



MIDWEST

Association of
Fish & Wildlife
Agencies

73rd Annual Directors Meeting Proceedings

**July 9-12, 2006
Spearfish, South Dakota**

Hosted by:

**South Dakota
Game, Fish and Parks
Department**



2006 Donations and Sponsors

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Wildlife Forever

Thanks

The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies would like to thank Doug Hansen, George Vandell, Emmett Keyser, Larry Gigliotti, and the South Dakota staff for putting on a great conference;

Thank the Committee members, and Association members for their dedication to the natural resources;

Thank Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator for all of his hard work; and

Thank Sheila Kemmis, Recording Secretary for printing and providing these proceedings.

Copies of these proceedings can be obtained from:

Joe Kramer, Secretary/Treasurer or Sheila Kemmis, Recording Secretary
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512 SE 25th Ave
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Or on the website at: www.mafwa.iafwa.org

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**Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Annual Meeting, July 9 - 12, 2006, Spearfish, South Dakota**

ACTION ITEMS

- ▶ Accepted Minutes from last year's annual meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota. (Completed 7/12/06)
- ▶ Voted to accept Treasurer's Report, balance as of June 30, 2006 - \$28,057.61 cash on hand and \$221,386.58 in investments. (Completed 7/12/06)
- ▶ Voted to accept the Audit Committee Report. (Completed 7/12/06)
- ▶ Voted to accept the Investment Committee's Report and the Investment Policy Statement. (Completed 7/12/06)
- ▶ Four resolutions presented - (Completed 7/12/06)
Voted to send letter connected with Resolution 1 (Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative)
Voted to approve Resolution 2 (Resolution of Transfer due to Incorporation of MAFWA)
Voted to send letter connected with Resolution 3 (Wildlife Violator Compact)
Voted to approve Resolution 4 (Thanking South Dakota for Conference)
- ▶ Voted to accept proposed changes to the By-laws of Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. (Completed 7/12/06) Jeff Ver Steeg agreed to rewrite.
- ▶ Voted to approve Affiliate Membership Applications (D.J. Case and Associates, ECO-Associates, Inc. and The Outdoor Channel – also U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance due to sponsor/donation policy). (Completed 7/12/06)
- ▶ Voted to Support Action Items from Private Lands Working Group. (Completed 7/11/06)
- ▶ Voted to Support Action Items from Furbearer Committee. (Completed 7/11/06)
- ▶ Voted to fund MAFWA Coordinator position for two more years. (Completed 7/12/06)
- ▶ Voted to send support letter for NRCS position. (Completed 7/12/06)
- ▶ Discussed Joint meeting with AMFGLEO. (Tabled 7/12/06 until August)
- ▶ Moved to Adjourn at 10:42 a.m. (Completed 7/12/06)

Items discussed, but not voted on:

- ▶ Discussed Hot Topics presented by States. (7/10/06) (no action)
- ▶ Heard AFWA Reports from John Cooper, President and John Baughman, Executive Vice President. (Completed 7/10/06) (no action)
- ▶ Heard report from USFWS Director Dale Hall. (7/10/06) (no action)
- ▶ Heard USFWS Reports from Charlie Wooley, Region 3 Deputy Director, and Mitch King, Region 6 Director. (Completed 7/10/06) (no action)
- ▶ Presented Awards. (at lunch) (7/10/06)
- ▶ Heard MAFWA Coordinator Report from Ollie Torgerson. (7/10/06) (no action)
- ▶ Heard Teaming with Wildlife Coalitions Report from David Waller, GA Wildlife Federation. (7/10/06) (no action)
- ▶ Recognized Partners. (7/10/06) (no action)
- ▶ Heard D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery Presentation. (Completed 7/10/06) (no action)
- ▶ Heard Other Reports. (Completed 7/11/06) (no action)
 - * The Season that Roared – South Dakota’s Experiences with Mountain Lion Management and its First Mountain Lion Season - George Vandel, SD
 - * Hunter/Angler Compliance Initiatives – Using Lower-level Law Enforcement Actions to Achieve Compliance and Build Agency Support – A New “Kinder, Gentler” Law Enforcement Approach - Emmett Keyser, SD
 - * Conserving State Priority Migratory Bird Species on Their Wintering Grounds - Dave Erickson, MO
 - * North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) - Bruce McCloskey, CO
 - * National Fish Habitat Action Plan - Doug Hansen, SD
 - * National Leadership Development Program (MAT) - John Baughman, Ex VP AFWA
 - * Update on the 2007 Farm Bill - Luke Miller, OH and Bill Smith, SD
 - * Update on the Status/Implementation of the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) - Ray Evans, ECO Associates, MO
 - * Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative - Don McKenzie, NBCI Coordinator, WMI, AR
 - * AFWA\FWS Joint Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy - Glen Salmon, IN
 - * Complex Hunting and Fishing Regulations – Impacts on Participation - Larry Gigliotti, SD
- ▶ Heard Law Enforcement Committee Report. (Completed 7/11/06) (no action)
- ▶ Heard Private Lands Committee Report. (Completed 7/11/06) (See Action Items)

- ▶ Heard Public Lands Committee Report. (Completed 7/11/06) (no action)
- ▶ Heard NCN Committee Report. (Completed 7/11/06) (no action)
- ▶ Heard Deer and Turkey Committee Report. (Completed 7/11/06) (no action)
- ▶ Heard Fish and Wildlife Health Committee Report. (Completed 7/11/06) (no action)
- ▶ Pheasant Study Group meets every other year – no report. (Completed 7/11/06) (no action)
- ▶ Heard MICRA Committee Report. (Completed 7/11/06) (no action)
- ▶ Legal Committee meets this week – no report. (Completed 7/11/06) (no action)
- ▶ Heard Furbearer Committee Report. (Completed 7/11/06) (See Action Items)
- ▶ Heard CITES Report. (Completed 7/11/06) (no action)
- ▶ Prairie Grouse Technical Council meets every other year – no report. (Completed 7/11/06) (no action)
- ▶ Heard Jaschek Fund Report with Treasurer's Report. (Completed 7/12/06) (no action)
- ▶ Heard Awards Committee Report. (Completed 7/12/06)
- ▶ Passed the gavel from South Dakota to Wisconsin (symbolic) (Completed 7/12/06)
- ▶ New President Scott Hassett, Wisconsin set meeting for July 2007 in Minocqua, Wisconsin. (Completed 7/12/06)
- ▶ Discussed Possible Topics for our next Annual Meeting (Completed 7/12/06)

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Objectives

The objectives of the Association shall be to protect the right of jurisdiction of the Midwestern states over their wildlife resources on public and private lands; to scrutinize carefully state and federal wildlife legislation and regulations and to offer support or opposition to legislative proposals or federal regulations in accordance with the best interests of the Midwestern states; to serve as a clearinghouse for the exchange of ideas concerning wildlife and fisheries management, research techniques, wildlife law enforcement, hunting and outdoor safety, and information and education; and to encourage and assist sportsmen's and conservationists' organizations so that the fullest measure of cooperation may be secured from our citizenry in the protection, preservation, restoration and management of our fish and wildlife resources.

**Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Meeting Locations and Dates**

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 1. | Des Moines, Iowa - Savery Hotel October 28, 1934 | 23. | Springfield, Illinois - Hotel St. Nicholas July 9 - 11, 1956 |
| 2. | St. Paul, Minnesota - Hotel Lowry June 29, 30, 1935 | 24. | Park Rapids, Minnesota - Itasca State Park July 10 - 12, 1957 |
| 3. | Madison Wisconsin - State Capitol June 16, 17, 1936 | 25. | Bismarck, North Dakota - Grand Pacific Hotel July 10, 11, 1958 |
| 4. | Sioux Falls, South Dakota - Carpenter Hotel June 11 - 13, 1937 | 26. | West Lafayette, Indiana - Memorial Center, Purdue University July 9, 10, 1959 |
| 5. | Omaha, Nebraska - Paxton Hotel June 8, 9, 1938 | 27. | Rapid City, South Dakota - Sheraton Johnson Hotel July 17 - 20, 1960 |
| 6. | Madison, Wisconsin - State Capitol June 12, 13, 1939 | 28. | Higgins Lake, Michigan - Grand Hotel July 10 - 12, 1961 |
| 7. | Mason City, Iowa - Hotel Hanford June 17, 18, 1940 | 29. | Omaha, Nebraska - Paxton Hotel July 28 - 30, 1962 |
| 8. | St. Louis, Missouri - Statler Hotel June 4, 5, 1941 | 30. | Columbus, Ohio - Neil House Hotel July 8, 9, 1963 |
| 9. | Duluth, Minnesota - Hotel Duluth June 25, 26, 1942 | 31. | Milwaukee, Wisconsin - Milwaukee Inn July 12 - 15, 1964 |
| 10. | Fox Lake, Illinois - Unknown September 21, 1943 | 32. | Toronto, Ontario - Westbury Hotel July 27 - 29, 1965 |
| 11. | Bismarck, North Dakota - Unknown Unknown, 1944 | 33. | Wichita, Kansas - Hotel Lassen July 12 - 14, 1966 |
| 12. | Indianapolis, Indiana - Unknown Unknown, 1945 | 34. | Des Moines, Iowa - Hotel Savery July 25 - 27, 1967 |
| 13. | Rapid City, South Dakota - Unknown, Unknown, 1946 | 35. | Chicago, Illinois - Conrad Hilton Hotel July 28 - 31, 1968 |
| 14. | Roscommon, Michigan - Conservation Training School July 14-16, 1947 | 36. | St. Louis, Missouri - Sheraton Jefferson Hotel July 27 - 30, 1969 |
| 15. | Put-in-Bay, Ohio - Unknown July 16, 17, 1948 | 37. | Winnipeg, Manitoba - International Inn July 29 - August 1, 1970 |
| 16. | Lincoln, Nebraska - Unknown October 3, 4, 1949 | 38. | Aspen, Colorado - Stonebridge Inn July 19 - 23, 1971 |
| 17. | Milwaukee, Wisconsin - Hotel Wisconsin, July 24 - 26, 1950 | 39. | Wichita, Kansas - Holiday Inn Plaza July 25 - 27, 1972 |
| 18. | Wichita, Kansas - Broadview Hotel August 18, 19, 1951 | | |
| 19. | Des Moines, Iowa - Hotel Fort Des Moines, August 15, 16, 1952 | | |
| 20. | Dorset, Ontario - Ontario Forest Ranger School August 14, 15, 1953 | | |
| 21. | St. Louis, Missouri - Statler Hotel July 8 - 10, 1954 | | |
| 22. | Estes Park, Colorado - Stanley Hotel | | |

40. Bismarck, North Dakota - Holiday Inn July 16 - 19, 1973
41. Duluth, Minnesota - Radisson Hotel July 16 - 18, 1974
42. Traverse City, Michigan - Holiday Inn July 21 - 24, 1975
43. Rapid City, South Dakota - Howard Johnson Motor Inn July 19 - 22, 1976
44. Lincoln, Nebraska - Villager Motel Convention Center July 18 - 21, 1977
45. Milwaukee, Wisconsin - Marc Plaza July 16 - 19, 1978
46. Nashville, Indiana - Brown County Inn July 16 - 19, 1979
47. Columbus, Ohio - Hilton Inn East July 14 - 17, 1980
48. Des Moines, Iowa - Hotel Fort Des Moines July 13 - 15, 1981
49. Springfield, Illinois - Hilton Hotel July 12 - 15, 1982
50. Lexington, Kentucky - Radisson Plaza July 18 - 21, 1983
51. Hannibal, Missouri - Holiday Inn July 16 - 19, 1984
52. Wichita, Kansas - Hilton Inn East July 15 - 18, 1985
53. Vail, Colorado - Manor Vail July 7 - 10, 1986
54. Winnipeg, Manitoba - Holiday Inn Downtown July 13 - 16, 1987
55. Bismarck, North Dakota - Sheraton Bismarck Galleria July 11 - 14, 1988
56. Duluth, Minnesota - Radisson Hotel July 10 - 13, 1989
57. Grand Rapids, Michigan - Amway Grand Plaza Hotel July 16 - 19, 1990
58. Rapid City, South Dakota - Hotel Alex Johnson July 8 - 10, 1991
59. Green Bay, Wisconsin - Embassy Suites June 28 - 30, 1992
60. Ashland, Nebraska - Eugene T. Mahoney State Park July 11 - 13, 1993
61. Estes Park, Colorado - Aspen Lodge July 10 - 12, 1994
62. Galena, Illinois - DeSoto House July 9 - 11, 1995
63. South Bend, Indiana - The Works Hotel July 14 - 16, 1996
64. Des Moines, Iowa - Embassy Suites Hotel July 13 - 15, 1997
65. Lawrence, Kansas - Eldridge Hotel July 12 - 14, 1998
66. Louisville, Kentucky - Embassy Suites July 18 - 20, 1999
67. Petoskey, Michigan - Stafford's Perry Hotel July 16 - 18, 2000
68. St. Paul, Minnesota - Radisson City Center Hotel July 15 - 17, 2001
69. Springfield, Missouri - Marriott Residence Inn July 13 - 16, 2002
70. Omaha, Nebraska - Double Tree Hotel July 12 - 15, 2003
71. Bismarck, North Dakota - Radisson Hotel July 11 - 13, 2004
72. Sandusky, Ohio - Sawmill Creek Resort July 10 - 13, 2005
73. Spearfish, South Dakota - Holiday Inn July 9 - 12, 2006

**COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS OF THE
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES**
Effective July, 2005 - July, 2006

Standing Committees (identified in bylaws)

Executive Committee

Doug Hansen (SD), President
Scott Hassett (WI), Vice President
Steve Gray (OH), Past President
Joe Kramer (KS), Secretary Treasurer
Becky Humphries (MI), Member
Jeff Ver Steeg (CO), Member

Auditing Committee

Scott Hassett (WI), Chair
Ken Herring (IA), Member
Terry Steinwand (ND), member

Resolutions Committee

Larry Nelson (MN), Chair
Steve Gray (OH), Member
John Hoskins (MO), Member

Awards Committee

Glen Salmon (IN), Chair
Mike Conlin (IL), Member
Scott Hassett (WI), Member
Kirk Nelson (NE), Member
Keith Sexson (KS), Member

Bylaws Committee

Jeff Ver Steeg (CO), Chair
Dave Risley (OH), Member

Investments Committee

Rex Amack (NE), Chair
Ken Herring (IA), Member
Joe Kramer (KS), Member

National Conservation Needs Committee

Tom Niebauer (WI), Chair
Dave Risley (OH), Member
Dan Zekor (MO), Member

Conservation Fund Board

MAFWA Executive Committee (see above)
Rex Amack (NE), Member

OFFICIAL MAFWA REPRESENTATIVES

National Grants Committee:

Jon Gassett (KY)

Federal Budget:

Jon Gassett (KY)

Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative:

Jeff Vonk (IA)

Southeast Quail Study Group Technical Committee:

Jim Pitman (KS)

Wind Energy:

Rob Manes (TNC)

Climate Change:

George Meyer (WI-NWF) Under Consideration

National Cooperator's Coalition:

Ollie Torgerson (MAFWA)

Technical Working Groups and Committees (should include representatives from each state)

Midwest Private Lands Technical Group
Public Lands Management Working Committee (PLMWC)
Midwest Legal Committee
Midwest Pheasant Study Group
Midwest Turkey and Deer Working Group
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Health Working Group

From 1995 list (Galena, IL) Groups not listed

Wildlife Diversity Technical Working Group
Mid-Continent Warmwater Fish Culture Workshop
Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
Prairie Grouse Technical Committee
Western Sage/Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS



MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

JULY, 2005

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

PREAMBLE

The name of this organization shall be the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The Association shall be organized and operated as a non-profit professional association as described in 501(c)(6) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code with the purpose of promoting the protection, preservation, restoration and management of fish and wildlife resources.

The objectives of the Association shall be:

- (a) to protect the right of jurisdiction of the Midwestern states over their wildlife resources on public and private lands;
- (b) to scrutinize carefully state and federal wildlife legislation and regulations and to offer support or opposition to legislative proposals or federal regulations in accordance with the best interests of the Midwestern states;
- (c) to serve as a clearinghouse for the exchange of ideas concerning wildlife and fisheries management, research techniques, wildlife law enforcement, hunting and outdoor safety, and information and education;
- (d) and to encourage and assist sportsmen's and conservationists' organizations so that the fullest measure of cooperation may be secured from our citizenry in the protection, preservation, restoration and management of our fish and wildlife resources.

The Association met for the first time on October 28, 1934 in Des Moines, Iowa. At that time the group was known as the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Commissioners. The Association first received its non-profit status in 1968. The Association's name was changed to the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Commissioners in 1972, to the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 1977, and to the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 2001.

A R T I C L E I

OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers of the Association shall be President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer. The President and Vice-President shall be nominated from the members of the states and provinces on an alphabetical rotation basis, with the Vice-President being from the state or province next in order of rotation. The term of office shall commence thirty (30) days following adjournment of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' (IAFWA) fall meeting and conclude thirty (30) days following adjournment of the succeeding fall IAFWA meeting. The Vice-President shall automatically succeed to President if he/she remains eligible. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected by members and serve until replaced.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the elected officers, and one representative from each state and province except those represented by the elected officers. Such state or provincial Board member shall be the chief executive officer of the fish and wildlife agency of his/her state or province, or his/her designee.

A R T I C L E I I

OTHER ASSOCIATION POSITIONS

Section 1. The Association shall also establish the position of “Coordinator.” An Association member agency may provide an individual to serve in this capacity or the Association may contract with a member agency or an individual to fill the position. This is a nonvoting position.

Section 2. The Association may establish the position of “Recording Secretary.” This is a nonvoting position.

A R T I C L E I I I

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall be by states and provinces and representation of each state and province at meetings shall be by its duly authorized representative or representatives.

Section 2. The area of membership in the Association shall be the states of Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, and the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario and such additional states and provinces as may request membership and be elected by majority vote of the member states and provinces in annual meeting.

Section 3. Membership in the Association of an individual shall terminate upon the expiration of the member's term of office as a state fish and wildlife administrator.

Section 4. Persons who cannot qualify for regular membership in the Association may be elected Honorary Members by unanimous vote of members.

Section 5. Other professional organizations may be granted affiliate membership in the Association based upon demonstration that the Constitution and Bylaws of said organizations meet the basic standards of the Association. Application for affiliate membership shall be forwarded to the President at least 90 days prior to a regular meeting of the Association and shall include a current Constitution and Bylaws and a letter stating the organization's justification for affiliate membership. Affiliate membership shall be voted on by the voting representatives and must attain a majority vote of a quorum.

Affiliated membership dues shall be \$75.00 per year; however, this fee may be waived by a majority vote of a quorum.

A R T I C L E I V

DUTIES OF OFFICERS and OTHER POSITIONS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, appoint all special committees, preside at meetings of the Board of Directors, and perform such other duties as are naturally incumbent upon the office. Copies of the annual proceedings shall be forwarded to each member in good standing, with the cost of preparation and handling to be paid out of Association funds. All other copies are for distribution at the discretion of the host state or province.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the latter's absence, and specific duties may be assigned as deemed necessary by the President.

Section 3. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep a record of all transactions of the meetings of the Association, as well as meetings of the Board of Directors, shall notify members of the time and place of meetings and perform such other duties as are naturally incumbent upon the office. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be custodian of all funds of the Association and draw all warrants for the payment of claims properly presented. He/she shall bill the members and collect the annual dues. It is the intent of the Association that the costs of the annual meetings and related business functions, not to exceed \$2,500.00, may be paid by the Association.

Section 4. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be custodian of all permanent files and other assets of the Association.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall conduct the business of the Association.

Section 6. The Coordinator shall perform the following services:

- (1) Function as the official "Coordinator" for the Association carrying out liaison services by keeping in communication via e-mail, mailings, phone contact and personal visits with member Directors, or their designated representatives, to enhance the viability of the Association.
- (2) Work to obtain direct involvement and commitment of member Directors and affiliate leaders to build strength in the Association as a leading force in the Midwest on behalf of fish and wildlife issues.

- (3) Assist the Executive Vice-President of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in coordinating actions and communications relevant to the Midwest Association.
- (4) Respond to inquiries for information regarding the Association and to routine correspondence.
- (5) Develop and maintain a web site for the Association.
- (6) Carry out directives of the President and/or Executive Committee of the Association.
- (7) Provide such other services as may be mutually agreed upon by both parties.

Section 7. The Recording Secretary shall perform the following services:

- (1) Record and publish the annual proceedings of the Association.
- (2) Assist with the scheduling of meetings and conference calls and to record minutes as appropriate.
- (3) Assist other officers with correspondence, recording keeping and tax reporting.
- (4) Other duties as assigned by the President or the Secretary/Treasurer

A R T I C L E V

MEETINGS

One regular meeting shall be held annually. The meeting will be held in and hosted by the state or province in which the outgoing President has administrative responsibility, or in such other locations designated by the Association. When necessary, special meetings may be called by the President. Members shall be given 180 days notice of regular annual meetings and special meetings may be called on ten days notice.

A R T I C L E VI

VOTING

Voting shall be by states and provinces, as units. Each state and province shall have one vote. All voting shall be by voice vote, except that a request by any member state or province for a secret ballot shall be honored. Any matters of Association business requiring action in the interim between meetings may be handled by the Executive Committee, by majority vote.

A R T I C L E V I I

DUES

Annual Dues shall be \$300.00 per member state and \$100 per province, payable in advance, at, or before each annual meeting; provided, that annual dues may be suspended for any given year by a majority vote of a quorum.

A R T I C L E V I I I

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Association shall be July 1 through June 30.

A R T I C L E I X

QUORUM

A simple majority of all member states and provinces in good standing constitute a quorum.

A R T I C L E X

AMENDMENT

The Constitution and Bylaws (Bylaws) of the Association may be amended at any regular meeting by a majority vote of a quorum; provided, however, a written copy of such proposed amendment shall have been received by the President and the Secretary/Treasurer and sent to members at least thirty days before the regular annual meeting or special meeting called for that purpose. Proposed Bylaws amendments should be presented to, or generated by, the Bylaws Committee and reviewed by the Executive Committee prior to submitting to voting members of the Association for their consideration. With approval of the Vice-President, the President may call for voting by mail (including electronic mail) in lieu of a meeting. In this event, the thirty day notice shall still apply, the date of opening ballots shall be previously announced, notice sent to each member within forty-eight hours of vote tabulation by the Secretary/Treasurer, and all ballots shall be kept for one year following the vote.

ARTICLE XI

TYPES OF COMMITTEES

Section 1. There shall be three kinds of committees: Standing, President's Ad Hoc, and Technical Working.

Section 2. The following Standing Committees shall be appointed by the incoming President within thirty (30) days after assuming office, they shall serve during the period intervening between annual meetings and at such meetings, or until the purpose of each such committee has been accomplished and it has been discharged by the President.

