. Welcomed two new directors Sara Parker Pauley and Dale Garner. Ron Regan and I make a point to go out and meet and greet new directors early in their term to get them exposed to our Associations and get them engaged in regional and national work; these have been successful visits over the years and we will continue them. Roger Luebbert completed his first full year as our permanent treasurer; you have done excellent work for us Roger and thanks for what you do for Midwest Association. We are real busy with monarchs and pollinators and had successful monarch workshop in Austin, Texas in January compliments of our first NFWF grant and along the way added two new staff members. Ed Boggess came to us compliments of USFWS grant from Region 3. We have excellent relationships in Midwest between our directors and two offices of USFWS, which is important. The second NFWF grant was awarded and we hired Claire Beck as our Monarch Technical Coordinator. Claire and Ed are working hard for us and you heard their updates yesterday. We applied for third NFWF grant last month and will find out this summer whether that is successful. We had two applications for affiliate memberships, American Fisheries Society (AFS) and The Wildlife Society (TWS). Pleased that Keith Norris is here with us from TWS; will consider these two applications on the agenda next. Spent inordinate amount of time on Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and we are going to talk about the relationship between us later in agenda. Planning for this conference takes considerable amount of my time and I can't give enough credit to you Jim and your staff--Jim Swenson in particular and his group. Jim Douglas has been in on every teleconference planning this meeting and spent a lot of his personal time on this, your staff has done a bang up job. Couldn't be more pleased that Jim has encouraged his staff to come to this meeting, looking at registration a lot of Nebraska workers here, not just to help out. Staff do not get the chance to get out-of-state often so when regional or national meeting comes to your state encourage your staff to come to see how you operate. This is a tremendous professional development experience. Jim has done great job bringing in staff. Thanks to Delaney Meeting Event Management for the work they continue to do for us, we have record attendance here. Sponsorships are part of my work, can't thank our sponsors enough for supporting our work. We have record number and amount of sponsorships this year. Most of my work is administrative, e.g. other duties as assigned, handling mail, contracts, updating manuals, managing website, working with president on appointments, working with Executive Committee, networking with directors and committees, and collecting bills; this is where I spend most all of my time. Not so encouraging is the high turnover rate of directors that continues to be major problem in our Association and nationally, I am personally sad to see Bill leave. He has been excellent leader and director for us, thank you, happy you won't be too far

away as the new Midwest Field Representative for WMI. I want to shout out to Carol Bamberg who has helped immensely during my tenure on a host of legal matters, from incorporation to trade marking to contract review and insurance. She has been very helpful to our Association; thank you Ron for allowing her to help Regional Associations. What would we do without you Sheila Kemmis and husband Dan for helping us out; thank you for all you do and Kansas for allowing Sheila to be our Recording Secretary for long before I came on board. How many years Sheila? *Sheila* – 21 years. Thank Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for providing my office space and support. Planning for next year's conference has begun. I signed hotel contract already and we will be heading Bismarck. Terry has three staff members here who have been meeting with Nebraska staff. Meet June 24-27 at the Ramkota Hotel and our law enforcement group will be meeting with us. They have separate meeting but join us on all of social and meal functions (every third year they come and meet with us). *Jim D.* – We are going to create a committee to make sure we make any necessary adjustments to your contract. Speak for everyone that we are looking forward to having you continue as executive director, pleased you would like to keep doing that; the glue that holds us all together and makes it very easy for the president to be the president and members to serve. Takes a lot of detail oriented contact and communication, thinking ahead and planning and we appreciate that. The success of the Midwest Association is due to directors stepping up and do things and due to your leadership.

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

*Ollie Torgerson* – According to our bylaws affiliate members have to apply by April 1 with their bylaws and official application and you have to accept them through a vote. We have 27 affiliate members now. We received two applications, which are in order, from American Fisheries Society (AFS) and The Wildlife Society (TWS). *Dale Garner, Iowa moved to accept AFS and TWS as affiliate members, Aaron Buchholz, Wisconsin second.* *Jim D.* – Having this type of relationship with these entities has been beneficial to all involved. *Motion carries.*

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **National Wild Pheasant Plan Update**

*Jim D.* – Scott Taylor is in Washington DC with Dave Nomsen doing some important work. *Tony Leif, Chair of National Pheasant Management Board* – Passed out copy of annual report that Scott put together (Exhibit 43). Spoke about funding when we heard Treasurer's Report, start there and end there because need to have discussion about where we go in the future. MAFWA helped put together this partnership by serving as the point of inflexion and distribution of funds necessary to put the partnership in place. We have funding from 18 states (Idaho Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and Washington). Everyone here participated except one state. The management board is made up of most of those states and also representative from Pheasants Forever; I served as initial chairman of that board, a great honor to get us going in right direction. A unique element we placed in our bylaws was that the chairman must be replaced every two years, so transition in another year. One of accomplishments we



spend fair amount of time on was ensuring we got off on the right foot with a good statement of our mission, which is in annual report, “Our mission is to foster science-based, socially-supported policies and programs that enhance wild pheasant populations, provide recreational opportunities to pheasant hunters, and support the economics and social values”. Board had fair amount of discussion about elements contained in that and it tries to reach that broader audience, it is important that we not only talk about importance of pheasants and pheasant hunting, but importance of economics and social values that come with having healthy, huntable pheasant populations. You are all well aware that hits home no place like South Dakota. Met twice in person and once on the phone since board was put together; purpose of telephone conference a couple months ago was to reiterate our interest and emphasis on the Farm Bill, a conservation-friendly Farm Bill is going to be critically important to success in many of our states (and partnerships similar to ours) and the future pheasants and pheasant hunting. Scott is out there working on that right now, disappointed that overlapped with this meeting today, but does demonstrate commitment to the Farm Bill. Back to financial side of partnership, we found that solicited funding for coordinator and partnership is falling somewhat short of meeting first three-year term of appointment so board had discussion on what to do at last in-person board meeting. Ollie contacted me a few weeks ago asking if we needed to put this in your budget. The board did not take action, not because we don’t have an interest in continuing, but would like to get a better feel of where we are going in the future before we take that action. Sent different letters to different states with pheasants for states participating financially and those that are not; different letters for each of those two groups, got letters out and is our goal to attempt to solicit additional members to participate and provide financial backing. We felt it would be inappropriate to place a budget line item in the budget without official action from the board. I believe it is important and see value of what we have accomplished and look forward to continuing the partnership past initial three-year commitment. Think we should have some discussion on where we have been and how we would seek to continue into the future with this partnership. *Jim D.* – Open for further discussion and comments. I sit on the board, we do get a quarterly report from Scott Taylor and he has done a lot of communication in a lot of quarters about importance of his effort; now part of effort to try and secure important priorities in the Farm Bill. Also, he recently worked with Playa Lakes Joint Venture looking at some cooperative efforts that would benefit them both. As often is the case much goes on that is not totally out there and evident, but I am satisfied with his efforts and board’s efforts; technical committees have worked hard to further define the Farm Bill priorities and conducted surveys of states to dwindle down some of those ultimate priorities and put in rank order, which will be important in Farm Bill not having enough dollars to support highest priorities and accommodation for additional CRP without some adjustments somewhere else. None of us know what the timeline will be for the new Farm Bill or extensions of current aspects of Farm Bill might be. Important work going on and feel secure for this effort and secure knowing that trying to implement a national plan is going to take more than a couple of years. I for one encourage additional commitment by states involved in this effort. *Tony* – Thank you for following up on that, our success is hinged on our coordinator and fortunate to get a coordinator. Thanks for your leadership in getting this up and running and serving a great role before this was organized. *Jim D.* – Remind us of timeline for further commitments

