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**National Grants Committee Meeting**

**Tony Wasley ‐ Chair**

**Curt Melcher ‐ Vice Chair**

**September 8, 2021**

**1:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST**

Meeting convened at 1:00 PM by Tony Wasley. 72 participants attended, including 7 (out of 8) current Committee members:

* Tony Wasley (Chair)
* Curt Melcher (Vice-Chair)
* J.D Strong (members)
* Bryan Burhans (Member)
* Paul Johansen (Member
* Keith Warnke (Member)
* Colleen Callahan (Member)

**Scheduled Discussion Items**

* Call to Order, Introductions, Announcements, and Agenda Review – ***Tony Wasley***

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM. The Chair welcomed attendees.

* Approval of the March 2021 (NA Conference) Meeting Minutes – ***Tony Wasley***

The Committee approved the meeting minutes from March 2021.

* Multi-year Funding for MSCGP Grants Discussions – ***Tony Wasley***

There have been discussions about the MultiYear funding for the MSCGP grants. In the past, the National Grant Committee approved multi-year funding for grants, but that caused limited funding for other grants in the following years and sometimes to the expense of emerging new priorities. So, the National Grant Committee decided at the time to focus on single-year funding. Recently, there have been requests to reconsider multi-year funding. We recognize the value of multi-year funding. Tony worked on a draft with criteria if the NGC decides to go that way.

The National Grants Committee has convened numerous discussions regarding the potential merits and challenges of obligating multistate conservation grant funds across multiple years. With a growing recognition regarding the potential benefits of multi-year projects, the following draft criteria are presented to advance the discussion. Aside from the five-year obligations towards the national Survey, project proponents are instructed to only apply for one year's funding. The following criteria are for discussion purposes surrounding multi-year proposals.

Multi-year proposals should be considered the exception and held to a high standard. Obligating funds to projects for future years absent an opportunity to review future proposals warrants a high standard competitively. Multi-year proposals will be considered if there is a demonstrated and clearly articulated adherence to the criteria below.

* Inability to complete the outlined work within an annual funding cycle
* Ongoing and continuous efforts for which permanent dedicated capacity is needed
* Merits of the project are broadly supported by technical review teams and the National Grants Committee
* Proposals shall not request funding more than three years in duration
* Annual funding amounts obligated to each year will not be more than 25% of total fund availability by category (WR, SFR, R3) so that adequate funds remain for proposals in subsequent years.
* Previously awarded multi-year obligations will be included as part of the 25% calculation for each year's determination of multi-year fund availability.

*Dave Chanda* – It will be helpful if this is discussed with more Directors and included as a discussion point in one of the Directors' retreats. You will know in advance if some organizations will apply for the multi-year grant, and it would be useful if you give the majority of directors a say on that proposal. Sometimes the Grants Committee has new members/new directors, and they don't always know the history of those grats, so having broader feedback will help them decide.

*Paul Johansen* – What happens with the grants submitted for multi-year funding but not accepted for multi-year, would they be automatically removed from funding even for a single year? Is it all or nothing?

*Tony Wasley* – Maybe we should give the applicant the option if they would be ok with single-year funding if multi-year funding is not available for the year.

***The National Grants Committee approved the proposed criteria for the 2023 MSCGP cycle.***

* Presentation and Discussion of Priorities List for 2022 MultiState Conservation Grant Funding - ***Tony Wasley, Chair***

AFWA staff presented the Draft Priority List as the Technical Review Teams proposed.

J.D brought up the CAHSS proposal, which was submitted for multi-year funding.

The Technical Review Team approved the CAHSS grant for one-year funding only to be fair to other applicants who didn't apply for multi-year funding. The MSCGP has been approving only single-year funding since 2015.

CAHSS misunderstood the criteria and the suggestions to apply for single-year funding, so they submitted a multi-year funding grant.

The National Grants Committee suggested approving the CAHSS proposal for only one year of funding and having the CAHSS apply the following year for the multi-year funding.

***The National Grants Committee approved the Priority List recommendations for the State Directors for the 2022 Multistate Conservation Grant Program***

* WSFR Update – ***Paul Rauch, WSFR***

AFWA and WSFR jointly hosted an R3-MSCGP webinar on February 24. The purpose of the webinar was to increase awareness by Non-Traditional Audiences of Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation grant opportunities. There were over 70 participants in the webinar.

We followed up with a few training sessions on Full Grant Proposals in June and July, where 50 participants attended.

We plan to do more of these in the future.

Paul also focused on the reporting requirement for R3 grants. There is a 10-year report due to Congress as required:

* + Director of the USFWS, shall—
		1. review and evaluate the effects of the funds made available under subparagraph (B) of section 11(a)(1) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act
		2. submit a report describing the results of the review and evaluation under paragraph (1) to—
			1. The Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and
			2. the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

So, this is saying that in 10 years, we need to complete an assessment that focuses on the Return on Investment. This will be challenging, but it will be good to start thinking about a group that might focus on this requirement.

