



Game and Fish



**Memorandum**

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Lynn M. Timm, Directors' Administrative Assistant, on behalf of Jeb Williams, Director

Date: 23 June 2023

RE: Proxy - MAFWA Annual Director's Meeting

I hereby authorize Scott Peterson to vote my proxy at the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Directors' Meeting on June 28, 2023, 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: Jeb Williams, Director

Governor  
Doug Burgum

Director  
Jeb Williams

Deputy Director  
Scott A. Peterson



**Memorandum**

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Kevin Robling, Department Secretary, SDGFP

Date: June 21, 2023

RE: Proxy - MAFWA Annual Director's Meeting

I hereby authorize **Scott Simpson** to vote my proxy at the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Directors' Meeting in **June 2023**, 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.

Best regards,

Kevin Robling, *Department Secretary*  
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

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

**Wednesday, June 28, 2023**

7:00am - 11:00am  
(CT)

**\*Conference Registration Desk Open**

7:00am - 8:00am  
(CT)

**\*Breakfast Buffet**  
*Sponsored by Bass Pro Shops*  
Remarks by Bob Ziehmer

8:00am - 10:00am  
(CT)

**MAFWA Business Meeting**  
Amanda Wuestefeld, MAFWA President

- Call to Order and Roll Call
- Agenda Review
- Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report – Roger Luebbert
- Audit Committee Report – Pete Hildreth (IA)
- Investments Committee Report – Brad Loveless (KS)
- Bylaws Committee Report – Sara Parker Pauley (MO)
- Resolutions Committee Report – Sara Parker Pauley (MO)
- Awards Committee Report – Kendra Wecker (OH)
- Executive Secretary's Report – Ollie Torgerson
- R3 & Relevancy Coordinator Report – Keith Warnke

Old Business

- Mid-America Monarch Strategy Approval – Lorisa Smith (MAFWA)
- National Wild Pheasant Plan Update – Scott Taylor (PF)
- Bowhunting Equipment Regulation Review – Dan Forster (ATA)
- Midwest Landscape Initiative – Sara Parker Pauley (MO)/Craig Czarnecki (FWS)
- MAFWA Contract Manager Position – Ollie Torgerson
- Midwest Fish & Wildlife Health Coordinator Position – Ollie Torgerson

New Business

- 2023 Budget Approval – Roger Luebbert

10:00am - 10:15am  
(CT)

**\*Refreshment Break**  
Sponsored by ASPIRA

10:15am - 12:00pm  
(CT)

**MAFWA Business Meeting (CONTINUED)**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Closing Comments - President's Remarks</i></li><li>• <i>Illinois Spotlight (2024)</i></li></ul>
12:00pm (CT)	<b>Conference Adjourns</b>

**Minutes**  
**MAFWA Annual Business Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 30, 2022**  
**Custer State Park Lodge, Event Barn**  
**Custer, South Dakota**

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Starts at 8:00 am

**MAFWA BUSINESS MEETING**

**Colleen Callahan, IL DNR director and MAFWA President** – Officially called to order at 8:00 AM. Would again like to thank everyone from South Dakota who was involved in any way in this meeting. It was an incredible experience, both recreationally as well as the meeting. Presentations from individuals throughout the agency helped us really learn those three Cs that are foundational, communicate, collaborate and connect, you did all three of those throughout the meeting. My thanks for giving us the benefit of putting together this meeting so we could learn from you. We are going to depart from the agenda (*Exhibit A*), we are going to begin at the end. For all the accolades we have given South Dakota, the challenge for Wisconsin is going to be to try to match our experience here. I know they are up to the task.

**Wisconsin Spotlight (2023) (moved from end of agenda)**

**Eric Lobner, Wildlife Bureau Director, WI DNR** – Thank you for letting me present early, my flight leaves early afternoon. Wisconsin is more than just beer and cheese. It is home to the Green Bay Packers, the only publicly owned NFL team, truly the people's team and people are passionate about them. If you ever have the opportunity to tailgate and attend a game it is worth time and money. The Packers have won the most NFL world championships, earned name of Titletown USA, three consecutive championships, not once but twice. Next year we will meet in Green Bay, Wisconsin. It has the world's largest freshwater estuary located on shores of Lake Michigan which holds record walleye. Meeting will be held in Titletown District next to Lambeau Field, a new and unique community; Austin Straubel Airport is about 10 minutes from conference location. Variety of natural features, Niagara escarpment, which is a good spot for vineyards and orchards, so you find wineries in the area. In addition to the wine, great cherry pie. This geological feature, known as the cliff, overlooks the Niagara River. The Broadway District is near the downtown hot spot, home to all kinds of events and markets. So, bring family and friends. At the base of Door County peninsula, a popular tourist destination with lighthouses, harbors, wineries and eclectic art. There are 34 islands and was once filled with ship wreck bootleggers and Al Capone. In addition to natural features, it is home to the Oneida Nation, next to reservation, one of largest employers in northeast Wisconsin and important partner with Wisconsin DNR. The Oneida Nation has been instrumental in many of our watershed clean ups and habitat restoration projects in the area and reducing sediment and nutrient loads to the river system. Also, a wide variety of historic areas, such as lumber and paper mill industry. Have a number of restoration projects and partnerships in the area and one of largest cleanup projects in the nation, it took 15 years and six million cubic yards of sediment

dredged which led to vastly improved water quality. Another restoration project, a unique opportunity to restore shoreline habitat, had wave action and a variety of things that impacted islands. We continue to work with partners, USFWS, Ducks Unlimited and others to restore 272 acres of islands in Lake Michigan off the shore of Green Bay. Wiped out critical nesting habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl, is a stopover location and provides opportunity to hunt the widest variety of waterfowl in the U.S. Not only good for habitat but good for the economy, a win/win scenario. This is restoring shipping industry and has been a catalyst in building new partnerships which has led to additional funding for new projects that will benefit fish, wildlife and people in the area. We have recently been monitoring the birds utilizing that location. It is also world class fishery and when it comes to fishing, Green Bay has it all, big water charter excursions with many species prevalent and 100s of inland lakes. A half hour south of Green Bay is Lake Winnebago which has one-of-a-kind sturgeon population, with a large yearly spear fishing event that continues to grow and expand. The event brings in millions to our area and allows us to access crucial biological data on this fish. To see shanties on the lake, people put their tack up and make roads, cut big holes in the ice and neat to see. We have robust commercial fishing industry on Lake Michigan and we have incredible partnerships and other opportunities as well. Within an hour's drive, there is almost 300,000 acres of public land. There is open water waterfowl hunting in one of the nation's largest flyways and also ruffed grouse hunting, highest density per square mile. Also, have variety of furbearers for hunting as well. We have an incredible Applied Science Division, fish and wildlife research unit. Our Office of Applied Science have done whitefish stock assessments which leads to better commercial and recreational fisheries management. We also are assessing the predator/prey balance. Some of you have seen our Snapshot Wisconsin Initiative, the largest citizen science project in the U.S. This project has allowed us to get a better understanding of population dynamics not only in northern part of the state but across the entire state. We have a significant number of state parks in the state, 49 state parks, 15 state forests, 44 state trails, 84,000 miles of rivers and streams and we have 15,000 lakes, more than Minnesota's 10,000 lakes. Heritage Hill SP is considered a living history museum and highlights structures from the Wisconsin Fur trade of 1762, Fort Howard in 1836, small towns in 1871 and ethnic farms of 1905. We also have High Cliff SP, northern shore of inland lake; Pottawatomie SP, a popular winter recreation site with snowmobile trails that connect miles and miles of trails; Whitefish Dunes, most substantial sand dunes on western shore of Lake Michigan, park allows you to travel back in time acting as mural full of fossils, seashells and coral reefs; one of largest parks is Peninsula SP, home to Eagle High Tower, a 60-foot high which offers a panoramic view of the state park and Upper Michigan. We can't wait to see you next year. *Pete* – Are dates picked? *Tami* – About same time frame.

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

*Ollie* – All states present except Indiana, Kendra Wecker, OH for Amanda Wuestefeld as her proxy; Shannon Lott, Michigan proxy for Dan Eichinger; Tami Ryan, Wisconsin proxy (*Proxies – Exhibit A*). No Canadian provinces are present.

## **Agenda Review**

**Colleen** – (*Agenda – Exhibit B*) **Tim McCoy** – Add short update on sharptailed grouse strategy. **Colleen** – Added to new business.

## **Approval of Annual Meeting (June 30, 2021) Minutes**

Annual meeting minutes (*Exhibit C*); **Brad Loveless, Kansas** moved to accept minutes as printed, **Sara Parker Pauley, Missouri** second. Motion approved.

## **Treasurer's Report**

**Roger Luebbert** – Treasurer's Report (*Exhibit D*). Passed out two reports, one we will go over now and the second is the 2023 proposed budget which is the last agenda item of the day. No changes to reports Ollie passed out. I want to give thanks, to project leaders I work with, both federal and non-federal. We have a good set of project leaders and that really makes my job a lot easier. They help to make sure that the work gets done, reports get done and the bills get paid on time to comply with 1099 reporting and that helps a lot. There are two individuals I really want to point out, one is Ollie Torgerson who does a lot to keep me informed of what is going on, I ask him lots of questions and he responds quickly and makes my job much easier. The other person is very busy doing all sorts of things and she still takes the time to sign all the checks, Sara Parker Pauley. This report historically has summarized all the receipts and disbursement transactions from all of MAFWA and Conservation Enhancement Fund (CEF) accounts for the most recently completed fiscal year. Our fiscal year is on a calendar year basis, so this report shows all the transactions for calendar year 2021. First page is summary of account balances and then it goes through each account. We have two tax entities, the first is our 501(c)(6), our Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife, MAFWA for short and our 501(c)(3), our foundation, Conservation Enhancement Fund or CEF for short. In MAFWA tax entity the first one is the Banking Services Account River Region Credit Union, had zero balance at the beginning of the year and ended with \$151,000. We moved part of banking services account from the Conservation Credit Union to keep under federally insured limits. Top two accounts start with banking services, which means those accounts handle special projects that do not involve federal funds. The two projects we moved over to the River Region Credit Union are the National Pheasant Plan program and monarch funds. The remaining projects are still in the Conservation Credit Union account. The next is the Conference Account, our main operating account, we will spend quite a bit of time and focus on this one. Southern Wings Account, the money comes in and I turn around and pay it out. Federal Account, is very busy, it may not look like it because the beginning and ending balances are about the same, but \$450,000 was run through this account. Credit Union Share Account, is where we have to maintain \$25 in that account to remain a member. The last one is the investment account, Money Market and Securities Account at the Broker, this is the account the Investment committee is going to be talking about. The bottom is the 501(c)(3) account, CEF we have a checking account. The main activity in this account is the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (MFWC). We have receipts coming in which we have paid out to various entities. Next is the share account, we moved \$15,000 over to the checking in order to make the deposit for the MFWC conference. The last one is the investment account at the broker which the Investment

Committee focuses on. The bottom of the page is designations for these accounts and you will see them on the individual pages.

