



National Grants Committee Meeting
Glenn Normandeau (NH) - Chair
Sara Parker Pauley (MO) – Vice Chair

September 23, 2019
10:00AM – 12:00 PM

ASSOCIATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES
109TH ANNUAL MEETING
InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront Hotel
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Meeting convened at 10:15 AM by Glenn Normandeau. 30 participants attended, and all current Committee members:

- Glenn Normandeau (Chair)
- Cathy Sparks (Member)
- Dale Garner (Member)
- Gordon Myers (Member)
- Kelly Hepler (Member)
- Tony Wasley (Member)
- Sara Parker Pauley (Member)
- Bryan Burhans (Member)

Scheduled Discussion Items

- Call to Order, Introductions, Announcements, and Agenda Review

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM. The Committee Chair, Glenn Normandeau welcomed attendees and asked the participants to introduce themselves.

- Approval of the September 2019 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from the September 2019 meeting were approved.

- Update on 2020 MultiState Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP) Cycle – Paul Rauch
 - Update on Available Funds for 2020 Multistate Conservation Grant Program Cycle

WSFR gave an update on the status of 2019 MSCGP grants.

- \$3 million is allocated each year from both Wildlife Restoration (WR) and Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) for Multistate Conservation Program Grants.
 - After sequestration for 2020, sequestration return from 2018, and recoveries, there will be approximately \$3.3 million available from WR and \$3.63 million available from SF.
 - 39 grants recommended by AFWA were approved by and awarded.
- 2022 National Survey Update and Cash Flow – John Lord

AFWA Executive Committee will vote to approve the vendor to implement the National Survey for 2022. Provisionally, till that happens, we have subtracted cash from the MSCGP in order to pay for the years that survey will be more expensive.

E.g. looking through the vendor's proposal for next year they request \$670K which is easy but the following year they are requesting about \$5M which would use up almost all funds from MSCGP. We have been working with WSFR to make sure we comply with federal regulations, so will cashflow that out starting 2020. So, therefore available funding for this year will be roughly \$ 700,000 less than what Paul mentioned. We did that administratively once the numbers were available so the National Grants Committee members were not aware of those numbers when they were reviewing the proposals and we have not finalized those numbers so Grants Committee has flexibility if some proposals ranked high and they would like to fund.

G. Normandeau - All that flexibility means that there will be more proposals funded this year but less for next cycle.

- Review of Full Grant Proposals (FGP) and Finalization of Priority List

16 NCNs were approved for this cycle, 63 Letters of Intent (LOIs) were submitted and 48 LOIs were selected for Full Proposal submission. The Wildlife Restoration (WR) funding and Sport Fishing Restoration requested for Full Proposals exceeded the amount available.

NGC committee members discussed on taking the opportunity on flexibility for the National Survey cash flow and recommend more proposals for the priority list for 2020.

Speaking of integrity of the process, there is a lot of work involved with reviewing these proposals. This year it started with 63 LOIs and after that 48 full proposals. There are times when committee members don't feel qualified to make the calls.

The Grants Committee voted to move 38 Full Grant Proposals to the recommended Priority List for the Director's approval.

- Update on President's Task Force – Glenn Normandeau
 - Recommendations for Administrative Changes

After this year's review process, Sara Pauley and Kelly Hepler reached out to President Ed Carter and Ron Regan for a review of the management of MSCGP. President Ed Carter established the Task Force to review current procedures and make recommendations for future administration of MSCGP keeping with statutory requirements for Program

administration. Increasing numbers of LOIs, plus the potential for substantive new dollars targeted at R3, the timing was right for such a review.

The Task Force had a lot of discussions and there is a lot more to be done. It will take more time to have a process that's not only efficient but also more inclusive.

- 2022 National Survey Update – John Lord/Steve Sheriff

The National Survey Technical WorkGroup recommended a vendor to Executive Committee to implement 2022 National Survey which will be reviewed at Executive Committee meeting later today. This was a lengthy process.

At its 2018 spring meeting, the AFWA President and Executive Committee commissioned the President's Task Force of a Vision for A Next generation National Survey. Their charge was to develop a new vision and thematic focus for the next National Survey, and to provide guidance on the absolute necessary national data to be collected and reported on. As the result of this, the Task force recommended:

1. Simplification of survey
2. High-level data for participation and expenditures
3. Prioritizing national-level results
4. Comparability with previous surveys not critical
5. Consideration of increased frequency of data collection and reporting
6. Attention to total cost of the project

- Review Committee Charge

A draft on NGC Committee Charge was introduced. Some of the items might change subject to the future recommendations for MSCGP process changes.

- 2021 AFWA Strategic Plan – John Lord

AFWA current Strategic Plan expires at the end of 2020. We are still trying to figure out the process. Some of feedback from previous process includes:

- We didn't involve enough constituents in the beginning of the process
- The work plans that staff prepares don't line up with strategic planning

We have been collecting feedback and what we think we will do, we will ask every AFWA committee to give input on what they think Strategic Planning should look like, specifically,

- What strategic objective, that is related to this committee's work, would you like to see in AFWA's next strategic plan?
- How would you like to see the work of this committee reflected in the next Strategic Plan? What would you change from the current plan?

- Wrap-up Discussion

Question: What avenues exist out there for us as partners to give the feedback to AFWA?

In the current process the partners are involved at LOI review process through AFWA committee. The Task Force has an industry representative - Dan Forester - currently involved who is soliciting feedback to incorporate in the process.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.