from the states? *Tony* – Coordinator’s first three years funds run out in fall of 2018, term we committed to was three years starting last year 2016 so April 2019 is current commitment; few months short of what we would need based on current expenditures. When we get together in Utah our board will need to make a decision so we can plan budget for the future. *Jim L.* – Minnesota is placing a high priority on Farm Bill and this pheasant plan; it would wise to enter into discussion about what is next after the Farm Bill, what do we want Scott to do specifically for next three-year term; give folks better understanding of what they are committing to and his priority activities to focus on. *Jim D.* – Parents of this new effort, we also know we wear two hats; what you mentioned needing to be done is role of the management board that does include people setting at this table, but likely needs to be done in September. *Tony* – I would agree, like you said many sitting here will themselves be part of that discussion or their designee.

### **Greater Prairie Chicken/Sharp-tail Grouse Plan Update**

***Keith Sexson, KS*** – As you recall, two years ago we implemented the interstate working group for greater prairie chicken and sharp-tail grouse, coordinated under WAFWA’s Habitat Committee. Bill Van Pelt who is the paid coordinator under WAFWA has been shepherding this under WAFWA’s western grassland initiative. WAFWA directors approved the effort as did MAFWA. Been at it for two years and 14 states are involved in this effort. We have had three conference calls and three in-person meetings with numerous tasks and groups put together involving your biologists and staff members to follow through with action items. Interstate working group is focused on maintaining and restoring sufficient amounts of native grassland and shrubland ecosystems across the range to support sustainable population of these two species. Our goal is to preclude the need to consider them for listing action under the Endangered Species Act while also supplying habitat that support a wide diversity of additional grass and shrub dependent species. Initiated this because of experiences we had with lesser prairie chickens (LPC), sage grouse and other species that had been petitioned for listing. LPC went onto listing, but for sage grouse that plan was implemented without listing. Initiated this to get ahead of the curve with these two grouse species that seem to be a target for petitioning efforts in association with the fact that we have grassland issues in North America. These two species are flagship species that represent the importance of intact large grassland landscapes.

The list of activities taking place over those two years by members that attend these interstate working group efforts include:

- compilation of data on distribution of each species across 14 states and production of range maps;
- compilation of current population information from each state and method used to generate this information;
- compilation of harvest data collected by each state;
- establishment of ecoregions that divide distribution of each species into smaller management areas based on current population status, threats and management opportunities;



- consideration of consistent monitoring methods that could be used for each species by all states within an ecoregion;
- compilation of occupancy and habitat models developed for each species;
- compilation of status of each species and related grassland conservation and recommendations contained within each states' wildlife action plans;
- identification of additional species of concern whose habitat needs may be fully or substantially addressed through management of the two grouse species as flagships for grassland conservation;
- consideration of mitigation approaches or strategies that might be most effective to engage development of industries in avoidance, minimization and compensation actions; identification of additional partners that should be integrated into the planning efforts and how to best engage those partners into planning and implementation process; establishment of science advisory committee comprised of experts on these species and others that can help develop landscape consideration for grassland conservation;
- and literature review undertaken relative to these two species to bring science to the table.

Ongoing tasks include:

- developing the process to best set population and habitat goals for each ecoregion of each species based on outcome of this work a system of focal areas is planned to be delineated;
- recommendations for characteristics of these focal areas such as minimum sizes, number of focal areas, distribution of focal areas and needs for linkage among focal areas will be developed;
- and mitigation approach strategy to be used is being considered and once selected will be used to engage development interests and process for engagement of broad spectrum of partners is also being developed.

At this point, interstate working group has mainly been made up of state representation. We did bring in USFWS representation from Kansas office to guide the process in terms of information needed to head off any kind of listing and to address issues occurring in the grasslands. Immediate need is to find source of funding for interstate working group and I want to thank states sending representatives to meetings and attending calls, which has already been a financial investment you have made. It is pretty amazing that all of these states have some folks on staff that are tuned into the grassland issues of these two species and are engaged in this process. Trying to keep focus and keep moving. The range-wide plan for LPC is the model we are using. Been fair amount of discussion about looking at things on a multi-state landscape basis and this is another example of where we break down the state boundaries and look at the landscape we all share and species that inhabit those to develop a comprehensive range-wide plan for these two grouse species. Not here for any kind of ask for money, but at some point in time we will have to take that on. I have had recommendations from our group that we will probably need somewhere around \$40,000 to help with travel and efforts relative to the plan. I personally am in the process of trying a PR grant, not for sharp-tails because I don't have any, but testing the water relative to GPC that would be a multi-state grant, not like we usually think of multi-state, but one that comes under Kansas PR project that would cover GPC range in Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota. We recognize those states that have come to the table as part of working group are involved in grassland