The next page is **Banking Service Account, at River Region Credit Union**, on receipts side we have National Pheasant Plan Coordinator contributions from various states and then we transferred money to this account from the other banking services account at the Conservation Credit Union account and interest. On disbursement side there is Pheasants Forever for coordinator and communications software for MLI. The balance as of December 31, 2021 was \$151,292. Designations are listed at \$150,333, almost all of the funds are designated for a specific purpose. The other one is **Banking Service Account, at Conservation Employees Credit Union**, on receipts side we have Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLfT) contributions from various states, national pheasant coordinator contributions from states, before we moved them to River Region Credit Union, Ohio project reimbursements and interest. On disbursement side you see CLfT, Pheasants Forever for pheasant coordinator, Ohio projects, communications software for MLI and transfers made to new account at River Region Credit Union. The balance as of December 31, 2021, was \$90,266 with \$79,461 of that earmarked for Ohio projects. The **Conference Account**, is our operating account. Receipts are for this annual director's meeting from sponsors and registrations, affiliate dues, membership dues, banking fees and indirect costs, which had a major increase this year, \$35,761 up from \$16,000 year before, and a small amount of interest and total receipts are \$154,048. Disbursements include expenses for the conference, executive secretary pay and travel, treasurer pay and travel, tax preparation fee, insurance, which is on three-year cycle with no payment made this year, website maintenance, North Central Section of The Wildlife Society and miscellaneous items. Overall, the balance as of December 31 was \$169,517. A good cushion in operating account, an increase of about \$60,000. **Southern Wings Account**, we have contributions from the states that we turned around and paid out to the American Bird Conservancy. **Federal Account**, had federal reimbursements from the USFWS, \$453,000. This is the number we need to pay attention to because if we go above \$750,000 we may have to do a single audit. Also, have a little interest and on disbursements side USFWS state liaison and technical coordinator pay and travel, Midwest Landscape Initiative (MLI), R3 evaluation and toolkit projects and miscellaneous. Our balance as of December 31 was \$10,380. **Credit Union Share Account**, maintaining \$25 in that account. The **Money Market and Securities Account**, there is interest, dividends and capital gains and we have some funds that were swept out of our cash subaccount within this fund and they were reinvested so it isn't really true disbursement. The market value of the securities we hold has increased significantly as the market overall has increased. Our balance as of December 31 was just under \$901,291. Now to the Conservation Enhancement Fund. **Conservation Enhancement Credit Union Checking Account**, \$90,000 from 2021 conference, we transferred money from share account so we could make payment for 2022 conference and some interest; on disbursements side we paid the profit out to The Wildlife Society (TWS) and American Fisheries Society (AFS) in Minnesota paying back conference deposit for Iowa and the North Central Section of AFS and TWS; 2022 MFWC and MAFWA administrative fee transferred to conference account, you will see deposit on page 4; for balance as of December 31 was \$23,849.



501(c)(3): **Conservation Enhancement Share Account at Credit Union**, this is our savings account; we had interest receipts and transferred from here to the checking account; balance as of December 31 was \$60,704. **Conservation Enhancement Account at the Broker**, we had dividends and capital gains receipts, had funds swept and reinvested; had change of market value, a positive \$843; for total as of December 31 of about \$7,000. **Conservation Enhancement Fund Summary**, shows assets and designations, we talked about these balances and this is as of December 31. Receivables for deposits we made for conferences for Iowa total \$16,000, we will get that back when close that conference and brokerage account for total assets of \$107,628. Designations are listed, Kansas from 2012 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (MFWC) funds that we are holding for them, also holding some Ohio from 2019 MFWC, these were under prior arrangement before we started paying those funds out, we also have funds we set aside, \$4,500 for Kansas staff to attend Iowa conference, Kansas was next in line to host that conference. One reason why I am doing this summary is to show the eleven states that contributed \$5,000 each to start up a contingency fund because moving through new process of supporting the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference for a total of \$55,000. Line 21 we have the CEF operating funds that we use for expenses like tax preparation fees, etc.; with total designations of \$100,194 and undesignated balance of \$7,434. A little bit more than investment account. *Colleen* – Most of us look at a lot of these kinds of reports in and outside our agencies and this is the most easily read and understood of any I have worked with. *Pete Hildreth, Iowa moved to accept, Kendra Wecker, Ohio second. Motion carried.*

#### **Audit Committee Report**

*Colleen Callahan, IL* – Twice per year the audit committee selects 10 receipts and 10 disbursements from our bank account, Roger provides the supporting documentation, this has been completed and no discrepancies found. No approval required.

#### **Investments Committee Report**

*Shannon Lott (for Dan Eichinger), MI* – Committee also consists of Brad Loveless and Roger. Hopefully, everyone knows the contract was signed, electronically and I asked Roger to stay for questions. *Colleen* – Dan would have liked to be here but because of his commitment in tribal negotiations he couldn't. Dan spent a yeoman's amount of work and time on this in research and making recommendations so confident we made appropriate decision.

#### **Bylaws Committee Report**

*Sara Parker Pauley, MO (Constitution and Bylaws with proposed changes - Exhibit E)* – Revisions to the bylaws, go page by page and point out revisions. Changing date on cover page to July 2022; page 3, under Article II, other association positions, new section 4, treasurer, executive secretary, recording secretary and contractors are required to sign confidentiality form; bottom page 7, Article VII, under dues, current version of bylaws, any time there is an annual dues change we change that, for the next bylaws I will have proposed language that just says there will be period changes to membership dues so we are not having to make this change all the time, we do make annual adjustments based on CPI. Appreciate email Ollie sent out with amount of new dues, \$4,160 per state and \$110

for provinces, payable in advance. Moving onto Article XI, types of committees and boards, under section 2, paragraph B, adding sentence to Auditing Committee explanation, changing auditing accounts on a semi-annual (versus annually) basis instead of annually and adding sentence, “An external audit by a CPA firm approved by the Executive Committee shall be conducted every five years.”, clarifying current practice; page 10, the biggest proposed change, inclusion of Midwest Landscape Initiative Steering Committee as a standing committee of MAFWA. The executive committee did discuss this and do recommend this revision. There are great benefits to having the MLI serve as a MAFWA standing committee and be able to give directors oversight and understanding and aligns the work we are doing in a way that makes more transparency and oversight by the members. The new provision is “The Midwest Landscape Initiative Steering Committee shall be comprised of five Directors and three senior representatives from the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the MAFWA region. The Midwest Landscape Initiative is a collaboration of partners engaged in the conservation and management of fish and wildlife in the Midwest; it serves as forum to identify shared landscape-scale priorities and co-develop effective conservation actions to address them. The Steering Committee may include ex officio members and may form subcommittees, working groups, teams, or other collaborative approaches to aid in the development and implementation of effective conservation solutions for shared priorities.” We word-smithed this several times and ended up in good spot. Under section III, we added “The Association recognizes the following Ad Hoc Committees; Feral Swine (established in 2013) and Chronic Wasting Disease (established in 2021)” As we also do we tweak the technical working committee lifespan which we do on three-year cycles; and on occasion review of a technical committee is still needed, as is the case with removing National Conservation Need (NCN) committee, there is new process and mechanism to identify those priorities and adding Social Science/Human Dimensions Committee with consideration through 2024. Extend Climate Change, Midwest Public Lands Technical Working Committee and Midwest Wildlife and Fish Health Committee to 2025. **Sara Parker Pauley, Missouri made a motion to accept revisions; Tim McCoy, Nebraska second.** *Tami* – The Midwest Fish and Wildlife Health Committee, will we be changing their name? *Sara* – It is timing in the agenda, we will consider that committee change later in the agenda, so we could come back to bylaws later in the agenda or bring that change for next consideration. *Ollie* – We will change next year. Will need to change R3 too. *Sara* – We will reflect those changes next time. **Motion carried.**

### **Resolutions Committee Report**

**Sara Parker Pauley, MO (Exhibit F)** – Start with no action item, but while we have been having a fabulous meeting here in South Dakota many of our law enforcement officers (AMFGLEO) have been meeting in Des Moines this week. During their deliberations they passed a resolution in support of Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (RAWA) and they wanted directors to be aware of this resolution; for their Association, so no action needed here. I said I would share it so I will read whereas provisions. “WHEREAS, roughly one-third of all U.S. wildlife species are at some degree of elevated risk of extinction; and WHEREAS, more than 1,600 U.S. species are already listed as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act and nearly 150 U.S. species have already gone extinct; and WHEREAS, the ongoing rapid decline of so many species

and the habitats they depend on threatens American's quality of life, the ecological services we depend on such as clean air and water, and our outdoor recreation industry, which contributes \$887 billion to our national economy annually, through American jobs, consumer spending, and federal, state, and local tax revenue; and WHEREAS, each state is required by law to develop a State Wildlife Action Plan, which identifies imperiled species and outlines specific actions that would assist with the protection and recovery of more than 12,000 species in need of proactive conservation efforts; and WHEREAS, unless our nation invests in proactive, on-the-ground, collaborative conservation efforts, we risk losing thousands of fish, wildlife, and plant species, as well as our nation's rich wildlife heritage, to preventable challenges; and WHEREAS, the bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) would be the most significant investment in wildlife conservation in a generation; and WHEREAS, RAWA establishes a 21<sup>st</sup> century funding model for the proactive conservation of fish and wildlife and would direct \$1.3 billion in existing revenues to state fish and wildlife agencies to implement their science-driven State Wildlife Action Plans, which includes law enforcement activities directly related to protecting and conserving species of greatest conservation need and the habitat of such species. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers hereby 1. Urges that all State and Federal legislators support this landmark, bipartisan legislation to the greatest extent possible. 2. Stresses that appropriate funding from this historic legislation be directed to law enforcement efforts directly related to the protection and conservation of species of greatest conservation need and the habitat of such species. 3. Recommends that all state, federal, and tribal partners work collaboratively to ensure passage of this landmark legislation for the purpose of avoiding the need to list species, or recovering species, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 or under State law.” The first resolution for the members consideration comes from Fish and Wildlife Health Committee. I want to remind newer members that these resolutions are not binding on member states, and we would like to see more resolutions coming from our committees for our consideration. The resolution process is not utilized by committees as much as it should be and I appreciate when a committee takes the time and effort to put a resolution before us. We take it seriously and take it to heart and seriously consider them. Thank Brian and Brad as my resolution committee co-members. We support this resolution and support for this to come before the full membership for your consideration. I hope the members have read the Whereas statements. They have asked for support for added staff capacity and resources to respond to Fish and Wildlife health threats. The therefore statement, “NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Directors at its annual meeting in Custer State Park, South Dakota on June 30, 2022 support the need to invest resources into expanding fish and wildlife health programs in their States and Provinces.” I think we can all recognize the laborious efforts of our health staff members and additional stresses and issues they are having to respond to in an ever-increasing rate. ***Sara Parker Pauley, Missouri moved to pass resolution from Fish and Wildlife Health committee, Dave Olfelt, Minnesota second. Motion carries.*** *Brian* – Will LE resolution be shared with this delegation? *Sara* – That is up to the Association. The director was aware of the resolution. *Kendra* – I would like to have that copy. *Brian* – Share to show another member of our community supports RAWA. *Sara* – We can recommend or suggest to the Association that they share. *Ollie* –

Sometimes they share with other Associations but that is not on this particular resolution. *Colleen* – That doesn't prevent us from doing it does it? *Sara* – There is a recommendation to forward to AFWA and have Sean and campaign use it as they see fit. *Colleen* – Preference of this body that they will be notified of this and encourage their sharing of this resolution. *Tim* – Yes, Sean has a list of all positions of AFWA, MAWFA and others. *Sheila* – I would like to have that too for our records. *Colleen* – Ollie, note we will make that recommendation to AFWA. *Sara* - One final resolution for members consideration. I will read the Whereas statements. “WHEREAS, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks has so efficiently and enthusiastically organized and conducted the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies after a 2-year COVID-19 delay; and WHEREAS, Secretary Kevin Robling and staff have worked together with local and national conservation partners making all the participants welcome; and WHEREAS, the members of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies wish to express their gratitude for all the collaborative efforts of South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at its annual meeting in Custer State Park, South Dakota, on June 30, 2022, acknowledges the hard work and hospitality of Secretary Robling and his staff from the Great State of South Dakota, and hereby passes this resolution in a showing of great appreciation.” ***Sara Parker Pauley, Missouri moved for adoption, Colleen Callahan, Illinois, asked for acclamation.*** (applause) *Kevin* – We had a great team of staff working on this. Thank you.

