

The AFWA Strategist

Update for Members and Partners of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

Fall 2018

2018-2019 AFWA Officers & Executive Committee



Ed Carter, Executive Director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, as its new president during AFWA's 108th Annual Meeting in Tampa, Florida. The full slate of officers and Executive Committee members include:

2018-2019 AFWA Officers & Executive Committee

Officers:

President: Ed Carter (TN)
Vice President: Glenn Normandeau (NH)
Secretary/Treasurer: Gordon Myers (NC)
Past President: Virgil Moore (ID)

Executive Committee:

Chair: Bob Broscheid (CO) Vice Chair: Sara Parker Pauley (MO)

Members:

Jim Douglas (NE) Kelly Hepler (SD)
Mark Reiter (IN) Carter Smith (TX)
Cathy Sparks (RI) Tony Wasley (NV)

Ex Officio Voting Members:

Canada: Travis Ripley (AB) Midwest: Mike Miller (OH)
Northeast: James Connelly (ME) Southeast: Chuck Sykes (AL)
Western: Curt Melcher (OR)

The 36 Fellows of Cohort 13 will begin their intensive 8-month training experience at the National Conservation Training Center in October 2018. They will join an ever-growing network of more than 420 professionals who have come together from conservation organizations across the nation to further develop their leadership capacity through the NCLI experience.



Save the date...

109th AFWA Annual Meeting
Saint Paul, Minnesota
September 22-25, 2019

www.fishwildlife.org



Legislative Updates

Water Resources Bill Sent to President—On October 10, the Senate passed S. 3021, America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA), which goes to the President for enactment. AWIA includes many provisions of interest including expanding research on aquatic invasive species; watercraft inspection stations; expedites FWS processing of permits for take of predatory birds when a conflict is present; directs the ACOE to consider natural and nature-based infrastructure options in water resource projects.

Endangered Species Act Amendment Discussions Continue—The Senate EPW held roundtable discussions on Chairman Barrasso's (WY) draft ESA amendments. AFWA President Ed Carter discussed the benefits of enhancing states' roles in ESA implementation. The House Committee on Natural Resources passed a package of ESA amendments on

Senate Passes Tribal Self-Governance Bill by UC—On October 2 right before the Senate recessed, they passed by unanimous consent and voice vote S2515, the "Practical Reforms and Other Goals To Reinforce the Effectiveness of Self-Governance and Self-Determination for Indian Tribes Act of 2018" or the "PROGRESS for Indian Tribes Act." This is a modified version of S286 that AFWA opposed and raised great concerns with in the 114th Congress. S2515 is mostly the result of language that was mediated by House staff between AFWA and some tribal interests in the 114th Congress, with some tweaks from the Senate but AFWA staff are still conducting a throughout review. However, there were several important outstanding questions that were directed to legislative counsel but never answered with regards to the draft compromise language that led to S2515, including impacts to states' authority and DOI programs, unconstitutional delegation of authority, among others. If your agency has experience with Tribal law, AFWA staff request your assistance with this issue.

Farm Bill Stand-Off—The 2014 Farm Bill expired on September 30, but negotiations and the chance of enactment this year hinges on mid-term election results and who will control the House next Congress. It appears that at least the following issues are still under negotiations: EQIP/CSP merger (or not), CRP, SNAP, some commodity title provisions, energy provisions, and crop insurance funding.

Founded in 1902, the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies represents North America's fish and wildlife agencies to advance science-based management and conservation of species and their habitats for the public's long-term benefit and use.



2018 Annual Awards

Keith Sexson received AFWA's top honor, the **Seth Gordon Award** for lifetime achievement in conserving North America's natural resources in the public trust and contributing to the programs of the Association.

Bruce Culpepper received AFWA's **John L. Morris Award** which recognizes a lifetime commitment to fish and wildlife stewardship by citizen conservationists.

Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study received AFWA's **Earnest Thompson Seton Award** for leadership in scientific management.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is the recipient of this year's **Boone and Crockett Club Award**, which honors an agency and team leader for outstanding achievement in promoting and encouraging outdoor ethics.