- A. The Executive Committee shall be composed of six members of the Association: The President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, immediate Past President, and two other members to be appointed by the President with specific consideration for geographical balance. Any state or province represented on the Executive Committee by more than one individual shall be restricted to a single vote on this committee. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Association between its business meetings, make recommendations to the Association as necessary and shall perform such other duties as may be specified in these bylaws. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the orders of the Board of Directors and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the Board of Directors. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President as necessary. The Executive Committee may also act via conference call or by mail (including electronic mail).
- B. The Auditing Committee shall be composed of three members: The Vice President of the Association, who shall act as chairman, and two other members to be appointed by the President.
- C. The Resolutions Committee shall be composed of three members, one of which shall be designated as Chairman by the President. Copies of proposed resolutions should be received by the President and the Secretary/Treasurer and sent to members for their consideration at least thirty days before the regular annual meeting. Courtesy resolutions and resolutions of a last minute nature may be recommended to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting. Furthermore, proposed resolutions for which an urgent need arises between annual meetings may be presented to the Board of Directors for consideration via mail (including electronic mail), provided members are given a thirty-day notice. Members shall be notified of the vote outcome by the Secretary/Treasurer within forty-eight hours of vote tabulation.
- D. The Nominating/Awards Committee shall be composed of three members, one of which shall be designated as Chairman by the President.

- E. The Bylaws Committee shall be composed of at least one member, designated by the President. The Bylaws Committee shall recommend Bylaws changes to the Executive Committee for consideration.
- F. The Investments Committee shall be composed of three members, one of which shall be designated as Chairman by the President. The purpose of the committee is to review investments, including the Jaschek portfolio, and make recommendations to the Association per the investment policy statement.

Section 3. Ad Hoc Committees may be established as deemed necessary by the President of the Association and shall serve until the purpose of each such committee has been accomplished and it has been discharged by the President.

Section 4. The Association may establish Technical Working Committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Association. Upon establishment, these committees shall adhere to the following:

- A. Within one year from establishment, each committee shall submit to the Association for approval a Mission Statement, a list of specific responsibilities, and a description of operating procedures that will become part of the official minutes of the Association.
- B. All Technical Working Committees shall submit a written report electronically to the President and the Recording Secretary 30 days in advance of the annual meeting of the Association and may choose to conduct necessary committee business during the period between annual meetings as per their approved operating procedures.
- C. Resolutions from Technical Working Committees for Association action shall be submitted to the Chair of the Resolutions Committee.

The Association recognizes the following Technical Working Committees:

Legal Committee
National Conservation Need (NCN) Committee
Midwest Pheasant Study Group
Midwest Private Lands Wildlife Management Group
Midwest Public Lands Technical Working Committee
Midwest Wildlife and Fish Health Committee

ARTICLE XII

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Association may adopt.

Adopted 1936

Amended 1942

Amended 1944

Amended 1949

Amended 1954

Amended 1960

Amended 1964

Amended 1969

Amended 1971

Amended 1972

Amended 1975

Amended 1976

Amended 1977

Amended 1978

Amended 1980

Amended 1987

Amended 1993

Amended 1995

Amended 1996

Amended 2000

Amended 2001

Amended July 16, 2003

Amended July 13, 2004

Amended July 13, 2005

Dan Zekor
Missouri Department of Conservation
PO Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: 573-522-4115
Fax:
Email: Daniel.Zekor@MDC.MO.GOV

David Waller
Georgia Wildlife Federation
11600 Hazelbrand Rd
Covington, GA 30014
Phone: 770-787-7887
Fax: 770-787-9229
Email: dwaller@gwf.org

Charles Wooley
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1 Federal Drive, Room 630
Ft Snelling, MN 55111
Phone: 612-713-5301
Fax: 612-713-5284
Email: charles_wooley@fws.gov

Jeffrey Vonk
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 E 9th St
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 515-281-5385
Fax: 515-281-6794
Email: Jeff.vonk@dnr.state.Ia.us

Gene Williams
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PO Box 25486/Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225
Phone: 303-236-4307
Fax: 303-236-4792
Email: gene_williams@fws.gov

Mary Anne Vonk
spouse of Jeffrey Vonk
401 W Orchard Ave
Indianola, IA 50125
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Steve Williams
Wildlife Management Institute
1146 19th St., NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-371-1808
Fax:
Email: swilliams@wildlifemgt.org

Jeff Ver Steeg
Colorado Division of Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216
Phone: 303-291-7204
Fax: 303-291-7105
Email: jeff.ver-steeg@state.co.us

Beth Williams
spouse of Steve Williams
1930 Birch Road
McLean, VA 22101
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Barbara Ver Steeg
spouse of Jeff Ver Steeg
1110 Jefferson Dr
Berthoud, CO 80513
Phone: 970-532-3669
Fax: none
Email: none

Andrew Ver Steeg
son of Jeff Ver Steeg
1110 Jefferson Dr
Berthoud, CO 80513
Phone: 970-532-3669
Fax: none
Email: none

Gildo Tori
Ducks Unlimited (DU)
331 Metty Dr, Ste 4
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Phone: 734-623-2000
Fax: 734-623-2035
Email: Gtori@ducks.org

Nathaniel Ver Steeg
son of Jeff Ver Steeg
1110 Jefferson Dr
Berthoud, CO 80513
Phone: 970-532-3669
Fax: none
Email: none

Ollie Torgerson
Midwest Association of Fish and
Wildlife Agencies
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhineland, WI 54501
Phone: 715-365-8924
Fax: 715-365-8932
Email: Ollie.Torgerson@dnr.state.wi.us

Gary Vequist
National Park Service, Midwest Region
601 Riverfront Dr
Omaha, NE 68102
Phone: 402-661-1860
Fax:
Email: gary_vequist@nps.gov

Robyn Thorson
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1 Federal Drive
Ft Snelling, MN 55111
Phone: 612-713-5301
Fax: 612-713-5284
Email: robyn_thorson@fws.gov

George Vandel
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: george.vandel@state.sd.us

Heather Teasley
daughter (& grandson Hunter) of Sheila
Kemmis
402 Gardner
Pratt, KS 67124
Phone: 620-388-3330
Fax:
Email:

Dennis Unkenholz
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: dennis.unkenholz@state.sd.us

Dustin Teasley
KS Dept of Wildlife and Parks (son-in-
law Sheila Kemmis)
402 Gardner
Pratt, KS 67124
Phone: 620-388-3330
Fax:
Email:

Land Tawney
National Wildlife Federation (NWF)
240 N Higgins, Ste 2
Missoula, MT 59802
Phone: 406-721-6705
Fax: 406-721-6714
Email: tawney@nwf.org

Keith Sexson
Kansas Dept of Wildlife and Parks
512 SE 25th Ave
Pratt, KS 67124
Phone: 620-672-5911
Fax: 620-672-2972
Email: keiths@wp.state.ks.us

Art Smith
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: art.smith@state.sd.us

Elaine Sexson
KS Dept of Wildlife & Parks (spouse of
Keith Sexson)
907 S Washington
Pratt, KS 67124
Phone: 620-672-7582
Fax:
Email:

Bill Smith
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: bill.smith@state.sd.us

Melissa Schilling
National Shooting Sports Foundation
(NSSF)
11 Mile Hill Rd
Newtown, CT 06470
Phone: 203-726-1320
Fax: 203-426-1087
Email: mshilling@nssf.org

Jay Slack
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
134 Union Blvd
Denver, CO 80225
Phone: 303-236-7920
Fax:
Email: jay-slack@fws.gov

David Schad
Minnesota DNR Division of Fish and
Wildlife
DNR Building, 500 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-259-5180
Fax: 651-297-7272
Email: dave.schad@dnr.state.mn.us

Dennis Simon
Minnesota DNR Division of Fish and
Wildlife
DNR Building, 500 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-259-5237
Fax: 651-297-4916
Email: dennis.simon@dnr.state.mn.us

Will Sayler
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: will.sayler@state.sd.us

Glen Salmon
Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife
402 W Washington St., W273
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-232-4091
Fax: 317-232-8150
Email: gsalmon@dnr.in.gov

Jim Riis
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: jim.riis@state.sd.us

Pat Ruble
Wildlife Management Institute
93 Central Station Place
Johnstown, OH 43031
Phone: 740-966-0496
Fax: 740-967-0942
Email: patrublewmi@columbus.rr.com

Brad Redlin
Izaak Walton League of America
1619 Dayton Ave., Ste 202
St Paul, MN 55104
Phone: 651-649-1446
Fax: 651-649-1494
Email: bredlin@iwla.org

Roger Rostvet
North Dakota Game & Fish Department
100 N Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501
Phone: 701-328-6345
Fax: 701-328-6352
Email:

Ron Payer
Minnesota DNR Division of Fish and
Wildlife
DNR Building, 500 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-259-5229
Fax: 651-297-4916
Email: ron.payer@dnr.state.mn.us

Dawn Rostvet
spouse of Roger Rostvet
4740 Grassy Lane
Bismarck, ND 58503
Phone: 701-258-0181
Fax:
Email:

Laurie Osterndorf
WI Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707
Phone: 608-267-7552
Fax: 608-266-6983
Email:
Laurie.Osterndorf@dnr.state.wi.us

Dave Risley
Ohio Division of Wildlife
2045 Morse Rd, Bldg G
Columbus, OH 43229
Phone: 614-265-6331
Fax: 614-262-1143
Email: Dave.Risley@dnr.state.oh.us

Tom Niebauer
Wisconsin Department of Natural
Resources
Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707
Phone: 608-266-5893
Fax: 608-267-0496
Email:
Thomas.Niebauer@dnr.state.wi.us

Susan Niebauer
spouse of Tom Niebauer
5526 Sheil Dr
Oregon, WI 53575
Phone: 608-835-3724
Fax:
Email:

Mitch McKie
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
(RMEF)
400 Rim Rock Road
Spearfish, SD 57783
Phone: 605-642-1765
Fax:
Email: mmckie@rmef.org

Larry Nelson
Minnesota DNR Division of Fish and
Wildlife
DNR Building, 500 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-259-5224
Fax: 651-297-7272
Email: larry.nelson@dnr.state.mn.us

Don McKenzie
Wildlife Management Institute
2396 Cocklebur Rd
Ward, AR 72176
Phone: 501-941-7994
Fax: 501-941-7995
Email: wmidm@ipa.net

Bruce Nachtigall
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: bruce.nachtigall@state.sd.us

Jim McCormick
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: jim.mccormick@state.sd.us

Bruce Morrison
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
2200 N 33rd St
Lincoln, NE 68503
Phone: 402-471-5430
Fax: 402-471-5528
Email: bruce.morrison@ngpc.ne.gov

Bruce McCloskey
Colorado Division of Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216
Phone: 303-291-7204
Fax: 303-291-7105
Email: bruce.mccloskey@state.co.us

Luke Miller
Ohio Division of Wildlife
2045 Morse Rd, Bldg G
Columbus, OH 43229
Phone: 614-265-6907
Fax: 614-262-1143
Email: Luke.Miller@dnr.state.oh.us

Jay McAninch
Archery Trade Association (ATA and
BPA)
6044 Rockton Ct.
Centreville, VA 20121
Phone: 703-266-4134
Fax: 703-266-4135
Email: jaymcaninch@archerytrade.org

John Lott
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: john.lott@state.sd.us

Mike Kinitgh
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: mike.kinitgh@state.sd.us

Tony Leif
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: tony.leif@state.sd.us

Mitch King
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PO Box 25486, Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225
Phone: 303-236-7920
Fax: 303-236-8295
Email: mitch_king@fws.gov

Joe Kramer
Kansas Department of Wildlife and
Parks
512 SE 25th Ave
Pratt, KS 67124
Phone: 620-672-5911
Fax: 620-672-2972
Email: joek@wp.state.ks.us

Emmett Keyser
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: emmett.keyser@state.sd.us

Ron Koth
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: ron.koth@state.sd.us

James Earl Kennamer
National Wild Turkey Federation
(NWTF)
PO Box 530
Edgefield, SC 29824
Phone: 803-637-3106
Fax: 803-637-9180
Email: jkenamer@nwtf.net

Tom Kirschenmann
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: tom.kirschenmann@state.sd.us

Sheila Kemmis
Kansas Department of Wildlife and
Parks
512 SE 25th Ave
Pratt, KS 67124
Phone: 620-672-0702
Fax: 620-672-2972
Email: sheilak@wp.state.ks.us

Dan Kemmis
spouse of Sheila Kemmis
10257 S Hwy 281
Pratt, KS 67124
Phone: 620-672-3996
Fax: none
Email: none

John Hoskins
Missouri Department of Conservation
2901 W Truman Blvd
Jefferson City, MO 65109
Phone: 573-751-4115
Fax: 573-751-4467
Email: John.Hoskins@mdc.mo.gov

John Kanta
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: john.kanta@state.sd.us

Janet Hoskins
spouse of John Hoskins
5108 Coventry Way
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Kyle Hupfer
Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife
402 W Washington St., W256
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-232-4020
Fax: 317-232-8150
Email: khupfer@dnr.in.gov

Robert Hoffman
Ducks Unlimited (DU)
331 Metty Dr, Ste 4
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Phone: 734-623-2000
Fax: 734-623-2035
Email: bHoffman@ducks.org

Rebecca Humphries
Michigan Department of Natural
Resources
PO Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: 517-335-4873
Fax: 517-335-4242
Email: humphrir@michigan.gov

Chris Hesla
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
(NWF)
PO Box 7075
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-224-7524
Fax:
Email: sdwf@mncomm.com

Chris Hull
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: chris.hull@state.sd.us

Ken Herring
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 E 9th St
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 515-281-5529
Fax: 515-281-6794
Email: Kenneth.herring@dnr.state.ia.us

Scott Hassett
Wisconsin Department of Natural
Resources
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707
Phone: 608-266-0865
Fax: 608-266-6983
Email: Scott.Hassett@dnr.state.wi.us

Jeffrey Green
USDA, APHIS Wildlife Services
2150 Centre Ave., Bldg B, MS 3W9
Ft Collins, CO 80526
Phone: 970-494-7453
Fax: 970-494-7455
Email: jeffrey.s.green@aphis.usda.gov

Matthew Hare
The Nature Conservancy
1025 Leavenworth St
Omaha, NE 68102
Phone: 402-342-0282
Fax: 402-342-0474
Email: mhare@tnc.org

Steve Gray
Ohio Division of Wildlife
2045 Morse Rd, Bldg G
Columbus, OH 43229
Phone: 614-265-6304
Fax: 614-262-1143
Email: Steve.Gray@dnr.state.oh.us

Dan Hare
Pheasants Forever
315 Tucson Ave
Bismarck, ND 58504
Phone: 701-391-2630
Fax: 701-250-9921
Email: dhare@pheasantsforever.com

Dave Graham
Ohio Division of Wildlife
2045 Morse Rd, Bldg G
Columbus, OH 43229
Phone: 614-265-6304
Fax: 614-262-1143
Email: Dave.Graham@dnr.state.oh.us

Doug Hansen
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: doug.hansen@state.sd.us

Larry Gigliotti
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: larry.gigliotti@state.sd.us

Dale Hall
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
Phone: 202-208-4717
Fax: 202-208-6965
Email: dale_hall@fws.gov

Dale Garner
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace Building, 502 E 9th St
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 515-281-6156
Fax: 515-281-6794
Email: dale.garner@dnr.state.ia.us

Ray Evans
ECO Associates
1995 Halifax Rd
Holts Summit, MO 65043
Phone: 573-896-4836
Fax:
Email: rayevans24@earthlink.net

John Cornely
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PO Box 25486, DFC
Denver, CO 80225
Phone: 303-236-6284
Fax:
Email: john-cornely@fws.gov

Carole Evans
ECO Associates (spouse of Ray Evans)
1995 Halifax Rd
Holts Summit, MO 65043
Phone: 573-896-4836
Fax:
Email:

Rick Cordes
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: rick.cordes@state.sd.us

Dave Erickson
Missouri Department of Conservation
PO Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: 573-522-4115
Fax: ext 3142
Email: david.erickson@mdc.mo.gov

John Cooper
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: john.cooper@state.sd.us

Jack Erickson
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: jack.erickson@state.sd.us

Marion Conover
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 E 9th St
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 515-281-5208
Fax: 515-281-6793
Email: Marion.Conover@dnr.state.ia.us

Paul Coughlin
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: paul.coughlin@state.sd.us

Mike Conlin
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
Phone: 217-785-8547
Fax: 217-785-2438
Email: mike.conlin@illinois.gov

Chris Chaffin
The Outdoor Channel (TOC)
PO Box 511118
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951
Phone: 321-729-0280
Fax: 321-729-0280
Email: cchaffin@outdoorchannel.com

Ted Benzon
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: ted.benzon@state.sd.us

Mike Budzik
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance (USSA)
801 Kingsmill Parkway
Columbus, OH 43229
Phone: 614-888-4868 Ext. 288
Fax:
Email: mbudzik@ussportsmen.org

John Baughman
Association of Fish and Wildlife
Agencies
444 N Capitol St NW, Ste 725
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202-624-7890
Fax: 202-624-7891
Email: baughman@fishwildlife.org

Robert Bryant
US Fish and Wildlife Service
1 Federal Drive
Ft Snelling, MN 55111
Phone: 612-713-5131
Fax: 612-713-5290
Email: robert_bryant@fws.gov

M. Carol Bambery
Association of Fish and Wildlife
Agencies
444 N Capitol St., NW, Suite 725
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202-624-3678
Fax: 202-624-7891
Email: cbambery@fishwildlife.org

Charles Brown
USDA, APHIS Wildlife Services
920 Main Campus Dr, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27606
Phone: 919-855-7200
Fax: 919-855-7215
Email: charles.s.brown@aphis.usda.gov

Larry Baesler
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
(RMEF)
400 Rim Rock Road
Spearfish, SD 57783
Phone: 605-642-1765
Fax:
Email:

Wayne Bivans
Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife
402 W Washington St., W273
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-232-4096
Fax: 317-232-8150
Email: wbivans@dnr.in.gov

Mike Apland
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-4231
Fax: 605-773-6245
Email: mike.apland@state.sd.us

Rex Amack
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
PO Box 30370
Lincoln, NE 68503
Phone: 402-471-5539
Fax: 402-471-4349
Email: Rex.Amack@ngpc.ne.gov

Angela Amack
spouse of Rex Amack
2805 Ponca St
Lincoln, NE 68506
Phone: 402-489-5077
Fax:
Email:

Agenda and Minutes

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SOUTH DAKOTA 2006



Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
 July 9 – 12, 2006
 Spearfish, SD
 Holiday Inn - I-90

DRAFT: 2006 MAFWA Program Outline

Saturday - July 8, 2006

Come early to partake of optional activities

Sunday - July 9, 2006

Optional activities (see attached list)

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 4:30 p.m. | Executive Committee (<i>Canyon Room</i>) |
| 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | Early Registration |
| 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | Welcome Social → Sponsored by <u>National Shooting Sports Foundation</u> |
| 9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. | Hospitality Room → Sponsored by <u>Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers</u> |



Monday - July 10, 2006

- 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Registration
- 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast → Sponsored by Ducks Unlimited**
- 8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Opening Session and Welcome to South Dakota – Doug Hansen and John Cooper
State of the AFWA – John Cooper, President, AFWA
- 8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. State of the States
Hot topics and Strategic Issues in the States (4-minute limit per state): a quick overview of new ideas, programs and challenges facing each state.
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Break → Sponsored by Safari Club International**
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. AFWA Staff Report – John Baughman, Executive Vice-President, AFWA
- 11:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Update – Dale Hall, Director, USFWS
- 11:20 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Regional Reports – Robyn Thorson and Mitch King, Regional Directors, USFWS
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Awards Luncheon → Sponsored by Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation**
- 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. MAFWA Coordinator Report – Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator, MAFWA
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Discussion of Strategic Issues – Follow-up on Hot Topics
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Break → Sponsored by D. J. Case & Associates**
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Teaming With Wildlife Coalitions – David Waller
- 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Recognition of MAFWA Partners – Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator, MAFWA
- 4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery
- 5:30 p.m. Buses leave for D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery – Steve Brimm, Manager
- 6:00 p.m. **Dinner → Sponsored by US Sportsman's Alliance**
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Buses return to hotel
- 9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. **Hospitality Room → Sponsored by Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers**



Tuesday - July 11, 2006

- 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Registration
- 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast → Sponsored by National Wild Turkey Federation**
- 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. The Season that Roared (South Dakota's Experiences with Mountain Lion Management and It's First Mountain Lion Season) (George Vandel)
- 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Hunter/Angler Compliance Initiatives – Using Lower-Level Law Enforcement Actions to Achieve Compliance and Build Agency Support (A New "Kinder, Gentler" Law Enforcement Approach) (Emmett Keyser)
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. Conserving State Priority Migratory Bird Species on Their Wintering Grounds (Dave Erickson)
- 9:20 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) (Bruce McCloskey)
- 9:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Doug Hansen)
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Break → Sponsored by Safari Club International**
- 10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. National Leadership Development program (MAT)
- 10:45 a.m. – 11:05 a.m. Up-Date on the 2007 Farm Bill (Bill Smith and Luke Miller)
- 11:05 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Up-Date on the status/implementation of the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) (Ray Evans)
- 10:15 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (Don McKenzie)
- 11:25 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. AFWA\FWS Joint Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy (Glen Salmon)
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch → Sponsored by The Outdoor Channel**
- 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Complex Hunting and Fishing Regulations - Impact on Participation? (Larry Gigliotti)
- 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Committee Reports (including discussion and action on committee recommendations)
- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Law Enforcement | Deer and Turkey | MICRA |
| Private Lands | Prairie Grouse | Legal |
| Public Lands | Fish and Wildlife Health | Furbearers |
| NCN | Pheasants | |
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Break → Sponsored by Wildlife Forever**
- 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Committee Reports (continued)
- 6:00 p.m. **Dinner → Sponsored by National Wildlife Federation**
- 9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. **Hospitality Room → Sponsored by Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers**



Wednesday - July 12, 2006

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast → Sponsored by Bowhunting Preservation Alliance, Inc.

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

MAFWA Business Meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of 2005 Annual Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Audit Committee Report
5. Jaschek Fund Report
6. Investments Committee
7. Resolutions Committee
8. Awards Committee
9. By-Laws Committee
10. Approval of Affiliate Members



10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Break → Sponsored by Wildlife Forever

10:15 a.m. – Noon

MAFWA Business Meeting

11. Old Business
12. New Business
13. "Symbolic" Passing of the Gavel

SPONSOR LIST:

- **US Sportsman's Alliance**
- **National Wildlife Federation**
- **Pheasants Forever**
- **National Shooting Sports Foundation**
- **Ducks Unlimited**
- **Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation**
- **National Wild Turkey Federation**
- **Bowhunting Preservation Alliance, Inc.**
- **The Outdoor Channel**
- **Safari Club International**
- **Wildlife Forever**
- **D. J. Case & Associates**
- **Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers**



**June 5, 2006
2:00 p.m. CDT
Teleconference**

Call to Order

President Doug Hansen called the meeting to order.

Quorum

Doug Hansen, President, SD; Scott Hassett, Vice President, WI; Steve Gray, Past President, OH; Joe Kramer, Secretary Treasurer, KS; and Director-at-Large Becky Humphries, MI were present. Also present were: Rex Amack, NE; Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator and Sheila Kemmis, Recording Secretary. Director-at-Large Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado could not be present.