restoration, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota with efforts of trying to reintroduce or enhance GPC in their states. Those are part of this effort as well, to identify those kinds of things and enhance those efforts for the future. Going to give this a try with two sets of PR grants we are proposing; one for planning effort, working with Region 6, told within rules of PR that we can do such a grant and can cover such activities on a range-wide basis. Also doing science side and may start doing some range-wide modeling efforts. Your states have lek surveys and lek locations and tying that back to habitat to identify ecoregions and focal areas. On test basis to check this out and get 75% assistance through Pittman Robertson. In the end may be calling upon the states for in kind contribution to this. Most of you may have your peoples time tied up in other grants too and don't want to double-dip, but efforts they put into this may contribute to the match part. More as we move forward and keep directors up to speed for those states involved in this pilot effort. Thank you for participation. I will present this information at WAFWA meeting in a couple of weeks. As we begin to show products and show how we are moving forward we will have something to bring to directors here and at WAFWA for an ask relative to assessments or contributions for the effort. *Jim D.* – Alluded to this as example of large scale cooperative conservation, one where we have an opportunity to be ahead of the curve for some states; some states are behind on GPC, but Kansas and Nebraska have somewhat abundance of GPC. At least ahead of curve on range-wide aspect, doesn't seem like crisis right now. Remember what we were talking to ourselves about and try to get resources and look in all the right places for our partners so we can avoid total crisis. *Keith* – Mentioned our state wildlife plan and that has been integral part of looking at this and species out there that are either on the candidate list or fall in grassland communities. Rather than just focus strictly on GPC and sharp-tails, other species dependent upon that may bring more people to the table. Whatever we do is going to benefit all species that exist within that system. We do know that there is a great deal of information out there on diminishing grasslands in North America. The tall grass prairie in Kansas is focused on frequently and so are other states with large grassland complexes. Before we get to the point of picking these things off via listing, we can be proactive that show we are addressing these efforts. Not mitigation in general sense, but voluntary mitigation, if we can identify areas we need help and where we do have industries operating within these systems, if they can come to the table in a voluntary way, we can figure out ways to continue to avoid drastic impacts. Thank you. ***Keith Sexson, Kansas moved acceptance of the report, Dale Garner, Iowa second. Motion carried.***

***Jim D.*** – Set stage for next item; talked about this in Executive Committee and in other forums. I sent background material in letters to each of you to set the stage for this discussion today. The Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference is a valuable conference that brings some good presenters and a lot of students together regarding some of the latest research in fish and wildlife and other things pertinent to advancement of things we care about. It has long history, but something that invariably the state fish and game agencies have some role in often with other partners, whether American Fisheries Society (AFS), a university or other entities. But there is no direct affiliation with MAFWA, even though we share that name and some people mistakenly think we are the directors of it. We have discussed in past years whether we should have a more formal relationship with this conference. Discussed several years ago in depth and landed on that we would offer



some service to handle some dollars associated with the effort(which is one of most important aspects of making the conference happen). Also one of the most usual places where things gets dicey on how roles are handled between states, partners, consultants that are helping with the conference in such things as signing contracts and who is actually signing contracts for hotels. Who is accountable for that and what are the legal liabilities. Many of us have been in those situations in trying to foster and facilitate the conference as a state along with partners. With that in mind, some impedance that came from the most recent efforts for the conference in Wisconsin where there were some of these conflicts and lack of certainty. There was a good suggestion to take a look and see if it is time to discuss again whether this body should have a role or an associated nonprofit should have a role. Fortunate enough to have Carol Bambery look at what some of the prospects would be for some relationship and she suggested there could be something with one of our associated nonprofits in this regard. Also, Cindy Delaney who is often the consulting firm for arranging these conferences to have some important input into how governance might happen. I will let both of you come up and talk more about this.

### **Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference**

***Cindy Delaney, Delaney Management*** – We’ve been managing the Midwest Conference for five or six years and also manage Southeast, Northeast and the Western meetings. I see a lot of opportunity for MAFWA to have ownership of this, not just financially, but it could be brought under the umbrella of the organization and be more consistent from year to year. Right now every year is a little different; pieces and moving parts are different. With Wisconsin this year we had challenges getting the contract signed with the hotel because no one wanted to own it. We signed them late in the game. My team has been working with Wisconsin for over a year and not getting paid for that work because we want this to move forward. We want the team to be comfortable planning it and not have to worry about the legal piece or the fiscal piece of it. The host states pull together a great team of university, The Wildlife Society and AFS partners, but there comes a time when someone needs to be the parent and put on the big boy pants sign the contracts, provide up front capital and that is where we get stuck almost every year (except when a there is a foundation involved and they’ve got money). Had the Foundation in Missouri and we worked with them, so not the case every year. In Ohio we are at that point where we are getting ready to move forward with hotel contracts, but don’t know who is doing what. Carol has looked into possibly using the 501(c)(3) that MAFWA has to become the governing body and we would build a board of directors that would likely be a succession board so they could grow through this every year. I have an interest professionally in doing that, there is a lot of opportunity to build a good strong high energy board that keeps this conference going from year to year with consistent rules and regulations.

***Carol Bambery, AFWA*** – If we are looking for a home for this conference and if the Midwest directors want to accept responsibility for the conference; recognizing that conference has been in existence since the 1940s, very successfully. But, with increased scrutiny on liability and ability to execute contracts, as Cindy has indicated, a better business plan is probably preferable. The threshold question really is, to what extent does MAFWA or its (c)(3), which is the Conservation Enhancement Fund, want to own this

conference. Otherwise you leave it alone and we struggle year after year to get legal documents signed so the conference can continue. Your employees, as I understand it are the people that attend in addition to other nonprofits, so you have some responsibility anyway as a state agency recognizing that the conference is going on in your state. Particularly if the host state is unable to sign the contract. The assistant Attorney Generals we work with generally don't want anything to do with it. If they can bounce it to MAFWA and Ollie that is what happens. You can't blame them, they operate looking after the state and not wanting the state to incur the liability, particularly if the folks don't attend and you have all of the hotel rooms vacant. What we could do, looking at different business models, would be to nest it under MAFWA and this board and that is the 501(c)(6). This board is a trade association, a professional association under the eyes of the IRS. The work you do is to enhance the states, similar to what AFWA does for all of the states. AFWA is also a 501(c)(6) trade association. So this conference fits within your mission as MAFWA, but it really better fits within the mission of your 501(c)(3) which we started 10 years ago and it has not really taken off. The Conservation Enhancement Fund has had no infusion of money into it to enable it to do the good works anticipated. So a better fit would be the 501(c)(3). What I would suggest as a business model would be to make the conference a program of the (c)(3) because you want a little bit of distance from your (c)(6) particularly if you have a lot of people trying to tell you how to run it. If we take that business model and tuck it under the 501(c)(3) it is going to increase responsibility of the board that sits on the (c)(3) which are you guys. The same as AFWA and our AWARE (c)(3), the same directors sit on that board. You would look at capacity as a (c)(3) because Ollie doesn't work for (c)(3), he works for the (c)(6), MAFWA, and Sheila would be the same. Where do we get capacity to actually do something? As a program under our (c)(3) you would enter into some type of affiliation agreement between your (c)(3) and your (c)(6), like we do at AFWA, which would share resources. You lay that out in a document that both the (c)(3) and (c)(6) sign so if questioned down the road by the IRS when you file your tax returns for the (c)(3) you have a document that indicates an arm's length transaction. We can get their legally with the structure necessary to protect both the (c)(3) and the (c)(6), create the program to put that overriding governance we need to run the conference successfully. I keep going back to the threshold question, do you as MAFWA or (c)(3) want that responsibility. As a footnote you have it anyway when you sign the contract so it is a good decision point we are at right now. *Mark* – A few years ago Indiana had the conference and we had the same difficulty we are talking about in signing contracts with the hotel and MAFWA took care of us. As I understand it we have the ability to do that right now, but what we are talking about is much beyond that, not just offering that assistance to the state, but to provide guidance too for the conference. I am wondering what benefit that gives to the state or what benefit to Association? That is a lot more work we put on ourselves and right now the states are taking care of that on their own. I don't get to that conference often but I haven't noticed that is a big mess when I get there. Do they really need our help? *Sara* – I did talk with our staff a little bit who have been involved with our conference and what value they would see with MAFWA taking more of role. First I thought it would be a great benefit just to have a place where the how-to information, right now no keeper of the documents unless they are transferred state-to-state with contacts and relationships. One indication in this was whether we call it a steering



