

**Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
86th Annual Meeting
Maumee Bay Resort and Conference Center, Oregon, Ohio
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MAFWA Executive Committee Meeting
Sunday, June 23, 2019
5:00 p.m. CDT
Room TBD
Maumee Bay Resort
Oregon, OH

Call to Order – President Kelly Hepler called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.
Six new directors at this meeting. Ollie – Five for sure here.

Quorum – Kelly Hepler, South Dakota; Terry Steinwand, North Dakota; Sara Parker Pauley, Missouri; Kendra Wecker, Ohio; and Scott Loomans, Wisconsin. Also present were Ollie Torgerson, Executive Secretary, Roger Luebbert, Treasurer and Sheila Kemmis, Secretary. Guests: Ed Boggess, USFWS/MAFWA; Bill Moritz, WMI.

Agenda Review – Kelly – Would like to talk a little about three splash rule.

Approval of May 21, 2019 ExCom Minutes – *Terry Steinwand, North Dakota moved to accept May 21, 2019 minutes, Sara Parker Pauley, Missouri second. Motion passes.*

Financial Report – MAFWA Treasurer Roger Luebbert presented the financial report - As of June 10, 2019: First page is **Banking Services Account**, beginning balance as of May 7, 2019 was \$122,089; receipt included National Pheasant Coordinator monies)Colorado, Iowa, North Dakota and Nebraska) \$24,900, and interest of \$26; total receipts \$24,926; disbursements included National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative – Ohio \$10,000 and Spatial Habitat and Modeling Support – Ohio \$3,160, for disbursements of \$13,160; for balance of \$133,856. Note: designations total of \$113,804 (OH MFW conference \$20,357, 2021 MN MFW conference \$2,375, National Wild Pheasant Technical committee \$45, Spatial Habitat and Modeling Support \$16,023 and State and PF contributions for National Pheasant Plan Coordinator \$75,004). This account is what we use for special projects. In the **Conference Account**, our main operating account, beginning balance of \$25,170; receipts included Ohio conference funds \$8,380 registrations, \$6,500 sponsors (Kalkomey, USDA Forest Service and The Wildlife Society), and interest of \$5, for total receipts of \$14,885; disbursements included Ohio Conference (Delaney \$2,120, credit card fees \$337), Executive Salary pay \$4,650, Treasurer pay \$1,461, tax form preparation \$1,550, for total disbursements of \$10,118; balance of \$29,937. This only covers from May 7 to June 10, we will see additional sponsors since then. Sara – Got USFWA funds too, good job Ollie, whatever happened there. Ollie – Give Margaret credit on that. Kelly – Is balance typical on this account? Roger – It was higher, we transferred \$160,000 over. Kelly – I forgot about that. Roger – We are running okay. In **Federal Account**, beginning balance of \$64,551; receipts included monarch coordination NFWF reimbursement of \$4,886, USFWS state liaison reimbursements of \$5,631, and interest of \$12, for total receipts of \$10,509; disbursements to pay monarch technical coordinator \$7,000 and travel \$1,100, for total disbursements of \$8,100; for total balance as of \$66,961. Designations of ending balance is state cash matching contribution for NFWA III monarch conservation strategy of \$48,295. **Southern**

Wings Account, minimal activity. **Credit Union Share Account**, required to keep \$25 to be part of the credit union. The **Money Market and Securities Account at the broker**, dates are different because of when we receive statements; beginning balance as of March 31, 2019 \$629,288; receipts include interest \$418 and dividends \$237, for total receipts of \$654; no disbursements; change in market value a positive \$10,828; for balance as of April 30, 2019 of \$640,770. Kelly – Where did the bulk of that money come from? Ollie – It came from a little old man in Milwaukee, Wisconsin that nobody knew. In his estate he gave Ducks Unlimited, us and The Nature Conservancy about a quarter of a million dollars each. His name was Anton Jaschek. Sheila – He had no tie to us that we could ever determine. Ollie – That was years ago, before I was around. Another man in Milwaukee gave the Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society \$65,000 about six years ago, his name was Berkey. When your estates are settled remember us. We have used some over time for the AFWA AWARE fund. Sheila -Teaming with Wildlife and CARA. Ollie- And we put some money in the Farm Bill and CITES. It is unrestricted money however you want to use it. When RAWA gets going that might be a good place to put some of that money. Kelly – In business meeting we take final action for approval of this report Roger? Roger – At the business meeting they don't see this report they see another one. Ollie, if you could give people a review of this account at the business meeting. It is a great story. Roger – That is the account we moved the \$160,000 to because we exceeded our insurance levels at the credit union.

Dale Garner, Iowa came in.