Rex Amack deferred his report to Joe Kramer and left the meeting.

Agenda Review

Discussed agenda and items to be covered and President Hansen stated he wanted to combine the “Proposed New Membership Categories” to the “Proxy Voting” discussion. Ollie stated that he had been contacted by the Cougar Network about the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy putting out bad information on cougars and he wanted to add that to other business.

Approval of March 24, 2006 Executive Committee Minutes

Becky Humphries, Michigan moved to accept minutes, Joe Kramer, Kansas second. *Approved.*

Financial Report—Joe Kramer

Report of Investments Committee—Joe Kramer

Joe reported that there was \$220,332.22 in the investment accounts and that he and Sheila had just met with Shane Hessman, the Investment Counselor and he would be emailing the Executive Committee the report Hessman emailed to him. Other balances included \$5,340.85 in the conference checking account; \$5,858.58 in the regular checking account; and \$5,388.76 in the savings account as of May 31, 2006.

Discussed the availability of the money in the investments and how there was approximately \$9,500 of interest available in the bond account and the money market account had about \$18,000 also accessible. Joe asked how the Committee wanted the report given at the annual meeting and it was decided the simpler the better.

Proxy Voting—Ollie

Proposed New Membership Categories—Ollie

Jeff Ver Steeg sent out the By-laws packet by email and a few items have changed since the March meeting. They are highlighted in the packet. Changes include:

- 1) Not only changing the name of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, but changing the acronym also from IAFWA to AFWA on page 2.
- 2) Discussed adding sentence to page 2 that reads: “A Board member may, by written notification to the President, designate a voting proxy from the Board member’s state or province.” This would allow a CEO to designate someone to vote for them but there was discussion that proxy voting should not be allowed on the Executive Committee, only at annual meetings. After discussion it was decided that this would be considered substitute voting at the

annual meeting because the voting representative would assign a proxy to vote for them. In several states the CEO is not the voting representative. It was decided to add another paragraph that stated that proxy voting does not apply to Executive Committee meetings.

3) On page 3 it was decided to add another sponsor category to cover the organizations that are sponsoring our annual meeting. Ollie stated they added a major sponsor category (\$5,000 or more) even though we had not had anyone in that category before. Ollie had spoken to the other Associations and found that they were receiving substantial support from government entities, especially the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), BLM and the U.S. Forest Service. The Western Association gets \$25,000 a year in sponsorships from federal underwriting. The Midwest Association falls within three separate USFWS regions but it was decided to contact the two main regional offices in Denver and Fort Snelling to garner support. In the past few years, North Dakota, Ohio and South Dakota have done an excellent job of getting large sponsors for the annual meeting. Discussed waiving the \$75 affiliate fee if the organization was one of the larger sponsors and the reasoning behind that was that it would be simpler not to bill them and we end up looking cheap if we ask for \$75 after they have contributed thousands of dollars. President Hansen said that we needed to add the word “annual” in front of “financial resources” to reflect that this is an annual sponsorship.

4) Correct IAFWA to AFWA on page 4.

5) On page 6, add the word “Boards” to the “Types of Committees/Boards”.

The rest of the highlighted items were discussed at the March meeting.

Becky Humphries, Michigan moved to accept the proposed by-law changes, Steve Gray, Ohio second. *Approved.*

Update on Printing Conservation Enhancement Fund Brochure—Ollie/Joe/Sheila

Sheila reported that she had sent the artwork out for bids and had received two of the three bids. Discussed ways to pay for the brochure – Kansas pay; states contribute; or have the MAFWA pay for them. Decided to wait for the final bid and discuss this in South Dakota.

MAFWA Recognition of Director Service—Ollie via Awards Committee

Four of the five members on the Awards Committee agreed to the service of director/voting representative criteria which included four years of service in MAFWA, serve on at least one committee and attend 75% of the annual meetings. It was decided to call it the “sagamore” award from a suggestion given by Glen Salmon and would have the person’s name and “Sagamore of the forest, fields and streams”. Sagamore roughly means a sachem or chief of the first or second rank. The plaque would go to outgoing directors/voting representatives and be given at the Awards Luncheon. Steve Gray, Ohio moved to approve the director’s service awards, Scott Hassett, Wisconsin second. *Approved.*

EXCOM Recommendation on Annual Assessment Renewal and Amount--Doug

President Hansen summarized that Ollie’s contract was a two year contract and that in previous action at the annual meeting it was decided to use state assessments to help cover Ollie’s salary and that as of June 30 of this year the two years had been collected and Sheila could no longer collect the special assessment. Discussed options on what was needed to cover Ollie’s salary and that the current assessment was not enough by itself and that we might have to double the assessment to \$3,000 per state or find other funds, maybe some of the funds discussed earlier in the investments report. President Hansen appointed a sub-committee of the Executive Committee to dig into the finances and bring a suggestion to the annual meeting. He assigned himself as chair, Joe Kramer and Steve Gray. Both Joe and Steve agreed.

2006 Meeting Report—Doug, Et Al

The meeting planning is coming along well, the agenda is filling fast and we have been able to accommodate everyone's requests so far. We will be sending out registration reminder notices this week. Sheila reminded everyone that she needs state reports, committee reports and speaker reports prior to the meeting.

Other Business

Ollie stated he had received a call from the cougar experts regarding a group in Michigan that was putting out a lot of misinformation. Professional cougar groups said it was damaging their profession and they were receiving adverse publicity. They wanted third party input and were interested in putting together a group of experts to do a review on the information. Ollie received a call from Dave Hamilton of Missouri, a member of the Midwest Furbearers Group who will be meeting in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan in September and thought the committee could bring this to the annual meeting in their report. Becky stated this cougar group was a perpetual problem in Michigan and they would welcome the professional input, but the group works off sensationalism so she was not sure it would make a difference. Other states said they were having similar problems with these types of groups.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is set for Sunday, July 9, 2006 at 4:30 p.m. MDT in the Spruce Room at the Holiday Inn in Spearfish.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:06 pm.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2006
4:35 p.m. MDT
Spearfish, South Dakota

Call to Order

President Doug Hansen called the meeting to order.

Quorum

Doug Hansen, President, SD; Steve Gray, Past President, OH; Joe Kramer, Secretary Treasurer, KS; and Directors-at-Large Becky Humphries, MI; and Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado were present. Also present were: Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator; Sheila Kemmis, Recording Secretary; and Tom Niebauer sitting in to listen for Scott Hassett, WI who participated in the last half of the meeting.

Agenda Review

Ollie Torgerson added:

Director's Opinion on Carnivores

Appointment to AFWA Science and Research Committee on Sept 19

Annual meeting in conjunction with Midwest Law Enforcement Officers Committee

Approval of June 5, 2006 Executive Committee Minutes

Steve Gray, Ohio moved to accept minutes, Joe Kramer, Kansas second. *Approved.*

Financial Report—Joe Kramer

Joe handed out Treasurer's Report with investments listed on back. Audit and Investments Committees have not yet met because of logistics. They will meet before business meeting. Ollie – We should have Rex give an investments report at the business meeting. Tom – Audit Committee will meet Tuesday night after dinner. Sheila explained what the equity account in the investments was (value of last CD left over after buying \$7,500 bond, purchased equity because not enough money for another bond). We had to pay a penalty on the last CD because it automatically rolled over before we had a chance to cash it out. ***Becky Humphries moved to accept financial report, Jeff Ver Steeg second. Motion carried.***

Update on Printing Conservation Enhancement fund Brochure – Ollie/Joe/ Sheila

Ollie handed out bid sheet on brochure copies. Ollie - Does this committee want to spend \$3,700 to solicit contributions? The first contribution will be coming from Pheasants Forever (PF) for \$2,000 because SD had everything underwritten for the conference so they said they would donate to this fund. We may need to invoice them. When each of you is thinking about doing your estate planning think of this Association and this fund. Doug – Can we afford \$3,700? Ollie – Ohio and Kansas looked at printing it, but neither could do it at this time. The best way to do this would be to send this to financial planners and attorneys. Doug – How would we market this? Would we have to find those financial planners? Doug – Who would we go to for addresses? Should we hire a consultant to market this or turn it Ollie loose? Ollie – We could get help from foundations that are already in place, most states have them. Use those types of people and attorneys. If we can get mailing lists the brochure is self-explanatory. I always thought the bulk of the contributions would come from estate planning of people who have been active in the

Association. Niebauer – Ten years ago Wisconsin hosted AFWA and went through the Foundation Directory and we got about \$10,000 in contributions from three smaller foundations. You might talk to Laurie Osterndorf and she might be able to offer some counsel. Doug – I know money is out there to be had you just need to shake the bushes. Ollie – This is a good place to put bucks. Doug – Might want to consider a more focused effort through a fund raising committee or the investments committee. Ollie – It will cost some postage to send them. Joe – Where is the money coming from and where are we going to pay for the brochures? Ollie – The \$2,000 from PF will get you a little bit of the way there. May need to take it out of Jaschek Fund or regular checking account and pay it back after the fund is built up. Doug – Does put a pretty big hit on the treasury at this time. Ollie – Nebraska laid it out and did a great job. Doug – Can we table this until after this meeting? Ollie – Need to have an August meeting, we can talk about it there and talk to Laurie and see if there is some interest in forming a fund-raising committee. Doug – We will defer this until the August meeting. You could put out a call for volunteer printing from other states at the business meeting.

Policy on Complimentary Registrations – Ollie/Doug

Ollie – Never really did any fund raising until last couple of years so there is no set precedent. In Ohio one of the NGOs asked for a complimentary registration. Steve's group gave a few complimentary registrations last year and that question came up again this year. In the past we have left it up to the host state, but we need consistency. We have a proposal in by-laws for contributions. People expect to pay a registration fee and we have comped some speakers in the past. Steve – I think what happened last year was that the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTFF) paid their donation of \$2,000 and then we asked them for their \$75 affiliate fee. I didn't recall anything to do with registration. Ollie – It is up to the Executive Committee and we could just leave it up to the host state if we want.

Scott Hassett, WI came into the meeting.

Doug Hansen asked George Vandel to come in and talk to the group.

George Vandel, SD – What we did this year is if they hosted a meal we gave them two complimentary registrations and one for a \$1,000 donation. Tom – I feel uncomfortable as the upcoming host state, the word consistency is critical because these groups know what they did last year. Jeff – Do we have operating manual for this conference? Ollie – We use AFWA's that Sheila helped put together. Jeff – We need one of our own or we will go with what past states have done. Ollie – It could be \$375 or more of a \$2,000 donation given back right off the bat (2 registrations and their affiliate fee). Doug – We could do one comp. Sheila – They are getting to talk to the group during the meal. Ollie – Basically they are paying for face time. Doug – I look at this as being a bookkeeping nightmare. Joe – I think we are spending too much time over registration with those people. What is the big deal? Doug – Are you in favor of comping a number of registrations? Joe – Yes. Tom – After setting up AFWA's meeting in Wisconsin, we didn't have a policy at that time. They can afford the money they are donating, \$300 is nothing to them, but it is a lot to us. I think we should not comp anyone. Doug – Registration and sponsorship is a separate thing. Scott – Has there been any negative feedback? Ollie – We have been asked for comps, but it is up to you. Scott – I think we want to shy away from some getting it and some not. Steve – You have formulated a decision in South Dakota. Doug – Becky or Jeff any ideas? Jeff – I am going back and forth on this. Maybe one comp registration as a token. Becky – If you make it a meal and they get to speak to the group, it makes sense to comp a

person to do that. Doug – Can't really tie it to meals if we go with the by-law proposal for level of sponsorship. Jeff - \$1,000 should be a minimum contribution. Becky – Comp for meal, not breaks. Ollie – We are going away from meals with the sponsorship levels. Jeff – If you give \$5,000 and don't sponsor a meal you don't get a comp. Steve – Don't tie it to a meal, just have it a sponsorship. Ollie – They are paying for face time. Doug – Doing that in lieu of meal sponsors I thought. It can be done either way. Becky – For Gold and Silver waive affiliate dues and give one comp. Jeff – Gold starts at \$2,000; Silver at \$3,000. Doug – Do we need to take action on this? We need to formulize a meeting planning manual for consistency. Becky – A guidance document for the next person putting on a meeting, but we can wait until after the business meeting to see how we handle the by-law proposal. Or do nothing and let the states decide; have some kind of tiered approach; no comps at all; or have simple structure of donating over certain amount and getting one complimentary registration. **Scott – I make a motion that there are no comps. Motion died for lack of second. Becky – I make a motion for gold, silver and major levels (\$2,000 and above) would get one comp. Scott second. Motion carries.** Ollie – Doug, if you could have South Dakota draft a meeting planning manual since they just did it and I will help work on that to help include the little details.

Doug – Ollie, could you cover the three items you added to the agenda and then we will have you leave the room. Before you go could you tell us about your contract? Ollie – My contract ends August 30 at \$33,000 and starts September 1 to go to June 30 with a 5 percent increase and then each year with a 5 percent increase. I have solicited USFWS Regional Associations for \$5,000 each. Doug - \$33,000 a year and \$5,000 for expenses. Ollie – I like to negotiate my contract a year in advance so that my contract doesn't run out just before an annual meeting. That negotiation was done in Nashville. It was for 10 months and then the other 12 months (a total of 22 months).

The Midwest Furbearer Study Group is forming a large carnivore working group within it and they are proposing that a group of carnivore experts develop a school to learn about mountain lions (or wolves for Minnesota) and if a state would like an in-state review they would send in a group of cougar experts to see if you have a population of breeding mountain lions. A group in Michigan is causing trouble there. Colorado doesn't have to worry about those because obviously they have them. They just want a sense of how the Directors feel about this and they would need travel money to do out-of-state reviews.

Amber Pairis has filled the Science and Research Liaison vacancy for AFWA and has requested that MAFWA appoint a Science and Research liaison to be on that committee.

I have been asked if MAFWA would be interested in holding our annual conference in conjunction with the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers in the future. They have met in conjunction with the Western Association. We can bring it up tomorrow when they give their report if you wish. Becky – The bigger the group the better the convention fees. Doug – We can't do it next year as those meetings are already set so the earliest would be 2008 in Wisconsin. Becky – Whose meeting is it? Ollie – The Midwest Law Enforcement group was begun in 1946. They did not warm up to associating with us, but seem more interested now.

Doug – Are we looking for a staff person for Science and Research? Jeff – Do we want to send somebody to speak on our behalf? Ollie – Can't even get a list of research priorities for the

Midwest. Doug – Defer action until we can appoint a committee. Steve – This is a fairly new committee in AFWA. Ollie – There has been a wildlife research supervisors committee in the Midwest for some time now. They evolved independently. Their scope broadened recently to include fisheries and forestry research, but they stay at arms length from us. Steve – At AFWA they are trying to build interest in their committee. Dave Scott from Ohio is already on that committee. Doug – Maybe he could represent us. Ollie – Who is chairing it? Doug – Would you volunteer Dave? Steve – Yes. Doug – We could ask Baughman tomorrow. Becky – We could try to get them affiliated with us. Ollie – We could assign them as a Technical Committee in the by-laws and assign a liaison. Doug – You check on that after talking to Baughman tomorrow and correspond with research committee folks. Ollie – Steve, if you could talk to Dave that would help. Tom – Also, Gerry Bartelt from Wisconsin and Terry Little, Iowa are on that committee. Becky – Possibly we could flush out our research priorities then.

Doug – What about the Midwest Furbearer Group do we need to have some type of motion?
Ollie – They are just asking if we would send someone to school from our states and if any of you call in these carnivore experts for an outside review.

Executive Session (Ollie left room)

ExCom Recommendation on Annual Assessment Renewal and Amount – Doug/Steve/Joe
(See Executive Session notes)

Asked Ollie back in.

2007 Meeting Report, if any – Scott, et al

We have set the 2007 meeting for “The Waters Hotel and Convention Center” in Minocqua, Wisconsin. It is near a lot of water and is an incredible resource area. We have set July 8–11, 2007 for the dates.

Set Next ExCom Meeting Date

Ollie – Middle of August sometime? Tuesdays seem to have been the historical day we have been meeting. After some discussion set meeting for Monday, August 14, 2006 at 2:00 CDT. Ollie will get an agenda out.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

**73rd Annual Meeting of the
Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
July 9–12, 2006
Spearfish, South Dakota**

Minutes

Sunday - July 9, 2006

Executive Committee Meeting 4:30 p.m. (*see separate minutes*)

Welcome social sponsored by National Shooting Sports Foundation

Hospitality Room sponsored by Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

Monday - July 10, 2006

Breakfast sponsored by Ducks Unlimited

Opening Session and Welcome to South Dakota

Doug Hansen, South Dakota (Hansen) - On behalf of South Dakota (SD) we are honored to be your host. Our goal is to knock your socks off with a great meeting, a pleasing environment, and to meet the standards set by North Dakota and Ohio. We have several staff present so call on us if you need anything to make your stay more comfortable. The annual meeting acts as a rally and reminds us of topics going on across the country. The number and quality of people attending has increased and the scope of people in important positions in the Fish and Wildlife community is significant. We have the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Director, two Regional Directors and their assistants, the Executive Vice President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the WMI President all with us. Roger Rostvet is here to represent Terry Steinwand from ND and David Schad is our newest director here from Minnesota. We wish to thank our sponsors, because we couldn't do this meeting without them. They are listed on a banner in back of room and on back of program. I have been asked several times, who is in charge in SD so I have put together a slide presentation that explains the organizational structure of SD. South Dakota's Governor Mike Rounds is Secretary John Cooper's boss and John has three divisions, the Division of Parks and Recreation run by Doug Hofer, the Division of Administration is run by Ken Anderson and I run the Division of Wildlife. You will recognize members of my staff who helped put this conference together. The Division of Wildlife has Operations run by Emmett Keyser and Technical Services run by George Vandel (these are my two deputy directors). Support staff is Planning, Larry Gigliotti (who ran the registration desk); Federal Aid is Mike Lees and Public Relations is Chuck Schlueter who couldn't be here. Operations has four regions, law enforcement and wildlife damage management under Emmett and under technical services there are five programs, habitat management, game management, fisheries management, Missouri River Reservoir management and Environmental Review and Management. I went to my first Midwest meeting in 1990 and found out I was the President for the next meeting (1991). I invited a local law enforcement guy from Pierre and that person

became my boss. John Cooper has distinguished himself in a leadership roll not only in our state, but nationally. Currently he is the President of Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

State of the AFWA

John Cooper, President, AFWA and Secretary South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (Cooper)
- I would also like to welcome you personally to SD. I am originally from California, but enjoy my adopted state. Moved here in 1973 and this is a great place to live, God's country. Appreciate my staff and their dedication. Don't think SD could have gotten to where they are without the right amount of staff work. Over the last 9 ½ months I have been busy being the AFWA President, with Doug's and Dave Hofer's help doing my job here I have been able to do both. I was asked what we are paying for in AFWA and what AFWA does. I learned a lot in my time as President. The quality and quantity of work done by the staff is amazing. Coordination with legislative members, budget, legal and a whole list of sponsors is the who's who of who gets things done for us as partners. AFWA recognizes the value of partnerships and can carry political issues for us. We can't touch the number of people those non governmental people can touch. Can't emphasize enough to you how these partnerships can help. A growing issue is training youth to have the values we are trying to pass down. The other issue is the working relationships with our other sister government agencies. AFWA is looked to more and more for turn around dates on legislation and looking to us for information. I don't think you can find anybody that has more credibility than Gary Taylor does. Couldn't hire a lobbyist for the money that he gets and all of the work Gary does for the multi-state large scale issues that they do for us. AFWA is working on a Strategic Plan and business plan, a definitive structure to see what we want AFWA to be and account for where the money is spent, as well as explaining the goals and objectives. AFWA would like to have section of their annual meeting where we could tell you what they are working on and have a financial statement to show you. It has been a privilege to serve as the President because it gives a global, 40,000 foot view of what is going on. Six priorities that AFWA is working with USFWS on: farm bill, wildlife resource policy, invasive species, Katrina, ESA regulatory issues, National Fish Habitat Initiative. The change of our name and logo was the right thing to do and reflects what the Association is all about. Have interviewed for the replacement of John Baughman, we had great candidates and have hired Matt Hogan. I have asked Becky Humphries, chair of The Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative committee to talk to you for a few minutes.

Becky Humphries, Michigan (Humphries) – The Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative asked John to take a message to the U.S. Health Organization and put together a work group to build a framework that could be brought back to the health committee of AFWA. We are putting together regional meetings and encourage you to contact community health organizations to attend the meetings to be held. The first meeting was in Ohio in conjunction with the North American (NA) to get input on the draft plan, then in Madison, Wisconsin in May, and another meeting at the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) meeting in Bismarck later this month and with NGOs in August. Please comment on this if you have not. Looking to pass this in the fall at the AFWA meeting. Our intent is to build capacity to handle fish and wildlife diseases within the states. We will take comments through August then go back to the Committee and take it to Snowmass in September. One other issue is doves and lead and this issue has gained some momentum, Jeff Ver Steeg chairs that work group.

Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado (Ver Steeg) – The working group met for the first time at the NA in Columbus and is planning to bring recommendations in 24 months to the full Association. We

learned a lot about ballistics from the waterfowl lead shot days. Our first task is to assemble what we know on non-toxic shot and bring everybody up to speed. We are doing a survey of status of state regulations on non-toxic shot, done 15 years ago and are bringing that up to date. We are also doing an electronic survey and ask that you see that your Flyway representative is aware of that. DJ Case is hosting that website and will have draft of that available in August to review at Snowmass. There is some consternation on where this may head. In the early 1990's, EPA tried to do something with fishing lures and that will rear its head again someday. There is a lot of stuff going on out there and our job is to bring the state Director's up to speed.

State of the States - Hot topics and Strategic Issues

Hansen - Dan Zekor has been helping us facilitate these hot topics.

Dan Zekor, Missouri (Zekor) – This is an opportunity to get directors up front early in the meeting to share what is happening in their state and help others here put a face with a name. Last year we gave you three minutes but we are giving you four minutes this year.

Ohio, Steve Gray (Gray) – Ohio passed an Apprentice Hunting and Trapping Bill through our legislature earlier this year. This will allow new hunters and trappers to participate in hunting or trapping under the direct supervision of a mentor before having to complete the Ohio hunter education requirement. The bill passed in our House of Representatives by a vote of 89-3 and in our Senate 32-0. This is part of the national Families Afield Initiative that is being promoted by NWTf, USSA, and NSSF. Also, 2006 is showing a significant increase in fishing license sales for Ohio. So far, resident sales are up about 6% and non-resident sales are up 10%. We attribute this increase in large part to fantastic walleye fishing in Lake Erie. At last year's meeting, top administrators of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service saw the devastation done by cormorants to the trees on islands in Lake Erie. Since then, a plan was devised and approved to control cormorants in Ohio. This spring 6,194 were killed on these islands. This project has been very well received by the public. Ohio now has a bill in our legislature to end commercial fishing in Lake Erie through a buy-out. We hope this bill passes for the long-term stability and conservation of Lake Erie fisheries. Over the past 18 months, the Scioto River CREP has enrolled 48,599 acres of the program's 70,000 acre cap. Almost 90% of these approved acres will be planted into native grass and forbs. Due to the heavy workload that this program has created, the Division entered into an agreement with Pheasants Forever and NRCS to create six new Farm Bill Biologist positions to provide additional assistance to landowners and assist NRCS with writing conservation plans.

