# A green and white logo with black text AI-generated content may be incorrect.

# Minutes of the Sustainable Use of Wildlife Committee Meeting

90th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference  
Galt House Hotel – Louisville, Kentucky  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025  
1:15 PM – 3:15 PM (EDT)  
  
Chair: Vacant  
Vice-Chair: Dave Kay (Alberta)  
Acting Chair for this meeting: Gordon Batcheller

## Committee Charge

* Advocate the North American Model of Fish and Wildlife Conservation and promote the sustainable use of fish and wildlife resources at the international level.

## Agenda and Minutes

### Agenda review, adjustments, and opening comments (Gordon Batcheller, Acting Chair)

* Gordon Batcheller opened the meeting at 1:15 PM, welcomed attendees, and thanked members for their participation.  
  - Highlighted the importance of the committee’s mission to advocate for the North American Model of Fish and Wildlife Conservation and promote sustainable use on an international level.  
  - Noted the absence of a permanent chair and thanked Vice-Chair Dave Kay for his continued support.  
  - Emphasized the significance of the upcoming discussions given current challenges in wildlife policy, international trade, and public perception of sustainable use.

### Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting (Gordon Batcheller, Acting Chair)

* The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.  
  - A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.  
  - No corrections or amendments were requested.

### Office of Conservation Investment; update on National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation Addendum Reports (Tom Decker, USFWS)

* Tom provided an update on the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation Addendum Reports.  
  - Reports will offer deeper insights into trends related to participation in hunting, fishing, and wildlife recreation.  
  - These data will help inform agency decisions and funding allocations under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.  
  - A timeline for release of the addendum reports was provided, with expected publication later in 2025.  
  - Committee members discussed ways to integrate these data into ongoing multistate grant projects and communications initiatives.  
  Key Outcome: Committee members will receive draft reports for review once available.

### Update on CITES (Deb Hahn, AFWA)

* Deb provided an overview of CITES-related issues relevant to North American wildlife management.  
  - Discussed recent actions at the CITES Standing Committee and preparations for the next Conference of the Parties (CoP).  
  - Noted ongoing discussions about species listings that could impact state and provincial wildlife management authorities, including those related to furbearers and large carnivores.  
  - Highlighted AFWA’s role in coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Canadian and Mexican partners to ensure science-based decisions.  
  Action Item: AFWA will distribute a briefing document summarizing CITES priorities to committee members.

### Update from Conservation Visions (Shane Mahoney)

* Shane shared updates from Conservation Visions, focusing on global initiatives promoting sustainable use as a conservation tool.  
  - Reviewed recent public engagement campaigns emphasizing the cultural and economic value of hunting and trapping.  
  - Discussed partnerships with AFWA and international organizations to combat misinformation about sustainable use.  
  - Provided updates on the Wild Harvest Initiative, including new data on the food contributions of recreational hunting and trapping in North America.

### Safari Club International (Chris Tymeson, Regina Lennox, Bee Frederick)

* Safari Club International (SCI) representatives discussed their current efforts to support sustainable wildlife use.  
  - Legislative updates at both federal and state levels were reviewed, with an emphasis on defending regulated hunting and trapping.  
  - Shared outreach strategies to educate policymakers and the public about the benefits of sustainable use.  
  - Outlined SCI’s collaboration with AFWA and other conservation groups on shared priorities.

### The Louisiana Black Bear Story (Regina Lennox, Maria Davidson)

* Regina Lennox shared the history of Louisiana black bear conservation, from population decline to recovery and delisting from the Endangered Species Act.  
  - Regina highlighted legal and policy aspects of the species’ recovery, including ongoing efforts to ensure habitat protection and population monitoring.  
  - Committee members discussed how the Louisiana black bear case could serve as a model for other species recovery efforts.

### The sustainable use of black bear fur in international trade (Bryant)

* Bryant discussed the role of black bear fur in international trade, emphasizing sustainable practices and regulatory frameworks.  
  - Outlined current demand in global markets and the importance of ensuring legal, traceable, and sustainable trade.  
  - Highlighted the role of CITES tagging requirements in maintaining transparency and preventing illegal trade.  
  - Emphasized the benefits to local economies and conservation programs funded by regulated harvest.

### Current and Future Multistate Grants/Best Management Practices for Trapping Program (Bryant)

* Bryant provided an update on current and future Multistate Conservation Grants related to trapping and furbearer management.  
  - Reported on progress of the Best Management Practices (BMP) for Trapping Program, including ongoing fieldwork across multiple states and recent necropsy evaluations.  
  - Shared details on upcoming grant proposals to expand BMP testing to additional species and improve public communications about humane trapping practices.  
  - Committee discussed potential opportunities for collaboration and additional funding sources.  
  Key Outcome: Members expressed strong support for continuing the BMP program and agreed to explore co-funding opportunities.

### Update: Canadian Trap Testing and Certification Program (Mike O’Brien, Fur Institute of Canada)

* Mike reported on advancements in Canada’s trap testing and certification process.  
  - Reviewed updates to trap performance standards and testing protocols aligned with international humane trapping standards.  
  - Discussed cross-border collaboration with U.S. agencies and organizations to harmonize trapping standards.  
  - Highlighted new research initiatives aimed at improving trap selectivity and reducing non-target captures.  
  Action Item: AFWA and the Fur Institute of Canada will coordinate to share trap testing data and best practices.

## Adjournment

* Acting Chair Gordon Batcheller thanked all presenters and participants for their contributions.  
  - The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.  
  - Gordon encouraged members to continue collaboration through the Sustainable Use of Wildlife Committee and associated working groups, particularly on issues impacting the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.