Roger – Move to conservation enhancement accounts. **Conservation Enhancement Share Account at Credit Union**, balance as of May 7, 2019, \$72,660; receipts included interest of \$25; no disbursements; for balance as of June 10, 2019 \$72,685. Note: designation of ending balance includes \$32,472 of Kansas 2012 MFWC funds from conference account. **Conservation Enhancement Credit Union Checking Account**, minimal activity since, balance as of June 10, 2019 of \$5,502; **Conservation Enhancement Account at broker**, quarterly statements, no statement since March 31, 2019, so no update, balance \$5,042. **Conference Account Budget Status** per internal control plan. Too early to draw anything from this, no concerns. One line is done, line 29 is tax preparation fees, we should not see any more expenses on that line. Budget was budget was \$1,606, actual was \$1,675. The note at the bottom mentions that we transferred \$160,000 from conference account into Money Market account. Kelly – Kendra, how is registration going? Kendra – Mid 80s or so. Ollie – Maybe in 90s. Usually have around 100, it varies. *Sara Parker Pauley, MO moved, Terry Steinwand, North Dakota second. Motion passes.*

2020 Proposed Budget – Roger – This will go in front of the full board, but we are seeking your approval; nothing changed from last executive committee meeting, will hit highlights. Page one is calendar year 2018 budget and actual amounts, line 15 total actual receipts were \$179,660 versus budget of \$129,431; actual was \$50,000 higher. Had strong conference, lines 9-12 we understated administrative fees for various programs. Page 2 is disbursement vs. actual, line 34 total disbursements, budget of \$126,000 spent \$152,000, an unfavorable variance of \$26,000, which relates to the conference. On previous page receipts were \$50,000 higher so offsets this; overall, line 35, took in \$27,560 more in receipts than disbursements. On 2020 proposed budget; columns show 2017 and 2018 actual and this year's budget and proposed 2020 budget. Total budget for 2020 is \$163,125; source is shown in far-right column. Page 4, no change, line 33

total disbursements is \$151,508. On line 34, receipts exceed disbursements by \$11,616. There was one item that came up since I printed this. The Audit Committee suggesting external audit and Investment Committee is suggesting review of investments so may need to add a new line item, possibly \$5,000. Dale – Our person said between \$4,000 and \$7,000. Ollie – Jim Douglas met with Shane Hessman, have over a half million dollars in that account; wonder if firm that gives an overview of investment advisors. Roger – We did get a copy of RFP from western states and sample from AFWA to plagiarize and put something together. Kelly – Add line for that now? Roger – Yes, add a line for that. Kelly – When we accept this report we are accepting that additional cost of \$5,000 to \$7,000. Roger - \$7,000 may be a better number. Ollie – Need to vote and this would be recommendation to the board. Dale – Motion for audit first and then put money in? Kelly – That would be included. *Dale Garner, Iowa moved, Sara Parker Pauley, Missouri second. Motion passes.*

DMEM Request for Travel Reimbursement – Kelly – Pulled this, she decided not to charge us.

MAFWA Sponsorships – Ollie – Record year in sponsorships, running out of places to put sponsors. Bylaws detail sponsorships; have to be gold, \$5,000 or more to get microphone time, we have 4-5 \$5,000 sponsors and several \$3,000 sponsors. I don't know what to do, I know you don't want to length the meeting and add more microphone time. We could have two speakers at one event to underwrite, raise level of sponsorship but could run some people off; nice problem to have but not sure how to solve it. Underwrite events with two sponsors; the big events are tonight's welcome, Monday and Tuesday night dinners. Some states don't want Tuesday night dinner, they want people to go out on the town, but then you lose the sponsor; that is up to host state. Get breakfast Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; lunch on Monday and Tuesday; and Sunday welcome, dinner on Monday and possibly Tuesday. The problem is we don't have enough events to underwrite. Sometimes sponsors don't show up, Kendra got Sportsman's Alliance coming in with \$3,000 and will speak Tuesday night. Record year, \$65,000 in sponsors. A nice problem to have. Kelly – We allow speaking time, or is there something else? Ollie – It is what we are selling; they want to make their pitch to you. The Sunday night welcome is a plumb, award lunch is plumb, and Monday night dinner is a plumb; three \$5,000 events. Kelly – Then only have breaks, unique here versus other Association meetings. Scott – Don't want to pay that kind of money and share jointly with someone else. Dale – Everything we do in conservation is about partnerships, so maybe that is the way to approach it. Kelly – Ollie, you I and Scott will work on that and we will come up with some ideas. Bill – Five minutes before break might be a good idea, come up before break then go out and hobnob. Kelly – Not a bad idea. Sara – Ask if okay to share another event, it has been done before. Heard from folk that AFWA and regional meetings are so tight and don't have same time at breaks with directors and staff as they used to have and struggling to get quality time; more at AFWA and national meeting. Kelly – Putting out money and directors aren't showing up and that frustrates them. Sara – With so many new directors, have a discussion about having directors show up, the new ones may not know. Ollie – It is meaningful when you thank sponsors as directors, they are here to see you, that means a lot to them and gets them back next year. Nice problem to have.