Wisconsin, Scott Hassett (Hassett) – We recently had an audit on the Fishing and Hunting accounts which validated our long-standing policy of spending hunting and fishing license revenue on activities that benefit fish and wildlife, with a major emphasis on hunting and fishing programs. Our CWD program is now undergoing an audit of its own. Our DNR also has responsibilities for environmental quality programs. Together with local citizens, city, county, other state, and federal agencies we completed cleanup of the Hog Island Inlet in Superior, which was considered one of the most contaminated sites on Lake Superior. We have been working aggressively to combat invasive species, some terrestrial but mostly aquatic species, like Eurasian water-milfoil and zebra mussels. The public is now getting interested as clogged waterways are affecting their property values. The state budget has provided \$500,000 annually for invasive species grants to help local governments and lake associations, which will climb to \$1 million for 2006 and \$1.5 million in 2007, but there is never

enough money to eradicate. The grants mostly go out to non-profits, but biggest bang for the buck is education. We are spending \$5 million a year on CWD and sampled over 20,000 deer in the eradication area this year which resulted in 45 positives. We are working on containment and trying to learn how to deal with this. We have started a flagship program on forest fragmentation, protecting 68,000 acres and are doing a lot with conservation easements. Whooping Cranes have been released in Wisconsin in order to try and restore the eastern migratory population and we had our first two chicks born in the state this year. We now have a flock of 64 birds which are primarily found in the lower two-thirds of the state. We are working on finalizing the delisting of timber wolves. We currently have approximately 500 wolves in the state, with a management goal of 350. We also continue efforts to try and secure alternative methods of funding for our fish and wildlife programs.

South Dakota, Doug Hansen (Hansen) – Two of the hottest topics I will defer further details on until tomorrow, they are the state's first mountain lion hunting season that was implemented last year and will be continued this year; and, landowner challenges to the Open Fields Doctrine that, among other things, allows our Conservation Officers to enter private land to conduct compliance checks of hunters, anglers and trappers.

Federal Farm Programs (or, how will we function without CRP, the current pheasant boom and the revenue from 100,000 nonresident pheasant hunters?). As a result of CRP and favorable environmental conditions, SD is experiencing pheasant numbers unseen since the early 1960's which also results in a strong revenue stream to the Wildlife Division from the increasing numbers of nonresident pheasant hunters, who pay a premium price for the privilege of their hunt. We are working hard on several fronts to retain important conservation provisions of the federal farm bill, as well as strategically planning for the inevitable future without the benefits of CRP as we know them today. A significant piece of federal legislation passed in 1999, known as Title VI of Public Law 106-53, will ultimately transfer approximately 75,000 acres of Corps of Engineers take-land along the Missouri River to the state to be managed as Game Production Areas by the Division of Wildlife. The first phase of the actual deed transfer process has begun, and will continue over the next year. The management responsibilities will be significant, as will the opportunities for enhanced wildlife habitat development and public access to hunting on private land. Management and enhancement opportunities will be supported by permanent annual funding of approximately \$4 million, which will come from the annual interest on a permanently established trust fund in the US Dept. of Treasury. The trust fund is due to capitalize sometime in 2008. Drought, Missouri River water management, and public access to water overlying private lands are just some of the water issues that remain hot in SD. The central part of the state is in the grips of a long-term drought that has brought Lake Oahe to record lows and is having devastating impacts to farmers and ranchers. It will also have a negative impact on the pheasant population in that area. After years of litigation, negotiation and downright whining, some progress has been made by upper Missouri River basin states in getting the Corps of Engineers to give some consideration to the recreation benefits and needs of the upstream storage reservoirs. An attempt was made to pass some reasonable compromise legislation that would provide for public access to and recreational use of nonmeandered lakes, many of which expanded significantly during high water years of the 1990's and which overlay private deeded land. Private property rights interests lobbied hard for a more restrictive approach and the legislation failed. Consequently, the status quo prevails. Interestingly, status quo provides that with a few exceptions, if you can legally access the water, you can use it for recreation. The question that remains is whether you can legally touch the bottom of the lake. Based on the popularity of a facility in Sioux Falls (our largest city) that serves as a combined outdoor skills

learning center/regional headquarters office complex which was built about 1996 (The Outdoor Campus), support has grown for a similar facility in Rapid City, our second largest city. A feasibility and site analysis study has been completed and a preferred site identified. There are some interesting challenges to go along with the standard ones of paying for the construction and long-term operation of this type of facility. One of them being that the preferred site is owned by a very benevolent, but somewhat controversial legislator. The other one being that a few commissioners are very impatient with working through the financial and political details.

Minnesota, David Schad (Schad) – There was a very strong effort by supporters this year to obtain legislative approval on a dedicated funding source. The state House and Senate passed different versions of a bill. This legislative measure was first proposed nine years ago and the differences that could not be worked out included whether the ballot question should dedicate a part of the existing sales tax or an addition to the existing tax; whether parks and trails, clean water, and arts should be funded in addition to fish and wildlife; and whether there should be one or two ballot questions. The bill failed in conference committee at the last minute during session, but the groups are getting organized to take another run at it next year. The second annual "Ducks, Wetlands, and Clean Water" rally was held on the steps of the capitol by duck hunters and others. A Duck Recovery Plan has been developed because duck numbers are half of what they were two years ago and waterfowl hunter numbers are declining. Large blocks of industrial forest lands are being sold off to investment companies, and the DNR is working with federal forest legacy funds and other partners to get conservation easements on the highest priority parcels. Ethanol production is expanding in the state. These plants are huge consumers of corn and water, which will drive land use issues in farm land. Bovine tuberculosis (TB) was found in the northwestern part of state in cattle. The DNR collected samples from 474 hunter-harvested deer within a fifteen-mile radius and TB was found in two deer. A response plan has been developed and if it is found that bovine TB is being sustained in the local deer herd, additional regulatory options will be considered including restrictions on recreational deer feeding and additional herd reduction strategies. The double crested cormorant is an unprotected bird under state law. Due to concerns that cormorants may be impacting fisheries resources in certain areas of the state, DNR, along with the USFWS and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwa, cooperated with USDA Wildlife Services in 2005 to write an Environmental Assessment to reduce cormorant damage across the state. The EA evaluated the potential impacts of removing an estimated 7,400 cormorants statewide, including an estimated 2,500 at state and private aquaculture sites and up to 4,000 from Leech Lake where cormorant impacts on declining walleye populations were a concern. 3,000 birds have been shot each of the past two years at Leech Lake under the EA. Finally, the DNR has been sued by the Humane Society of the US claiming that state trapping programs are leading to illegal "taking" of a threatened species (Canada lynx) under the endangered species act.

Indiana, Kyle Hupfer (Hupfer) – Working on Hunting and Fishing recruitment, youth deer and turkey and free hunter education weekend. Added 8,000 acres at Goose Pond. Lifetime licenses no longer for sale, opened pot up to spend money. Invasive species, mute swan a problem, people don't want to see them killed. Land acquisition continues to be a struggle, it is hard to manage the existing land and utilize our staff to manage those lands and any additional lands. Working on eliminating user conflicts with geese and adding no hunting within 200 yards of any residence, which is significant. Removed bobcats, badgers and otters from the state endangered species list as a result of management activities and studies, supported by the Nongame Fund.

Partnered to gain two grants from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act that will provide \$1 million in funds each.

Iowa, Jeff Vonk (Vonk) – The legislature formed a funding task force which I will chair. We will work with conservation and Ag groups to get dedicated funding. The farm bill will be impacted by the ethanol plants because of the demand for corn will be tremendous and in the short term it is going to drive out CRP and pay attention to conservation title. We partnered with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) to do a better job of marketing and saw a 10 percent increase in fishing license sales. We can all do a better job with business folks. The urban trout fishing experience saw a 3 to 1 gain in dollars and we are expanding it to three more urban cities. Sampled 4,200 deer for CWD this year, no positive case was found. Working on the eradication of feral hogs and have formed a task force with other concerned partners. Now in eight counties in eastern Iowa, that we know of, and are a threat to Ag interests. We are reestablishing a legal trapping season for otter and so far have had no negative public comments.

North Dakota, Roger Rostvet (Rostvet) – Our new director is Terry Steinwand, a 20 year employee with department and Greg Powers was promoted to Chief of Fisheries to replace Terry. We have had record numbers of pheasant and deer (TB and CWD free) this year and pronghorn harvest and spring turkey harvest are the highest we have had. Acquired property near the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers, nearly 1,500 acres which will be open for public access. Drought in central ND is unprecedented this spring, the wetlands are drying out and hurting waterfowl production. Landowners are looking at haying some of those areas previously under the “No Mow” agreements. The Corps is working on a land transfer proposal which would restore 36,000 acres bordering Lake Sakakawea to three tribes. This would include about 1/3 of the shoreline and we oppose that. Corps is stepping away from the responsibility. Farm bill concerns include the 28.7 million acres of land due to expire from the CRP program through 2010. As of June, we were notified that 80 percent of the CRP contracts were extended for two years or reenrolled for longer periods. We have had growth in the department over the last ten years and now the expansion is catching up with the revenue.

Nebraska, Rex Amack (Amack) - The upcoming federal farm bill legislation is critical to the future of wildlife resources. Early indications from USDA are "lots of green but lots of lean". We all need to work hard with our congressional delegations on the new farm bill legislation as there is nothing more important to our natural resource base. Urban sprawl is a continuing issue for management of wildlife resources. One American writer has depicted USA as standing for uncontrolled sprawl area. We are working on retention and recruitment programs. National Archery in the Schools, shooting ranges and mentoring programs are key players. We have hired a marketing director to help us with recruitment and retention and finding new ways to engage our citizens and visitors in Nebraska's wild resources. Game and Parks Foundation is vital Commission partner in conservation. Very popular program currently funded by foundation is ½ price lifetime permits for youth, with half of the money coming from the Foundation and half from the family of the purchaser. National CREP forum scheduled in Lincoln August 17th.

Kansas, Keith Sexson (Sexson) – On the farm bill, we continue to build relationships with NRCS and FSA as a partner in this effort. Had our first positive CWD deer this year, with the direction from other states there were no negative repercussions. Kansas has been able to keep a lid on avian influenza testing so far by linking with federal, state and local agencies. Public access to private lands and water is difficult because 97 percent of the land in Kansas is privately

owned, so our access to private lands continues to be high priority programs. Hunter and Angler recruitment and retention continues to be an issue. We hope to do some marketing with our new online sales and website to address recruitment and retention. Energy development is a big issue in Kansas, particularly for wind generated electricity, but interest in ethanol production is also on the rise. We are working in conjunction with others, including the industry, to develop criteria for siting as it relates to lesser prairie chickens (LPC) and greater prairie chickens (GPC). Aquatic nuisance species concerns include silver carp which have been found in the Kansas River at the mouth of Missouri River, and zebra mussel which are in one of our reservoirs. Wildlife Action Plan implementation is on the forefront. Doing deer statutes reviews, at the urging of legislative committee, is underway. Draft changes have been prepared and public meetings will be underway. Final deer statute and regulation recommendations will be presented to the legislature this January. Ground water depletion issues are getting much needed attention; a CREP program is being developed to address ground water conservation and reversion of cropland back to permanent cover. Kansas now has exotic cat laws that prohibit basic private ownership.

Colorado, Jeff Ver Steeg (Ver Steeg) – The Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) has announced the availability of up to \$20 million for funding habitat protection in Colorado. This new initiative is known as the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Protection Program and provides an avenue for private landowners, land trusts or other conservation organizations to conserve critical habitat throughout the state. The main priorities for the program are 1) important habitat for sagebrush-dependent species in general and sage grouse in particular, 2) critical winter range and migration corridors for big game species, 3) Front Range riparian communities, 4) important access for wildlife recreation opportunities, and 5) shortgrass prairie-dependent species in general and lesser prairie chicken habitat specifically. Two new real estate positions have been created and a supervisory position has been redefined in such a way as to increase the Divisions number of real estate specialists from 3 to 6 and we are looking at third party agreements. We have obtained approval from USDA to proceed with two CREP programs each about 30,000 acres. The Division will be providing the required match for the High Plains CREP, an initiative that focuses on pheasant habitat and hunting access by securing undisturbed nesting cover, brood habitat, and year-long survival habitat, in addition to improving water quality, soil moisture retention and reducing soil erosion. This program establishes small (40-acre maximum) CREP parcels on (EQIP Residue Management) and Delayed Minimum Tillage (DMT) wheat fallow on non-CREP associated farmland to provide for whole farm management. This program will provide conservation incentives totaling nearly \$20 million from USDA and \$6 million from non-federal partners, primarily CDOW through the Pheasant Habitat Improvement Program and Small Game Walk-In Access Program. All acres enrolled in the High Plains CREP will be enrolled in the Walk-In Access Program, providing small game hunters with hunting opportunity on high quality CREP enrollments. The Republican River CREP's target is enrolling irrigated acres to increase stream flow in the Republican Basin and local water districts are providing match for this program. Energy development activities in Colorado (oil shale, natural gas, coal bed methane, wind, pipelines, etc.) have increased and the Division has created 9 new positions to help manage the workload relative to the impact of these activities and to work with energy companies. The Division recently completed a survey of Colorado residents to determine and better understand their attitudes toward mountain lions and lion management and the survey can be found in our state report on the MAFWA website. The Division is in the process of hiring two professional social scientists to help the Division and the Wildlife Commission to better incorporate human dimensions information in the decision-making process. In early 2005, the

Division created a new, stand-alone section within the Terrestrial Resources Section dedicated to providing veterinary and diagnostic support services and conducting research related to wildlife health problems. This new section includes two of the Division's three wildlife veterinarian positions and five wildlife technicians; two additional professional positions, one to coordinate and guide statewide surveillance and data management and another dedicated to field research, will be filled in 2006. Surveys conducted during 2002–2005 have shown that CWD is widely distributed in Colorado. In September 2005, a male moose harvested on the west side of the Never Summer Range in north central Colorado was diagnosed with CWD. Hunter harvest, vehicle kills and surveillance data are good ways to monitor CWD.

Illinois, Mike Conlin (Conlin) – Asian carp (Bighead and Silver carp) experienced a die-off over a stretch of 110 miles in the Illinois River during June. Bacterial and viral samples were taken and it was determined that the cause was a bacteria often associated with fish mortalities in fish under stress (the Asian Carp were under stress as it was spawning time....another big source of stress is their population density). So far, there has been a lack of Congressional action to provide for operational funding of the two electrical barriers in the upper Illinois River Waterway beginning October 1, 2006 (beginning of the new federal fiscal year). Present authorization and money for the Corps of Engineers to operate the barriers will expire at the end of October lacking any Congressional action. Emerald Ash Borer was found in Kane County, Illinois last month. A quarantine has been put into effect in the area in an effort to contain the spread of this exotic. On chronic wasting disease, Illinois DNR collected samples for testing from 4,309 deer during the 2005-2006 deer season, there were 51 positives from 5 counties (had only been detected in 4 counties in previous years) found. We have \$10 million in new funding for CREP this fiscal year. Since 1998, 110,000 acres have been restored....with an additional 20,000 presently being added from the fall 2005 sign-up. The new money for 2006 should allow yet an additional 20,000 acres to be protected once the sign-up is completed.

Michigan, Becky Humphries (Humphries) – The wolf population has recovered in the Upper Peninsula and was documented in the Lower Peninsula in November 2004. Michigan is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on wolf delisting, but a lawsuit stopped us from legal take and eroded support for the Endangered Species Act. It is imperative that the USFWS move forward with delisting of this species as quickly as possible for just the Great Lakes States. The population recovery is well documented. The World Hunting Association is promoting a league tournament in Michigan where prize money will be awarded to hunters “who rack up the most points shooting whitetail deer with by tranquilizer darts” in captivity. Animals within a fenced area are treated as private property and are defined as livestock in Michigan law. We believe this practice is illegal and plan to let the organization know it is illegal under Michigan statute. There are two bills that we feel will be signed by the Governor soon to promote youth hunting. One bill reduces the age for hunting small game from 12 to 10 years of age, and reduces the age for hunting large game from 14 to 12 years of age. House Bill 5192 was presented to the Governor on June 28, 2006. The other bill establishes an “Apprentice Hunting License” within the DNR. The apprentice license allows a person 17 years or older, who has not taken hunter safety, to purchase an apprentice hunting license. That individual can hunt for two years under this license without taking hunter safety provided they hunt with someone 21 years of age or older and is licensed to hunt that game under a license other than an apprentice license. The apprentice license allows a parent or guardian to apply for an apprentice license on behalf of the minor child (10 years old for small game and 12 years old for large game) provided that the minor child is accompanied by a person 21 years or older and is licensed to hunt that game under a license

other than an apprentice license. The minor child can hunt with a person 21 years or older under the apprentice license for two years without having to take a hunters safety course. The Michigan DNR has partnered for a second year with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation in a pilot project to increase the number of anglers. Letters were sent to former anglers inviting them to renew their fishing license and giving them discounts on selected fishing and marine merchandise. The first year was targeted within southeastern Michigan, but the project went statewide this year. Michigan held its first dove hunting season last year, but the season was challenged by the Songbird Protection Coalition. This issue is now on the general election ballot this fall as a constitutional amendment. Michigan is working on constitutional protection of state funding, which will be on the general election ballot this fall. In addition, we are working on a new hunting and fishing license package increase and hope to get the package to the legislature for consideration.

Missouri, John Hoskins (Hoskins) – Missouri has a new commissioner, Chip McGeehan, a businessman who owns a 1,000 acre buffalo ranch, and has an undergraduate degree in wildlife and fisheries management. We have a four-member commission that oversees the department. We have a new strategic plan called "The Next Generation of Conservation". The original Design for Conservation plan was established 29 years ago. We worked on the plan for 1 ½ years to get feedback and to include as much input from as many people as possible. I have a copy of the plan for each Director. We have 5.6 million people in Missouri, with diverse interests and ideas, and we feel this is a good plan for the future that people will latch on to. We have started using a new telecheck system instead of check stations which allows hunters to check deer and turkey by phone or online. This system will save the department \$600 thousand a year. Private Land Services is focused on the 2007 farm bill working with NRCS, FSA and Soil and Water Conservation. We will help Rex Amack with farm bill issues however we can.

Zekor – All current state reports, except Kentucky, are on the Midwest Association website. If directors want to discuss any items from this morning any further there is some time at 1:30.

Doug Hansen thanked Ducks Unlimited (Gildo Tori and Bob Hoffman) for sponsoring the breakfast.

Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator (Torgerson) – Asked John Hoskins about telecheck system? **Hoskins** – Telecheck accuracy is quite good, found we could have valid results. People are cheating, but did that at wildlife check stations as well. Law enforcement was reluctant to do telecheck, but is embracing it now. The accuracy is good and we were spending almost \$750,000 a year to run check stations and can operate the telecheck system for about \$160,000. **Conlin** – We had the same results in Illinois, Law Enforcement was also reluctant but likes it now and it also saved us about \$600,000 a year. **Mike Budzik, U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance (Budzik)** – Do you have any feedback of the sociological impact since hunters don't get to brag about their hunt? **Hoskins** – This was a concern of those reluctant to do this, but hunters seem to find a way to make that happen, by doing contests and talking in coffee shops. The big positive is that we are saving money, energy, transportation and time. We estimated last year saving over \$ 1 million in gas, even more this year with the increase in the cost of gas. It is well over 50 percent of the hunters who support us and over time this will be the standard.

Hansen – I would like more details on the CREP plan for pheasant and hunting access. **Ver Steeg** – We are targeting 30,000 acres of enrolled acres and 65,000 non-CREP wheat farmland.

We are in the enrollment phase right now using in-kind matching dollars to programs we already have in place, WIHA and pheasant habitat improvement. We do minimum till and delayed till, use stripper headers to provide more cover and are focusing on small parcels, 40 acre tract maximum. EQIP is important component of this. Expand WIHA this year, scaled quail and geese. Irrigated acres is the other want, buy out center pivots. **Ken Herring, Iowa (Herring)** – Get letters? **Ver Steeg** – Got ton of letters, water conservation district formed their own on eastern prairies of CO.

Cooper – Concerned about ethanol, expanded corn production and water, contact Governor’s office and get involved in Legislature to get past hysteria, somebody is going to have to plan for water usage and how much corn will be needed. Opportunity to have a think tank. **Vonk** – Water not as critical in Iowa because we don’t use water to grow corn. At table for other reasons. Disadvantages because same department regulates Ag issues as well as us. Run most of energy programs for the state and other impacts on private lands. CRP has been huge positive impact for us and the pressure to convert back to crops will hurt us. Hog industry is also expanding because of cost of fertilizer to produce crops and feeding back into a huge expansion in row crop production. **Hansen** – How many million gallons of water to produce. **Ray Evans, ECO Associates (Evans)** – 3 to 1. **Hassett** – Involved on EPA side and science issue on emissions, concerned about row crop issue. Higher price of corn, not sure that will be the case. Encouraging other bio-based products to run this. Plans to have ethanol plant based on forest fiber rather than corn. Possibly switchgrass.

Conlin – Working with Governor because of drought. **Hansen** – Assuming water will be there.

Break sponsored by *Safari Club International*

Tony Leif, South Dakota - Explained how door prizes would be given away, five or six prizes after breaks and lunches.

AFWA Staff Report

John Baughman, Executive Vice-President, AFWA (Baughman) - Thanked John Cooper for all the work he is doing for the Association as President. Looking at bills for dues and wonder how the money is being spent. Our staff feels they work for you. Staff report handed out to directors and will be on the website. New director in Oregon will be Virgil Moore. Several acting spots right now. Name change is going smoothly; some things still need to be dealt with on infrastructure. No neckties allowed September 17-22 at Snowmass, Colorado. There is a code for airline tickets to get a discount and can fly right into Aspen or into Denver and drive about 3 ½ hours. Carol has been helping out the regional associations and she has done neat things you can only do in Washington DC. Legislatively we could see some the funding drops like we have seen in the past, there is so much going on. Leadership development, National Conservation Leadership Institute, received 43 apps for 22 spots, MAT is also working on helping state’s develop their own programs. Some things to do online also, six so far. Hired Matt Hogan and he will start for us August 1 and I am planning on leaving after the annual meeting. Energy wildlife issues I am fairly immersed in. Getting our business plan teed up for the September retreat, five hours of work out of folks. Get there evening of 16th if possible, start on 17th.