#### **Awards Committee Report**

***Kendra Wecker, OH (MAFWA Award Winner Nominations – Exhibit G)*** – We had a nice awards luncheon, presented five awards and past president and president's award. I ask that we move up submission consideration time to have time to notify winners. *Sheila* and I will talk about that, probably a couple of weeks.

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

***Ollie (PowerPoint – Exhibit H)*** – Appreciate all of you being here and thank you directors for making the commitment, it is important to fill your seat. *Amanda* would have been here but came down with Covid and *Dan* got caught up with tribal negotiations, they both wanted to be here. Thank *Kevin* and *South Dakota*, after two years away, spent a lot of time in 2020 getting ready for this conference, Covid hit in March, and it was cancelled. Because of your perseverance and tenacity, we are finally holding this meeting. I appreciate *Tony Wasley* being here. The President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has attended our conference consistently and I have always made a special effort to get the director of USFWS here. But *Martha Williams* could not be here due to schedule conflicts. About half of our meetings, we have been graced with the presence of the Director of the USFWS and that is important. We always get last minute requests to be on the program and I got one last week from the Center for Conservation Excellence, I had to turn them down, but I will pass out a handout (*Exhibit I*). Maybe they can be on the schedule next year. Also, got a request from *John Fischer* to be on the program and turned him down. I had a request from *Dave Chanda* to be on and I turned him down too, but he got on the program and that is how it goes. The programs get packed and we do get last minute requests and sometimes we just

don't have space on the program. We only meet for 2 ½ days, that is the way directors like this conference, get in and get out. Do have special memories of Rapid City, Ron and I came here about six weeks ago, we traveled here to meet Kevin and introduce him to our respective associations. I was here in 1985 at Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Committee meeting. My first meeting was in 1972. I was here when South Dakota hosted the Prairie Deer Conference. We flew up in the department's aircraft, a single engine Cessna and the department pilot flew us right up to the face of Mount Rushmore before he landed. I don't even know if that was legal. We departed on June 9 and flew out to see pronghorns and noticed this huge black cloud over the Black Hills. Got home safely that night and the next morning we woke up to find that the black cloud dumped 15 inches of rain and created the most devastating flood in South Dakota history. 238 people died, they got trapped in canyons with campers, the river breached the dam and there were over 3,000 injuries, 1,300 homes were destroyed and 5,000 vehicles totaled. You don't ever underestimate the power of moving water or the power of Mother Nature. There was six feet of water in the hotel we were staying in along Rapid Creek. I am happy to be back in Rapid City. Covid continued to have impacts and we cancelled the 2020 meeting, the first time we did not meet since WWII, had first virtual conference last year in 2021. I am so happy we are meeting together face-to-face. Said farewell to two powerful directors, Terry Steinwand from North Dakota and Jim Douglas from Nebraska. Terry wanted to be here but had change in plans, so he extends his greeting to each of you. Working hard on MLI and R3 fronts and we applied last month for Midwest Fish and Wildlife Health Coordinator funding. We will be looking at proposal to establish a Midwest R3 coordinator later on in this meeting. Ron Regan and I go out to meet new directors, so we travelled to meet Jeb and Tim, appreciate you both being here. Back to grant contract work. Because of all the activity going on in MAFWA our grant contract work has really escalated. We have hotel contracts, Delaney contracts, FWS, R3, Ohio DNR, Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow and Southern Wings. Had PR Modernization Act, America's Conservation Enhancement Act and Infrastructure Bill, America the Beautiful, America's Rescue Act, RAWA, and you can see what is coming our way. I need help, we are maxed out and we don't see any slowdown in sight. I want to say a few words about the Midwest Landscape Initiative, super proud of them, you have heard of build back better, and that is what we are doing in MLI, building from ground up, with multiple conservation partners. We have been chasing endangered species listing process by law for many years and we need a new approach to get ahead of the listing process, this is it. You have just solidified this through the bylaws change and making MLI a standing committee within the Midwest Association, an integral part of who we are. Important, thank you for doing that. Shout out to Craig Czarnecki and Kelley Myers and all the FWS staff and all the other conservation partners and your staff working on this. A lot of people doing the heavy work in MLI. Super proud and fun to watch it develop. Spend a lot of time planning for this conference and important to work with host state and Delaney Meeting Event Management, it is all in the details. Shout out to Emily Kiel from South Dakota and Meg Boera from Delaney Meeting and Event Management. They were great to work with and we were able to raise over \$62,000 in sponsorship support for this conference, 28 sponsors. We can't live without this important group of people, thank them for supporting MAFWA. We had president transition during the year; didn't expect Keith Warnke to suddenly retired in middle of April and our first vice-president

graciously took the reins. The president sits over some-50 appointments. Thank you, Colleen. Thank Jeb for stepping up to be Director/Liaison of furbearer committee. I manage our website, I edit minutes, keep manuals up to date and all the background of things that need to get done. Ron and I come out to meet new directors, shout out to Ron Regan, a friend for over 40 years, he does so much for all of us and we appreciate him. Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference is proceeding nicely in spite of Covid. Had first virtual conference hosted by Minnesota DNR in 2021, first virtual hybrid hosted by Iowa DNR this year. Kansas is up next and that will be February 12-15 in Overland Park. South Dakota is up in 2024, first time for them since the MFWC started in 1935, South Dakota has finally gotten a hotel big enough to host it. Reiterate importance of directors sending staff to these conferences and committee meetings, important for staff to get out and meet their peers. Tribute to Ed, great friend for a long time and served our Association faithfully for many years including being our President in 2015. Ed, we will miss your leadership and your friendship and your thinking--farewell. Roger, Sheila and Claire do so much work for us, we appreciate it, thank you. Welcome Lorisa aboard and for your agreement to follow Ed's footsteps. Kansas, Brad your department for years has helped our Association by providing Sheila, for 25 years now she has been our Recording Secretary, she does minutes, helps Award Committee, does reports and offers printing services, a huge contribution to MAFWA. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, also makes a huge contribution to this Association, they provide my office space, computer, phone and copy machine. Tami, Eric and Rachel, thank you. A big contribution to our Association for me for 18 years now. Our next conference will be in Green Bay, Wisconsin, tentative dates June 25-28. We should be back on our normal historic schedule coming in on Sunday with reception on Sunday evening and out on noon on Wednesday. We haven't signed hotel contract yet once signed I will get this out so it can be locked in on your calendar. Back to traditional Sunday to Wednesday noon, our pattern for a long time, keep to that unless you want change. Our Law Enforcement Committee is meeting with us, they do every three years, they will have separate meeting, with social functions and most meals together with us. I want to thank directors for allowing me to serve as your executive secretary.

*Colleen* – Thank Ollie for your service and conservation throughout your career and then to MAFWA, Ollie thank you.

### **Approval of Affiliate Members**

*Ollie* – We have one application for affiliate membership. We have 28 affiliate members now. Heard from ACI Worldwide this morning, they were founded in 1975 and specialize in real time payments in licenses and other applications. They are here for first time at our conference and as a sponsor this year. ***Brad Loveless, Kansas moved to accept ACI Worldwide as an affiliate member, Jeb Williams, North Dakota second. Motion carried.***

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Mid-America Monarch Strategy Report**

*Ed Boggess* – Claire Beck is the superstar and will rapidly outpace anything I ever did. We thought it would be good to reiterate the role of MAFWA in monarch conservation.

Been a national leader. In 2014, monarchs were petitioned for listing. Science showed upper Midwest was the biggest production area for the biggest monarch population in the world although found in a number of countries; 98% are eastern population, produced in upper Midwest and overwinter in Mexico. The Midwest Region of Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) was given the national regulatory side of monarchs and this Board decided to tackle the monarch issue and put funding forward. MAFWA hosted a meeting in Iowa in 2015, put together funding to support that, applied for NFWF grants and I was partially successful getting funding for a state summit with support from the National Wildlife Federation. Kelley followed up on that when she was Iowa Director. I retired from Minnesota and was hired in 2016 and we were able to hire Claire and bring her on board to work out strategy. Mid-America Strategy was finalized in 2018, pulled in all MAFWA states plus south-central states, Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas which are key to migratory pathway of monarchs. They are produced largely in the upper Midwest and migrate to Mexico and using connected the resources on the way down. The monarchs need to survive the winter and retain enough energy to produce eggs, migrate back and produce the first generation of monarchs and then move up into southern Canada and all the U.S. The heart of that is the Eastern Great Plains up to Ohio. Monarchs are in all the states except Alaska. The strategy we produced goes beyond the MAFWA geography. This board created a Monarch Board that includes representation from MAFWA and those three south central states. The Northeast Association is represented as an Association and they were part of the Mid-America Strategy, not part of NFWF grants but were affiliated to Strategy, not state by state work. I would also like to recognize Nebraska and Jim Douglas, I accompanied Jim to meeting at WAFWA where he put monarchs on the agenda several years ago and I talked to the WAFWA Directors about what MAFWA was doing and they decided they should do a Western Monarch Plan, which they did. Both the Mid-America Strategy and the Western Monarch Plan were featured prominently in FWS finding of 2020 of warranted but precluded. Which means they believed the science of that time that showed that monarchs should be listed as threatened or endangered but precluded by higher priorities because they have a whole series in the que they are working on. This is old business this year but will be new business next year. Part of the Strategy, a 20-year Strategy was annual review of the science and five-year update. Claire will talk about what we are proposing. Claire and I have been primarily doing MLI but also assume monarch responsibilities on back burner but moving forward. I convened the Mid-America Board, an unofficial board, rather than a funding and policy board. They represent you and you have seen communication from me that we are scheduling a meeting in next couple of weeks, July 14 at 2:00 pm Central Time. Please try to get somebody to that. I won't go into much detail today because we have the whole new governance structure of MLI and monarch as single species. If you read the Strategy, a long document, but it is strong on landscape conservation and importance of incorporating monarch conservation efforts with other similar grassland species. That was a pre-cursor to MLI-type approach. We are going to approach the idea of working with governance that is set up around this organization and this issue just to get it back on Director's radar. More focused discussion about governance and whether or not MLI connection or if we just continue with this structure we have because it does extend beyond states represented here.

*Claire Beck* – Nice to see you. Original Mid-American Conservation Strategy was finalized in 2018, we committed to update every five years, which is next year so by next June. So, we have started the process. You approved by electronic vote the use of leftover state cash match funds from the NFWF grant for us to be able to bring on a cooperative agreement with Monarch Joint Venture to do the initial drafting and review to do this update. That is underway and we will hopefully be streamlining and making this a little more straight forward and not as long. It is going to be important that we do this because a final listing recommendation by due by September, 2024. We will do Strategy update and make sure we have all of our states on board with monarch habitat to play into the Service as they revisit that listing in 2024. *Sara* – Do you feel you are getting what you need from the states at this time? *Claire* – Yes, pretty good participation, need to make sure we have good participation from states and Service and open that line of communication as we go through this process of entering data and updating database. All of the back and forth we need to have input in that listing decision process. We are getting the wheels turning on that now. Feel like we are but definitely encourage your staff to participate, need each state to have input into this update as we commit to our regional goal. *Kevin* – How is MLI and Mid-America Monarch Strategy involving producers, landowners, farmers and ranchers. According to landscape scale changes they have to be at the table, this is a working lands concept. Explain so I am more familiar with that process. *Claire* – As far as Mid-America Monarch Strategy we had Farm Bureau involved, to a certain extent, in first iteration of the Strategy as well as NRCS. Most of that involvement was at the state level rather than regional level because of different relationships there. We had FSA, NRCS and Farm Bureau, depending on the state, more or less involvement at state level. *Sara* – Missouri for monarchs is electric cooperatives and a host of conservation organizations, like cattlemen’s associations, corn and soybeans and agriculture, etc. To your point, at state level, because state collaboratives are driving, data sharing, etc. and those relationships are critical. A great point. *Colleen* – Same list in Illinois too.

