Frequently Asked Questions

When was the first Commission Guidebook written?
The idea for developing a Commission Guidebook came from a meeting of agency Directors, Commissioners and staff in 1995. The first edition was published in 1998.

Who is the Guidebook for?
The Guidebook is for agency Directors and staff to use to help on-board new Commissioners and is a resource for seasoned Commissioners about their roles and responsibilities on a state fish and wildlife Commission or Board.

Are hard copies available?
No. This is a digital document on the AFWA website at: (insert link). Since it is digital it can be updated or corrected very quickly. It can be downloaded and printed on your local printer.

Who wrote the Guidebook?
The 2022 edition of the Commission Guidebook was written by the staff of the Wildlife Management Institute.

I have additional questions. Who can I contact?
Questions from Commissioners should be directed towards the agency Director or point of contact. Questions from Directors or agency staff should be directed to the Management Assistance Team.

How often will the Guidebook be updated?
There is not an established schedule for updating the Guidebook. If you find material in the Guidebook that needs to be updated, please contact the AFWA Management Assistance Team.

Can the guidebook be customized to my state?
Yes. In the Additional Resources section of the Guidebook there are some suggestions for customizing the Guidebook for your state agency.

Do I have to use the Guidebook?
No. Many states have an established on-boarding process that works for them in their context. This is an additional resource.

How long is the 2022 edition?
The 2022 edition of the Commission Guidebook is 21 pages, plus an additional 25 pages of additional resources.