Carol Bambery, Association Counsel (Bambery) – Grew up in Illinois and went to law school in Michigan. Learned to hunt and fish in Michigan. One of the reasons Director Humphries felt so strongly about sending me to Washington, DC was because of Paul Lenzini’s retirement and felt it was important to get our arms around the information out there and plan to put it online

available for folks in your office. Supreme Court cases are cases that went through protocol where AFWA was actively involved, where we were a “friend of the court”. Cases are judged based on whether it fits in AFWA’s mission and whether it fits the Association. The Executive Committee makes the decision on whether we will participate or not. On pages 15 and 16 of the AFWA Staff Report I mentioned the two cases: *S.D. Warren Co. v Maine Board of Environmental Protection*, where Warren challenged to renew federal licenses for five hydroelectric dams that generate power for paper mills and the Supreme Court came down on the side of the states’ rights. In another case, developers wanted to fill in wetlands, with separate or man-made barriers that did not abut a traditional water body. Our department was not involved in that one, the developers said they were not federally protected waters, went to Supreme Court and the decision was 4 justices advocated state rights and said they were not federally protected and 4 said they were; and Justice Kennedy had a separate opinion. The plurality case is simple to recognize, lake, stream or river and abutting wetland would need dredge and fill permit from Corps, Justice Kennedy said if it was significantly affected, which means it would need to be done on a case by case basis. This is some of the ambiguity that exists. Did not change definition of state waters, some states have good regulations to protect their waters, but some may need to take a look at theirs. The Association will participate in discussions to assist the states in wetland protection and explore merits of the National Wetland Protection Act.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Update

Dale Hall, Director, USFWS (Hall) - Good to be back with you and thank you for your support during my nomination process. Hope to carry on what Steve Williams started. Happy to have Robyn and Charlie in MN and Mitch and Jay Slack in Denver. Cooper, Baughman and I sat down and talked about how to make the states be more on line with each other and the Service and came up with six priorities: farm bill; National Fish Habitat Initiative; state wildlife strategies; Katrina wetlands; ESA reauthorization; and policies - refuge and other policies. Doing what we can on CWD. Want strong farm bill reauthorization. Action plan underway on National Fish Habitat Initiative and BLM has asked to be on oversight committee. This is greatest aquatic legacy we can do for the future. Can do for fisheries what we have done for waterfowl. If you look back at conservation efforts they came from the ground and came up, they did not start out at the government level. We have \$1 million for this year and the non-profit groups are raising money also, Bass Pro Shops has committed \$25 million over the next five years. This is a powerful effort and we will do what we can. So far 18 agencies and 480 partners are involved. State wildlife strategies, 56 submitted, 43 have been approved, and 13 are conditionally approved. There is still nervousness in Congress and they ask why we are still supporting wildlife grants. If we don’t work in partnership we can’t get conservation accomplished. House cut \$20 million but we hope the Senate will put it back, but there are people who don’t think we can do it, I think we can. Secretary Dirk Kempthorne (Dept of Interior) came on a month ago and I have met with him 25 times and the other Secretary’s say they haven’t met with him near that much so I think that shows how concerned he is. He is coming out to Oregon to talk to our Directors and Regional Directors. The only answer to storm damage is wetlands protection levees and levees that protect the towns and next week he is flying down to Louisiana to look at that. We need to turn this into something positive, the fact that wetlands do things for people, you have to change the mind set of the public. Looking forward to working with him. Our budget is in the toilet and I have been with the Service for 25 years. We had to cut it, we had no choice in 2008, we would be \$90 million down and they are down \$30 to \$40 million from the past. We have to understand that we are all in this together because the luxury of have superfluous dollars

is not there. Wolf delisting is a huge gamble to try and go back and shore up boundaries and come back.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Reports

Robyn Thorson, Region 3 Regional Supervisor, USFWS had to leave earlier so Charlie Wooley will speak on her behalf. **Charlie Wooley (Wooley), Region 3** – (Gave handouts) A new motor vessel 100 feet long is being moved up to the Great Lakes to move lake trout. The final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement will be released tomorrow for the Upper Mississippi River Refuge and includes 240,000 acres along 260 miles of river. Began work on plan in 2002, public involvement was extensive, held 46 meetings, with 4,500 people and had 3,200 written comments. The public has a direct attachment to this plan. Great Lakes Collaboration of National Significance was established in 2004 to affirm the federal government's commitment to address environmental and resource management issues in the Great Lakes basin. Regional personnel, field personnel and Washington staff of the USFWS serve the Great Lakes basin and work on strategies with a special emphasis on invasive species and habitat. We did an assessment of cormorants in Ohio and the Department of Ag is the lead agency. This all came about in one year's time and we able to develop a program to control cormorants and have expanded the program to Michigan. Wildlife Action Plans looking for opportunities to partner and it is Robyn's goal to share information to increase cooperation to build on this momentum. The gray wolf is being removed from the list of threatened and endangered species in the Great Lakes. On June 26, the public comment period ended and we expect to make decision by early 2007. Public meetings were held in three states and they have met the goals for delisting. On silver carp, there has been a ban proposed on import and interstate transport, which was signed by 25 members of Congress as a proposed rule. When it is published in the federal register there will be a 60-day public comment period.

Mitch King, Region 6 Regional Supervisor, USFWS (King) – I am relatively new and I know a lot of you and if I don't know you I hope to get to know you. I would like to introduce Jay Slack, my Deputy Director. New faces include Casey Stempler, Prairie Pothole Coordinator; switch of ES and Fisheries are housed together and Mike Stemple will be Director of that program. My first week I put out an all-employee message and mentioned I wanted a good working partnership with the states, no daylight. We may have different opinions but should be able to work that out. I will be asking my staff for the state's position on issues. Refuge programs Comprehensive Conservation Plans are who is involved in the planning process. There are Five states I deal with in this Association. Working on policy on National Wildlife Refuges trying to get guidance and step those policies up to get hunter and angler access. Overall philosophy, avoid listing at all costs, unless absolutely necessary. Declare some successes when they are really there. We have candidates that have been on the list for a long time and plan to work on removing those. National Fish Habitat Initiative will be future of fisheries program and working on expanding that effort. Hatcheries are doing great job of supporting that. On federal assistance it is our job to get money to you as efficiently and quickly as possible. Priorities you listed are also our priorities and hunter and angler recruitment issues are just as important to me. Strategic Action Plans (even though Cooper forgot that) is really important. Congress has budgets to balance and working hard to emphasize accomplishments and get messages out. Big River Management had first spring rise in 50 some years on lower Missouri River, went off without a hitch, people thought we were going to flood the world and we didn't. Working with our folks and yours to work on that in the future. Waterfowl is always big in this region, avian influenza is an issue and I know you are working on getting your sampling done. Farm bill is one of your

highest priorities. Carbon sequestration is one thing we haven't mentioned, some partners in Kansas to work on Marias des Cygnes. Also in grassland areas working to restore native grassland ecosystems without dipping into federal dollars. Colorado has a lot of challenges in implementing the energy policy (also some states in the west). The Association has stepped up and formed a subcommittee for that and we will continue to be very involved in that. Black-footed ferrets are a challenge and a goal to get them off the endangered species list and five years from now expect to be able to scream success. The prairie dog issue is hot, but hope we can come up with a solution and restore black footed ferrets at the same time. **Cooper** – The work your field folks did on prairie dog management to get something on the ground was tremendous. It was not easy to convince ranchers, but they did a great job of getting that done. Also goes along with effort to do multi-state effort.

Hansen – Dale, did you say anything on mitigation of National Fish Hatcheries? **Hall** – We ran into a brick wall and need to go back to the original plan and work with Congress. We will get section in there on mitigation if we can get someone to sponsor that. Continue to work on that. **Conlin** – Charlie, you mentioned silver carp, what about other carp? **Wooley** – We are waiting for further action.

Awards Luncheon sponsored by Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Dave Erickson, Missouri presented an award to Ollie Torgerson for his service on the Mississippi Flyway Council.

Glen Salmon, Awards Committee Chairman, Indiana, presented the following awards:

Spirit of the Shack – Kenneth Russell, Illinois

Fisheries Biologist of the Year – Wayne Herndon, Illinois

Wildlife Biologist of the Year – Ray Norrgard, Minnesota

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year – Kyle Drake, Wisconsin

Doug Hansen, MAFWA President presented the President's Award to the Wildlife Management Institute (Steve Williams) and gave a Special Recognition Award to John Baughman and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Salmon presented a "Sagamore of the fields, streams and resources" Award to Doug Hansen, South Dakota and the Past President's Award also to Doug Hansen, South Dakota

MAFWA Coordinator Report

Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator, MAFWA (Torgerson) – My report this year will begin with a review of highlights and conclude with a comparison of the use of my time between FY05 and FY06. We enjoyed several highlights in the Association during the year beginning with getting the Farm Bill Coordinator position funded in Washington, D.C. (Jen Mock's position). Thanks to everyone for your help on this. John Baughman and I traveled to Kentucky to meet new Director Jon Gassett and his top staff, and I traveled to St. Paul to meet new Director Dave Schad and visit with Deputy Commissioner Mark Holsten and Deputy Director Larry Nelson. I view these trips as a very productive use of my time. I was not able to get to Illinois to greet new Director Sam Flood or to North Dakota to meet Terry Steinwand because, as they say in the Credence Clearwater Revival song, "I ran out of traveling money". Executing the NFWF/Doris Duke grant to implement cross state border conservation opportunities in the Midwest State Wildlife Action Plans was another high point. We held a successful workshop of 40 some Midwest state agency and USFWS personnel in St. Louis last January. Getting our Conservation Enhancement Fund brochure out the door and almost printed was another highlight. We need to thank Rex Amack

and his staff for doing the lay-out work on it. Now we just need to raise some money to build the Fund. Speaking of the Fund, our Association enjoyed the excellent cooperation and expertise of Carol Bamberg of the Michigan DNR who is on loan to AFWA. Carol executed the incorporation of both the Fund and the Association and obtained 501©3 Federal Tax status for the Fund. Thanks Carol! Assisting with the planning of our annual convention is always a busy and fun thing. The South Dakota staff here, under the leadership of George Vandell and Larry Gigliotti, worked very hard and did a great job. Thanks to everyone. We landed 4 new affiliate members, built stronger interaction with our various committees, enjoyed excellent networking with AFWA and the other 3 regional associations, and improved our web site. Attending the AFWA Annual Meeting and the North American Conference and working closely with President Doug and the Executive Committee were other high points. I thought it would be useful to do a comparison of the use of my time as your coordinator between the last two fiscal years to help understand how the Midwest Association is evolving and growing. The most obvious thing the attached table shows is a growth in my hours spent on the job. I logged 129 more hours in FY06 than in FY05, or a 14 percent increase. The 1024 hours logged in FY06 exceeds my contract with the Association by 24 hours. I really did not realize I was over the limit until I ran the numbers. A close look at the table shows that categories in which I spend most of my work hours are travel, administration, and President/Executive Committee work assignments—in other words, helping run the Association. Work categories in which I spend the least amount of time are Federal agency and NGO networking. This is consistent in both years. Areas that grew in use of my time in FY06 were hours spent assisting Directors (plus 21%) and carrying out assignments from the Executive Committee (plus 26%), grant execution (plus a whopping 77%), interaction with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and other regional associations (plus a whopping 75%), and planning the annual convention (plus 53%). Areas where decreases were notable between years were in report writing (-31%) and web site management (-15%). Other areas of time use were relatively unchanged between years. The growth in time spent assisting Directors and working with the Executive Committee reflect an increasingly active Association. Our NFWF grant consumed nearly 100 hours of my time and although the Association was reimbursed \$3,000 to pay for my time, grants take a lot of time to administer and it is something we need to keep in mind in the future. The increase in time spent networking with AFWA and the other regional associations is a very helpful thing. Last, in terms of items that went up in hours, planning the annual meeting jumped quite a bit and I need to explain why. Since we meet in Wisconsin next summer and this is where I live, my good friend and colleague, Tom Niebauer, has made liberal use of me to assist in the hotel selection process. And this is okay, since the Wisconsin DNR heavily supports my position by providing me with office space, computer, phone, fax, copy machine, etc. It is a nice way to do a little pay-back. The areas of decline in my hours were in report writing (minus 31%), and web site management (minus 15%). Report writing time declined due to the time I invested in FY05 writing the NFWF grant and the Fund brochure. The web site took more time in FY05 because we were developing it then. Any questions about this table? As with most organizations, the heavy lifting in the Midwest Association gets done via committee work. Your Executive Committee was very active this past year, meeting 6 times. You will hear the various working committee reports tomorrow. I have already noted the strong support we receive from Scott and Laurie and the Wisconsin DNR. Missouri continues to provide Office Manager services for me, so I very much appreciate the good help of Kathie Hubbard. Finally, this Association owes a debt of gratitude to Joe Kramer, Sheila Kemmis, and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for all the work and support they provide on behalf of this Association.

Hoskins – It looks like you owe us for FY05 because you worked less than 1,000 hours.

Torgerson - With most organizations most of the heavy lifting gets done by committees, especially the Executive Committee which met six times this year and you will hear reports from the others tomorrow. Thank Wisconsin for meeting space, Missouri for office support and Kansas for Joe and Sheila's support. **Hoskins** – Are we still focused on the same things we were when you started this job with Missouri? **Torgerson** – Yes, getting the federal partnership involvement like NRCS, Corps of Engineers, BLM and others. Haven't met work objective with making connection with Midwest Governor's Association yet. Where we have grown is affiliates, NGO support, USFWS support, committee work and contact with the other regional associations. How can we be better? We keep growing and our website is getting better, but we can do even better.

Discussion of Strategic Issues – Follow-up on Hot Topics

Torgerson - Repeating themes from this morning are: Invasive species; Farm Bill; Disease; Public Access; and Energy. Funding is tied to Retention and Recruitment and Jeff Vonk mentioned a task force in his state that was working on dedicated funding and we would like him to explain that. **Vonk** – Iowa is behind Missouri by 29 years and Minnesota is getting closer to dedicated protected funding. Our efforts in Iowa were that we had a couple of bill proposals that would have dedicated funding similar to Missouri, but they didn't move out of committee. There is a fair amount of interest to do this in a pretty comprehensive way. We have language to appoint members to a task force and that group is to come back in six months to our legislature with recommendations of what the model should look like. This will probably amount to about \$60 million annually on top of our other sources of existing funding. We will still have a lot of work to do because I don't see them raising the sales tax. The fact that the legislature is involved is progress for us. **Schad** – This year was the culmination of a six or eight year effort and this was the closest we have ever come. Both the House and Senate wanted sales tax and one wanted to add some additional sale tax; another issue was who should benefit from this. Both Republicans and Democrats really felt that a ballot initiative could be very political and that is why arts got added. A major editorial in the Twin Cities newspaper said yes on conservation fund, but don't dedicate funding and tie the hands of future legislators. Advocates are at each event pushing this dedicated funding, but there is a feel that it needs to be more directed and possibly we need to develop a plan and sell it in a more organized fashion. We are hopeful because it had strong support by the Governor and leaders of both houses. We are optimistic that if we can get it to the ballot we have a good chance. **Hassett** – We are not as far as you are because the last two years we have had big deficits and legislators saying they wouldn't raise taxes. The fact that we need long-term stable funding was recognized by the numbers. We are making inroads, some legislators, that like to beat up on us, are leaving this fall and the groups are willing to make a more serious effort. How can this organization help that? Collect data, combine ideas and needs, help as a source, make a motion or push for recognition that this just isn't in our state. That might be a role for the Association to give us more data to work with. **Humphries** – Michigan has lost almost of all general fund support, we are down to 10 percent. Our state parks are old and aging and we are really taking a look at that through the State Forestry Task Force and Fish and Wildlife Task Force. Key leaders in Michigan sit on all of those groups. General public who think they are contributing are not contributing at all. This is creating opportunities if we could keep initiatives up. **Hoskins** – In the last five years our funding has not been as green as you think. Consistent funding has helped us do projects that take longer than a year. The trade off is we gave up general fund money. The dedicated fund is about 2/3 of our budget. The bad thing is sales tax has not increased like the general revenue

fund has to keep up with inflation. The part of selling the public and elected officials is having a strategic plan that is strong enough and has enough support and we are trying to reinvigorate that plan. You have to be bold and think big, but have to build a coalition of ground support. The plan for the future has something for everybody. We also have a second sales tax that raises about \$80 million that supports parks and soil and water, but has to come up for review every 10 years and it has to come up again this year. We need to get that on the ballot and get support. **Torgerson** – The public loves dedicated funding, but legislators hate it. **Hoskins** – One of the things we press is that it is such a small part of state spending that tops \$20 billion. It is not asking for a lot. **Conlin** – How often do you have to fight off raids? **Hoskins** – Almost every year, there are some people who don't think there should be any dedicated funding. **Torgerson** – It is always a lump sum appropriation in Missouri and they can keep you (Hoskins) from spending it, but the legislature can't spend it on anything else. **David Waller, Georgia Wildlife Federation (Waller)** – When you have a good idea and get it done, other state agencies want it. **Hoskins** – The second sales tax was parks and the soil and water tax. The first sales tax came about by citizen initiative. **Schad** – In Minnesota the initiative that was discussed this year was a conservation funding initiative but both involved and the money might go to other agencies other than DNR. There is reluctance by supporters and legislators to write this as an agency funding initiative. **Zekor** – You mentioned what can the association do and Scott has a good idea, perhaps a white paper might be good. **Torgerson** – Who would be a good group to do that? Possibly the University of Michigan? **Zekor** – I think there are people here willing to work on that and I would be willing to volunteer. **Torgerson** – The need for alternative funding is great and conservation doesn't work on election cycles. License sales are not enough. **Baughman** – This certainly isn't unique to the MAFWA, alternative funding has never looked brighter. The Michigan report is great and Teaming with Wildlife is looking at it nationally and looking at putting together some coalitions on other things. The time is right now to start from the ground up. Carol has been working with Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation to put together a packet and have the foundation feed that out to individual state caucuses. It is meant for Teaming with Wildlife, but could be used for this as well. **Herring** – As we think about strategy and approach I have had two questions I want to run by you. If we link organizations to get a bigger piece of the pie, different entities are going to line up at the "public trough" to get a piece of the pie; or deliver a program of what you would do with this money. Go to every group out there. There is a coalition in Iowa, REAP funding, that goes to a lot of different places. You stay with "we need a bigger pie" for conservation and what we are going to do with the money. **Schad** – We tried the first way and that didn't work. Looking at population demographics, priorities for needs to package that out and develop a strategic plan. We are going to try this different way to try and make the case. **Hoskins** – I agree, you have to have a plan and be specific in that plan. If I was starting over I would look at coalition building, but look at groups with like thoughts and look at issues the public is interested in like water quality, public land or whatever, "a better outdoors". Getting on the ballot is where the trouble is. **Torgerson** – Won't get it done without a strong citizen coalition.

Hoskins – Rex, could you elaborate on lifetime licenses for youth? **Amack** – We did two things, last year, we put together a task force and looked at what we were offering. We hired an actuary and cut lifetime license fees into four different categories: birth – 5 years, 50 percent; 6–15 years, 75 percent; and 16–46 years, 100 percent and over 47 back down to 50 percent. What happened was the 0-5 was very popular. Lifetime licenses are 20 times the normal fee and the money goes into a trust, so when you got to be 46 that license was very popular. Formed the foundation in 1943 and have had that money sitting there. We presented an idea to buy licenses and give them away at banquets and that was so popular that the foundation agreed to pay half of the cost if the

consumer would pay half. It is \$125 for a lifetime hunt, \$62.50 for the 50 percent category. Access and having a permit is a barrier to hunting so now that they have a permit we hope they will take someone with them. We have a donor who is going to donate \$2 million and we could do \$200,000 of lifetime license sales in addition to whatever other people give. It ties into our mentor programs and brings the focus to hunting and fishing and the fact that you need a permit to do it. **Hoskins** – How does that affect federal aid? **Amack** – It will be positive because those just born, federal aid would run out four years after they would need it or would start hunting and fishing.

Torgerson – How to manage increasing acres, that is why we have the Public Lands Committee to help with this issue. **Amack** – Since Missouri voters have approved it, we just raise their tax 2 cents and then spread it to the other states. **Vonk** – Iowa has a CREP being run by state parks and agriculture in the prairie pothole region. It is a good project but is not working well, but we are getting wetlands on the ground. Farm Bureau has stood up and said they don't like it because we are the sponsor instead of the Department of Ag. Have any of you run into that?

Torgerson – How can we get better federal agency participation in this organization? **Vonk** – I think NRCS would come but you have to start off with a meaningful role for them. **Torgerson** – Invite someone to address us? **Vonk** – No, have them involved in farm bill discussion and have them talk about their position in USDA. It is hard for someone to come to a meeting and hang out that is not high on their priority list. **Rostvet** – One of reasons for no interaction is because committees take place at different times than this meeting so they have the choice of hooking up with the private lands meeting or here since we separate committee work away from the annual meeting. At this meeting they only hear a 10-minute report from the committee.

Budzik – Timing on alternative funding couldn't be better. It is my understanding that the National Park Service (NPS) has said that parks visitation is down 25 percent, and I don't think it is just gas it is a change in cost and outlook. We have to be successful with recruitment and retention.

Torgerson – One question is, should we hold a joint meeting with the Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers in the future? You need to be thinking about that. Also, an important part of upcoming meetings is evaluation so don't forget to fill out an evaluation form.

Break sponsored by DJ Case & Associates

Teaming With Wildlife Coalitions

David Waller, Georgia Wildlife Federation (Waller) - I retired three years ago and goofed off for awhile, but the Georgia Wildlife Federation is right in my town and I had been talking to them for years so I started working for them about two years ago. We started the CamoCoalition, an email based system and we are trying to get as many hunters and anglers in the system as possible. I can type up a message and send it to all the decision makers. This can be the most powerful conservation tool. We work on local, state and national issues. Example: They have been trying in Georgia to legalize hunting deer over bait for years and the director is taking all of the bullets and there is nobody standing behind you, this tool lets the wildlife director sit in the back and let the coalition take it to the legislature. Last year they couldn't get hunting deer over bait passed so they said they wanted to study it over the summer and have some public meetings and Becky Humphries prepared a letter for us that was very helpful. There were more people

there for baiting than against it, so we sent out an action alert a week before it came up on the calendar asking the CamoCoalition to send out an email and let their legislators know that it wasn't a good idea. We also worked the floor and got 130 out of the 180 legislators on our side and the legislator who brought it up dropped the bill. On the Senate side, the guy that is the chairman of the Republican Party is a feed dealer, we knew the bill was going to be on the calendar on Monday. We wanted a maximum fine if you get caught hunting over bait so we sent out a CamoCoalition alert and we started working the floor and got 31 of 56 Senators, so we beat some of the big boys. It is just a network so you can talk to the people and they can choose to send it or not. As a result of that, Georgia has a nongame license tag, they introduced a bill to take all that money away and we sent out a CamoCoalition alert and sent it to the Vehicle Committee and the two sponsoring the bill and it locked down their system. Get somebody to do it in your state. We don't charge anything to be a member and we have 8,000 members. I can't imagine how effective it would be if we had 100,000 members. Teaming with Wildlife (TWW) looked at all types of funding sources, models that have worked are fish restoration and wildlife restoration so we started to look at a smaller source and we couldn't get past Newt Gingrich. I got one of our board members to donate a quail hunt and spent three days arguing about it. We've shown what the need is so they found the outer continental shelf money and it was called CARA and passed it with a 3 to 1 vote. It was a big bill that has 8 or 9 titles in it, but our portion was one part of that. We had 66 Senators that said they would sign it if it would get on the floor, it didn't, but CARA light came into play. Each state had to finish their plans by October 2005 and now we have to get out and show them we are going to implement these plans. Now is the time to build the coalition and get funding. We have endorsements from several businesses and that is what is going to get that passed. This is our opportunity for \$350 million, based on the formula that is about \$8 million for Georgia and that is new money coming into our state. I encourage you to put time and effort into building a coalition in your state. We are working on several things in Georgia and are working on a permanent source of funding. Working with sportsmen on the "right to hunt" bill. **Conlin** – How long has the CamoCoalition been in place? **Waller** – About a year and a half. **Hoskins** – How do you manage when you have 8,000 people and the CamoCoalition is split 52/48? **Waller** – The baiting thing was like that and we struggled with that and we decided to make a call on what direction it ought to go. They could change the letter and send it out their way if they wanted. We probably had a couple hundred who did that. If you get 10 percent or more that respond that is good. If we had 100,000 members we could do anything we wanted to in the state of Georgia. It is not that expensive to do. **Gray** – In Ohio we have the Ohio Chapter Brigade that has helped us, not quite the system you have, but it does work. **Hansen** – Has there been any negative reaction from a legislator on receiving numerous repetition of email? **Waller** – Yes, a lot of them don't like it and I am not the most popular person around there any way.