### **R3 Committee Organizational Guides**

*Megan Wisecup, IA* – (*Exhibit J*) MAFWA R3 Committee is requesting an update of our guidelines, a change name. We would like to change our name to Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation Technical Working Committee. The original name only had recruitment and retention, so want to include all three “Rs” out there and to cover all recreational activities this committee works on, not just those two. *Sara* – I am curious and appreciate scope of what committee is doing, it is fantastic. As I read through the many objectives you are going to outline for us you have such a good job including relevancy, so why not include that too? *Megan* – Okay we would be open to directors adding the fourth R. Relevancy is all through our mission statement so I don’t think there would be any objections if everyone is supporting that. *Colleen* – Discussion on adding relevancy to name change? *Brian* – SEAFWA changed our name with approval of directors to R3, because of heritage in the industry. It was included and inherent in R3, important part of what we are doing, but built into recruitment aspect. *Sara* – Some would suggest relevancy efforts hopefully do lead to active hunting and participation but not necessarily. Part of what we are seeing with relevancy, we as outdoor enthusiasts and stewards, want to connect with audiences



whether they end up actively engaging in hunting or fishing or not. Not necessarily agree, as we look at relevancy roadmap that it is beyond just R3. *Brian* – I agree. In SEAFWA and I believe would be the case in MAFWA as well, is participation and engagement, not just hunting and fishing like wildlife watching and other types of recreation. *Sara* – If in mission statement or otherwise make sure as we connect with newer audiences that it is not just recruitment, depends on what R3 means, but ensure, as said in mission statement, recruitment, retention and reactivation along with engaging broader constituencies. It is in addition to be sure we are speaking with same terms and meaning the same thing.

*Colleen* – This is an action item, think it about this broadly. My input would be to leave it to assumption that it includes relevancy and don't say it specifically to broader audience. Step up and for MAFWA to be a leader, my input is it should include relevancy as well. Some other discussions? *Tami* – I support the direction Director Pauley is suggesting. When you look at the objectives as well, hire and manage regional R3 and Relevancy coordinator, so putting intention in name of position. So that intention to have it in the name of the committee aligns with that. Someone serving in that role would be acting and serving the Association as the R3 and Relevancy Coordinator sends a significant message. *Tim* – Hazard I worry about is that we think we cover relevancy by putting it in here, but it has to be in everything we do. It really makes sense when you look at the position we are trying to pull together. *Kevin* – Support putting relevancy in there as well but want to make sure that we do talk about it. I don't see any issues adding relevancy to the title. ***Kevin Robling, South Dakota made motion to include Relevancy in title of R3 committee name, Tami Ryan, Wisconsin second.*** *Phil Seng, DJ Case and Associates* – We work with state and federal agencies all over the country and this issue is very current on lots of peoples' minds. As we all know, words do matter, whatever you decide is fine but be clean in the content, whatever those elements you are working on, be clear with what words you use so there is common understanding. This is a common place where I have seen points converge, all think they are talking about the same thing but they are not. Relevancy is one of those key terms and R3 are key terms that means different things to different people. Be careful as you do this and be sure whatever efforts you can make to make sure people are speaking the same language is the right thing to do. *Colleen* – Maybe 3 Cs, collaborate, connect and clarity. *Sheila* – Kevin Robling made the motion to include relevancy in the committee name. *Kevin* – Megan, say the full name so we are all clear here. *Megan* – It would be the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation and Relevancy Technical Working Group Committee. *Colleen* – That is a mouth full. So now you what we are voting on. ***Motion carried.*** *Megan* – The change of our mission statement “To foster increased communication, collaboration, coordination and execution of region-wide recruitment, retention, and reactivation efforts along with engaging and serving broader constituencies in order to advance fish and wildlife conservation in the member states and provinces.” All of the objectives were updated as they hadn't been updated since 2013. Objective 1) Hire and manage a Regional R3 and Relevancy Coordinator to enact strategies to meet objectives as directed by the committee. The main roles and responsibilities of this position are as follows: a. Identify, coordinate, and manage grant funding opportunities; b. Assist states with securing funds and implementing multi-state and regional marketing campaign efforts; c. Assist states with identifying and implementing strategies for

engaging and serving broader constituencies; d. Communicate and foster cross-committee collaboration regarding R3 and relevancy priorities at the regional and national levels; e. Provide technical assistance and timely insights to states regarding R3 related efforts and opportunities. Objective 2) Maintaining and increasing our understanding, acceptance, and support of recruitment, retention and reactivation of programs and benefits among anglers, boaters, hunters, trappers, and recreational shooters. Objective 3) Identify opportunities to increase relevance to non-traditional audiences. a. Establish and implement regional action items through collaboration and grant funding opportunities. Objective 4) Develop multi-state and regional grant projects that provide tools and resources to help member states and provinces further their R3 and relevancy priority initiatives. a. Through partners and collaborations, needs are identified; b. Grants proposals are written and submitted for consideration, in coordination with member states and provinces and their directors; c. Funds are procured and projects are implemented and evaluated; d. Tools and resources are distributed to Midwest states and beyond. Objective 5) Provide leadership and technical assistance to Midwest states Directors, R3 Coordinators and Partners regarding R3 related issues, needs and opportunities. a. Stay up to date on relevant R3 research, publications, and other findings, then disseminate this information to member states and provinces. Objective 6) Collaborate and share information with other fish and wildlife agencies and national organization committees including the other three regional R3 committees on regional and national R3 and relevancy efforts and planning. a. other partner committees include, but not limited to, Midwest Private and Public Land Working Groups, Midwest Wildlife and Fish Health Committee, Midwest Landscape Initiative, AFWA Angler & Boater R3 Committee, AFWA Hunting/Shooting Participation Committee and AFWA Education, Outreach & Diversity Committee. Only other change, there was not a process to replace the chair or vice-chair, so added sentence under officers, “During the annual committee meeting, held on even years, the position of Chair and Vice-Chair will be reviewed and a call for a vote of confidence and/or new appointments shall occur.” That gives individuals the ability to step down at any time with confidence that chair or vice-chair will continue efforts moving forward. Colleen – Need a motion to approve. **Sara Parker Pauley, Missouri moved, Kevin Robling, South Dakota second.** Tami – Do we have relevancy recognition in this and wonder if that should be in here, reflecting on comments from DJ Case? Sara – We do have a definition and that will be added to name. Tami – Wanted to be sure we were operating from common ground. Brian – Is working group included in your name of the committee? Megan – Yes. Brian – Bylaws say Technical Working Group Committee, change to R3 technical working committee instead of working group committee. Colleen – It can be, but does it need to be, what is the opinion there? Sara – R3 and Relevancy Coordinator, so R3 and Relevancy whatever committee. Brian – Just make it technical working committee, so take out “group”. Colleen – We will make that change. **Motion carries.** Kevin – Thank Megan and Jeff for their work on this, they spent a lot of time on it and did a great job.

Colleen – Next item is not listed on the agenda, the Wildlife and Fish Health Committee Report that Ollie will present.

**Wildlife and Fish Health Committee Report** – *Ollie* – We have the same recommendation from our health committee. Dr. Lindsey Long from Wisconsin is the chair and Sherri Russell from Missouri is the Vice-Chair. This committee's organization guides were approved a long time ago when Bruce Morrison from Nebraska was the chair. He insisted this committee be named the Wildlife and Fish Health committee because he wanted wildlife to come before fish when the rest of us are used to saying fish and wildlife. The committee went through committee structure and organizational guidelines and operating procedures and made a significant number of amendments to the guides. Whenever we form a new committee, which we did with Social Science and Human Dimensions Committee, our bylaws require a set of operating procedures and a mission statement for approval by this Board. Our R3 and our health committees helped approve guidelines from previous board meetings. Things happen over time so these are changes and adjustments needed. This is a revision of previously approved guidelines. Once this is approved it will be Midwest Fish and Wildlife Health Committee. Our bylaws say technical working committee. These are in line with other committees organizational bylaws. ***Brad Loveless, Kansas moved to accept, Brian Clark, Kentucky second. Tami*** – This is probably for next year. We are going to be talking about these regional health coordinators who will report to committee chair. Just a suggestion, we might consider adding that into the officer section of those guidelines. *Colleen* – Repeat. *Tami* – In officer section acknowledge that regional health committee coordinator will be reporting to this committee chair. I don't know if that is officer role or not. *Ollie* – That has already been discussed in the executive committee. *Sara* – She is saying for next iteration of this and I think that is a great suggestion. *Colleen* – Vote and note to make this change next time. Motion on the floor. ***Motion carried.*** *Colleen* – Noted that we need to bring that up again for clarification next time we meet.

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

***Scott Taylor, Executive Director*** – (*Exhibit K*) – I am the National Wild Pheasant Plan Coordinator and I work out of the World Pheasant Science and Technology Center housed in my spare bedroom in Manhattan, Kansas. Since we have a few new folks in the room; my position is funded by contributions primarily from state contributing partners. MAFWA acts as our banker not just for MAFWA states but all the states in the partnership. Every May Roger and Ollie send out invoices to you and holds that money. PF hosts my position and invoices MAFWA for my expenses less \$10,000 that they contribute. The state contributions cover about 90% or so of my position. I am serving because of your contributions, thank you. We are currently in the sixth year so arrangements we have had with states financially seems to be working very well. We have a few of the management board members in the room, Jeb, ND, Tom Kirschenmann, SD, Ed Boggess was on for a while, our board chair is Dr. Russ Mason from Michigan. The tech committee is comprised of the pheasant biologists from across the states. As a tech committee we get together once a year and that meeting is coming the first weekend in October in Pocatello, Idaho so if you could support your tech committee member attending that meeting that would be fantastic. In 2019, we got together in North Dakota as a partnership with tech committee and management board to talk about revising our national plan. The first edition was completed in 2013, so our kickoff meeting was in fall of 2019. We muddled through and did revise our national plan

and that was approved by the management board about 11 months ago. Haven't met since we revised the plan. The plan focuses on what we want to collectively accomplish with the partnership. Like to be where we were back in 1950, but not a relative goal, more a roadmap of what we want to do together. The question the original plan focused on was Farm Bill centric as many of our states are dependent on habitat provided in Farm Bill for pheasant management, to get us where we needed to go. That has been true for many decades. The centerpiece of the original plan and this plan is answering question on how much habitat we need, how much is enough. In particular how much CRP do we advocate for to meet our collective pheasant management goals. We came up with a method, that Travis alluded to yesterday, a lot of different types of habitats and trying to characterize all of those and changes in acreages of all those habitats. We went through a process and came up with a way to do that. We put all of the habitat type acres in one habitat unit, the CRP acre equivalent, not every acre provides the same power to produce a pheasant and CRP just happens to have the most powerful habitat acre. Conveniently when you see CRP acre equivalents, we can translate those into other habitat types. The goal of each state, who can set its own goal, a unified process to get there but in the end each state picked its own goal and how many acre units we needed to have on the landscape to reach that goal. If you add them all up, we need about 62 million CRP equivalents across the pheasant range to reach our goal. Currently, at the end of 2019, we had 43.6 million acres, so we need an additional 18.7 million acres. That is all laid out in the plan. Translating that into what we need nationally for CRP enrollments is key. If USDA gave us 18.7 million new acres of CRP and we got to put them exactly where we needed them according to what each state would need, then 18.7 would be enough but it doesn't work that way. We need acres across the country and hope they end up in the right places. Based on our assumptions it looks like a goal of 45 million acres of traditional CRP, general CRP and continuous sign-up CRP, not grassland CRP which is a curveball that has come in the last few years. 45 million acres of traditional CRP is what is needed. That would get 12 of the 24 states in the plan to their goal and 10 others close to their goal. There are a few states like California and New York that CRP doesn't get into, so no amount of CRP will fulfil their needs. That 45 million acre recommendation is in the plan and that number was entered into the conversation in AFWA's Farm Bill recommendations. AFWA settled on a 40 million acre recommendation, so pretty close to what we are recommending. We have a Dashboard and plan data stops at 2019, we want to make sure we are tracking habitat moving forward so I have been doing that. Basically, it shows you can select any state in the plan and look at how many habitat units they currently have as of 2021, what their goal and deficiency is. It shows where each state is regarding habitat units, bird populations and hunter participation based on their peak levels they have seen since 1990. Can look at time series of these variables and intervals and see where each state stacks up on any variable since 1990. You can also see who is leading or in the middle of the pack. A number of other tools are built on national plan habitat model used to figure out how many acres needed across the range. They are all based on habitat model and allows user to interactively explore what happens when you gain and lose acres. There are also places we park the data that plan is based on. This isn't a public-facing tool it is just for our partnership, free for partner use and reference. Plan model is 30,000-foot view of what is going on habitat-wise, state average looking at relationships of present populations and habitats. What states need to know to identify the

