



National Grants Committee Meeting

Virgil Moore (ID) - Chair
Glenn Normandeau (NH) - Vice Chair

September 11, 2017
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Snowbird, Utah

Meeting convened at 3:00 PM chaired by Glenn Normandeau. 26 participants were in attendance, including 6 (out of 8) current Committee members:

- Virgil Moore (Chair)
- Glenn Normandeau (Vice Chair)
- Jack Buckley (Member)
- Tony Wasley (Member)
- John Arway
- Dale Garner

Scheduled Discussion Items

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM. The Committee Vice Chair, Glenn Normandeau welcomed attendees and asked the participants to introduce themselves.

- Approval of the March 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from the 2017 meeting in Spokane were approved.

- WSFR Updates
 - Update on Available Budget for 2018 MultiState Conservation Grants Program (MSCGP) Cycle

Christy Vigfusson from WSFR gave an update on the available funding for the 2018 MultiState Conservation Grants Program Cycle. Every year \$3,000,000 are allocated from SportFish Restoration and \$3,000,000 from Wildlife Restoration are allocated to MultiState Conservation Grants Program. For this year after the recoveries and sequester returns from 2017 as well as funds needed for the National Survey, \$2,806,385 is available for funding the 2018 MSCGP Cycle Grants.

- Update on \$100K+ Grants Approval

The April 19, 2017 secretarial memorandum on “Managing Grants, Cooperative Agreements and Other Significant Decisions” which instated a review of grants over \$100K will continue into 2018 Fiscal Year. This memorandum affected only two MSCGP Grants before, on June 13, 2017, FWS received an exemption for WSFR grants.

- Other

The National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation Preliminary Report has been released. The final report is scheduled to release in December.

In 2017, the National Survey Technical WorkGroup recruited independent experts to form an independent evaluation team, which will work in conjunction with the work group evaluating the methodologies used for the 2016 National Survey and using the evaluation of the 2016 survey to guide the 2021 survey. The recommendations are expected by January 2018.

- The committee discussed the Full Grant Proposal scores. Twenty Proposals were submitted for the 2018 Multistate Conservation Grants cycle. Discussion focused on how many grants should move forward. The quality of the submitted proposals made scoring harder this year as they all addressed important National Conservation needs. The updated guidelines for NCNs, LOIs, FGPs and scoring criteria made a big difference in the quality of proposals we received this year.

The committee members voted to approve 18 Full Grant Proposals. (See the attachment).

- AFWA Funding Principles related to MultiState Conservation Grants

Two years ago, the Association completed a Business Plan, which included weaning the Association off MSCGP funding for permanent staff. We are about 80-90% done with that process. This was done intentionally to free funds for on-the-ground conservation.

Increased State Dues replaced those funds and 45 states paid those dues.

- Committee Work Plan Update for 2017-2018

No updates or changes from the members.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45PM.

Action Items

- Contact NC State University for an adjustment in their budget to justify the fund shortage