Devin DeMario with AFWA received the **Mark Reeff Memorial Award** for the outstanding young wildlife management professional under age 35.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Division of Law Enforcement was selected for the **Conservation Law Enforcement Award**.

This year's recipient of AFWA's **Private Lands Fish and Wildlife Stewardship Award** is **Dr. Kent Forney** and the **Forney Ranch** for their proactive conservation and environmental practices and exhibiting outstanding stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.

Finally, the Association presented three special recognition awards for outstanding commitment to the work of AFWA to **Dr. Stephen Torbit**, the **Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery Program**, and **Congressman Jeff Fortenberry** and **Congresswoman Debbie Dingell**.

Recovering America's Wildlife Act- Update

We are excited to announce that the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R.4647) has broken the triple digit mark for cosponsors in the House, and currently has 110 cosponsors. We may see a few additional cosponsors during the remainder of the year, but since the last full day of the legislative session for the House of Representatives before mid-term elections has now passed, we'll look forward to advancing the bill after the mid-terms. They'll come back after elections in November and work on wrapping up any unfinished business in what is called the "lame duck" session. We will continue to keep you apprised of the upcoming opportunities to advance the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) then in both House and Senate. There is some good movement on the Senate side with attention being placed on broader natural resource and spending measures and carving out a place for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act in those discussions. Currently there are 6 cosponsors on the Senate version of RAWA (S. 3223). On Wednesday, October 10th in the Senate's Environment and Public Works committee, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act was mentioned in a hearing on successful state fish and wildlife conservation as an important next step to providing states with sustainable resources to address their fish and wildlife conservation and management challenges. We will continue to work toward advancing the legislation in the Senate and look for opportunities to continue to elevate the importance of getting RAWA done this Congress.

Check our Alliance page on the AFWA site for updated campaign resources including fact sheets, Alliance member lists and membership sign-up form, FAQs, and much more. And as always, please contact Sean Saville, our Campaign Manager with any questions; ssaville@fishwildlife.org or (202) 838-2561. Thank you for your continued support and partnership

International Updates

The CITES Technical Work Group represented the state fish and wildlife agencies and where applicable the Provinces and Territories at the 30th Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Animals Committee and the Joint Meeting held with the 24th Plants Committee. They engaged on many critical issues including American eel, snake, coral, paddlefish, and turtle conservation; sustainable use of wildlife; the CITES Vision for the next 5 years; and traceability of wildlife in trade. [A meeting report is available here](#). Members of the Work Group also attended the CITES Standing Committee October 1-5 and acted on a number of important policy issues.

Fish and Wildlife Relevancy Roadmap

Work is progressing on development of the roadmap to fish and wildlife relevancy. Five strategy teams will be refining barriers and developing strategies that will be reviewed by agency directors at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference next March. The roadmap is expected to be completed by September AFWA annual in September. Tony Wasley and Steve Williams are leading the effort.

Business Meeting Resolutions

AFWA's voting membership passed seven resolutions during its September 12th Business Meeting:

- **FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCY RELEVANCY**
- **IN SUPPORT OF THE AFWA BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR THE PREVENTION, SURVEILLANCE, AND MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE**
- **CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE COUNCIL TO ADVANCE HUNTING AND THE SHOOTING SPORTS THROUGH 2020**
- **PARTNERSHIP RESOLUTION BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES AND THE DIVERSITY JOINT VENTURE**
- **TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION BY AFWA MEMBERS IN THE 2019 JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY AND THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**
- **FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AT LANDSCAPE SCALES**
- **IN APPRECIATION OF THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR HOSTING THE AFWA ANNUAL MEETING AT THE TAMPA MARRIOTT WATERSIDE HOTEL IN TAMPA, FLORIDA SEPTEMBER 9-12-2018** that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies extends its deep appreciation to Executive Director Sutton, and his staff, for hosting the 108th Annual Meeting.

Full resolution text can be found:

<https://www.fishwildlife.org/landing/blog/state-fish-wildlife-agency-directors-pass-seven-resolutions-afwas-2018-annual-meeting>