Recognition of MAFWA Partners

Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator, MAFWA (Torgerson) – The "partner's session" is the spot in the program where I attempt to introduce and/or recognize the very important partners of the Midwest Association who are here, without whom we could not be nearly as successful. This way you can say know who is here and you can say hi and visit during the remainder of the meeting. I will begin with our federal agency partners. You already heard from Dale Hall, Charlie Wooley, and Mitch King. Robyn Thorson, Region 3 director was here last night. We certainly deeply appreciate the effort they made to get here especially since they have a service directorate meeting in Oregon tomorrow. Bob Bryant is back with us, the region 3 federal aid coordinator and we are pleased to have Gene Williams here for the first time. Gene I believe

supervises sand lake national wildlife refuge. Charlie Brown, the Eastern Region Director of USDA/APHIS/WS is back with us. And the new Western Region Director, Jeff Green, is here for the first time. Welcome Jeff and please come forward to make a few remarks. **Jeff Green, USFWS (Green)** – I will also be at Western Association annual meeting later this month. We are working on collecting samples on avian influenza. We have an aviation training facility in Cedar City, Iowa that does gunning, where we train the crews, gunners and ground crews and state of the art training in low level flying. Contact me if you are interested and I will put you in touch with our people. I will be here today and tomorrow. **Gray** – On cormorant control in Ohio, in less than one year we got help on that and other states may want to take them up their offer for help. **Torgerson** – Gary Vequist, with the national park service is back again this year. Good to see you here, Gary. I think that is it for federal agency folks. Did I miss anyone? Okay, our NGO partners. From the Wildlife Management Institute, Steve Williams. Thanks for making the special effort to get here, Steve. And our brand, spanking new Midwest Field Director, Pat Ruble. It is great to have you on board, pat, and have this important hole filled here in the Midwest. From Ducks Unlimited, Bob Hoffman and Gildo Tori. Thanks for your support, guys. From the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Melissa Shilling, the new Jodi Valenta.

Hansen – Not set up to show any videos tonight so asked Mike Budzik to show his video here. **Budzik** – Trail Blazer (250,000 participants this year) and asked for help to coordinate better with NGOs. It takes multiple contacts to make a hunter or angler. Gave you a form that came from that meeting and if you send it to us we will send you the names of who participated. USSA is pushing to get the Boy Scouts of America to put together a merit badge for hunting. By the end of October we will be in 41 of 50 states. My job is to try to see that you get the information you need. In terms of Families Afield, we have a youth hunting report that was put together by USSA, NSSF and NWTF and I have brought a CNN news video. Families Afield is a vehicle that you can take to the public and make a case for youth hunting. We need to lower the barriers to youth hunting. We had one legislator, who was a former teacher, who was afraid of guns but she asked her caucus to support this because of the word mentor. Get the barriers removed however you can. **Kennamer** – We learned the hard way, Michigan and Wisconsin has had trouble with hunting age restrictions. Stick with letting the parents decide when their child is old enough to hunt because once you list an age you have a hard time getting rid of that. **Budzik** – Some legislators are concerned about that and we told them that they needed to leave it up to the parents. I have provided a copy of the report and a Trailblazer Participant form.

D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery

Hansen – This isn't like any fish hatchery you have ever been to. **Steve Brimm, Manager D.C. Booth National Fish Hatchery** – I would like to welcome you to Spearfish. I brought the Executive Director of our Friends Group with me, Eric. Also, the Gavin's Point Fish Hatchery manager is here. This is the oldest and best preserved fish hatchery in the country, dating back to the 1890s, but would not have been possible without an excellent partnership program. Partners include the City of Spearfish, The Booth Society, Inc., the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks and the American Fisheries Society Fish Culture Section. When the U.S. Fish Commission was started in 1871 they were encouraged to address conservation issues. Working together provides that level of success. This evening we will invite you to the garden of the historic house to eat supper then after supper you will have a chance to tour the hatchery and to look at the archives. (Showed a video of the history of the DC Booth Hatchery).

Buses leave for D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery

Dinner sponsored by U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance

Hospitality Room sponsored by Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

Tuesday - July 11, 2006

Breakfast sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation

The Season that Roared (South Dakota's Experiences with Mountain Lion Management and its First Mountain Lion Season)

George Vandel, South Dakota (Vandel) (Showed PowerPoint – “South Dakota’s Mountain Lion Season, A case study to establish a hunting season on a highly controversial species”) – Mountain lions were numerous in South Dakota in the late 1880s, but a bounty was put in place in 1889 (gold miners came in 1874) and there was no prey left because of people killing animals for food (deer, big horn sheep, elk). Mountain lions were listed as threatened species in 1978, and have begun to re-colonize in the Black Hills. In 2001, the first mountain lion was killed and was classified as big game in 2003. Also, in 2003, they were removed from the threatened list and the department developed a mountain lion incidence policy, we have zero tolerance if they move into communities, and we even purchased lion dogs to help track troublesome animals. We knew we had to have our ducks in a row before we started a season. We reported observations and documented mortalities (road kills, animals killed in forest fires, etc.). South Dakota State University (SDSU) cooperative research projects were done by Dorothy Fescke: Distribution and Abundance; and Dan Thompson: Lion Dispersal; new study: Lion Mortality, so we had the science. We held 20 public meetings all over the state from April 11 to May 11, 2005, 747 people attended and we did 364 surveys with 78 percent supporting hunting and 64 percent interested in hunting. The Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed a hunting season in July 2005, with finalization in August 2005 and appointed an Interim Rules Review Committee. Season dates were October 1 – December 15, 2005 and were recommended for the Black Hills. The Commission added Prairie Units to our recommendation for hunt on their own land permits. The season was limited to 25 lions or 5 breeding age females (18-20 percent of harvest). Restrictions included that it was for residents only; you could not shoot lions with a spotted coat or animals with an animal with a spotted coat; prohibited the use of hounds, traps and bait; and all harvested lions had to be checked in. This caused some statutory challenges in State Law and anti-hunters fought us every step of way. Three days before the season, the Mountain Lion Foundation notified us they were going to take us to court and they filed a writ of prohibition; declaratory and injunctive relief; and temporary restraining order. The trial was held and there were three witnesses for South Dakota, Dorothy Fescke, John Jenkes and George Vandel. The judge found for our side and I have never heard so much crap in my whole life. They kept telling the judge that we were going to cause the mountain lions to become extinct. We sold 2,294 Black Hills and 303 prairie licenses and 13 lions were harvested including 5 breeding age females and the Black Hills season ended in 24 days. The season helped us get information about mountain lion distribution and population information. Participation was good and we found out how effective deer and elk calls were. One of the animals taken was found to be lactating so we went looking for the kittens, didn’t talk to media until after the kittens were taken to SDSU and then we made arrangements to take the animals to zoos. This was the right thing to do and we stayed a step ahead and made sure no pictures were taken. The mountain lion season was the number four news story in the state in 2005. In the Black Hills unit, 1,303 (57 percent) of licensees hunted, 64 percent used some sort of call, 46 percent saw tracks, 14 percent saw a mountain lion, 1 percent (13) was harvested, 3 percent shot and missed but reported no crippling loss and 74 percent of hunters were satisfied. For 2006, we will move the season date back a month to November 1 to December 31 (so the kittens are bigger), have the same harvest (25) but we backed off the female harvest to 8, restricted harvest to single animals, in other

words the mountain lion could not be accompanied by any other lion. In summary we initiated a “new” hunting season, large carnivore species formerly an endangered species; was highly controversial (science based data built season); good test of entire rules process; made all the right moves, always one step ahead of the opposition; and this was a classic example of great team effort and that is why it was successful. *Evans* – Was there more than one case of lactating females? *Vandel* – Yes, we had two and found both sets of kittens (one was thought to be domesticated because it was declawed and had a domestic turkey in its belly). We had one cat that killed domestic house cats by going through a screen door and it is legal to kill an animal if there is a problem. *Humphries* – How are you estimating the population? *Vandel* – With radio telemetry collars. *Humphries* – Are you supplementing that with track counts? *Vandel* – No. *Hoskins* – Have any of the collared animals left? *Vandel* – Yes, one was found dead in Oklahoma, one in Fargo, North Dakota and one other went up to Montana. Also, killed lions in Yankton County and near Valentine, Nebraska. *Hoskins* – I am aware of the collared animal in Oklahoma and we have had two in Missouri. Are all the animals young males? *Vandel* – One was a sub-adult female. *Hoskins* – We tell people that back at home, but they don’t believe it. *Zekor* – How do you feel about mountain lions here? *Vandel* – We want to have them, but want them managed. We haven’t had a human event yet. *Hoskins* – How will your research proceed from here? *Vandel* – SDSU is doing a third study on mortality. *Hoskins* – Will radio telemetry continue? *Vandel* – Yes. *Hansen* – How many animals are there? *Vandel* – About 200.

Hunter/Angler Compliance Initiatives – Using Lower-Level Law Enforcement Actions to Achieve Compliance and Build Agency Support (A New "Kinder, Gentler" Law Enforcement Approach)

Emmett Keyser, South Dakota (Keyser) (PowerPoint presentation “It’s Time for a Conscientious Change in Philosophy”) – There has been a challenge to the open fields doctrine which allows Conservation Officers (COs) to come onto private lands to check compliance. Our supervisory staff began to recognize some issues, inadvertent violations and the tact that they took. For years we were using strict interpretation of the laws, but would like to discuss officer discretion. The role of regulations provides for resource protection; fair and equitable distribution of opportunity and harvest and provides revenue to fund programs. The primary purpose of conservation law enforcement is to achieve compliance on the laws and regulations. We’ve come a long way on regulations of hunting and fishing have been accepted and supported by the public and fish and wildlife populations have made a substantial recovery over the years. However, we are at a crossroads where we need to look at the way we do business. We need to formulate more specialized regulations and follow a strict protocol in enforcement. What is wrong with regulations that follow that strict protocol? Why focus our regulatory and enforcement efforts on small stuff, but rather ensure positive interactions and enhance our image? I would like to make an analogy to explain this, there are two golf courses, Golf Course A is your home town course where you know and understand the rules; Golf Course B is an alternative special course, where rules change month to month or day to day (explained rules). Take a moment and ask yourself which golf course you would like to play on. We lose focus when we get involved in the regulation process. We need to take time out and encourage thoughtful evaluation of the role of regulations and their impact on constituents; reassess and reemphasize the importance of communication; and encourage those involved to utilize all of the tools. Regulations criminalize certain behaviors. Are regulations necessary in all situations? How can we provide clarity and are we doing enough to achieve compliance outside of the use of enforcement? We need to reassess and reemphasize communication and public service. Are we emphasizing the importance of communication to all agency staff? In making use of the “Compliance

Continuum”, agencies should consider developing a formal position statement regarding their philosophy toward conservation law enforcement in order to provide clear guidance to staff. Challenge or evaluating their job performance on number of tickets they were writing. Need to give good clear guidance to our staff. Key components of law enforcement (LE) philosophy is to recognize that inadvertent violations can occur and encourage staff to ask why; emphasize importance of showing courtesy to all people, even violators; encourage critical thinking and use of discretion where appropriate and consider alternatives in the field; and move agency culture away from punitive mindset. Agencies need to provide lower level enforcement actions and compliance initiatives (verbal or written warnings for example). Emphasize the importance of positive citizen contacts and reprioritize LE training to train officers in interpersonal communication skills. Components of training: reevaluate agency field training utilizing key components of new problem based learning FTP models; encourage appropriate role modeling by supervisors; utilize scenarios as critical thinking and problem solving exercises. Develop a good “Conservation Law Enforcement Creed”. Ours is modeled after the Illinois creed. Get the right people on the front line, revise recruitment and selection practices and focus on hiring people who have strong communication skills. Strong service orientation will aid officers to successfully balance their work and utilize the public to help problem solving to know where to focus our efforts.

Conserving State Priority Migratory Bird Species on Their Wintering Grounds

Dave Erickson, Missouri Department of Conservation (Erickson) (On AFWA Bird

Conservation Committee) - Why conserve birds: economic value; recreation; good indicator of ecosystem health (just the mere presence of birds); citizens value birds; and we have the legal responsibility to conserve them. Conserve birds by monitoring status of populations; protect, restore and manage bird habitats; determine effects of management; and educate the public. So much of the bird conservation is done within the confines of our own state boundaries. We are recognizing more all of the time that all migratory species are shared species with shared goals and responsibilities. The Conservation Act of 1989 has gone a long way as far as regulations and providing habitats. Parallels encompass all migratory birds. There is a tropical connection for many of these species, of 810 North American breeding species, 448 migrate to tropical areas and 43 percent of those are on the watch list. Winter habitats are especially important in Latin America (LA). Research indicates that habitats are important and time sensitive because human populations are growing in LA and the Caribbean, 100-360 million during the next 45 years, an 85 percent increase in less developed regions; and over 40 percent of the forest lost in the last 30 years was in LA. By 2032, over 80 percent of land and its wildlife could be impacted by development. I have given each of you maps on your own states and they are composites of range species, not just one bird species and show where birds breed and the winter. States are using this information to form partnerships. Some state agencies are doing research on wintering bird habitats. Red knot partnership in New Jersey; grassland bird partnership with Tennessee and Sian Ka'an, Mexico; Missouri worked with Tennessee and others to form partnerships on several species of songbirds; New Mexico formed a partnership with Chihuahua, Mexico on grassland birds; and Idaho is training staff on birds that winter in Mexico. NABCI is working on linking birds and habitats in Mexico, U.S. and Canada. What the Bird Conservation Committee would like to do is offer a flexible process for states to conserve their species of greatest conservation need during the winter and be more effective through partnerships and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. In Colorado in September conservation projects will be revealed that will address bird species of greatest concern. What we need from state directors is for you to take this map back and discuss it with your bird conservation people in your state.

North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI)

Bruce McCloskey, Colorado (McCloskey) (PowerPoint – Integrated Bird Conservation) -

I am not a bird guy, I don't pack binoculars and I am still not an expert but I feel there is something here for Directors. NABCI started about 7 years ago and is the full spectrum of bird conservation and has several partners. There are 19 people on the committee which I chair. Besides the U.S. Committee there are also committees in Canada and Mexico and the tri-committee that meets with all of them as well. People that represent you on this committee are six state agency employees, several federal partners as well as non profit organizations. Integrated bird conservation is integrating biological needs, incorporating conservation and coordinating efforts between states to come up with regional plans. There is an active leadership with a strong focus on facilitating bird habitat conservation. The National Work Plan provides a forum for exploring technical issues and recommending actions and to draft interim reports based on AFWA Science and Research Committee Report of September 04. Sage grouse has the potential to be listed and NABCI found we were not talking to each other and our databases didn't work well together. Hope to finalize the draft report soon. We have created forums to foster agency support, develop technical tools and increase knowledge at all management levels. There was a workshop held in April and we will meet in September at plenary session at AFWA. Created bird conservation regions that were biologically driven and are a neat way to manage birds. Done without our blessing, but it is valid and legitimate and goes outside state boundaries. You need to get involved because this is a good mechanism to do things for birds. Joint Venture has a board and we endorse them as a primary mechanism for spreading the word about birds. The conservation design mechanism takes data. In Minnesota for instance they did an integrated landscape assessment on shallow lakes; grassland for ducks; migrant shorebirds; marbled godwits; grassland nongame birds; and grasslands for pheasants to help form priority landscapes. This approach can support broader wildlife efforts. Opportunities were formed for greater prairie chickens (GPC) in Iowa and Missouri through a multi-state effort and that is the concept we are going to be pushing as we go forward. State wildlife action plans provide opportunities to be more cost effective. This Association doesn't have a bird conservation committee but we encourage you to do that. Nominate someone from MAFWA to NABCI; get involved in the Joint Venture (JV) Management Board and support SWAP. If you are not active in any JV boards in your state, designate staff to do that; support state action plans; and make sure all biologists are working together. We created a Bird Conservation Specialist in Colorado and you should think about doing that.

National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Doug Hansen, South Dakota (Hansen) – (PowerPoint presentation – National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP)) I wanted to start with a quote from Henry Ford, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." I am here for equal time for fish presentations, but you will see similarities and a chance to come together and work together. Our aquatic habitats are in trouble, declining quality and quantity is affecting fishing and boating opportunities. Aquatic species lead the way on extinction and there are many species at risk. Coasts are showing more dead zones. NFHAP was started by the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council to make recommendations to look at aquatic habitat conservation and management. We found stakeholders and held meetings, developed a mission statement and formed principles which are action oriented and science based. We modeled our plan after the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Our goals are to protect and maintain healthy aquatic systems; prevent degradation of habitats; reverse declines; increase quality and quantity

of fish; and increase self sustaining systems. Four keys to success are to develop fish habitat partnerships; mobilize national and local support; measure and communicate status (speak the same language); and to provide national leadership to coordinate and conserve fish habitats. One example of partnership is the Eastern Brook Trout Model in the east. Mobilizing national support is to elevate public support for fish habitat conservation on all levels, develop funding sources, with better focus on existing resources and to expand partnerships. Communicate with a common language. We issued a national report called the “Status of Fish Habitats” which was a report card to enhance data sharing and develop baselines. National leadership can be coordinated at the Association and state level and by engaging federal caucus to enhance federal programs and link action plans. This will take some funding and several entities have contributed, also states and regional associations. The next steps are to formally adopt the action plan, a major accomplishment, at the North American meeting, roll out to the public in DC at a Congressional Casting Call event and form the National Fish Habitat Board and operational procedures. The Board was approved by the governing leadership team and I will serve as the Midwest representative initially. What we envision is that as partnerships begin to form and come to the Board for formal recognition we feel a strong strategic plan, strong partnerships, and the ability to measure results on a meaningful scale will be the elements of success. We are looking for more fish funding through the “More Fish” campaign; \$3 million from USFWS; multi-state grants and other agencies. We hope for dedicated funding like Wetlands Conservation Act. Go to our website at www.fishhabitat.org and become a partner. Like Bruce said, how can we cross state borders and expand fish habitat benefits? *Niebauer* – Linking fish habitat initiative to wildlife action plans, how will that be done? *Hansen* – No specific strategies at this time, but we would be remiss if we don’t recognize that those options exist.

Break sponsored by Safari Club International

National Leadership Development program (MAT)

John Baughman, AFWA Executive Vice President (Baughman) – There has been fantastic interest for this program and the first National Conservation Leadership Institute (NCLI) training will be held late this summer. Applications were accepted from March 1 through June 15, 2006 and there were more applicants than the class could handle. It costs \$2,500 for states and \$3,500 for federal agencies to attend and it is not too early to start thinking about sending someone next year. This will help us develop our own leadership training program with the help of the Management Assistance Team (MAT). They have been to four of five states in this room already and are working on an online training program. *Vonk* – Where are you on the selection process of who will go this year? *Baughman* – There are 21 slots for state representatives, maybe 22, and we will be sending letters out next week. Also, we picked a few alternates in case someone can’t come.

Up-Date on the 2007 Farm Bill

Bill Smith, South Dakota (Smith) and Luke Miller, Ohio (Miller) – *Hansen* - Because of the farm bill we have fantastic bird numbers so I want to thank you for all the work you are doing on the farm bill. *Miller* – Jen Mock couldn’t be here she is getting married next week. In the hot topics sessions most of the states listed the farm bill. The Farm Bill Working Group was started in early 2005 to bring together two representatives from each of the regions to come up with a policy document that AFWA could hang its hat on. Steve Riley from Nebraska and me were assigned to that Working Group from the Midwest. Others on the committee are PF, DU, BASS and Dave Walker, the USFWS Farm Bill Director. We met five times and looked at what

everyone's priorities were, and added some fisheries biologists to the group to integrate more fish management ideas. We put together 23 guiding principles which were put on the AFWA website for more comments and developed an executive summary, or outlines of white papers, on what the AFWA would like to see for this farm bill. We met in Chicago recently and out of those guiding principles and white papers we broke that down into 5 principles and came up with a preliminary congressional briefing paper that we can present in Washington. Jen is going to put together a number of staffers, who are not up for re-election this fall, on what we have come up with and offering those white papers as possible language for the farm bill. Those dates have not been set yet. We meet again at Snowmass and will present our findings to Directors and the Ag Committee at that time before the briefing document is finalized. We have worked with the conservation community and developed a consensus position. After congressional votes this fall we are planning a fly-in day with other NGOs and farmers to hit the pavement and push conservation programs. It will be an interesting farm bill with bio-fuels. Jen is going to develop a farm bill coalition web page to be put on the AFWA website to list lessons we learned from 2002 farm bill. Hope more states will be involved in coalitions and get those developed within your own states.