committee, whether it is this board or a subcommittee of this board, to provide guidance and oversight and maybe that is up to the state, if they think they have a great planning committee and would check in occasionally to let us know where they are at, I think we could minimize that role. There may be another state that wants more engagement by this subcommittee and at that point in time we could talk about it. I don't envision us starting to dictate what those tracks are or topics are. I think that is the planning committee and the professionals who know those areas. Some sort of committee to provide general guidance, maybe be the keepers of how to put on a conference and some place to store these sorts of documents. *Mark* – That occurs now. The state coming up goes to several meetings with the state that is on deck and the wrap up meeting the next state attends. I don't see a big problem in transition. I am not saying this is a bad idea, just wondering if worth the extra work? *Jim D.* – That exchange illustrates a couple of important things that we need to consider if we move forward in thinking about this and discussing it today. You find different situations in different states. Nebraska realized this difficulty and came up with a similar situation at the state level, we developed 501 so they could handle the money. It sounds like maybe Missouri did that too. In other states not so easy or hasn't been done. There is the aspect of handling the money, which we can do now or should think about doing under existing 501, but whatever else is value-added is going to be up to the state and whatever partners they have been working with. I would envision, if we take some steps to form some sort of oversight committee I can think of examples where they would have very little to do and in other cases maybe more. That would be the challenge of developing the mission of this group and doing it in such a way that whoever has been doing it successfully so far has the flexibility to keep doing it with the partners they have been doing it with in being responsible for the planning. I wouldn't want to plan for Indiana. One thing I thought could be value-added is trying to make sure there is semi-commitment from the upcoming states that they are planning on hosting, two to three years in advance, and making sure we know the sequence of hosts and allowing that state to provide feedback to the body we are talking about on what types of assistance do they want or not want, for instance planning on hiring a consultant, etc. Only if this is value-added to the state is it something we should be thinking about and only if enough flexibility to allow that state and their partners to proceed in a fashion they think is going to be successful. *Carol* – There is a third option, to form a new entity called the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference corporation and apply for another (c)(3) so it stands alone as its own entity and could contract then with MAFWA for certain services. Which the conference is doing anyway, but it is so loosely governed it is hard to tell who would be responsible to get the signature on the bottom line. When we talk about a committee we are speaking in terms of an advisory committee. You could appoint an advisory committee from this body, your (c)(3) which gives it more legitimacy with function it is doing and offer guidance each year through advisory committee. If you do that you could keep business as usual and use service agreement as you are doing now to sign the contract. As far as complete exposure, as (c)(3) and (c)(6), the most limited exposure would be new (c)(3) that could house its own conference. *Cindy* – One of the things I see with the Northeast and the Southeast is that their biology conference makes money that they use towards conservation projects. There is some opportunity there because the conference has been profitable for years even with this non-consistent management style. There is some money to be made there and I am afraid that if MAFWA doesn't take a

step someone else will come along and offer to run it because it is a successful business. It is less work for MAFWA, but it means there is no reward at the end. Right now it is making anywhere from \$30,000 to \$75,000 a year that could go to projects if it goes into that conservation enhancement fund. You've got money to play with or it could go to NCLI scholarships. There is some opportunity to make money, not that you want to make a lot of money, you want to put the money into the conference itself for the experience of the attendees. In reality it doesn't always net out to a zero bottom line. Keep that in mind, an opportunity to have some money to use for important projects. *Mark* – Over the years states have developed a tradition of what they do with the profit, whether they have it for scholarships or we banked it for 10 years from now or when we do it again, or pay back expense that the agency had in putting it on. We need to consider taking that from that states and putting in MAFWA's account. *Jim D.* – That is something that would require a lot of consideration because I know different states have uses for that money and sometimes in reserve for the next time they do it, a tricky wicket. We need to hear from other people. If we go with this, need decision point farther down the line than today. What is next sequence? *Ollie* – Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois. *Jim D.* – Appoint subcommittee to take some of the inputs from today, solicit even more like I did by talking to the people in your own states and come up with a recommendation for action by this board, which could be as late as next March or could be sooner. I am putting people on the spot and maybe I should do it after this meeting. Do we have people willing to serve on this committee to further evaluate this? *Mark, Sara, Ray* all willing? ***All three agreed.*** Don't want to stop discussion. Is there anybody who can offer more at this point? It is the kind of move that might not be quite as simple as it sounds. If you don't have idea of how to form it, what kind of oversight services you are going to offer, or how much flexibility you are going to try and design into that, then you don't know how much work it is going to be for whoever sits on that oversight board. You don't know how much acceptance or resistance you might get from individual states or other partnerships. You need to think about structure at the same time you are thinking about how you make it value-added. I would like you to lead that. *Ollie* – This has been a difficult subject for this board over the years and I understand why, because directors are sensitive to taking over something that your staff is proud of and has made successful over time. This board has struggled with this topic and we came up with this policy of service a few years ago after a lot of uncertainty of where to go and sensitivity to the directors taking something away from your staff. The bottom line is this conference would never go anywhere if your staff didn't run it. Staff in your states have the people and equipment to take the conference and make it run. Universities and professional societies don't have the staff or capacity to take on a Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference the way your staff can. Basically, it is your conference anyway. In terms of value-added, the continuity of succession is one thing that this body could ensure. For instance, we are not sure if Illinois is going to step up to plate and take on this conference after Ohio. I didn't even know if Wayne knew that Illinois was in line, and he didn't. The other value-added is we could supply start up money for the conference. Another value-added is risk management, we would be taking on the risk in signing hotel contracts. The fourth thing is this conference lacks for having an operating manual and when it becomes your turn to run the conference you are relying on institutional memory and most of people on your staff that ran it 10 years earlier aren't on your staff anymore, so there is no institutional



memory. We should create an operating manual, which is not that hard to do, which succession states could have to work from. Those are value-added things that could happen with oversight structure. MAFWA can't go in and run the Fish and Wildlife Conference in each state. There is no way, you have a half-time person in me, I can't set up and run a Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, you and your staff have to do it. You have to appoint the steering committee and they work for you. That is the only way this is going to continue to go on successfully, through the state fish and wildlife agencies managing it. *Jim D.* – It is different in lots of places, in Nebraska the university applies as much effort towards it as the state staff does. Thank you Cindy and Carol, this is beginning of a good discussion and will end up with a recommendation, we will keep moving forward on it.

