

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Dean Hildebrand, President – Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

TO: All Members and Interested Parties

RE: July 2004 MAFWA Meeting – First Announcement

DATE: April 16, 2004

Greetings from North Dakota! It will be our pleasure to be your host for the 2004 Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' annual meeting. The meeting will take place at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck beginning on Sunday July 11th and will conclude at noon on Tuesday July 13th. Our department has been working with Association Coordinator Ollie Torgerson to arrange an informative and enjoyable meeting. The following is a preliminary agenda for the meeting. At this time we recommend you do the following:

- 1) Make your hotel reservations at the Radisson Hotel. There is a block of rooms being held under the name of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The room rate is a flat \$65.00 for one, two, three, or four persons. These special rates will be available for meeting participants seven days prior to and seven days after the meeting. Call the Radisson Hotel – Bismarck at 701-255-6000 for reservations or go on line at www.radisson.com using the promotional code MFW.
- 2) Make your airline reservations as soon as possible. There are a limited number of daily arrivals and departures in and out of Bismarck. Bismarck is serviced by both Northwest Airlines (through Minneapolis) and United Airlines (through Denver).
- 3) Complete and send in the attached registration form.

SATURDAY JULY 10th – We anticipate this will be a travel day for most meeting attendees. Some people have expressed interest in coming in early to spend a little extra time in North Dakota. If you wish to arrive in Bismarck before Saturday the 10th we will do our best to arrange for a variety of recreational opportunities. These may include walleye fishing on the Missouri River, a day trip to the historical western town of Medora which is set in the spectacular beauty of the Badlands. Medora is the area where Teddy Roosevelt spent his time in North Dakota and home of the famed Medora Musical. Golf is always an option for those who enjoy a day on the

links. If you are interested in any of these activities or just want to spend some time exploring our state, contact Randy Kreil at (701) 328-6330 or at rkreil@state.nd.us. Please contact Randy before June 1st so we have time to plan for these activities. The Hospitality Room will be in the Presidential Suite (room #903) at the Radisson Hotel and will be open Saturday evening so you can meet and greet friends and acquaintances.

SUNDAY JULY 11th – Radisson Hotel

7:00 am – 8:00am: Executive Committee Breakfast Meeting: Executive Conference Room

8:30 am – noon: Strategic Thinking Session for State Directors and All Partners: Key items to discuss include: how to fund the Coordinator position, the Jasheck Fund, and the Annual Work Plan: Dan Zekor, Facilitator, Rembrandt Room

Noon – 1:15: Lunch – Sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation: Picasso/DaVinci Rooms

1:15 – 5:00: Opening Session: Moderator – Dean Hildebrand, Rembrandt Room

1:15 Welcome to North Dakota - Dean Hildebrand, Director

1:20 Conference Overview – Randy Kreil, Conference Chairman

1:30 State of the International Association – C. Tom Bennett, President, IAFWA

2:00 IAFWA Staff Report – John Baughman, Executive Vice President, IAFWA

2:15 US Fish and Wildlife Service Reports

Steve Williams - Director

Robyn Thorson – Region 3 Director

Ralph Morgenweck – Region 6 Director

3:00 Break

3:20 Partner Session – Dan Zekor, Facilitator

Introduction of New Federal and NGO Partners – Ollie Torgerson

Group Interactive Discussion

5:00 Adjourn

Evening Social & Pitchfork Fondue at Fort Lincoln State Park – Sponsored by Ducks Unlimited

MONDAY JULY 12th – Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center – Washburn, North Dakota

A bus for meeting attendees will depart from the Radisson at 7:30am. We will travel 38 miles up the Missouri River valley to Washburn, North Dakota where we will have our meetings at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center which overlooks the Missouri River. The evening dinner and social will take place at historic Fort Mandan (located 3 miles from the center) where Lewis and Clark spent the winter of 1804. Lunch will be served on the deck of the center and will be sponsored by the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust. The evening dinner and social at Fort Mandan will be sponsored by Pheasants Forever. Spouses and family members can enjoy activities in Bismarck during the day and then be transported to Washburn for the late afternoon and evening festivities. Buses will return the meeting participants and family members to the Radisson after the conclusion of the social and evening event.

The agenda for Monday's meeting is as follows:

Breakfast will be served at 6:45 in the Liberty/Manhattan Rooms prior to departure. Buses will depart from the Radisson Hotel at 7:30 am. The issues session will begin at approximately 8:30 am at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.

Issues Session: Moderator - Randy Kreil, Conference Chairman

CRP in Crisis: this session will feature presentations and discussion concerning the changes looming on the horizon for CRP and the impacts those changes may have on wildlife populations and associated recreational activities. Strategies for dealing with the issue will also be discussed. Tentative speakers will include: Jeff Nelson from Ducks Unlimited; Ron Reynolds – USFWS; Dave Nomsen-Pheasants Forever; Jay Hestbeck – USGS; Doug Johnson – USGS; and others.

Silver Carp Biology and Management – Jerry Rasmussen (MICRA)

Wolves and Mountain Lions: How to deal with large predators in Midwestern states (speakers to be identified)

National Fisheries Habitat Initiative – Doug Hansen (SD)

State Wildlife Grants – Paul Schmidt – USFWS; Dean Hildebrand and Mike McKenna – (NDGFD)

The Missouri River- Yellowstone River Confluence Project: Keith Trego, North Dakota Natural Resources Trust

TUESDAY JULY 13th – Radisson Hotel

6:45 am Breakfast: Picasso/DaVinci Rooms

8:00 am- Noon – MAFWA Business Meeting: Moderator - Dean Hildebrand, Rembrandt Room

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) Approval of 2003 Annual Meeting Minutes
- 3) Treasurers' Report
- 4) Audit Committee Report
- 5) Jaschek Fund Report – Joe Kramer
- 6) Jaschek Guidelines Re-Write Committee Report - Kreil
- 7) Investments Committee – Doug Hansen
- 8) Resolutions Committee – Tim Bremicker
- 9) Awards Committee – Glen Salmon
- 10) Approval of Affiliate Memberships
- 11) MAFWA Coordinator Report
- 12) CITIES Report – Carolyn Caldwell
- 13) Committee Reports – Private Lands, Public Lands, Law Enforcement, NCN, Legal, Fish and Wildlife Health, Deer and Turkey, Prairie Grouse, Pheasant, Furbearers
- 14) Conservation Enhancement Fund Discussion
- 15) Old Business:
- 16) Passing of the Gavel
- 17) New Business: Bylaws Changes – Creation of a Standing Committee; Formal Awards Program; NAWMP/NAWCA – Contributions to Canada and other issues; Preliminary Details for the 2005 Meeting

NOON - Adjourn

We are excited to have the opportunity to host the Midwest Association's 71st annual meeting and in North Dakota. It is our hope that you all can attend and participate in the working sessions and the social events. A final agenda will be sent out in early June. If there is anything we can do to make your trip and stay more enjoyable, please contact conference chairman, Randy Kreil at 701-328-6330 or at rkreil@state.nd.us. We will see you soon! Dean C. Hildebrand, Director, North Dakota Game and Fish Department