Smith – The big question is when will there be a next farm bill because there may be short-term extension. On the House side they are looking at the farm bill in 2007 and may be looking at extensions if they have a big turn over of representatives. The Senate is hosting farm bill meetings across country, two in Midwest - one in Missouri and one in Iowa. You need to send staff to those meetings if possible. The big issue is the CRP contract reenrollment issue, most of those contracts are set to expire in 2007. They may offer contract extensions and reenrollment opportunities to those also expiring in 2008, 2009 and 2010. FSA did extensions back in April for 2007; and is asking for 2008, 2009 and 2010 extension applications by June 30. For 2007, 72 percent have passed their compliance checks. FSA has not addressed treatment of contracts of those counties with over 25 percent cap and species of concern. On the CRP sign-up we are hoping to get 2 ½ million acres enrolled, only 1 million has been accepted. Some factors for lack of sign-up are ethanol plants and high corn prices. Due to an audit, NRCS adopted the yellow book appraisal process which is causing some concerns because it takes longer and dollars offered for easements are less than historically offered and there are not enough appraisers nationwide which will cause a time lag. The impact this will have in states will be reverting back money and mean we will be getting less money for WRP. Ag conservation allocations \$1.3 billion, \$1.4 billion for financial, will be listed on AFWA web page in next couple of months. CSP could hold great potential for Midwest states, Missouri is having great success. FWS, NRCS and AFWA are close to approving a MOU for voluntary enrollment. In last congressional session, Conrad and Roberts grants for \$22 million for conservation outdoor recreational access. Midwest delegations have been supportive of this. If you know of legislators in your state not signed up, try to get them interested. FY07 appropriations are underway and they have asked for less except for CRP and WRP. Grassland Reserve has met acreage cap and no additional acreage will be offered until the 2007 farm bill. **Amack** – What is the website you are referring to? **Miller** – AFWA, at the bottom click for members only and look at that. **Amack** – Do we have to have an access code? **Baughman** – If you have problem get in touch with us. **Salmon** – The yellow book has been a problem for acquisitions as well as appraisals. Are they going to look into that problem? **Smith** – Jen is going to look into that. **Vandel** – Do you have all the members you want on that group? **Vonk** – Yes, every NGO has had a crack at this organization. This is the core group and we are comfortable with where that is, we added DU and USFWS advisor. **Miller** – There is plenty of opportunity for comments. **Vonk** – We want that done by September. **Baughman** – In talking to some people it didn't sound that it was wide knowledge that Bruce

Knight was nominated as the Under-Secretary for USDA. May be timely to talk about qualifications of his position. *Vonk* – He has not been confirmed yet. We should write a letter to Secretary of Interior and the President’s office to be sure our interests are known. *Gildo Tori, DU (Tori)* – What are you doing for a guidance document for the fuel issue? *Miller* – Energy is one of the guidance documents and Bill McCoy is head of Biofuel Working Group who is working on that. *Smith* – There have been two hearings so far, one in DC and one in Manhattan, Kansas on June 30, one more is scheduled in Brookings, South Dakota on July 20. The impression I got was a strong willingness to work with folks on biofuel issue. The pitfall is not doing things right. As this issue continues to develop hopefully we can get some good comments for wildlife through AFWA and NGOs, not like the Western coal methane issues.

Up-Date on the Status/Implementation of the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)

Ray Evans, ECO Associates, Missouri (Evans) - Like many government programs little attempt is made to measure impacts. We are making an overall effort to look at these impacts in CEAP. The wildlife component was developed to look at objectives and measure effect on wildlife resource. Contracted with The Wildlife Society to do this and the first phase is complete. The majority of the work was done on CRP and birds on CRP, so no more studies will be done on that. Under a contribution agreement, AFWA is working with states through regional associations to capture work done, capture data gaps and stimulate things to fill those gaps. CEAP has \$250,000 with hopes to work up to \$1 million a year. Contacted biologists from individual state agencies and looked at what has been done already. The Midwest Working Group would like to see nongame and non-bird responses to CRP and land use related to farm bill activities. Take the breeding bird survey route and look at that before and after to measure where they were before those practices were put in. Nothing has been done on stream biota to document these practices. More than 20 million acres of land has been brought into production, 35 million acres in CRP, but the same number of acres is in production as we had in 1985, which means we have plowed up prairie land. We have not had a net gain in prairie habitat. A number of studies are already going on in the Midwest funded by CEAP, NRCS and other organizations. CP33 has real success stories like upland habitat buffer practices or borders for bobwhite. In Missouri, through WRP, groups did wetland reserve easements. We are looking for improvements for individual species. The USGS National Wetlands Research Center (NWRC) is using weather data by reading data from Doppler radar to estimate migratory bird habitat use and density patterns. The system can see flocks of birds and bats on the radar screen. Radar is a lot more sensitive than just measuring cloud formations. This study will be done in California. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has been studying stream biota in several states and plan to mine existing data and develop others. Another study in Missouri is working with NatureServe, a national organization affiliated with a network of state national heritage programs and they are looking at previously installed conservation practices and helping to prioritize Farm Bill program allocations. NRCS is working with a variety of partners to look at wetlands programs. There are a whole series of values to wetlands. The objective is to provide one-time regional measures of wetland ecosystem services before and after these impoundments. AFWA and NRCS appreciate the fact you have provided your biologists to work on this and will continue to work with them. *Vonk* – I would like to compliment you on what you are doing to lead this effort, less than a year ago the wetland CREP was non existent.

Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative

Don McKenzie, NBCI Coordinator, WMI, Arkansas (McKenzie) (PowerPoint presentation – “Taking the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative to the Next Level”) - Where were we? Aldo Leopold went to the Deep South and spent three weeks looking at habitat and found that 85 percent of the land was suitable quail, but half of the acres were being burned each year in Mississippi. Only in the western fringes of their range are bobwhites managing to hang on. It boils down to a lot of land has been taken away as quail habitat. There are 120 million acres of grass, 40 million acres of loblolly pines, and that doesn't count towards rangeland degradations, fires, and fragmented quail populations. We are trying to turn that trend around and it is going to be a massive undertaking. Bobwhites are a state (resident) species and 35 states, as separate authorities, have tried to deal with them. It is a habitat issue on private land and the hope for restoration is stretched thin. Where are we now? The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) started the Southeast Quail Study Group who developed a Bobwhite Recovery Plan that was range-wide which had recovery goals and habitat objectives. The plan was completed in March 2002 and the aim is to restore populations to where it was in 1980s. The big picture is reaching NBCI's goal of adding 2.8 million coveys to the 1999 population. The main theme is nesting and brood rearing cover which is defined as native grasses with active vegetation (forbs, legumes and wildflowers). The philosophy is to reconnect bobwhites with croplands, grazing lands and forest lands to pull it off to the tune of 81 million acres. This is a unified vision and has invigorated leadership in SEAFWA directors (16 states) to put full time staff person on board. The first NBCI Coordinator was Breck Carmichael and now me. The bottom line is that none of us ever thought it would happen. CP33 was approved which proposed 1 million acres for bobwhites in August 2004 and 250,000 acres of CRP, cropland field borders and native vegetation was enrolled. This required us to monitor responses from 22 states using the same protocol to measure each. At the state level there have been accomplishments, more states have hired full time Ag liaisons, private land biologists and four have hired full-time quail biologists. More than a dozen states have an active quail program. Where are we going? We do stand a chance if united and populations have been picking up. We are trying to integrate at every level where conservation practices are involved. Species whose historic range is in the Midwest and Northeast program was begun when SEAFWA started the plan, but it is silly to put together a plan just based on 16 states. SEAFWA went beyond our authority and covered 22 states, including six Midwest states. We can no longer continue to do this Southeast Quail study group, we need to expand it. The bobwhite range covers parts of all regional associations and we are trying to extend invitations to the Northeastern and Midwest associations and MAFWA has appointed Jeff Vonk and Jim Pitman. The Northeastern has not responded. What we have is not a perfect situation. The NBCI regional fund created my position which is administered by SEAFWA and hired Ray Evans as a NBCI national advocate. We are starting a process revising NBCI which take a couple of years and is being done by Tall Timbers Research Station out of Florida. We hope to get all of the historic states involved and more land types, more professionals, improve our assumptions, estimates and goals and refine our landscape analysis. Our action item is for you to become full participants between at least these other two associations and we need a stronger alliance to build our capacity to deal with a resident bird species at bigger than a state level. **Saxson** – What kind of budget is the initiative operating under and where is it coming from? **McKenzie** – Almost none we have pursued multi-state grants and QU has stepped up with \$75,000 to fund NCBI, which funds my position and other items. **Salmon** – Do you have a draft resolution for us to look over? **McKenzie** – No, but I can come up with one by tomorrow.

Lunch sponsored by The Outdoor Channel

AFWA\FWS Joint Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy

Glen Salmon, Indiana (Salmon) (PowerPoint presentation – “Joint Policy Task Force Working Together for America’s Fish and Wildlife Resources”) Glen Salmon, Keith Sexson, Tom Niebauer are on the Task Force from the Midwest. Dale Hall, USFWS, was on Task Force and Steve Williams and John Baughman started it. Formed for consistency to decide what the rules and regulations are and to ensure consistency in federal aid policy. It gets state and federal people together to talk about this. The Task Force was put together in 2002 and I replaced Terry Crawforth as Co-Chair. We came up with what we thought were our biggest issues out there, and dubbed them the dirty dozen. Representatives from all four associations, FWS, Carol Bambery and Larry Mellinger are the Solicitors and are all part of the Task Force. We came up with five Director’s Order for USFWS and have five more in the process. If you come up with white papers, we would review them. We have made applications to SWG and LIP now. We are in the audit review period and finalizing the second round and looking at the third year. In the past, we couldn’t use federal aid (FA) funds on LAWCON purchased lands and we found out that you can. Sending letters to directors on ESA/NEPA compliance requirements and asking them to better coordinate their efforts. Working on SWG authorization language and revisiting questions and answers to provide direction to the states on how they can use FA money. We will be using the same guidelines on tribal programs to get rid of the inconsistencies. The new Fire Policy was interesting, a Director’s letter came out that said states that operate under the FWS fire management program are exempt from this new policy and we worked through that at the last meeting in Charleston, SC. We are going to each association meeting and making this presentation. We sent out our third request to see what else is out there that has national significance. Feel this is a proactive group. The federal contact is Rowan Gould, Asst FWS Director. Identify issues and get hold of your federal aid coordinator, myself or Rowan.

Niebauer – One of the issues the task force worked on, which began in Midwest, was using value of land as a match for fish and wildlife grants. That concept allows you to bank the value of land to match any grant that has common interest. That is now a national policy.

Complex Hunting and Fishing Regulations - Impact on Participation?

Larry Gigliotti, South Dakota (Gigliotti) (PowerPoint presentation, “Complex Hunting and Fishing Regulations – Impact on Participation”) – Did a study that Law Enforcement (LE) officers wanted for some time and got a grad student to work on this for us. This is a study of fishing and hunting behavior related to LE. Looking at behaviors due to citations. Sampled 3,500 people who received citations and one of things we were looking at was Conservation Officer (CO) behavior in the field based on contact in 2003. We used this information to get baseline information on how the public perceived their contact with COs. Had very high evaluation of contact with hunters and anglers in the field. Factors relating to low evaluation were behavior; attitudes towards LE; past experiences; outcome of encounter (citation); and evaluation of citation (was it justified). Added to the research was whether they felt if was justified and the impact it had on the evaluation. The same result was found for all five variables. Evidence suggests that those who felt the citation was unjustified felt that way because they did not intend to violate or it was accidental. The questionnaire was 17 pages long. Public opinion on contact was that most felt contact should increase or stay the same and visibility and satisfaction were the same. All of these factors point to a positive attitude towards COs. Another aspect dealt with types of violators. In the sample it was broken down into, those that weren’t violators; carelessly violator; selective violator (like violating a 45 mph zone); opportunistic violator; and the

game-player violator (no wildlife out there if we had many of these people – they live and breathe poaching). The scenario study of violators showed that the non violator and careless-only violator were similar; selective was more prone to violate; opportunistic was a little higher; and the player was likely to violate. It makes a strong case for discretion or giving a warning versus giving a citation. After I presented this to COs they said that if we would just fix regulations they wouldn't have to write so many violations, so I studied regulation complexity. Most hunters and anglers felt they know most of the relevant regulations. Most felt the handbooks are only slightly confusing and not a factor in violation behavior. So it doesn't appear regulation complexity detracts from positive attitude towards COs. What does regulation complexity mean? **Amack** – It is like the golf course analogy. **Torgerson** – Written in legal language rather than English or common wording. **Gigliotti** – There was no agreement in our staff for what complexity was either. It is very difficult to address as a concept. It doesn't mean everything is perfect with our regulations, but what I proposed is that they need to be addressed on a case by case basis. Identify what purpose or benefit a regulation provides, does the public understand the purpose or reason for it and does the public value it. Is the public aware of the regulation? Does public understand it as written in handbook? Does regulation work and produce expected benefit? Is it enforceable? Does public comply? Determine if the regulation is causing frustration (human dimension), is it working (wildlife) and is the public complying? If you answered yes to any of these you need to review your regulations. General frustration is generally due to changes in regulations. **Torgerson** – LE in Missouri did not write citations the first year a new regulation was on the books, just warnings. **Gigliotti** – The full report can be found on South Dakota's website.

Committee Reports (including discussion and action on committee recommendations)

Law Enforcement – **Emmett Keyser, South Dakota** - I have given each of you two handouts, one is the history of the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers (AMFGLEO). The organization was started in 1944 in Lincoln, Nebraska and we now have 28 member agencies. We meet every year in the spring or summer and have become the lead group in development and maintenance of training for field officers and have funded grants supporting wildlife enforcement research. We have standing committees that survey member agencies and present reports on training issues, legislation and forensics. AMFGLEO is asking for a resolution for states to commit to joining the Wildlife Violators Compact. Also AMFGLEO sponsored the hospitality room.

Private Lands – **Bill Smith, South Dakota** – The Midwest Private Lands Working Group met in Aberdeen, South Dakota in mid-May and 12 of the 14 states attended the meeting. First I want to thank the Directors for their support of the AFWA Farm Bill Coordinator position, Jen Mock, and is offering our assistance to make that a permanent position. We are collaborating on two multi-state grants on CRP and CSP, Jen doing extensions to be sent out later this year. We are encouraged by the directors' support to farm bill coalitions in each state. We are aware that energy development (biomass, wind and oil/gas) will have major impacts on fish and wildlife habitat and water resources. As we told you earlier, we have been informed that NRCS has adopted a yellowbook process for determining the WRP easement values and we are concerned about what impact that will have, appendices in the report gives more background on the yellowbook process. The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) is one that the private lands group will continue to watch. This year is the 20th anniversary of CRP and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and we would like to encourage you to be active in celebration

efforts in your states. We have a few action items for your consideration. 1) The Northern Bobwhite Quail Initiative started out as a SEAFWA initiative, but the Midwest is a large part of that and the Southeast Study Group will be looking for help on revision of the plan. We are asking that you send letter to Directors of MAFWA to collaborate on the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Plan. Jim Pitman, Kansas was assigned as the technical liaison. 2) The second item deals with fish habitat and we are asking for a recommendation that Doug Hansen send a letter to the Directors to suggest that each state involve fisheries staff in Farm Bill implementation and planning efforts and the annual Midwest Private Lands meeting. 3) Third is the Landowner Incentive Program is in its third year and was designed to fill gaps for species at risk, but there is not a lot of advocacy so we are recommending that you send a letter to AFWA asking them to assign the LIP to a committee or working group and assign it to an AFWA staff person. 4) Prescribed fire is an important tool for CRP to maintain conservation benefits but recently NRCS has issued guidance that would stop their involvement in writing burn plans and we are asking that you write a letter to Department of Agriculture Secretary, Mike Johanns with copies to Teresa Lasseter, FSA Administrator, Bruce Knight, NRCS Chief and other AFWA associations regarding NRCS staff writing prescribed burn plans. 5) Hunting is very important, but the number of hunters is declining which will have a huge impact on the future of hunting. Also, reduced access to private land is a problem even though some states have hunting access programs. The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership has been working with organizations on this and we ask that the Directors support “Open Fields” legislation. 6) FSA and NRCS have shown strong commitment to developing wildlife habitat by seeking out wildlife professionals’ input on formulating rules governing implementation of Farm Bill Programs. And we are asking that you send a letter of appreciation to NRCS and FSA for their participation in this meeting and for their continued interest in fish and wildlife habitat issues. *Hansen* – It is my understanding that the first recommendation is to formally endorse and collaborate with the Southeast Quail Initiative. *Smith* – Yes. *Salmon* – LIP is a partnership and what is the concern? What do you think is not being accomplished and where can it go from its current format? *Smith* – The concern is with the annual appropriation issue, it bounces up and down. We would like to secure long-term funding and sustainability. *Salmon* – I would recommend that this falls under purview of the Trust Fund Committee and you may want to send that to the Trust Fund Committee. *Smith* – We will add them to that list. *Zekor* – It is under the Trust Fund Committee. *Salmon* – We missed communication if nothing else. *Torgerson* – On the first action item, is that to be sent to directors and signed by Jim Pitman? *Smith* – Discussed something more formal because of make up of the Directors or changes. Jim thought even though he is on the technical committee we could lay the ground work. *Becky* – It would make more sense to support the initiative and ask directors to send representatives to it. *Sexson* – When Don gave his presentation the group asked him to draft a resolution for quail initiative and if we pass that as a body then maybe the letter isn’t necessary. *Torgerson* – Don is drafting it. *Hansen* – Recommendation number one will be handled in a different manner, which leaves five more action items. *Salmon* – Going back to the letter about LIP, two items are being addressed, it is assigned to a standing committee already and assigned to an AFWA staff person. I found out that is right and suggest that letter not be sent. **Glen Salmon moved to pass 2, 4, 5 & 6; Dan Zekor second.** *Salmon* – I would like to compliment this group and the Trust Fund Committee shares your concern. *Sexson* – I have a comment on #5, open fields, I think we should add MAFWA name to the list of support to Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership website. *Herring* – On LIP, Iowa has private land program and the committee concern is funding, not how states are working on it and information sharing. Information sharing integrated with the private land program. *Smith* – It is more of an advocacy issue. Steve Riley brought it forward and it dealt

with advocacy at the federal level. **Niebauer** – One last comment, LIP only has appropriation, there is no authorizing language and Glen’s committee has talked to them but their hands are tied. We are working to propose authorization for LIP. **Salmon** – I have a problem with NRCS director going to the yellowbook. Was there any discussion about sending a letter from MAFWA to DOI about our feelings towards using that? **Smith** – We just wanted to make you aware of it and AFWA is looking at it right now already. **Miller** – On the burning issue, if Directors receive a response from NRCS would you please forward it to Bill Smith. **All approved.** **Torgerson** - Keith Sexson is the liaison to this group and he attended their meeting.

Public Lands – **Paul Coughlin, South Dakota** – The Midwest Public Lands Working Group provided a report to Ollie and it is on the Midwest website. We held our meeting in conjunction with the private lands meeting in May in Aberdeen, South Dakota and 8 of the 14 states has members present (IN, IA, KS, KY, NE, ND, OH, and SD). The two groups are a lot alike and deal with many of the same issues. We have a list of concerns: continued erosion of funding; role of public lands in recruitment and retention; private and commercial development such as cabins; prescribed fire guidelines; shooting range funding and development; recreational trail development; field trials and dog training; other compatible and incompatible issues; cultural resources; changing diversity of wildlife land user groups; and invasive species management. A lot of these issues are common but dictated by perception of fact and using PR dollars for these projects. Using LAWCON money to manage land like Salmon mentioned earlier we talked about that also. The top four issues we had don’t require any action. We would like to see: 1) development of prescribed fire management including training; 2) promote better understanding and recognition of role of public lands. Adequate funding for shooting ranges and ensure proper development; 3) compatible uses on state land by reaffirming primary purpose of land. Secondary and incompatible uses continue to grow. Managers struggle to strike a balance (private development, trails, geocaching and paintballing); and 4) seek full participation from all the states. We understand the value of these meetings and none of us go away without learning something. **Schad** – Is USFWS represented on Committee? **Coughlin** – No and no other federal land agencies either. **Schad** – Waterfowl management lands are like public land and I think they could benefit from participation here and you should send a formal invitation to them to attend. **Coughlin** – It would be beneficial. **Herring** – A couple of things that have come up recently in Iowa is two significant donations of land, 5,000 acres and 1,000 acres in perpetual easements, did you have any discussion on that? How do we manage those areas, from legal and staffing perspective? **Coughlin** – We did briefly talk about that, conservation easements fall in that gray area between private and public lands and where that responsibility falls. We don’t have a realty section or conservation easement section. Not all states have these similar programs. As these topics come up it will affect who represents the agency. **Rostvet** – You brought up good point on public lands versus private lands. Private land is ¼ of our budget and we will be trying to shore up contracts on new CRP and will end up zeroing out our public land budget to acquire those contracts on private land. A lot of people like permanent land, but there is an ongoing issue of leasing private land. **Zekor** – That is the public land issue we are all facing. Have you come up with a list of compatible issues and established a position? **Coughlin** – We discussed that quite a bit, but there really isn’t a lot of agreement on whether something is compatible or incompatible. Like geocaching will get people out to view wildlife lands, people who might not usually go there. Some people say they are leaving garbage (small tin box). How much do you allow to happen before you have gone too far? We really can’t come up with any decision, maybe seasonal use by geocaching. There are a lot more issues than just allowable or not allowable. I don’t think we could come up with a list even here in South Dakota. **Salmon** – That could come

out in a Director's order for recreational use which puts those decisions on shoulders of Agency Director and can come up in audit. Be prepared for that when they come at you. **Coughlin** – We don't have consensus in our own organization, yes it is up to the directors, but we run into inconsistency. Consistency as a region would be very beneficial. **Zekor** – We are all making that call right now. At some point the worlds are going to collide. It would be nice to have some way to start developing a list that all of us can look at and consider. **Bob Bryant, USFWS (Bryant)** – Does it interfere with what the purpose of the land was acquired for? That would make a difference. You need to consult with the central office because land is acquired with different grants. **Vandel** – There is an oversight from USFWS and we have used that to our advantage in some cases. **Humphries** – I have a question about public rights, there are quite a few perpetual easements in Michigan, do we want to clarify whether they are public or private land? **Herring** – It will fall with permanent staff. I view those as public rights on private lands. **Torgerson** – That could be a challenge to both committees to discuss that. **Bryant** – From experience this was a hot topic for us when we were acquiring duck easements in California. Look at the document used to acquire the land and get counsel. **Torgerson** - Larry Nelson was the director/liaison to this committee.

Break sponsored by Wildlife Forever

Committee Reports (continued)

NCN – Tom Niebauer, Wisconsin – The Sportfish Improvement Act passed in 2000 created the multi-state grant program which AFWA oversees and gives grants related to multi-state grant program. The foundation of the program is the National Conservation Needs (NCN) priority related activities. The law allows for the Association committees to submit NCNs to the Committee on National Grants, but there is only \$6 million available each year. In many years funds are committed for previously funded projects. MAFWA has created a committee that includes: Dave Risley (OH), Dan Zekor (MO) myself. Our job is not to come up with the NCN but review those submitted to us and write them up in the proper language. Two potential NCN ideas came forth during the 2005 annual meeting in Ohio: 1) need for action/research that demonstrates successful recruitment and retention techniques for anglers and hunters, and 2) need for action/research that supports emerging fish and wildlife health issues. Eventually, one NCN was proposed by Jeff Ver Steeg (CO) and with help from Becky Humphries (MI) came up with a series of laboratory and field investigations needed to determine the impact of Pb (lead) shot ingestion on mourning dove survival around the country. It was not selected for funding because most of the money was needed for the national survey. We are not in a position to write the NCNs but we will fine tune them and get them through the process. Our Director liaison should be the President of the Midwest because the work takes place in January. The Executive Committee of MAFWA approves the submission of NCNs. **Hansen** – Timing and sequences are important and being aware of what the strategic issues are of our Association and the other regional associations. After the September meeting we give serious thought to that. It is a good suggestion that the President should review them. **Niebauer** – The committee does send out reminders for submission.