**Mark Reiter, IN** – We have talked about CLfT the last couple of years and the subject was whether MAFWA wanted to sign an agreement with Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLfT) that would allow states to contribute to that effort. Indiana is definitely interested in doing that we think it is a valuable program and we send four people every year almost without exception. CLfT is looking for \$10,000; about \$2,500 a person. Personally, for Indiana to send money to MAFWA so they can send it to CLfT I need some type of agreement that backs up that expenditure and we don't have that at this time. We are poised to contribute our fair share but don't have vehicle to do that and hope other states would see the value and want to contribute also. *Jim D.* – When we discussed this in the past, put out question to how many Midwest states wanted to take advantage of this overall agreement and I didn't get a lot of states responding positively. But it does seem unfair that if we have a state that wants to work through an agreement that we not reconsider. I do remember also that some question about whether or not we would have to waive our overhead fee for handling dollars. *Ollie* – The other three regional associations do have an agreement with CLfT and what that agreement basically does is Roger would collect money from our states who wish to participate and write one check to CLfT for the people in your states that want to attend. Our banking fee is 5% and I talked to Zach Lowe. Some of you send your people through the other regional associations. Missouri sends theirs through the Southeast agreement and Jim and Keith send theirs through WAFWAs agreement. Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan don't have such an avenue. When I talked to Zach Lowe I told him I remembered a sticking point was that he wanted us to waive our banking fee. He said he could get by with fee and he would increase his fee to each of the participating states to cover the banking charge, so it might be \$2,600 or \$2,700 per person that we would collect, take out the banking fee and send him the remainder. In terms of action item, if that is acceptable to you, it would be a motion for MAFWA to enter into agreement with CLfT to collect the money and forward it on behalf of our member states that wish to participate and send money forward to CLfT. *Jim D.* – Make motion? **Mark Reiter, Indiana moved, Dale Garner, Iowa second.** *Jim D.* – If motion passes we proceed with understanding that we are going to charge handling fee, if that becomes an issue in the future or if something is transferred to the states for increased fees is not palatable then we can revisit that aspect of it again. **Motion Carried.**

**Ollie** – We were going to have fun at break time because it is Charlie Wooley’s birthday today and we ordered a cake. We were going to sing happy birthday to him, but as we were walking in here to start business meeting, Charlie was in the hallway and said he was leaving. So we are going to have birthday cake on Charlie anyway. **Jim D.** – He waved good bye and said thanks very much and I told him he couldn’t leave; however, he had to catch a plane. We did have the opportunity for a quick word with him and wished him a happy birthday. Told him we had a cake and were still going to eat it on refreshment break in honor of his birthday. He mentioned he didn’t even think his wife and kids remembered his birthday. He was moved by sentiment.

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Jim D.** – A couple of Directors have requested copies of PowerPoint’s shown during this meeting; the easiest way to do that is to send email request to Sheila. Also, under new business, yesterday we had a discussion from climate change committee about potential to sign and send a letter requesting some continued funding for climate centers, we tabled that until today. Bill had been working on how we might proceed. **Bill** – I put together a draft letter and put emphasis on Tony’s thought process, “what is important for Midwest directors when it comes to the federal budget”. From our discussions the last couple of days there were several issues that rose to the top. I crafted those into a letter and I will circulate it among directors and Executive Committee could formally approve and send to Secretary Zinke. **Jim D.** – If that process sounds good to people around the table we will ask you to proceed in that regard.

### **Mid-Continent Monarch Strategy Report**

**Bill Moritz, MI** – Seems like we have talked about monarchs every day. We formed the executive committee, the board of directors, the technical steering committee and working on forming the technical committee. We have also created a guidance document for the development and approval for the operations of all of these different levels of organization. We have extended invitations for the ex officio positions and we have heard back from most of those affirmatively. Claire Beck talked about the outline of the strategy that has been developed and approved by the Executive Committee. There has been a lot of good work going on since March meeting, putting meat to the bones on how we move forward. Couple issues for consideration. I am switching roles, part time with MI DNR and part time with Wildlife Management Institute starting in August, but both organizations have been supportive for me to continue my role as coordinating on behalf of the directors on monarchs. Ed and Claire do most of the work and it has been an enjoyable process in which to be involved. With your permission I would like to continue doing that since I won’t be in the director’s seat any longer. **Jim D.** – Executive Committee had some discussion before you showed up and we were worried we didn’t have a plan for someone to step into that role going forward. It is an important role and you have been doing a superior job, great news you will be able to continue. In governance document we created I don’t know if there was any reference to this director thing? **Bill** – It says director or designee. **Jim D.** – Can you designate yourself? **Bill** –

Yes, I guess I could, just guidelines. *Jim D.* – Open for discussion, but not sure this takes more than a hardy nod to that prospect. Thank you. *Bill* – Second, Kelley would like to talk about proposal for MAFWA to consider. There has been a tremendous amount of energy around this and it is a compliment to everybody, including Kelley, for her leadership on this. Everybody has been very willing to participate it has been a collaborative and open process. Nice to watch and be part of.