ABC-MAFWA Southern Wings MOU Extension – Ollie – End of five-year agreement on bird conservation, eight states sent money to Latin American, I sign contract on your behalf, Deb

Hahn sent to me and need approval to sign a five-year extension to send money south. Kelly – Nice if Deb could come and give a presentation, a big deal in the Midwest, like to hear something from AFWA. Ollie – You get a written report every year but that is a good idea. Have her come to South Dakota and give a thumbnail report. Kelly – Sure Deb would appreciate invite to Custer State Park. *Dale Garner, Iowa moved, Scott Loomans, Wisconsin second. Motion passes.*

Midwest Landscape Initiative Update – Kelly – Kelley Myers was Dale’s position for three years and took a job with USFWS, she is really outstanding and innovation. She will be here Tuesday. Back in old days with landscape conservation partnerships, never took off, collectively spent a lot of money to get them to work; worked okay in northeast, but not in a lot of other areas. Lot of push in Congress to get rid of those and got written out of budget. There was a hole created and at same time commitment to build partnerships and collaborate together. Jim Douglas, who will join us on Tuesday, let those discussions for AFWA. At same time had monarch model we have been using and successful collaboration. Kelly Myers and others took that concept to jointly develop conservation work plans, same basic concept of LCCs but on more collaborative basis. We have a steering committee, have a technical work committee who have met a number of times. The USFWS incredibly supportive of this. All other regional associations are implementing this in their regions. We have great working relationship with USFWS. Action to take at business meeting on resolution, USFWS already putting money in this. Leadership in Congress is wondering what happened to LCCs, here is what has taken its place, a more collaborative effort. We are excited about this, have ideas we want to spend money on. Broaden out clearing house in any major direction we want to see beyond state boundaries. Has a lot of energy. Ollie – It is action item in business meeting. Kelly – The resolution is. Terry – Feel really good about this and pleased with how it has taken off. Ollie – Each state has people working on technical working groups; a habitat group, a ?? group and a wind energy group, three separate parts that are very active and important. Your states are plugged in and that is key, that is where the science is. Sara – As we transition into better identity for what sorts of projects go before this group; we got joint ventures, state wildlife action plan folks already meeting and collaborating; working on identity of regional coordination groups but are needed. Our staff is struggling with how it is different from some of collaboration already occurring; we will get there. We enjoy a much different relationship with the Service, then west; whether reflection of Charlie Wooley’s of the world who are always trying to figure out ways to collaborate with the states, I don’t know. Kelly – Don’t have specific species. Dale – Meeting in Des Moines struggling with that same thing. Kelley will talk about that. Had a lengthy discussion on that. Good for me to attend technical meeting and it would be good for her to go to steering committee as well. Kelly – Interesting spin on this, if we ever get through Recovering America Wildlife Act, the Service may have difficult time finding match. Director from Alaska was asking if we could go back into the Service, and question if we could put that on landscape partnership, Paul Rauch thinks no reason why we couldn’t. This might be a vehicle if we actually start getting that money, to use with those things. This is broader than a joint venture, concept is similar. Some states will not have problem matching, others will. Kelley will do a good job tomorrow.

Monarch Strategy Implementation Update – Ed Boggess – Working last three years under USFWS grant with MAFWA as liaison, a part-time job. Claire Beck is the work force, she works for MAFWA and will be in this evening. Completed strategy and approved in North Dakota. We

are on second major NFWF grant, on NFWF III grant now, first one was actually partially awarded, and money was handled by National Wildlife Federation in partnership with Pheasants Forever and MAFWA. Since conference call in May, MidAmerica strategy envisioned monarchs as part of multi-species landscape approach; a lot of similar species and habitats and monarchs integrated into that, shouldn't do single species. Always been that desire, Midwest Landscape Initiative is perfect opportunity. The executive committee has said that is the direction we want to go. USFWS supportive, Claire operating under two NFWF grants over last 2 ½ years and current NFWF grant goes through the end of October. USFWS got approval to extend grant I have been operating under for another year and add dollars to bring Claire in when federal fiscal 2020 starts, October 1, to continue making sure doing what we need to with monarchs and pollinators at risk, landscape support you are doing; Claire and I excited about that. Like to keep doing this type of work and Claire likes idea of landscape work. Working on making sure we have all of the federal documentation and paperwork to get positive action by board on Wednesday. Focus has been, hosting workshop first full week in August near St. Louis for state technical staff and key NGOs who have been involved with Mid-America board as ex-officios. That is one of final deliverables of NFWF III grant. The discussion was focused on listing finding that was due out this week, but that has been extended to December 15, 2020. That buys us time to solidify objectives where we can; still lot of discussion going on in south central states as Mid-America covers Oklahoma and some of Texas as well. Also, can talk about monitoring, reporting and current state of the science. A lot to talk about, one of biggest discussions will be data management and reporting. Monarch conservation EAs created by the Service, 4 million acres in that and hearing there may not be support for maintaining that in long term, database modeled after sage grouse. Question is, how we go forward with monitoring and data management.