Deer and Turkey – Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator - Dale Garner is our director/liaison and there is a report on our website from last year's meeting. They will hold their meeting August 20-23, 2006 in Bloomington, Indiana and we will ask them to try and meet before our annual meeting in the future and ask the same of the Legal Committee.

Fish and Wildlife Health – **Bruce Morrison, Nebraska** - Becky Humphries is the Chair of the AFWA Committee as well as our director/liaison. The Midwest Wildlife and Fish Health Committee met on May 4 & 5 in Madison, Wisconsin and we strongly encourage you to send representatives to this meeting. We only had 8 of the 14 states present. Our report is on the Midwest website, as well as each of our state reports, with the exception of Iowa's report which I missed sending to you. Our next meeting is in Iowa in 2007. USDA-APHIS will provide grants for CWD testing, monitoring and management and research money is also available from USGS and Lloyd Fox, Kansas and Julie Langenberg, Wisconsin have agreed to work with Bryan Richards of USGS to develop a Midwest-wide recommendation on one research project per year to use that money on. Avian Influenza was the biggest topic at our meeting and we had Dr. Hon Ip who was there and was very informative. To date there have been 205 human cases with approximately 113 deaths, but are in an area of 250 million people. Several surveys of wild birds have been conducted and there is not a wild bird population any where in the world that was above ½ percent. We also had a USFWS person present this year. Tom Hutton, USDA-APHIS gave a report on feral swine which was thoroughly reviewed by the Health Committee. Discussed trying to discuss more fish health issues in the future and I will be contacting the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission and other Midwest associations for a joint meeting. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies National Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative met the morning before us so we had a draft to look over. We were asked by a director if it was the right time to do this with all that is going on in Congress? "The time is always right to do the right thing." (Martin Luther King). If you have items you want brought up at one of our meetings let John or myself know.

Pheasant Study Group – **Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator** – The group meets every other year, so no report for this year.

MICRA – **Mike Conlin, Illinois** – MICRA is concerned with invasive species, but nothing else to report beyond that.

Legal – **Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator** – The Legal Committee is meeting this week, so no report.

Torgerson – We need a director/liaison for the Pheasant Study Group so if anyone is interested let me know. **Amack** – I would be happy to be that liaison.

Midwest Furbearer Group – **Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator** – The Midwest Furbearer Group met last July and they gave me an update for this meeting. Their next meeting will be at Sioux Ste. Marie, Michigan and it would be helpful if they would meet ahead of us instead of after us. The 2005 workshop was in North Dakota and was published by ND and they wanted to thank ND for their support. They wanted you to know that the Furbearer Technical Working Group of AFWA was the recipient of The Wildlife Society's Achievement Award. Members have assisted CITES people on river otter and bobcats to get them off the list as "look alike" species. Currently in process on river otter, so far there have been no detriment findings. The trapper education program in 2003 received a grant to provide materials to states. Those materials are available as are a compilation of existing practices and BMPs. MAFWA asked for a white paper on coyote and fox running enclosures and they expect it to be completed by winter. Wisconsin DNR offers a one-week fur school for agency staff and invites state personnel to attend. John Olson is the contact for that. They had an action item asking permission to form a

large carnivore working group within their committee to form response strategy, share information and use knowledge to help deal with issues within Association. Missouri sent a damage biologist out west to work on the ground with mountain lions and that made a big difference there. That made the biologist believable and gave them credibility. Also, would like to send experts on mountain lions to your state to validate presence of animals and this is due to misinformation being put out in Michigan. Would any of you directors be interested in taking advantage of training? Or interested in review teams? **Humphries** – Yes, on training school, but don't know about review teams because it might change. Don't know if we need them to put it together. **Salmon** – Agree with training school, we would send one of our people. **Herring** – Iowa would also. **Ver Steeg** – Had blue ribbon review panel on moose capture that went awry, Becky your point is well taken and a standing group is not right with every situation. **Torgerson** – I will give that feedback and also suggest they change their meeting timing.

CITES Committee – **Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator** - Carolyn Caldwell, Ohio is our representative and her report is on our website. She reports that they are making progress on removing lynx from Appendix II and listing Alligator Snapping and Map Turtles in Appendix III. Also, 50 CFR 23 is being revised after 30 years. This is the plan that implemented CITES. The Furbearer group and Carolyn wanted you to know that the comment period has been extended on bobcat and river otter to July 28, IN, IA, ND, MN and CO have not commented yet.

Prairie Grouse – **Ollie Torgerson, MAFWA Coordinator** - Jeff Vonk is our director/liaison and they meet every other year so there is no report for this year.

Niebauer – I want to remind the Audit and Investment Committees about the meeting after supper. **Amack** – How about right now since we are finished early.

Dinner sponsored by National Wildlife Federation

Hospitality Room sponsored by Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

Wednesday - July 12, 2006

Breakfast sponsored by Bowhunting Preservation Alliance, Inc.

MAFWA Business Meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call – *Doug Hansen, South Dakota* – Asked Ollie to call the roll. Everyone was present except Kentucky and Iowa was out of the room, but present.
2. Approval of 2005 Annual Minutes – *Doug Hansen, South Dakota* – **Glen Salmon, Indiana moved to accept the minutes, Rex Amack, Nebraska second. Motion carried.**
3. Treasurer's Report – *Sheila Kemmis, Kansas* – In the absence of Joe Kramer, Sheila gave the Treasurer's Report. Cash on Hand June 30, 2005 was \$55,748.21 (this figure does not include the Jaschek money); receipts for the year were \$67,233.75; disbursements was \$94,924.35 (note, that this figure included \$20,000 that was moved from the savings into the investments account); for a total cash on hand as of June 30, 2006 of \$28,057.61. The investments (Jaschek monies) are shown on the back of the report. The total Jaschek fund was \$209,534.44 but because of the loss in the Merrill Lynch Fund only \$205,971.61 was placed in the Investments account plus the \$20,000 moved from the savings which was interest from the CDs. The investment account total as of June 30, 2006 was \$221,386.58 and was broke down into money market - \$20,027.54; equities - \$2,320.00; bonds - \$147,327.85; and mutual fund - \$51,711.19. **Mike Conlin, Illinois moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Steve Gray, Ohio second. Motion carried.**
4. Audit Committee Report – *Scott Hassett, Wisconsin* – The Audit Committee met yesterday evening and went through what you just heard. We discussed that it is good business practice to have a professional audit done every 3 to 5 years and that is our recommendation. We suggest that start in 2007 to begin with. **Rex Amack, Nebraska moved to accept audit and for the ExCom to order an audit at any time with first audit in 2007, Keith Sexson, Kansas second. Motion carried.**
5. Jaschek Fund Report – Contained in Treasurer's report.
6. Investments Committee – *Rex Amack, Nebraska* – The Investments Committee met last night in unison with the Audit Committee. We came up with audit idea. We lost money on our Jaschek investments due to down turn in economy and we paid a \$205 penalty on a CD that rolled over before we could cash it out, but we approved the investments as they are. On the Jaschek fund we created an investment policy statement and I ask that you approve the report as stated and adopt the investment policy statement put together by ExCom. **Becky Humphries moved to accept report and adopt Investment Policy Statement, David Schad, Minnesota second. Motion carried.**
7. Resolutions Committee – *Larry Nelson, Minnesota* – The Resolutions Committee had four resolutions brought to its attention and I have given you copies of three of those resolutions.
 - 1) In support of Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative – this is not controversial and is asking for general support. **Keith Sexson, Kansas moved, Scott Hassett, Wisconsin second. Torgerson** – This is not in proper resolution format. You need to put it in proper resolution format, but you can pass it on the content reading as it is. **Motion carried.**

- 2) Resolution of Transfer because of incorporation of the Midwest Association we need to transfer all assets and contractual benefits and liabilities from unincorporated Association. This was drafted by, or at least reviewed by Carol Bambery. **Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado moved, Roger Rostvet, North Dakota second. Schad** – Can we lobby under the (c)(6)? **Torgerson** – Yes we can. **Motion carried.**
- 3) In support of Wildlife Violator Compact, to encourage a cooperative effort with LE agencies across the country and encourage participation by all 50 states. We need to change the date to the 12th day of July instead of the 11th. **John Hoskins, Missouri moved, Steve Gray, Ohio second. Motion carried.**
- 4) This resolution is to properly thank South Dakota for holding this meeting. **Rex Amack, Nebraska moved, Mike Conlin, Illinois second. Motion carried.**

Hansen - Wish all of my staff were here that helped with the conference. I owe a debt of gratitude to George Vandell, Larry Gigliotti, Emmett Keyser and Chuck Schlueter (who couldn't be here).

8. **Awards Committee** – **Glen Salmon, Indiana** – I would like to thank Keith Sexson, Scott Hassett, Mike Conlin and Kirk Nelson who are on the Committee and Sheila Kemmis for getting the awards made. We have not gone to the full awards program that we came up with yet. We came up with seven awards and we are doing four plus the Past President's award and this is the first year we gave the Sagamore award and the criteria is for an outgoing director or voting representative, they must have been involved with the Midwest for four years, attended 75 percent of the of meetings and participated in one or more committee assignment. **Keith Sexson, Kansas moved, Mike Conlin, Illinois second. Motion carried.**

9. **By-Laws Committee** – **Jeff Ver Steeg, Colorado** – The proposed bylaws changes are: 1) provide designation for voting proxy; 2) establish “contributing” membership status; 3) determine when and where Association and Conservation Fund were incorporated; 4) have official technical working groups automatically sunset after 3 years; 5) add incorporation and tax status information; 6) create board for Conservation Enhancement Fund; 7) make Secretary/Treasurer permanent member of Investments Committee; 8) eliminate “nominating” role from Nominating/Awards Committee; and 9) clarify between elected officers versus selected rotating officers. There are a few other wording changes and we have changed IAFWA to AFWA. **Amack** – Changed IAFWA, but need to change Executive Vice President to Executive Director in AFWA on page 4. **Salmon** – I want to make a point of order that Iowa is here, we missed them in the roll call. **Rex Amack, Nebraska moved, Glen Salmon, Indiana second. Hoskins** – Described Conservation Enhancement Fund as (c)(3) organization and Association as (c)(6). Is that correct? **Ver Steeg** – The (c)(3) is set aside for tax purposes so people can claim contributions on their taxes and cannot lobby and (c)(6) allows the Midwest Association to lobby. **Hansen** – The contributing member status sets categories and also waives the affiliate fee to those organizations. **Hoskins** – On page 8, we are saying we will assess the technical working groups every two years and decide whether to keep those? **Torgerson** – You assigned that to me because groups weren't very active, so we assigned a director/liaison and they are much more active. This automatically gets this Association to look at these committees and either pump life into them or do away with them if they are not very active. Makes us take a conscious look at them. **Hansen** – There needs to be formal action to reinstate those committees. **Motion carried. Torgerson** – We discussed complimentary registration in ExCom meeting on Sunday. It is up to the host state at this time so we felt it should be consistent from state to state.

The ExCom adopted a policy of donations of \$2,000 or up would get one complimentary registration and we are going to create an annual meeting planning guide. *Hansen* – Policy is not the right word, but meeting planning operations manual. This is because of the desirability of consistency from one year to the next and we arrived at the recommended procedure of allowing the one complimentary registration. We argued from one end to the other, none or more than one.

10. Approval of Affiliate Members – *Ollie Torgerson, Coordinator, MAFWA* – We have three affiliate applications up for your review: ECO Associates – Ray Evans; DJ Case and Associates – Dave Case; and The Outdoor Channel – Chris Chaffin. **Keith Sexson, Kansas moved to accept all three affiliates, Glen Salmon, Indiana second.** *Evans* - Carol authorized me to write the letter. **Motion carried.** *Torgerson* – Also, the U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance will automatically become an affiliate due to their contribution. We are up to 20 affiliates and we will get some more. It would be nice to list our affiliates in the program in the future and I will suggest this to Wisconsin.

Hansen – Thanked George for all of the hard work he put into the meeting. George got sponsors and worked with the hotel staff and made a good presentation on mountain lions too.

MAFWA Business Meeting

11. Old Business - *None*

12. New Business

Hansen – The issue of funding for Ollie’s position came up for review. We hired Ollie two years ago and we have a contract with Ollie, we pay \$33,000 for 1,000 hours and pay travel. The 1,000 hour limitation has worked, last year he was a little over and first year a little under. How do we continue to pay was our question, we want him to continue because we have grown and prospered. In the past we used an assessment of \$1,500 per state and interest from the CDs, now bonds, and that was a two-year arrangement and we have to decide if we want to continue that. A subcommittee looked at that and it is their recommendation to continue with that arrangement. If we continue with the \$1,500 assessment, funds from Jaschek fund, and knowing that we will increase money from sponsors and possibly from grants from the USFWS we feel we can continue as we have in the past. *Torgerson* – We have asked USFWS Regions 3 and 6 each for \$5,000 a year, or \$10,000 total a year. *Hansen* – Our recommendation is to continue this for a two-year period and look at this as interim funding, we think that during that period of time we need to look at other funding means so this \$1,500 assessment doesn’t become institutionalized as standard dues. It was inappropriate of us to decide for another ExCom for two years from now. There is a built in 5 percent increase in Ollie’s contract and we need to continue that as well. **Steve Gray, Ohio moved, Mike Conlin, Illinois second.** *Gray* – We need to continue to acknowledge and thank the contributions of Wisconsin and Missouri with Ollie’s position. *Amack* – We need to amend that and add Kansas because of the help of Sheila Kemmis and Joe Kramer. *Sexson* – There was a 5 percent increase in salary, but no increase in travel? *Torgerson* – Actually there was \$2,000 travel increase in my proposal. That would make the total for next year \$42,000 which includes \$7,000 in travel. There were several places I did not go this year because I ran out of travel money and I was over this year by a little over \$200. *Hansen* – We did not discuss that travel in our subcommittee, so we need to separate that in a different discussion. **Motion carries for just salary.**

Hansen – On travel, in the absence of a recommendation I don't know if it is appropriate to vote on that at this meeting. **Salmon** – The first travel budget was just a guess, if we feel we need that money and it is obvious that he missed some important trips I think we should pass this. **Glen Salmon, Indiana moved to increase the travel budget to \$7,000, Becky Humphries, Michigan second.** **Hansen** – We didn't approve every trip. **Torgerson** – It is in my work objectives to go to this meeting, the AFWA meeting, and the North American and visit new directors. The first year I was just under \$5,000 and this year a little over. **Hansen** – There was one situation where Ollie consulted with me where he was invited and we decided he shouldn't go. As far as control it is up to Ollie and the President to decide that. **Schad** – As far as a new director it was great for me to have him visit and meet me and bring me up to speed. **Torgerson** – John Baughman and I have coordinated meetings with new directors, but I don't know if Matt Hogan will be able to go. At John Baughman's suggestion, maybe one of the directors of a neighboring state can come and welcome them if Hogan can't participate. The one/two punch has worked very well. I met with Becky Humphries, Scott Hassett, Joel Brunsvold and David Schad, one-on-one. Scott, you might call Jon Gassett and see why he wasn't here. I met with him also. I would like to continue that because it helps us build and maintain strength. **Motion carried.** **Ver Steeg** – In the ExCom meeting or next summer in the business meeting we need to have a discussion about Ollie's contract before it comes up the following year. That way we can also look at alternative funding. **Hansen** – Maybe we need a subcommittee to be working on that.

Torgerson – A list of items from meeting include one or two of top strategic topics should be put on the agenda for next year; alternative funding, we already talked about that; assigning a NABCI representative, we talked about that; Bruce Knight nomination support letter for Under-Secretary of USDA; and discussion of a possible joint meeting with Association of Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers.

Humphries – Jeff didn't want an individual name for the Bruce's old NRCS position, but a letter supporting the kind of individual we would like in that position.

Zekor – On alternative funding, we could get together a couple representatives who are already working on this and put together a white paper that would define alternative funding for all of the Associations and justification for dedicated funding source to use as a guide document for state's to take back to their state to give to their legislature. **Hansen** – We should discuss that at next year's meeting. **Zekor** – Yes, something you could tailor to fit your needs on how to communicate to your folks. **Hansen** – If I understand Dan right he is willing to work on that (David Schad, MN and Ken Herring, IA volunteered and Scott Hassett, WI volunteered one of his staff, possibly Laurie Osterndorf to work with Dan Zekor, MO).

Torgerson – Other hot topics were the farm bill and invasive species. Do you want to put in strategic language on any of these as well as dedicated funding? **Hassett** – On the invasive species issue, there is a fair amount of interaction already in our staffs, one example is ash borer, and maybe there are other issues unique to the Midwest. I think everyone might want to know more about interaction between our agencies and data available in terms of communicating or action plans already in place. Like Asian carp coming up the Mississippi, and other waters, and trying to get funding for these kinds of things. **Hansen** – In result of a multi-state grant covering invasive species, the Fish and Wildlife Resource Committee that I chair, decided to more effectively communicate between the states, and put together a steering committee to continue the effort by having a symposium or workshop in conjunction with the North American in March, specific to aquatic species. **Torgerson** – Another multi-state grant on invasive species

suggested we come up with a committee in this Association and we did not form one and several states have put on invasive species coordinators. The Committee is asking for a statewide invasive species implementation plan. The Midwest Association never did form a wildlife diversity committee, and Jeff knows the history on that. Maybe we want to form an Invasive Species Committee in this Association. **Hansen** – It is hard to get your arms around some of these.

Sexson – I like the 4-minute drill and we got into the funding thing, but it was very informal and I think it makes sense to do 4-minute drills and then come up with topics for next year in panel discussions or presentations and then come back with specifics. I liked the variety of things that were presented on Tuesday and we should leave room for partner reports. Some of us weren't ready to engage in the funding issue, but I think it is important. **Hansen** – There is the danger of selecting too many things, but it is good to have discussion from previous meetings, but need to limit scope to one or two topics. **Hoskins** – How are we going to use what we learned here in the 4-minute drill? Could the coordinator come up with a synopsis of what we all talked about in the 4-minute drill and share them with the host state for them to come up with what they want to put on the agenda.

Torgerson – Do we need a liaison to NABCI? Bruce asked us to do that and we approved the resolution he suggested and suggested that a bird specialist be appointed in each state. **Hansen** – Hearing no recommendations. I feel we could do that through our states. **Salmon** – I think those discussions are for us to go back to our own states to see if we are doing all we can do.

Torgerson – The position that Bruce Knight is being nominated for, do we want to send a support letter on the type of person we want? **Herring** – It is to weigh-in on the kind of person we want to replace Bruce. We will draft a letter to go to Ollie for signature by the President.

Becky Humphries, Michigan moved to have a letter drafted and sent to Ollie for the President's signature, Rex Amack, Nebraska second. Motion carried.

Torgerson – Should we meet in conjunction with AMFGLEO? It would have to be 2008 or later because their next meeting is set already. **Keyser** – There are about 40 people that attend who represent the states and about 20 other people. **Rostvet** – Maybe Emmett could speak on the advantages it would be for their group. **Keyser** – The difference among chiefs and the Western LE committee is there is a hierarchy of staff who are granted travel approval and LE slides down the line. A positive one point is they try to meet every other year and then have a workshop and meet at the larger Western meeting. The group was formed in 1944, but we all know who we work for and we discussed this in the LE committee of AFWA. We have workshops and we welcome directors to appear there. **Hansen** – I don't know if we need formal a decision.

Humphries – I think it is a good idea. We have expressed an interest in terms of forming a closer relationship with that group. We have gotten better reports and they hosted the hospitality room. Maybe we might not meet together, but at the same time and have a social together. **Becky Humphries, Michigan moved to hold a meeting in conjunction with AMFGLEO, second by Mike Conlin, Illinois.**

Hoskins – Who will host the meeting in 2008? **Hansen** – Colorado. That will have a big impact on this, but that could double the size if we combine that meeting. Don't know if you are flexible enough to change your meeting to be at the same time and place as ours. **Hoskins** – That will take some coordination between Ollie, the President and their group. **Rostvet** – The question came up a few days ago, why don't we have more people here? All committees could meet here and you could end up with one the size of the Western. It is a crossroads for this group. You have just basically directors and hear reports from committees or a mega meeting with committees, your choice. We need to ask ourselves the question, is it beneficial to have them meet here or separate? Do we make the conference to grow and grow or what? **Amack** – I attended the Western in Alberta, Canada and AMFGLEO met with us there and it does bring up

the issue of multiple staff. To build off what Roger is saying, the interaction of directors is nothing like this meeting it is more like the AFWA. They don't have the spontaneity of hot topics it is very controlled and the ambiance is very different than here. **Herring** – One thought was combining the public lands and private lands and getting those two groups together and we could achieve something if LE met with other groups. **Hansen** – They are a separate Association. **Torgerson** – They are in our by-laws now. **Hoskins** – I like what we have here in many respects, what we need is a closer connectivity with these groups that meet. We have the same problem in the SEAFWA and it is the same debate and the same argument. AMFGLEO has not wanted to meet with us in the past. **Humphries** – I think they are reaching out and that is a positive step and not equating it to changing our meeting, but have separate meetings during the day and then meeting together in the evening. I was thinking of one meeting and then see if we want to meet down the road again. **Salmon** – This would need prior planning. Not sure we need to make a decision today, like Becky said about meeting jointly, but separately is a good point. I would not like to see this meeting get any larger. This is what we have dreamed of for years and the format we have here is great, but we could meet concurrently with another group. Humphries – Let's leave it to Ollie's discretion as to when we meet. **Ver Steeg** – I think we should do it after 2008, so the meeting is in the central Midwest and not Colorado. **Humphries – I add that to my motion. Motion carried.**

13. "Symbolic" Passing of the Gavel (Doug Hansen, South Dakota passed the gavel to Scott Hassett, Wisconsin)

Hansen – I recognized George earlier and now I want to thank Emmett and Larry who were very instrumental in pulling this meeting off. Larry put together the program and Emmett did the hospitality room and was in on the planning. I also would like to thank Ollie. I have been President of this organization twice and we didn't have a Coordinator the first time and the Midwest didn't amount to too much my first time. We have really come a long way since then and I appreciate what Glen said, the Midwest has become what we want it to be. **Torgerson** – We owe it to the Directors who make the commitment to come here. According to the bylaws, our president does serve for 30 days after the AFWA meeting.

Hassett – With elections this fall, I hope I will be there to welcome you to Wisconsin next year. I will work with Ollie on what you want on the agenda for next year. Alternative funding and possibly invasive species will be on there. We had an interesting discussion on public lands and user conflict and you have to balance all interests in a master plan, so I would be interested in knowing how you feel about that. We have to search for issues that are unique to us in the Midwest. I have handed out a brochure on Minocqua where we plan to hold next year's meeting. We have 15,000 lakes in Wisconsin and 1,500 of them are in the county surrounding Minocqua. We are planning events on the water, either side events or maybe some fishing opportunities. It is kind of touristy there, but you don't have to get far away to see some beautiful country.

Mike Conlin, Illinois moved to adjourn and Keith Sexson, Kansas second. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