best areas within their states to do pheasant work and requires a GIS approach. The states have mountains of data they collect for various reasons, usually trying to predict next seasons' hunting prospects. I am trying to collect that data and use as basis to do GIS-based habitat models. Once we have those models we can make those same types of interactive tools, have plan model and make a much more relevant dashboard and set of tools on our web page. That is how I spend my time primarily. Trying to develop tools and looking at how they are going to be used. Talked to Kelley and Claire on MLI to make sure whatever we are developing can be fully integrated into the larger picture. Where you want to consider pheasants in decision making. Pheasants Forever is doing an institutional push to try to better quantify the outcomes of their projects, not just counting acres but trying to tell a better story of what those acres produce in terms of carbons, pheasants and all the outcomes we are trying to accomplish to try and come up with ways to quantify things and tell the story. Tools we develop will be relevant for them and us in partnership with the states and allows us to tell a better story. *Brad* – Our pheasant biologist, Jeff Prendergast, really benefits from the work Scott is doing in collaboration with other states. If you aren't receiving the newsletter Scott puts out, have your pheasant biologists forward that to you. It is a really good newsletter which includes science and humor, up to date information. You can figure out what the state of the science is as well as the work being done. It is a valuable service; we appreciate your work. *Kevin* – On CAEs, are we looking at expanding small units, spring wheat and winter wheat, how does that enroll in all these conservation groups? See a lot more wheat on the landscape, is wheat a part of the solution? *Scott* – It can be, based work on five studies done in Midwest in CRP areas, ND, SD, IA, NE and KS and we looked at the relative power of CRP, small grains, pasture, grassland and plowed land and how each of those types produce successful nutrients. Based on all that science, CRP is most powerful, small grains 30% as powerful, other types are 21%. Essentially it is three acres of small grains to equal the power of one acre of CRP, so not insignificant. We have been CRP focused, sort of a policy knob we can try to turn. When Travis showed South Dakota's graph it reflected mainly the losses of small grain and CRP over time. The other habitat types are more stable. Certainly, anything we can do to keep small grains, particularly winter wheat, out there we should take those opportunities. *Kevin* – Maybe conservation community should promote that more and those aspects of it. The novel is profitability, right now winter wheat is probably \$11/bushel making producer money, so I am happy to see the landscape turn into wheat rather than corn and beans. *Scott* – That is short-term market glitch that is sustained over time. *Colleen* – Another example of nexus between agriculture and conservation. *Brad* – I appreciate Scott's discretion on not telling everyone that Kansas has a better pheasant population than South Dakota. *Scott* – I will wait until Wisconsin meeting to bring that up.

*Colleen* – I plan to take a break at the end of old business and reconvene with new business. *Kevin* – Creekside Lodge check out was 10:00, I pushed that back to 10:30 so if you still have stuff in your room you need to clean that out so that they can get ready for the next guests. *Colleen* – We can take the break now so people can do that.

*Refreshment Break sponsored by D.J. Case & Associates*

*Colleen* – We want to recognize our great sponsor, DJ Case and Associates. We appreciate everything you do for us and our Association. *Phil Seng* – It has been our pleasure to sponsor this meeting for many years and will continue to do that. I have had the pleasure of working with most of you and all of your states in the Midwest. DJ Case is a communications and consulting firm all related to natural resource conservation. We work with state and federal agencies and conservation organizations around the country helping them communicate better about wildlife natural resource conservation issues. We have lots of social science, focus group surveys, etc., communication assistance, facilitation and all that kind of service. Dave Case started the company in 1986, there are 20 of us now and we work with 40 fish and wildlife agencies around the country. Our approach is to be an extension of your staff. Sometimes need advocates to teach social science, web development or need surge capacity or some big thing that comes up that you need help with we can step in and try to seamlessly fit in with your staff and do the best job we can for you. Proud to have worked with all of you over the years.

### **Midwest Landscape Initiative (MLI)**

***Sara Parker Pauley, MO*** – I serve as co-share of MLI with Craig Czarnecki, USFWS. Jim Douglas was original co-chair, an impossible act to follow, he is the godfather of landscape conservation in many ways. I appreciate the opportunity to represent the state members on the MLI. I want to call on the other steering committee members, Tim, Amanda, Pete, John Rogner from IL. Thank you for allowing them to participate. Kelley and I hope many of you participated in the MLI 101 webinar last week or that your staff did. It was excellent introduction to all the great work that has been happening with the MLI the last several years. There is going to be an action item at end of this, ask you to vote on amendment to the cooperative agreement with the FWS, we will walk through what that amendment includes. Ed, getting tired of debts of gratitude but we would not be here with the MLI without you and Claire and without the great staffing capacity added to the team. Ed has been there from beginning as liaison to MAFWA, to state members, so thank you for everything you do. I am excited about Lorisa joining too, Ed is a tough act to follow too so it will just look different. I appreciate Lorisa and her willingness to step into this role. I will turn it over to Kelley and come back for vote on the amendment to the cooperative agreement.

***Kelley Myers, FWS*** – Thanks for introduction. Webinar we started last week was intended because we knew we were going to be short of time here so we wanted to be able to have a place we could really talk about all the work we have been doing over the last year and what we are doing next year. We also provided an opportunity for feedback with breakouts after. The first hour was recorded and we will make that available on our website. We learned a lot in this virtual space. We capped out at 100 so now we know we need to provide more capacity. We can come meet you where you are at any time. Happy to come and talk with your staffs, your teams or one-on-one with you or whatever. We are going to be more aggressive about getting to know our partners and bringing more people into MLI. From last year's update we have added capacity, Ed, Claire now Lorisa who was instrumental in being able to put this forum together and start working toward activities and projects we have. We added a landscape conservation biologist, Dr. Alex Wright, and he comes to us from a state university, his background is decision making so

he adds a level of organization and clarity that Bill Moritz called for in review he conducted last year on MLI. Alex is helping us come up with our work plan and 5-year plan and leading our habitat assessment work group and development of some goals for our blueprint. We have been reluctant to extend those maps in other regions to the Midwest. We have been going through a robust process to establish 50 plus indicators of good health for the Midwest. We are including social indicators in that as well. Alex has been leading a team of your staffs across the region, Service, state, USGS and a couple NGO members as well who are helping develop that base information for that blueprint. What datasets we need to bring in, working with partners and saying we are not going to duplicate this plan, not trying to come up with one map to rule them all. After we bring all of the information and resources together we can evaluate the health of our landscape for solutions. We stole a great person from Ohio, a person who understands state wildlife action plans, understands technology, understands conservation in the Midwest and can go out and communicate to everyone; from those not involved in conservation to those down in the weeds. We hired Kate Parsons to be our User Support and Engagement Coordinator. She started last week. She will be working closely with me and Lorisa to reach out to all of you and our partners to make sure what we are developing is relevant and a useful utility to you and your partners. We want to know what you have to share with us that you want included. Big campaign to share more updates. We also added a spatial analyst, Rachel Carlberg with the FWS, she is amazing. She has joined in temporary capacity as part of her fellowship, she is a trainer at National Conservation Training Center and we have her through November. I am going to try to keep her because she is phenomenal. She and Alex put together spatial team and we are looking to grow that to include other GIS spatial analysts across the region so all of our systems can talk better than they do today. I want to answer Kevin's question on what we are doing to engage working lands. Went through what we cared about and what our priorities were, we identified our big challenges and opportunities across the Midwest. One of the top six is working lands and we have to work on that. Our approach is at state level a lot of the time and local partnerships, so states are bringing their perspectives and local partners and biologists are coming to the table on projects. We rely on them to bring that perspective. We are reaching out to NRCS, FSA, Forest Services and it is our intention to keep table at steering committee aligned with service and states. We are trying to include those primary responsibilities for managing fish and wildlife resources, helping states shape our direction and priorities. When it comes to solutions and accomplishing vision it is all hands-on-deck. When we get down into recommended actions and come up with problem statements around particular geographies that is when we are going to be engaging different groups. An example of this, something we just kicked off, we and several of your staffs are involved already, a Midwest grassland roadmap, part of central grasslands roadmap and big part of eastern MAFWA geography, focused on contiguous acres with cedar encroachment. Focused on 100<sup>th</sup> meridian and east. Looking at places where agriculture is predominant land use, have more rain, water quality not quantity are the issues and reboot issues started around grasslands. We identify, through regional species of greatest conservation need project, our primary terrestrial landscape in the Midwest are grasslands, birds, invertebrates, pollinators, so going to get ahead of blueprint. Starting to put together a summit, similar to Central Grasslands Roadmap, focused on Midwest grasslands. We are engaged with NRCS on that and will be bringing

in lots of different producer groups. We look forward to engagement across all your programs. It is not to duplicate what Central Grasslands is doing, it is different land use and considerations. In Nebraska, you might find one field more relatable to the western/Central Grasslands roadmap and on the next field more agriculture and we want to scale up for what is meaningful in that place. Have Brad on steering committee as ex-officio because of the joint task force looking nationally at how we are doing landscape conservation. We have been going our own way, working hard that everything we do we co-develop; not Service staff create something and give it to the states to look at, it has been slow but every step of the way we have had a table where we have come together and working to come up with solutions together. The way we work our teams is we have a team meeting, partner or committee meeting and for an hour or two we get full attention of staff. We get ideas, then Claire, Alex, Rachel, Lorisa with Ed and maybe one of our consultants, Karen Terwilliger, we come up with actions to take back to that group at next meeting. It truly is, at every step, being informed by various groups. One place we have a lot of work cut out for us is tribes, we have had little to no tribal engagement. We need to recognize that the tribes also have a legal responsibility to the lands we are talking about. We will be working on that with local relationships that happen there. Claire has a plan, working with regional social scientists in FWS and tribal liaisons and asking for help from each of you as we move forward on how we want to engage and learn about the tribes in our region, how they are managing resources and how they might belong in this effort. Key take aways. Working with your staffs, lots of ways to engage, plan to follow-up with letting you know who on your staffs are working on this and make sure you are aware of who they are. I love having them and we get to work with all the rock stars. At the same time, we promise if you send your staffs to work with us and contribute on these committees, we will provide professional development and team building opportunities for them to work and grow across the region. They don't have to be on committees to participate. As we develop more products, we will have more opportunities for feedback loops and we look forward to sending out ideas and working across your organizations to ensure you have opportunity to provide input on direction we are proposing to go. We are a forum, unique space where we can bring together issues and watch presentations about what is going on in South Dakota and similar things happening in Iowa and Ohio and connecting dots. We are forum but we do stuff, a fun place to be. If you are ever struggling through an issue, feel free to call me or Lorisa and it may be something we can take on for a little bit and find the right place for it to live, like CWD. We are happy to hear ideas and get feedback. Meet you where you are, we do travel, have Zoom, Teams or Facetime, we can figure it out. If anyone doesn't understand what we are trying to do please talk to us, we want everyone to feel connected to this, especially since we are now a committee of MAFWA with shared representation with the Service. Appreciate staying connected, MAFWA is a great place and I love the Midwest and what we do with resources and challenges we have on our working landscape that are unique. Want to be sure we are a strong voice. We are going to ask for approval of next cooperative agreement. We are doing a lot of work to help be RAWA ready. America the Beautiful challenge grants have been a nice spot for us to say how we can pull a meeting together around the region, what everyone can apply for in grants, and we get a lot of people. The idea we are trying to have more cooperation, providing support on grants and stand ready and be thinking about that as we are putting our blueprints together. Claire is



leading a group of statewide action planners to have regional statewide action plan for creating a dashboard tool and have a small pilot group helping design that. Phenomenal to see SWAPs across the region laid out on a big virtual table to see how the elements align. Might find more connections. We are doing things and can't wait to show you what that looks like. Should have gotten annual report (*Exhibit L*). Thank you Nebraska for graphic designer help.