**Kelley Meyers** – I want to thank this group for carrying on the work and for taking action at the North American to continue on with governance structure, particularly Chairman Douglas you have pushed this along and been a champion. We have been able to get through transitions and Bill has done a great job carrying us forward. I have been figuring out how to get traction at the Service and now I am getting more involved in the conversations. They are trying to figure out the best way to use me, especially in this interface relationship with the states. I am excited to continue to be part of this process too and will vow to help however I can. I was involved in a discussion within the Service on budgeting and spending dollars, but invariably cautious and there is some money you can't carry forward that needs to be obligated before year end. We had about \$50,000 in an urban monarch cost center and we started brainstorming projects and thinking about spending money on state needs. Travel is difficult, but in-person meetings like this are essential for technical staff and managers are critical, particularly as we go forward into next steps of planning. Being able to sit down and massage out the wrinkles will be critical. There is some money with NFWF grant to have one or two in-person meetings and some for the technical committee, but there might be a need to expand that audience to chiefs or other decision makers. We thought it would be nice to use some of this money for additional travel support for state staff. In addition, we have heard about northern core optimization tool that came from a meeting in Wisconsin a couple weeks ago. Also work that came from workshop last year in Chicago where the Service and states came together and pulled together technical people to discuss where we needed to be. Karen Kincaid, Krystal Stoner and Dan Kennedy are names of the technical staff you hear over and over again. They were very involved in that process to kick start and pull them together to say what we needed. In the south core (Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and parts of Nebraska) there are a lot of grasslands not accounted for in that tool so they are struggling to create their own habitat optimization tool and figure out how they measure success where stems of milkweed might not be the limiting factor. Instead of being an afterthought to the north core tool our thought was to pull those people together, who are already organized but having a hard time having that coordinator bring them together. They are all people where this is part of their regular job, so decided to put some resources around them and get them together to start building an optimization tool. I started sprinkling this idea out to them in the past week and am getting page-long emails of thoughts and thank you notes. It is getting their juices flowing; built in money for that. More recently, some monitoring protocols are under development and there is a lot of concern at different levels that there may not be the resources to support a statewide coordinator, AmeriCorps staff, seasonal staff or coordinator volunteers to help with some of the monitoring. We built in this option to use some the money to help with monitoring. It would make this \$50,000 available, with 10% cost rate, that would help MAFWA pay for their cost in administering this. It would be an amendment to the current grant with MAFWA. We are not talking about Ed's salary at this point because that is another



discussion looking more toward longer term funding available, a conversation between Craig and Ed and Tom Melius. This is a way to focus in on how to spend this year-end money in this way with separate conversation on Ed, a critical piece, but not as urgent in terms of timing on getting money obligated. I talked to Ross Melinchuk in Texas and he supports this. *Sara* – Comment on tool, heard from my staff too that was one place where we needed to figure out issues surrounding the tool, priority for us, so great news. *Jim D.* – Welcome and timely news that we have the opportunity to amend the grant and use these monies in the fashion you described, sort of like manna. Process-wise what are logistics of this? *Kelley* – Next steps will be for Roger and Karie Reishus who is the contract manager at the Service, have draft proposal and they can work with Bill and Ed to get it refined and then a matter of that attaching to a few documents back at the Service and getting signatures. *Jim D.* – Do we need motion to amend our grant? *Ollie* – Amend grant to accept this \$50,000. ***Bill Moritz, Michigan moved, Dale Garner, Iowa second.*** *Jim D.* – Before further discussion, thank you for everything you are doing and finding a way to continue to be a lead in this effort, with your change in responsibilities and securing support of the people around you in the Service brings more strength to this. We are happy and want to thank you personally for what you are doing. ***Motion carried.***

### **2018 Farm Bill Strategy**

***Jim Douglas, NE*** – One of the things we did mention at a previous meeting was that we wanted to make sure our directors become engaged in this in whatever fashion they find suitable. This handout is to illustrate a point of leaders in Congress and important committees that are going to be instrumental in consideration of the Farm Bill and have connections to our directors. With the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry where we have Kentucky and Iowa represented in a couple of ways and minority members are Ohio, Minnesota, North Dakota and Indiana. House Ag Committee members include seven states from Midwest. Collin Peterson is going to be very much a leader and has spoken out on the issue of CRP. This is a reminder to stay vigilant in following the prospects for consideration in the Farm Bill and take a lot of our lead from our partners with guiding principles approved by AFWA, but also priorities established by the Pheasant National Plan. We need to make sure we get the right signals for it other than usual correspondence with these people and we may want to do something again as a whole body, but individually keeping working on this (handout of who to contact – Exhibit 44). Open discussion to insights anyone might have or current discussions you have had with your members. *Bill* – Senator Stabenow had hearings already in Michigan, she knows our community well and agriculture well, so has been pretty helpful. *Jim D.* – Pheasants Forever (PF) is facilitating a lot of field tours around the Midwest in August, we are having one in Nebraska and probably some of the rest of you are as well. This is another opportunity for us to give full support to our staff because often they are integral in arranging that. PF feels this is important part of messaging prospect we need to do. Until we know more about what we need to be doing and when that is what I have right now. *Tony* – Glad you brought this up and passed it out. We did have a chance to sit down with Senator Thune's staffer on this a couple of weeks ago and talk about some of the details they are working on. There are differences in CRP, right now grassland CRP is incorporated together, looking at splitting that out. The Senator has short term CRP idea he is wishing to move forward with. SHIP is the acronym but not sure what it stands for.

There is nothing more important to the states that sit around this table. Nothing more important for us to work on over the course of next few months than this Farm Bill. *Jim L.* – Our commissioner was out to DC last week and met with our members and my staff met locally with that committee and we are making this a priority. The Teddy Roosevelt Foundation is holding an August field session in Minneapolis this year and drawing all three of members on the Ag committee, the governor and media attention across the country. Lots of organizations working on Farm Bill and the August recess is a great time to get our message out.

### **2018 Budget Approval**

***Roger Luebbert, Treasurer*** (Exhibit 45) – Turn to page 1 on proposed calendar year 2018 budget, shows budget and actual receipts and disbursements for conference account for calendar year 2016. This page serves as background information on what budget was last year. I will point out major variations from the budget. On receipt side, annual dues were much higher than the budget due to having 2015 and 2016 come in calendar year 2016. The large variance in hotel commissions was also due to 2015 and 2016 received in 2016. Other major variations are the administrative fee for state and Pheasants Forever contributions to the national pheasant coordinator and 2016 annual Midwest conference. Overall budget receipts were \$129,000, actual receipts were about \$170,000, but mostly due to timing differences. On disbursement side, major variance is fourth line from bottom, showing actual transfers of approximately \$7,000 with \$2,500 of that due to state contributions to national pheasant coordinator and deposited in the wrong account and transferred to banking account; the remaining \$4,500 was transferred to the federal account to provide start-up funds to cover timing differences from when payments were made to when reimbursements were received from USFWS and NFWF. Overall disbursements were \$119,000 and actual disbursements were \$114,000, so very close but being less than budgeted. Moving onto page 2, reference showing calendar year 2017 budget and actual receipts and disbursements up through June 7. Page 3, shows budget amount for upcoming calendar year. The method we used to assemble this proposed budget was to use the best number available. The description column identifies the source used for each line. On receipt side, annual membership dues for states and provinces are increased for change in consumer price index (CPI) at 2.229%. Affiliate dues are based on having 13 affiliates; amounts for conference sponsors and registrations are same as 2017 budget; hotel supplement, Southern Wings administrative fee and interest are based on 2016 actual amounts; NFWF monarch grant administrative fee is based on estimated calendar year 2018 indirect cost charge; with overall budget receipts of approximately \$129,000. On disbursement side, Delaney is based on contract and other conference disbursements are same as 2017 budget; executive secretary and treasurer pay are adjusted for change in CPI; executive secretary travel is based on actual 2016 disbursements; treasurer and recording secretary travel are same as 2017 budget; accountant line for preparing MAFWA tax forms and insurance line are based on 2016 actual disbursements; website posting and miscellaneous lines are same as 2017 budget. There are two new line items, fifth and fourth lines from the bottom: NCS-TWD Leadership Workshop of \$1,000 and second is new sound system of \$1,135. Overall budget disbursements are approximately \$126,000, which is approximately \$3,000 less than proposed estimated receipts. The footnote points out that this proposed budget

doesn't include administrative fee for National Pheasant Coordinator which is currently not scheduled to go beyond 2017, but that could change. *Jim D.* – Obviously have to have a proposed budget that is based on best available information and the way some of things time out don't know what some of these figures are going to be in actuality, but using that method has been fairly close in the past. ***Keith Sexson, Kansas moved to accept proposed budget, Tony Leif, South Dakota second. Motion carried.***

