



The voice of fish and wildlife agencies

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National Grants Committee Report

Chair: Glenn Normandeau
Meeting of September 10, 2018
Tampa, Florida

Committee Charge

Meeting convened during 10:10AM – 11:00AM EST chaired by Tony Wasley. 20 participants in attendance, including 5 (out of 8) current Committee members:

- Bob Broscheid
- Bryan Burhans
- Dale Graner
- Cathy Sparks
- Tony Wasley

Scheduled Discussion Items

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:10AM. The was meeting Chaired by Tony Wasley, due to Glenn's absence. Tony welcomed all the attendees and asked the participants to introduce themselves.

- Approval of the March 2018 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from March 2018 in Norfolk, VA were approved.

- Review of Full Grant Proposals and Selection of Programs for the National Grants Committee's Priority List

Tony Wasley introduced the participants to the Multistate Conservation Grant Program process, proposals submitted for 2019 cycle as well as the budget for the 2019 cycle. 15 NCNs were approved for this cycle, 55 Letters of Intent (LOIs) were submitted and 41 LOIs were selected for Full Proposal submission. The Wildlife Restoration (WR) funding requested for Full Proposals exceeded the amount available and there was a surplus on the SportFish Restoration (SFR) funding.

Due to the limitations on WR funds only 39 proposals were approved, 38 proposals fully funded, one proposal was partly funded. All proposals requesting SFR Funds were approved.

A discussion followed on how to distribute the surplus SFR funding in this cycle and if there are ways to apply for that funding. The consensus was that timeline would not allow for sufficient time to review those grants and have them go through the same fair process as the other grants.

Tony Wasley suggested on having a responsive mechanism in place in the future, which would be fair and transparent, in case there is a surplus in funding.

AFWA is continuing to reduce the amount of money that comes out of MSCGP for AFWA projects. It was noted that even when funds are awarded to AFWA, those grants typically benefit the states.

- AFWA Committee Review Process of Letters of Intent - Discussion

There is a concern from AFWA committees that the National Grant Committee doesn't take into consideration the technical review that those committees provide.

Background:

Statute states:

Use of submitted priority list of projects

The Secretary of the Interior may make grants under this section only for projects identified on a priority list of wildlife restoration projects described in paragraph (3).

(3) Priority list of projects

A priority list referred to in paragraph (2) is a priority list of wildlife restoration projects that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies--

*(A) prepares through a committee comprised of the heads of State fish and game departments (or their designees), **in consultation with--***

(i) nongovernmental organizations that represent conservation organizations;

(ii) sportsmen organizations; and

(iii) industries that support or promote hunting, trapping, recreational shooting, bow hunting, or archery;

AFWA addresses this requirement through the committees (consisting of above mentioned partners) technical review of LOIs. This is a good chance for NGOs, sportsmen organizations and industries to provide their feedback.

- MultiState Conservation Grant Program New Platform - Discussions following 9 min Presentation

Due to time constraints this topic was skipped.

- Update on 2019 MSCGP Cycle– WSFR

The new administration now requires that all grant awards over \$50K be reviewed by the OS office. This review now has to occur after MSCGP office at WSFR and FWS Director approves the grants. Prior to this, Director's approval only was needed, as it is specified in the Fish and Wildlife Programs Improvement Act of 2000. Department of Interior will continue to review the grants over \$50,000 for the next cycle as well

- New Business

No new business

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00AM