Bill Moritz – The Mid America Strategy is overseen by a board of directors, which has all of the state directors, plus Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas and a representative of each is on technical committee along with some of the major nonprofits. I started out as chair of that group, when left deputy position, continued to work part-time in Michigan and continue in role as chair of the group so I continue to do that. It is working fine and has created opportunity for continuity in that program. It is a MAFWA program that has a board focused on the conservation strategy and work group and two employees concentrating on getting that work done. Over three years there was a sense of urgency and proposal to list puts some fire to the feet. Great document and nice to see how everything has come along and it sets the stage for collaborative approach to species that don't pay attention to state boundaries. Ollie – The model is amazing, and the meeting Ed established was one of the most exciting things; they made a lot of decisions in a short time and it quickly came together in one meeting like this. The governance you set up has captured national attention. Ed – Claire started in December 2016, conference in January 2016 in Texas, asked for funds which was partial NFWF I that we got. Asked for coordinator and didn't get it at organizational workshop that Iowa had. MAFWA put up money in 2015 for pre-scoping workshop and technical staff from all of the states attended and facilitated recommendation came out, governance structure then went to committee and board which turned out to be fortunate way to spend money. A lot of thought went into that. Ollie – Bill, are you going to stay on in Michigan? Bill – Yes, I anticipate that.

MAFWA 2020 Conference Update – Kelly – Next year we go to Custer State Park, June 28 - July 1. Beautiful park in Black Hills, fly into Rapid City, out of Minneapolis or Denver, it is

regional airlines and American and United fly there. It is about a 25-minute drive to there, a nice drive. Completely different than this, having great working relationship with resort who basically works for us. Meeting place is nice, it was old barn, then ran jeeps out of there; remodeled and neat place, a great venue. Jeep rides there and take time for tours. Beautiful area. No pool or jacuzzi but great place and great food. If you get a chance bring your family, you can go to Needles Highway, Mount Rushmore, several caves and national park.

Kelly - Big horns in the Badlands, 10 rams, over 180 points; world record shot last year with a bow, one or two more that size. Come through divide in the rock. Have one resident tag for average person to shoot a ram; auction one off to Midwest Shooting Foundation and get about \$85,000. The Governor wants to auction one off, probably sell for half million or higher; only 10-12 people that bid on these things. Money will go into a foundation. Some people in parks fine with that and some that don't like hunting. Rams are susceptible to pneumonia and could lose the whole herd tomorrow. It isn't a challenging hunt, shoot in stubble field, but can shoot a world record. Badlands are nice, not as nice as North Dakota, but nice.

Kelly – Will get information out, let you know airlines and times and talk about transportation and things like that later.

Other Business – Kelly – Talk about three-splash rule. Sara – Tomorrow in hot topics, have 5-10 minutes each? Ollie – How about five. Kelly – I can police that tomorrow. Three-splash rule came up years ago in Central Flyway. Starting to lose participation, average hunter when they come out in the morning have to figure out what species a duck is and whether to shoot or not shoot. It is happening in South Dakota and across the country that we are losing users in waterfowl hunting, 24,000 8-10 years ago, now down to 10,000; production is going up in Saskatchewan. We did some surveys and complexity of regulations and access was the reason. The idea of the three-splash rule is simple shoot three ducks, whatever it is your bag; they could all be hens or pintails or canvasbacks, whatever it is. It came through the system to regional director at USFWS, biologists are biologists and fear that killing hens would damage the population and AFWA fell on our sword. We fought and lost. Governor excited because she believes in hunting and fishing and she is carrying it to the Secretary of Interior. Bernhard supports idea and working on access and increasing participation. We are going to talk to Margaret about this. Governor is going to take to Western Governors Association to carry this on. It could happen in different ways; want to have experiment in a couple of different states, North Dakota and South Dakota and see if it works; if it doesn't work, oh well. We will see where it is going to go. Looking for director's support on Wednesday morning.

Next Meeting Day and Time – Ollie – Sometimes needed in August, need tentative date set. Set for Tuesday August 13, 2019 9:00 am CDT. Kelly – Also meet face-to-face at AFWA in St. Paul.

Kendra – Happy to have you here.

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.