*Jim D.* – This is Alicia Harden, wildlife chief for Nebraska. Alicia has been working on grassland issues in the Midwest and nationally with North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) and Judith Scarl who is the AFWA liaison for Bird Conservation Committee. They have been talking to many people about creating a resolution, to run up through AFWA, but wanted to take opportunity to run through regional associations and directors to have a copy of this. If you have any inputs or comments to get them to Alicia by July 7. *Alicia Harden* - Bill White is the chair for our grasslands work group that is under the Bird Conservation Committee and there isn't currently a resolution at AFWA about grassland decline and suite of species, especially grassland birds that are associated with that. There was a strong indication of, we need to do something like that. This subcommittee was formed within the workgroup of grassland with myself, Iowa DNR, Bird Conservation's Brake Area, Wildlife Conservation Fund and Cornell University folks were involved in drafting of the resolution. We wanted to make sure we covered as much as we can. This is not something that MAFWA is doing a resolution on, but we wanted to make sure we covered any additional concerns. There was some game bird information added, but in general what the resolution talks about is continuing to do voluntary conservation and trying to get more grasslands and get them in better condition. It would fit in well with a NCN in the future as well. Comments would be great to give them to Judith Scarl who will also be going the WAFWA meeting and talking to the wildlife chiefs. Tim McCoy suggested the bird committee there and I might send it out to private and public land workgroup folks from MAFWA and get their comments as well. Wanted to make you aware of it and if you have any other comments or concerns to please let us know. *Jim D.* – Provide contact information to Ollie.

## **CLOSING COMMENTS**

***President's Remarks – Jim Douglas, NE*** – Didn't prepare anything, but do appreciate the opportunity to make closing comments. My term actually runs until the middle of October so a lot more work is going to be done. Ollie did great job of capturing progress in his report during the course of this year. It has been my pleasure to serve as president for a variety of reasons. One is the fact that Ollie makes it easy to be a part of this and be president and I am a fairly needy person. He never hesitates, if I ask him to prepare a first draft of a memo or whatever to keep something moving, he is there enthusiastically. He has so much experience in that role and as former director and practitioner and he is very good at queuing us up on what we might be missing when considering something moving forward, subtlety, in substance sometimes and in process. I appreciate that Ollie. It is fairly easy to be president when you have such eager directors willing to step up. As a group we have stepped up in new arenas and expanded into more landscape conservation considerations, etc. Stepping up as a group means a lot of individuals are stepping up. No



one has refused a committee assignment, hesitated or said why don't you ask so and so. All of you have stepped into roles necessary to carry this forward. It is very gratifying to me and to everyone individually and collectively. As we look forward some of the things I think about, partly by way of experience and serving as president on some committees in WAFWA; Keith and Terry can identify with this, we have benefit of seeing how they have expanded into some broad arenas of conservation across landscapes such as lesser prairie chicken and grassland initiatives. Some of the things I think about, as we do same kinds of things as we are doing with monarchs moving forward we are going to be cognizant of what that means relative to our staffing, budgeting process, more frequent auditing. How we prepare ourselves sets the stage to be successful. We are building on our abilities to step up and thinking ahead on how we prepare this organization, like federal grants and applies a lot of accountability financially and to staffing. I am not saying anything you don't know; need to move ahead like we are, but be cognizant to not run ahead of our headlights on some of these things. We want everything we do to be successful and top notch. As we also move forward in the realm, we will find we have choices to make, how do we pick priorities, how do we devote our energy to get ahead of the curve versus reacting to next imperiled species of the day. Those things may require more communication, we don't meet very often so may want to think about how we do that communication and whether Executive Committee is keeping in proper contact with all of the directors. Challenges will be greater and greater as we move forward. I want to thank all of you, Sheila and Ollie, and extend my thanks to your staffs that help you do your jobs as well. Time to pass gavel to North Dakota and Terry. As we do, we can all feel very good about fact that kinds of things we are talking about doing, and more of and what kind of functionality and process and organizational aspect is there going to be to create priorities of the day; as LCCs role is diminished and what replaces it. I would like to see this organization be right in the middle of that discussion.

### **Passing of Gavel to Next State**

**Jim D.** – We can feel good that we are going to move into leadership with a person who is solid, thoughtful and experienced. It gives me great pleasure to transfer gavel to you, Terry. **Terry** – We have big shoes to fill; thank you, you have done a great job. We are excited and anxious to host this event next year in North Dakota. We thought we would outdo Nebraska until last night, not sure how we are going to outdo that, but we are certainly going to try. Ollie mentioned earlier it is June 24<sup>th</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup> in Bismarck. We have some events planned already and will discuss more on the drive back. It was a great time, you and your staff did a wonderful job; we are challenged and will try to do better and look forward to seeing you next year in Bismarck.

**Jim Douglas, NE passed gavel to Terry Steinwand, ND.**

**(Terry read plaque)** “2017 Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Past President’s Award presented to Jim Douglas”

**Jim D.** – Thanks again for everyone’s hard work and participation. Thanks for coming to Nebraska, come back again and we will do something fun.

