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**National Grants Committee Meeting**

**Glenn Normandeau (NH) ‐ Chair**

**TBD ‐ Vice Chair**

**March 7, 2019**

**10:00AM – 12:00 PM**

**Denver, CO**

Meeting convened at 10:15 AM by Glenn Normandeau. 20 participants attended, including 4 (out of 8) current Committee members:

* Glenn Normandeau (Chair)
* Dale Garner (Member)
* Gordon Myers (Member)
* Tony Wasley (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 2018 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from the September 2018 meeting were approved.

* Review of National Conservation Needs (NCNs) proposals and Selection of NCNs for the National

Sixteen NCNs were submitted for the 2020 Multistate Conservation Grants cycle. Discussion focused on how many NCNs should move forward. The committee discussed the National Conservation Needs (NCN) scores. They referred to a historic trend (attached) of NCN/LOIs/FGP thru 2001-2019. The committee members agreed that all NCNs had merit in addressing the national priorities.

The committee members voted to approve all 16 NCNs. (See attachment).

* Update on AFWA Committee Review Process of Letters of Intent – Tony Wasley

In the last meeting it was recommended to have responsive mechanism in place in future which would be fair and transparent in case there was surplus in funding. Through discussions some of the options suggested included:

1. a second call for proposals, or
2. direct those funds to fund the following year grants.

The committee members agreed that the best way to handle this would be to roll the surplus funds flow to the next year. The first option would not be doable due to time limitations.

* Multistate Conservation Grant Program New Platform - Discussions following 9 min Presentation

A new platform was introduced for 2020 MultiState Conservation Grant Program Cycle. This platform will make the application and scoring process of the grant program more user friendly by facilitating application, monitoring and the review process of the grants. It will allow this plus additional features such as reviewers’ ability to review grants on the go. That will make it possible to review the grants at any time and be able go back and forth in the process as well be able to see where you left off and how much more work you must complete. The new platform was tested by AFWA staff (application and review process) , industry representative and one of the National Grant Committee members before the launch.

The meeting participants and committee members watched a [product demo](https://surveymonkey.wistia.com/medias/ep32ms6cjq) for 9 minutes.

The committee members agreed that this new platform is streamline and improve the process.

* Update on 2019 MSCGP Cycle Grant Review (Oral Report) – Paul Rauch/Bob Curry

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

* + AFWA sent an exemption letter to Department of Interior regarding the Dec. 28, 2017 memorandum from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget establishing a departmental process to review grants of $50,000 to non-profit organizations and universities, as well as grants of $100,000 to applicants including state fish and wildlife agencies. WSFR is hoping they will consider it.

Update: The request was denied

* + As of 3/7/19, 15 grants are awarded, 21 expected to be awarded by 3/21/19 and 3 pending for additional information.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.