*Sara* – Huge thank you to Kelley Myers, a total rockstar. I sit on steering committee in SEAFWA on their landscape collaborative. You have mentioned Madam President how MAFWA leads and what I love about this relationship is that it is built on relationship, built on trust and coming together, shared governance. Forgive me Brad for not recognizing you as our newest member to the steering committee. We set the stage for how we want our regional association to be working with the Joint Task Force at the national level on landscape conservation. We are delighted to have Brad aboard who sits on that National JTF. The amendment to the existing cooperative agreement (*Exhibit M*). In the past the funds were used for WMI to provide some crucial assistance, Bill Moritz did great job on that, and provided some information about SWAPs and landscapes that fed the report. We also had engaged Judy Stokes Weber to come up with a communications plan strategy, which is being implemented now. This amendment will continue this cooperative agreement for two years. A change from the past is that some of the funding that went to Ed Boggess, Missouri Department of Conservation is going to take care of staffing cost for Lorisa, this agreement will pay her travel expenses. As a reminder to state directors not on the steering committee, Lorisa is the state liaison just as Kelley is the coordinator, Lorisa represents state interests. There are going to be times when Lorisa and I will want to get on phone with directors not on the steering committee to see if you have any concerns or issues or just to update you, so expect us to try to engage you once or twice a year. It will include Claire's time, travel related expenses for Lorisa. *Kelley* – Funds for continued website and potential build out and tools available. Claire learned how to build websites, but we need someone to run that, so a little under professional development. Claire with us for five years and not everyone wants to be an employee of an organization but we want to keep mindful of where she wants to go with her career and try to ensure we are providing challenges and awards so she stays with us. She is a huge talent and knows all of our stakeholders well, we want to make sure we take into account that she has taken on more obligations and leadership of different groups. Also, as Ed mentioned, there was a monarch piece in the last agreement and that will stay but we will evaluate that. Monarch work gave life to MLI, but we don't want to be a single species organization, shore up that work to give monarch attention but if there is potential fold it in to MLI work. This is an assessment we will go over next year. *Sara* – Critical for funding for this cooperative agreement from USFWS. ***Sara Parker Pauley, Missouri, moved to adopt amendment to cooperative agreement with USFWS related to MLI, Pete Hildreth, Iowa second.*** *Kevin* – On goals aspect, 10% increase in healthy acquisition of public lands and waters, what are we using as a baseline to measure success moving forward? *Kelley* – When set goals they were aspirational. To say we have a metric and we set goal for what we know baseline is today and we want 10%, it was, let's be aggressive in timeline and amount and that is something that indicator team is working through establishing now. Where we are today, with Midwest Partner Action Plan who is providing state of Midwest dashboard, be part of that; how we are doing

today and where do we want to be and will use blueprint to get there. We are still establishing based on what we think those indicators of health are but need to do datasets to do it. *Kevin* – As far as state involvement, SD was not involved in last couple of years. It would be helpful for me to have a check list of expectations or what you are looking for with state involvement. ***Motion carried.***

*Colleen* – Under new business the first item is R3 Committee organization and we have already done that.

### **Non-Lead Partnership Recommendations**

***Megan Wisecup, IA DNR – (Exhibit N)*** Updates from nonlead partnership that the health and R3 committees have been working together on. Back in 2020 you passed a MAFWA non-lead resolution and joined the North American Non-Lead Partnership. You challenged both of our committees to work together and come back with recommendations on how we could start implementing that relationship within the states and across the region. We came back in 2021 with immediate and long-term goal recommendations that were accepted by this body. Since then, we developed a small working group with members from Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Michigan and Missouri. We started doing a literature review to try to get a baseline our committee could operate from looking from both fish and wildlife health perspective and from hunting shooting sports industry perspective. We started that initial work and had some initial discussions with IHEA USA regarding creation of an online training course for volunteer hunter education instructors to have consistent messaging when talking about non-lead and alternative ammunitions to our students. There is some work started on that putting together an online module for instructors and to incorporate key messaging in student modules as well to be delivered in-person or online. We have also had some discussions with Leland and Chris from North American Non-Lead Partnership looking at potential multi-phase multistate conservation grant to assist with implementation on various recommendations. Since we met with Ex Com in April we went ahead and drafted a state conservation grant that was approved for us to submit, it was not selected to move forward. We had wonderful comments on how well thought out it was and worthy the project was but didn't feel at that time that was best way to fund the opportunities right now. Had initial email between Lindsey and I, and we plan on bringing our committees back together later this summer to start discussing what we can continue to move forward. That does not need funding at this time because IHEA USA does have some funding already in place for online course work for volunteer training and also to house some our states that may want to move forward with some staff training by hosting workshops in their states. We have some great work we can still accomplish without funding while we look for some alternative sources and pleased with progress so far.

### **R3 Coordinator Position**

***Megan Wisecup, IA – (Exhibit O)*** R3 and Relevancy Coordinator position quick background. This conversation has been going on for many years now with initial conversation in Denver in 2019 as part of the North American. We brought together a group of directors along with myself, Jeff and Keith Warnke to discuss the R3 Committee and how we should proceed with the limitations in the states. We discussed multiple

ways to start working on that and possibility of the concept of regional position to help do the coordination. Since then, a lot of things have come into play to help elevate the need for this position, such as all the different funding sources now out there for multistate grants. We want to thank Roger and Ollie for all their work. Need to have someone dedicated to help bring consistency and continuity to some of those processes. We are asking for you to move forward with the position, looking at initial three-year commitment from states to give individual proper amount of time to get their feet under them and for us to do a proper evaluation on how the coordinator position is functioning. We are looking for a decision from all of you to enter into a contract with WMI to hire and co-host a MAFWA regional R3 and Relevancy Coordinator position. Primary roles and responsibilities would be coordination of grant funding opportunities and to address MAFWA's R3 priorities. Regional person is key to this and there is lot of great information and tools coming out at the national level, but regions are a little different, so having someone familiar with the landscape in the Midwest would help us pull down the tools and actions that are working and relevant be sure we are properly disseminating to states with limited resources. Also, help states secure funds and marketing campaigns. I had opportunity to talk to Dave Chanda and he was excited about this concept, having one person from organization to reach out to and coordinate with in the 13 states would be easier on them and us with leveraging work to individually accomplish. We would also be able to work on coordination and with other committees, like MLI, access committees and education, outreach and diversity; so, having that person connected to all those committees would ensure R3 has its place woven into many of those. Another big selling point is we need to be able to help with development of statewide strategic plans, provide technical assistance and timely insights to states regarding R3. Turn over happens quite often, especially in R3 level positions and having someone there to help onboard them would give them a good jump start. There is a multitude of resources out there so having someone in tune with working in the Midwest on what has worked, lessons learned and institutional knowledge to pass on in timely manner to help get them jump started. Through selection process we reached out to six entities interested in potentially hosting the position. We had conversations with all of them and it came down to a few key factors that rose to the top. Had to be on neutral ground, an organization that could help us encompass all outdoor recreation, whether hunting, angling, shooting sports, boating, wildlife viewing, state parks, camping; neutral ground. Someone who has capacity to manage multiple agreements as a script audit and multiple funding sources coming in and going out and could negotiate contract with all 13 individual states. Other important thing in this process, wanted to keep supervision and guidance within the R3 and Relevancy Committee, so chair would serve in that role to supervise that position as committee set whole frameworks. *Roger* – What is the funding source for this position? *Megan* – We are looking for states to contribute funding and it could be a mix of state and federal funds. *Colleen* – At what level? *Megan* – The level we are looking at for the three years is based on experience, low level would be about \$8,000 and high just over \$9,000. After year three we would hope to be able to leverage additional dollars out there; once that person is established. In order to continue this position, the states match would be lower and lower each year. Hopefully eventually be able to fund themselves. That is a model WMI thought they could help guide us on. *Pete* – For clarification, it sounds like it could vary on level from \$8,000-\$9,000 per year for three years. *Ollie* –

That would be billed by WMI, not Roger and this is a half time position. *Megan* – WMI would have agreements with all 13 states and the individual would on average work no more than 74 hours in two weeks. *Ollie* – It would be supervised by the chair of your committee. The position would be located in our geography. You have already identified an interview panel which includes Director Robling, you and someone from WMI? *Megan* – And Jeff Rawlinson, the vice-chair. *Kendra* – Is the position PR reimbursable for the states? *Megan* – I don't know. *Kendra* – I assume so. *Tami* – I have a number of questions. First one, this position would report to R3 Committee but that is not reflected in the description. *Megan* – There is a line about managing coordinator under officer section. *Tami* – Regarding conversation about non-lead partnership, with this R3 and development emphasis have you considered this position also being non-lead outreach and educator? There are a lot of intersections. *Megan* – We have discussed that and this position and position for fish and wildlife health could help communicate that across the states. *Tami* – I am inclined to suggest to be more clear, that non-lead connection and role and working collaboratively with that other position, the two positions are connected. *Megan* – We do have three more detailed documents that go into more detail; this is brief version. I can make sure you get copies of those. *Colleen* – Comments or concerns? *Tami* – Regarding funding from each state, what about Association that we meet with every three years (AMFWLEO)? Consideration to put funds in this as well. *Megan* – Law enforcement? *Tami* – I think it is needed at that level as well, so was wondering if they would help fund this position. *Sara* – The association is not but member states are. *Tami* – Conservation programs in member states, our enforcement division is a separate entity in Wisconsin so it would be nice if they could. *Colleen* – I don't have the answer to that. I guess that could be a future consideration or presented to them for their consideration. *Tami* – Maybe that is something we need to do internally. *Colleen* – It could be presented to them for their consideration going forward. This is a state commitment and we could collaborate potentially. *Brian* – You did survey of committees of directors about willingness to maintain R3 points contact in the states as we required in our state. Did you share the input as your ask was reflective of that and expectation of what that salary would be and willingness to pay on behalf of the states you were surveying? *Megan* – Yes, we have had several calls and in-person meetings and one-on-one calls with states to get their input on what their needs and expectations would be and what they felt was a fair contribution. We incorporated that into our state report in 2019 or 2020 when conversation initially kicked off. We brought back to our committee in April and held a special call to look at conservation grants to fund this position specifically and provided our final documents to them and was met with unanimous support. There was no indications of any issues at that time. *Kendra* – I would find this position very helpful, just to have a point of contact for a lot of grants. ***Kendra Wecker, Ohio moved to approve position, Tim McCoy, Nebraska second.*** *Sara* – Communicate my strong support for this position, the only caveat for membership to consider is a tweak to the motion or what that might mean. Listening to Ollie this morning on the significant need for additional capacity and knowing other associations like NEAFWA have moved forward with a broader grants coordinator, knowing this position is focused on grants specifically, my question for the membership is, if it is clearly communicated that R3 is the first and primary focus of this position. Recognizing it is only a half time position, if there is additional capacity, could this position also assist MAFWA with other grant needs? My