**Conference Adjourns**

*Meeting adjourned at 11:27 pm.*

*Appendix A – PowerPoint Photos*



# **MIDWEST**

Association of  
Fish & Wildlife  
Agencies



## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017**

**June 24, 2018**



# MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

## Table of Contents

June 24, 2018

Account Balance Summary.....	1
General (Banking) Account Summary.....	2
Conference Account Summary.....	3
Southern Wings Account Summary.....	4
Federal Grant Account Summary.....	5
Share Account Summary.....	6
Money Market and Securities Account Summary.....	7
Conservation Enhancement Fund Summary.....	8

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

	<b>As of December 31</b>		
	<b>2016</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>2017</b>
Checking and Savings Accounts			
Banking Services	\$229,098.42	-\$59,642.37	\$169,456.05
Conference	154,618.56	25,773.65	180,392.21
Southern Wings	13.22	5.07	18.29
Federal Grant	42,411.04	21,986.26	64,397.30
Credit Union Share Account	25.49	0.12	25.61
Investment accounts			
Money Market & Securities Account	403,969.28	50,162.94	454,132.22
Conservation Enhancement Fund	4,255.83	727.56	4,983.39
 Total	 \$834,391.84	 \$39,013.23	 \$873,405.07

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2017 CASH FLOW SUMMARY  
BANKING SERVICES ACCOUNT**

Balance as of January 1, 2017	\$229,098.42
-------------------------------	--------------

Receipts

Contributions for Pheasant Coordinator	\$75,500.00	
2018 Midwest Furbearers Conference	5,580.70	
2021 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference - MN	2,500.00	
Interest	<u>384.93</u>	
Total Receipts		83,965.63

Disbursements

Pheasants Forever - National Pheasant Coordinator	\$95,483.84	
Kansas - KDWPT Conference Account	2,000.00	
Michigan - 2016 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference	41,995.12	
Banking Fee:		
National Pheasant Coordinator	3,725.00	
2018 Midwest Furbearers Conference	279.04	
2021 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference - MN	<u>125.00</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>\$143,608.00</u>

Balance as of December 31, 2017	\$169,456.05
---------------------------------	--------------

Note: Designations of the ending balance are Kansas \$37,471.81, State Contributions to the National Pheasants Coordinator Program \$114,350.88, 2018 Midwest Furbearers Workshop \$5,301.66, National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee \$44.92, and the 2021 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference \$2,375.00



**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2017 CASH FLOW SUMMARY  
CONFERENCE ACCOUNT**

Line #			
1	Balance as of January 1, 2017		\$154,618.56
2	Receipts		
3	Conference:		
4	Sponsors	\$56,000.00	
5	Registrations	28,825.00	
6	Total Conference Receipts	\$84,825.00	
7	Affiliate Dues	1,125.00	
8	Membership Dues	50,267.24	
9	Administrative Fee:		
10	USFWS and NFWF Grants - Indirect Cost Charge	15,249.03	
11	Banking Fee:		
12	Southern Wings	1,125.00	
13	National Pheasant Coordinator	3,725.00	
14	2018 Midwest Furbearers Conference	279.04	
15	2021 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference - MN	125.00	
16	Interest	325.35	
17		Total Receipts	\$157,045.66
18	Disbursements		
19	Conference:		
20	Delaney Meeting and Event Management	\$11,677.08	
21	Food and Beverage	23,503.80	
22	State Park Room Rentals	2,999.68	
23	Field Trip	6,814.43	
24	Prizes and Awards	3,825.64	
25	Equipment Rental	2,515.00	
26	Credit Card Fees	1,141.41	
27	Printing, Postage, and Advertising	400.96	
28	Total Conference Disbursements	\$52,878.00	
29	Executive Secretary		
30	Pay	45,063.32	
31	Travel Reimbursement	6,511.56	
32	Treasurer		
33	Pay	15,367.20	
34	Travel Reimbursement	4,662.94	
35	Recording Secretary - Travel Reimbursement	811.59	
36	North Central Section of the Wildlife Society	665.20	
37	Insurance	1,396.00	
38	Tax Form Preparation	1,586.25	
39	Trademark Renewal	850.00	
40	Web Site Maintenance	837.18	
41	Miscellaneous	642.77	
42		Total Disbursements	\$131,272.01
43	Balance as of December 31, 2017		\$180,392.21

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2017 CASH FLOW SUMMARY  
SOUTHERN WINGS ACCOUNT**

Balance as of January 1, 2017	\$13.22
-------------------------------	---------

Receipts

Contributions	\$22,500.00
---------------	-------------

Interest	<u>5.07</u>
----------	-------------

Total Receipts	\$22,505.07
----------------	-------------

Disbursements

American Bird Conservancy	\$21,375.00
---------------------------	-------------

Banking Fee	<u>1,125.00</u>
-------------	-----------------

Total Disbursements	<u>\$22,500.00</u>
---------------------	--------------------

Balance as of December 31, 2017	\$18.29
---------------------------------	---------

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2017 CASH FLOW SUMMARY  
FEDERAL GRANT ACCOUNT**

Balance as of January 1, 2017	\$42,411.04
-------------------------------	-------------

Receipts

State Contributions - Monarch NFWF Project	\$55,000.00	
Federal Reimbursements - USFWS	97,454.83	
NFWF Reimbursements	56,371.66	
Interest	<u>111.54</u>	

	Total Receipts	\$208,938.03
--	----------------	--------------

Disbursements

USFWS State Liaison		
Pay	\$72,475.00	
Travel	15,601.57	
Monarch Coordinator:		
Pay	71,991.00	
Travel	10,916.44	
Monarch Planning Travel & Meeting Exp.	718.73	
Indirect Cost Transfer to Conference Acct	<u>15,249.03</u>	

	Total Disbursements	<u>\$186,951.77</u>
--	---------------------	---------------------

Balance as of December 31, 2017	\$64,397.30
---------------------------------	-------------

Note: Designations of the ending balance are State Cash Matching Contributions for the NFWF Monarch Conservation Strategy Project of \$45,832.57.



**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2017 CASH FLOW SUMMARY  
CREDIT UNION SHARE ACCOUNT**

Balance as of January 1, 2017		\$25.49
Receipts		
Interest	\$0.12	
Total Receipts		\$0.12
Disbursements		
Total Disbursements		<u>\$0.00</u>
Balance as of December 31, 2017		\$25.61

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2017 ACCOUNT SUMMARY  
MONEY MARKET AND SECURITIES ACCOUNT**

Balance as of January 1, 2017		\$403,969.28
Receipts		
Interest	\$13,842.50	
Dividends	3,960.15	
Capital Gains	<u>9,371.99</u>	
Total Receipts		\$27,174.64
Change in market value		<u>\$22,988.30</u>
Balance as of December 31, 2017		\$454,132.22

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2017 ACCOUNT SUMMARY  
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT FUND**

Balance as of January 1, 2017	\$4,255.83
-------------------------------	------------

Receipts

Dividends	\$61.97
-----------	---------

Interest	0.46
----------	------

Capital Gains	<u>180.74</u>
---------------	---------------

Total Receipts	\$243.17
----------------	----------

Disbursements

Total Disbursements	\$0.00
---------------------	--------

Change in market value	<u>\$484.39</u>
------------------------	-----------------

Balance as of December 31, 2017	\$4,983.39
---------------------------------	------------