guess is there may not be a lot of additional capacity, especially initially. But if this position, over three-year period of time, with financial commitment of the states, if there is additional capacity identified, could this position also work on other MAFWA-related contract or grant needs? Ask members to consider and provide feedback. *Colleen* – Primary focus as outlined on R3 grant needs and IF additional time and capacity that individual could work on other MAFWA grants that are not R3 related. *Sara* – Innovation grants or other multistate grants. I want to make sure we allow them and states are aware, if there is agreement, that states have approved that person’s ability to work on other grant needs. *Colleen* – For example, two years from now, we ask this individual to work on a grant that is not R3-related and that individual would say I can’t because I am only R3. This conversation, if approved or agreed upon, would give them that capacity or approval to do that. *Sara* – Yes. In three years from now this position might be paid for by multistate grants and those can be specific that they have to work only on R3, maybe 3-4 years from now. Right now, we are providing general state funding to this position we don’t have that restriction. It will also give us time for Ollie, who continues to try to communicate diplomatically that he has a lot on his plate and give the board additional time to consider maybe another position. In that interim period of time allow flexibility. *Colleen* – Flexibility is the right word. *Kendra* – I think it is a great idea to provide flexibility and clarify what they are doing so we can provide funding. How we pay that bill, pay with PR and RAWA, but need to clarify. Flexibility is important. *Tim* – My only concern on this, if you are using your PR dollars that are tied to hunting, fishing and R3 items, we are going to have to watch that closely. How you pay for it will be important and you are trying to use it for general support on something else that is a red flag on your agency. *Brian* – My initial feedback would be, it might be a little mission creep for the position with it being half time. We think it would be a pretty demanding job to focus on this for the region. Regarding multistate grants, SEAFWA committee, which I chair for R3, floated and were not asked for full proposal for a coordinator position, finding more state buy-in. After funded for a year, potentially three years, we would have initial idea that we wouldn’t have certainty of state buy-in to be able to fund the position. The way MAFWA is, the states are buying in for the position as a collective of multistate grant funding. The feedback was the review committee saw this in better light with state investment. *Sara* – In essence you are suggesting states assume permanent commitment? *Brian* – That multistate grant fund probably would not be the alternative way to fund this position. *Megan* – For the position in its entirety they would not want us to say we are going to fund this position just with multistate grant funds, they don’t like staffing put in there. It would be to say we would apply for multistate grants, that you couldn’t take out a portion to build that salary, not just from one grant, but funds from each grant for administration staffing oversight. *Sara* – The way the proposal is it is a three-year opportunity for states to find additional funding and you just provided a more realistic perspective that this may be longer term commitment by the states. *Brian* – Yes. Megan provided good clarification that there is going to be administrative funds but that multistate grants shouldn’t be used for salary and benefits for a position per se, like the Southeast was proposing it, they should hire the coordinator through one grant. *Colleen* – Which would limit the flexibility suggested? *Brian* – Yes. That wasn’t my point specifically, but it is a demanding position for a half time job and I couldn’t envision the person doing a lot of other grant management. *Sara* – That is why clarity is so important

to identify this is the right way and the supervisor assures this is a priority. Tim brought up good concern, if states are using PR dollars that is going to be a challenge for states to figure out the funding mechanism. *Tim* – I would prefer not to get in that position where you are using those funds. *Sara* – I get that. *Tim* – I have a question for Ollie. This person is going to focus on R3 and recently, how many of those grants you were talking about are related to the work of this R3 group on multistate conservation grants? *Ollie* – Some of them are, we have four. *Megan* – We have toolkit. *Jeff* – We have toolkit and funding outside we are working on. Ongoing grants, initial grants we started and keeping those projects moving forward as well. *Megan* -- Some of those other contracts have other grants under them as well. *Ollie* – It is an active committee, a good thing. I am not complaining. We are working hard on new PR modernization \$5 million a year. There are three or four specifically to R3 and one or two more coming. *Tim* – The way this is written part of this person's role is really to help with grant management piece of that. We are trying to access value in helping manage this, not just broad. *Sara* – Funding piece is triggering me. Keep motion as is and over time at annual meeting reevaluate that position and see if some additional help. Ollie is still overwhelmed but maybe that is a different discussion. *Colleen* – Monitor as it progresses, as position is brand new we can't predict but we can assume it is going to get even more hectic. ***Motion stands as presented to approve R3 position.*** *Kevin* – Quick point, as far as SD is concerned, one of the things we talked about here is perpetual commitment to states for funding and it would be a huge desire for SD to find alternative ways to pay for this three years down the road. That will be a continued desire, to continue looking for those ways. In year four it would be great if some other funding source could take the bill. *Sara* – With this position, they would be looking for other mechanisms and committee would be looking for other funding. ***Motion carries.***

## NEW BUSINESS

### CSS/HD Committee Organizational Guides

***Faren Wolters, SD*** – (*Exhibit P*) *Ollie* – Faren is not here, she is changing jobs and in the process of moving. Last year you approved forming a new committee in MAFWA, the Social Science and Human Dimensions committee, Faren was chair. Our bylaws require a new committee to come up with formal mission statement and organizational guidelines and bring them before this body for approval. This was given to you in back up materials. Preamble here adopting these guidelines which essentially formally establishes the committee and you did that with the bylaws. They added a name to the committee, the Conservation Social Science and Human Dimensions technical working committee. We received the mission statement. They have four objectives and duties and responsibilities which are all in line with rest of MAFWA committees and the remainder describes how the committee operates, how they select the chair, where they and who votes and who cannot vote, who officers are and how they are selected. The technical bread and butter of how the committee functions. It is in line with other committee organization guidelines and I recommend approval. ***Brian Clark moved, Jeb Williams, North Dakota second. Motion carried.*** *Brian* – Do you have a liaison from directors for that committee? If you need a liaison, I would be it. *Ollie* - Kevin is the liaison. It was his employee. *Kevin* – I would be happy to turn it over to Brian Clark. *Ollie* – Brian is taking over as liaison and

we do have a new chair, Adam Landen from Minnesota is new chair. Not all of our states have a human resources or social science person, but we are hoping that will change as RAWA gets implemented.

### **Midwest Fish and Wildlife Health Coordinator**

*Ollie* – (Exhibit Q) USFWS received funds from America’s Rescue Act to work on wildlife diseases of pandemic potential. USFWS met with AFWA’s Fish and Wildlife Health Committee on the best way to use the funds. They came up with the idea that each regional association should have a wildlife health coordinator position. We asked our health committee to take a look at that. They brought that to executive committee in January and recommended that we do establish a regional coordinator position in the Midwest. In March, Ron Regan brought the four regions together and we met with USFWS who explained the funding mechanism. We have the money now. I worked with WSFR office in the Twin Cities and Kelley Myers. We were going to add it to the amendment you approved a few minutes ago but WSFR office thought we should go with a separate NOFO agreement. Our office in the Twin Cities got that approved and announced it last month. It is \$150,000 a year for three years, I applied for that funding with the help of the WSFR office. We have a position description, have an interview panel set up and 25% of this position is dedicated to CWD. There was a push for a CWD Coordinator in the Midwest and this is a combination of that. Award will be announced shortly and Kelley and Roger will download the funds. I told the committee they should put out a request for applications, I don’t know if that has been done. Sara, Lindsey, Tami Ryan and Jason Summers from Missouri are the interview panel for this. It happened so fast you never heard much about this as a Board. It looks like, before end of calendar year, we will have a person on board. No action needed, just an update on where we are. The executive committee already said to move forward so we have.

### **Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership**

*Ollie* – This came to us at turn of calendar, in January. Steve Krenz from the USFWS came to us, he coordinates this partnership. He said that under the new America’s Conservation Enhancement Act that they were transferring management of the funds for the national fish habitat partnerships over to the National Fish Habitat Board and away from FWS who has currently been coordinating 8 of 20 fish habitat partnerships around the country (and don’t have the funds to do that anymore). They have come to our Association to ask us to take over the administration of the Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership (GPFHP). That is a rivers and streams partnership, covers western part and a bit beyond our geography but it fits well in MLI. The problem is the National Fish Habitat Board met in April and are trying to sort all of this out. It is hard to get good information about this. I did find out that it requires one-to-one match, a big change from previous funding mechanism. I don’t have enough information for you to make a decision on this at this point. Steve will finish his job at end of September. His GPFHP Board could go to some other group and ask them to take it on but asking us first. I have two letters to accept this, one from Brad Loveless from Kansas and from Fisheries Chief, Scott Gangl, from North Dakota urging us to take over administration. There is one more partnership in our region that is losing coordinator, Fish and Farmers Partnership, they haven’t come to us to take over administration. Until I learn more, unless you want to

take over on your own there is not enough information to provide. It fits our MLI well but still baking the cake so until we get more information put off to another meeting. *Colleen* – Putting it off is what the head nods are saying.

### **2023 Budget Approval**

***Roger Luebbert, Treasurer (Exhibit R)*** – This is conference account proposed calendar year 2023 budget with draft date of June 27, 2022. There are six pages, the first two pages cover the 2021 budget versus the actual; the next two pages are the current year (2022) budget status; and last two are the proposed budget. This is not cast in stone and can be changed. On pages 1 and 2, line numbers along the left, bottom of page 2, this is 2021, budget versus actual, line 36, receipts over disbursements. We thought we were going to run a deficit of about \$24,000 but if you look at the actual column, receipts exceeded disbursements by \$64,000, a good year. Some of the major players are under line 11, federal indirect costs. On revenue side we thought we would take in \$16,860 but took in \$35,761. We had more federal projects than we anticipated and they were larger. Another one that contributed to that change, line 22, total conference disbursements. We thought we were going to have an in-person meeting and thought we would spend \$54,935, we had a virtual meeting and spent \$13,589, so a \$21,000 favorable variance. Those were the major players in 2021. Pages 3 and 4, current year, not a lot of numbers yet, will see more activity in July and August. Executive Committee sees this report at every meeting. Line 6 and 7, membership dues, this year and in a couple weeks I will be sending invoices to states for \$4,160, a 1.2% increase. At the time we put this budget together, a \$49 increase. Moving on to the exciting part, pages 5 and 6 where we look at proposed budget. Columns at top are 2020 actual, 2021 actual and 2022 budget, which provides historical information. The second column from the left is proposed budget and last column is how we arrived at those numbers. Go through exceptions. Lines 5 and 6, membership dues, per our bylaws it changes due to consumer price index (CPI) and we are using the Midwest CPI in this case from January 2021 to January 2022, 7.88% change. If you approve this budget this will be membership dues for next year, 2023, 13 months from now, \$4,487, about \$328 change. Moving on to federal indirect costs, hard to get an estimate on so I used average 2020 and 2021 actuals and came up with \$26,175. Total receipts \$180,275 is the proposed budget. On page 6, first lines I want to cover, line 16, Delaney Coordinator fees \$16,550, draft contract, but actually draft proposal, open for negotiation so may see this number drop, may be high side. Prizes and awards, we pulled back a little, I used 2021 actual adjusted for inflation. Lines 22 and 24, Executive Secretary pay and Treasurer pay increased for inflation per contract. Line 26, contract manager, this is the one to help Ollie, last year you budgeted so currently \$8,000, we have not been able to fill that position and would like to put more money into that position. For now, we have same amount for 2023, it is on low side and would love to be able to put more money in that line. CPA audit is on a five-year cycle, next audit is 2024. We may have one before that if we start getting into a Federal single audit if we have more federal funds, over \$750,000. Line 30, insurance, is on three-year cycle and it comes due in 2023. Total disbursements, \$178,820, about \$1,400 less than receipts so this proposal is about break even budget. *Colleen* – This is the proposed 2023 budget. ***Sara Parker Pauley, Missouri moved to accept proposed budget, Brian Clark, Kentucky second. Motion carries.***



**Greater Prairie Chicken and Sharp Tailed Grouse** – (*Exhibit S*) Tim McCoy – On Greater Prairie Chicken and Sharptailed Grouse Conservation Strategy summary. This project has been ongoing for about three years, it got interrupted by COVID. The purpose was to come up with range-wide conservation plans for greater prairie chickens and sharptailed grouse. Work going for a long time, somewhat through WAFWA and I am chairman of habitat committee and grassland committee initiative. A lot of great work has been done on this. A couple of key folks that have really been involved, Mike Houts, Kansas Biological Survey, John Thompson and Kent Fricke from Kansas. Your states have been involved in driving this and putting it together. This is one that I was told there was some uncertainty, it was presented to directors at one time. I don't know if there is something that was passed but they felt they needed to report back. The final report is supposed to be done today. What I gave you is the short version and this will be posted online. I will share with MAFWA directors. I want to convey appreciation for staff that helped with this, a big undertaking. Started with lessons learned with Lesser prairie chicken work of not having very good, coordinated information up front. It also ties in with a lot of MLI-type work going on for some of us that are west and east (MAFWA and WAFWA) we get a lot of that.

*Colleen* – I had brought up a question if there was any interest in establishing a Technical Data committee, as exists in AFWA that we don't have in MAFWA. I have had some discussions since then and there may be some interest in calling it a business committee and talk with engineers and HR and not just IT. I don't have a request but just asking you to continue to think about how we might address each other in our administration work. Leave it at that.

### **Closing Comments**

*Colleen Callahan, Illinois* – President's Remarks – My thanks to all of those that have stepped up and volunteered. It was late on a Sunday night or early Monday morning that Ollie contacted me and told me I had become MAFWA President and told me what I needed to do. He, as he always does, became immediately helpful in reaching out to individuals to ask if you would help. I would have preferred to make those calls personally to ask you as President, but it wasn't in my day planner. I appreciate Ollie's work in helping with that and for those of you that accepted those requests. Finally, want to depart thinking about one of the presenters said at the North American. She was a phenomenal speaker, a great presenter and said something I thought was extremely profound. She said, all of us here at this conference are interested in conservation in some way, broadly or narrowly, but she said we should all leave thinking that we should act like nature because nature is diverse and nature is colorful. As we approach our work in conservation, all of the reports we heard, new committees, we should approach it as thinking about nature, diverse and colorful.

**Wisconsin Spotlight (2023) Moved to first item**

**Conference Adjourns - *Brian Clark, Kentucky moved to adjourn, Kevin Robling, South Dakota second. Adjourned at 11:54 am.***

DRAFT



# **MIDWEST**

Association of  
Fish & Wildlife  
Agencies

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## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022**

**June 28, 2023**

# MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

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

	As of December 31		
	2021	Change	2022
<b>MAFWA Accounts</b>			
Operating/Conference Account.....	\$169,516.75	(\$3,074.96)	\$166,441.79
Federal Funded Projects Account....	10,380.38	39.08	10,419.46
Non-Federal Funded Projects Acct...	241,594.71	(39,494.81)	202,099.90
Credit Union Share Account.....	26.09	0.12	26.21
MAFWA Investment Account.....	901,290.74	(148,750.36)	752,540.38
<b>Total MAFWA Accounts</b>	<b>\$1,322,808.67</b>	<b>(\$191,280.93)</b>	<b>\$1,131,527.74</b>
 <b>Conservation Enhancement Fund (CEF) Accounts</b>			
CEF Credit Union Checking Account	\$23,848.67	(\$5,614.74)	\$18,233.93
CEF Credit Union Share Account....	60,704.47	182.36	60,886.83
CEF Investment Account.....	7,075.43	(2,204.37)	4,871.06
<b>Total CEF Accounts</b>	<b>\$91,628.57</b>	<b>(\$7,636.75)</b>	<b>\$83,991.82</b>
 <b>Total MAFWA and CEF Accounts</b>	 <b>\$1,414,437.24</b>	 <b>(\$198,917.68)</b>	 <b>\$1,215,519.56</b>

Note: Designations of the account balances are shown on the detail pages and are an integral part of this report.

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2022 CASH FLOW SUMMARY  
OPERATING/CONFERENCE ACCOUNT**

Line #			
1	Balance as of January 1, 2022		\$189,516.75
	Receipts		
	Conference		
2	Sponsors	\$43,400.00	
3	South Dakota Contribution	10,063.61	
4	Registrations	<u>22,880.00</u>	
5	Total Conference Receipts	\$76,343.61	76,343.61
6	Affiliate Dues	975.00	
7	Membership Dues	54,362.38	
	Administrative/Banking Fees		
8	Southern Wings	500.00	
9	National Pheasant Coordinator	5,275.00	
10	Indirect Cost - US Fish & Wildlife Service	31,307.94	
11	Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLT)	1,310.54	
12	NBCI - National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative	526.32	
13	RBFF - Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation	1,750.00	
14	2022 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference	3,129.00	
15	Interest	<u>160.13</u>	
16		Total Receipts	175,639.92
	Disbursements		
	Conference		
17	Delaney Meeting and Event Management	\$15,262.51	
18	Credit Card Fees	1,445.84	
19	Prizes and Awards	1,236.35	
20	Other	<u>56,507.76</u>	
21	Total Conference Disbursements	\$74,452.46	
	Executive Secretary		
22	Pay	66,173.98	
23	Travel Reimbursements/Registration Fees	10,156.01	
	Treasurer		
24	Pay	21,826.20	
25	Travel Reimbursements/Registration Fees	2,993.24	
26	Recording Secretary Travel	830.04	
27	Insurance		
28	Tax Form Preparation	1,110.00	
29	Web Site Maintenance	500.96	
30	Miscellaneous	<u>671.99</u>	
31		Total Disbursements	178,714.88
32	Balance as of December 31, 2022		<u>\$166,441.79</u>

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2022 CASH FLOW SUMMARY  
FEDERAL FUNDED PROJECTS ACCOUNT**

Line #

1 Balance as of January 1, 2022 \$10,380.38

Receipts

2 Federal Reimbursements - USFWS \$366,283.28

3 Interest 39.08

4 Total Receipts 366,322.36

Disbursements

Midwest Landscape Initiative (MLI):

State Liaison

5 Pay \$41,110.71

6 Travel/Registration Fees Reimburse. 5,741.72

Technical Coordinator

7 Pay 83,848.82

8 Travel/Registration Fees Reimburse. 6,020.74

9 Other Disbursements 26.91

10 R3 - Evaluation Project 35,038.63

11 R3 - Toolkit Project 194,495.95

12 Total Disbursements 366,283.28

13 Balance as of December 31, 2022 \$10,419.46

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2022 CASH FLOW SUMMARY  
NON-FEDERAL FUNDED PROJECTS ACCOUNT**

Line #			
1	Balance as of January 1, 2022		\$241,594.71
	Receipts		
2	National Pheasant Coordinator Contributions	\$87,775.00	
3	Ohio Projects	-	
4	RBFF-Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation	33,250.00	
5	Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLFT)	24,900.00	
6	National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative	10,000.00	
7	Southern Wings	9,500.00	
8	Interest	996.31	
9		<u>Total Receipts</u>	166,421.31
	Disbursements		
10	Pheasants Forever - National Pheasant Coordinator	\$73,638.48	
11	Ohio Projects	79,461.31	
12	Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLFT)	24,900.00	
13	National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative	10,000.00	
14	Southern Wings	9,500.00	
15	RBFF-Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation	5,500.00	
16	Monarch Joint Venture	2,745.50	
17	Miscellaneous	170.83	
18		<u>Total Disbursements</u>	205,918.12
19	Balance as of December 31, 2022		\$202,099.90 *

20 \* Note: Designations of the ending balance are:

21     \$17,519.61 Designated for MAFWA Monarch/Pollinator or Landscape  
                  Conservation Efforts

22     27,750.00 RBFF-Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation

23     144,559.62 National Pheasant Plan Coordinator Contributions

24     \$189,929.23 Total Designations of the Banking Services-River Region CU Account



**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
 CALENDAR YEAR 2022 CASH FLOW SUMMARY  
 CREDIT UNION SHARE ACCOUNT**

<b>Line #</b>		
1	Balance as of January 1, 2022	\$26.09
Receipts		
2	Interest	\$0.12
3	Total Receipts	0.12
Disbursements		
4	Total Disbursements	-
5	Balance as of December 31, 2022	\$26.21

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2022 ACCOUNT SUMMARY  
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT**

Line #

1	Balance as of January 1, 2022		\$901,290.74
	Receipts		
2	Interest	\$13,103.95	
3	Dividends	13,256.41	
4	Capital Gains	<u>11,131.93</u>	
5	Total Receipts		37,492.29
	Disbursements		
6	Income Reinvested	\$5,374.44	
7	Fees & Charges	<u>3,242.45</u>	
8	Total Disbursements		8,616.89
9	Change in Market Value		<u>(177,625.76)</u>
10	Balance as of December 31, 2022		\$752,540.38

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2022 ACCOUNT SUMMARY  
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT FUND (CEF)  
HELD AT THE CREDIT UNION**

**CEF - Credit Union Checking Account**

<b>Line #</b>			
1	Balance as of January 1, 2022		\$23,848.67
Receipts			
2	2022 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference - IA	\$19,129.00	
3	Interest	10.26	
4	Total Receipts		19,139.26
Disbursements			
5	2023 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conf.-KS-Deposit	\$16,000.00	
6	2024 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conf.-SD-Deposit	5,000.00	
7	MAFWA Admin. Fee-To Operating Acct-Pg. 2	3,129.00	
8	Tax Preparation Fee	625.00	
9	Total Disbursements		24,754.00
10	Balance as of December 31, 2022		\$18,233.93

**CEF - Credit Union Savings Account**

<b>Line #</b>			
11	Balance as of January 1, 2022		\$60,704.47
Receipts			
12	Interest	\$182.36	
13	Total Receipts		182.36
Disbursements			
14	Total Disbursements		-
15	Balance as of December 31, 2022		\$60,886.83

Note: See next page for CEF account designations

**MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES  
CALENDAR YEAR 2022 ACCOUNT SUMMARY  
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT FUND (CEF)**

**CEF - INVESTMENT ACCOUNT**

Line #			
1	Balance as of January 1, 2022		\$7,075.43
	Receipts		
2	Dividends	\$762.40	
3	Interest	0.14	
4	Total Receipts	<u>762.54</u>	\$762.54
	Disbursements		
	Income Reinvested	\$848.03	
5	Total Disbursements	<u>848.03</u>	848.03
6	Change in market value		<u>(2,118.88)</u>
7	Balance as of December 31, 2022		\$4,871.06

**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT FUND SUMMARY**

8	Assets		
9	Credit Union Checking Account		\$16,233.93
10	Credit Union Share Account		60,886.83
11	Receivables - Deposits/Start Up Funds Paid by CEF:		
12	2023 Midwest F&W Conference - KS	\$16,000.00	
13	2024 Midwest F&W Conference - SD	5,000.00	
14	Total Receivables		21,000.00
15	Investment Account		4,871.06
16	Total Assets		<u>\$104,991.82</u>
17	Designations:		
18	Kansas - 2012 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference		\$22,471.81
19	Ohio - 2019 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference		15,482.38
20	Kansas Staff to Iowa Conference		4,500.00
21	State Contributions to the Conservation Enhancement Fund		55,000.00
22	CEF Operating Funds		2,115.00
23	Total Designations		<u>\$99,569.19</u>
24	Undesignated		<u>\$5,422.63</u>