* 2022 National Survey Update – ***Kate Bachtell, NORC***

Kate Bachtell with NORC gave a presentation/updates on NORC work for the 2022 National Survey.

NORC completed the Data Collection for Wave 1 Instrument. This is the status as of September 7, 20221. For the sample we are heavily relying om AmeriSpeak, this is saving costs.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Screener** | **Wave 1** |
| **Angler** |  **Hunter** |  **Wildlife-Watching** |
| **Field Period** | 4/22 - 6/23 | 7/21 - 8/241 | 7/21 - 8/24 | 7/21 - 8/24 |
| **Modes** |    |  |  |  |
| **Sample** | AmeriSpeak panelists, members of AmeriSpeak panelists' households, nonprobability |
| **Completes to Date:** |  |  |  |  |
| **Web** | 7,128 | 1,258 | 1,318 | 3,366 |
| **Telephone** | 181 | 23 | 6 | 79 |
| **Mail Survey** | 225 | 75 | n/a | n/a |
| **TOTAL** | 7,534 | 1,281 | 1,324 | 3,445 |
| **Mean Length:** |  |  |  |  |
| **Web** | 7.3 | 9.6 | 9.7 | 8.6 |
| **Telephone** | 15.1 | 18.4 | 14.9 | 18.2 |
| **Mail Survey** | n/a2 | n/a2 | n/a2 | n/a2 |

**Pilot Screening Weighting**

* ***Separate adjustments for:***
	+ AmeriSpeak sample – nonresponse, population totals for 18+ for various demographic characteristics
	+ Opt-in sample - demographic characteristics
* ***Combined two samples using TrueNorth***
	+ Identify & model variables that predict being in the non-probability sample (via small area model)
	+ Obtain benchmarks to derive TrueNorth weights
* ***Preliminary findings:***
	+ AmeriSpeak FHWW participation rates similar to what Rockville Institute reported
	+ Participation rates from opt-in sample distinct relative to rates estimated using the AmeriSpeak sample
	+ Commercial data = somewhat poor predictors of hunting / fishing; reported data in the screener for participation in an activity was much more predictive of future participation

**Timeline**

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**Preparation for the Main Data Collection**

* Processing state license data

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Example: | CountyName | Anglers | Hunters | Sportspeople |
| Oklahoma | Adair | 9,219 | 8,495 | 9,749 |
|  | Alfalfa | 615 | 484 | 855 |
|  | Atoka | 1,778 | 1,428 | 2,475 |
|  | Beaver | 495 | 432 | 728 |
|  | Beckham | 2,828 | 1,575 | 3,616 |
|  | Blaine | 1,199 | 640 | 1,488 |
|  | Bryan | 4,334 | 2,989 | 5,623 |
|  | Caddo | 2,949 | 1,755 | 3,778 |
|  | Canadian | 13,035 | 6,654 | 15,969 |

* Reviewing pilot data for mode effects – especially mail survey
* Tracking USPS service closely
* Establishing regional managers for coordination across participating states

**State opt-in**

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* Presentation on Prior Year Grant: National Wild Turkey Federation – *Shelby DeVuyst, Center for Conservation Excellence*

*Center for Conservation Excellence*

The CCE seeks to educate current students & legal practitioners on threats to modern conservation efforts including American’s rights to hunt and fish, anti-poaching issues, and the animal rights movement.

The Plan

1. Undergraduate & Graduate Level Education

To maximize the ability to reach the largest number of students, the steady addition of wildlife Law/Policy courses in new states/colleges is imperative. The concept of education in Wildlife Law/Policy is not limited to law colleges existing programs allow for crossover between Law Colleges and, for example, Master’s Programs in Natural Resources (i e Michigan State University of Wyoming)

1. Post-Graduate / Supplemental Education

**Pre-Recorded Videos on Introductory Topics of Wildlife Law -** Communication of principles of wildlife management delivered by Program staff to student organizations, conservation clubs, bar associations, etc. by nonprofit organizations to their members

**Continuing Legal Education Conservation Law Seminar Conservation -** Law will be an online, pre recorded seminar to educate current future practicing attorneys and judges on the realities of wildlife law the applicable statutes that regulate it as opposed to the court of public opinion

1. Professional Opportunities

The final piece of the Conservation Flywheel model adds a practical element to the machine that will attract new partner colleges and new students to the program. The projects associated here are compiling conservation-based internships, externships, careers, and educators

Communication & Outreach

Continuing Legal Education: Conservation Law Seminar – Drawing from the practicing attorneys from the Conservation Law Seminar to teach the Wildlife Law course at their local Law College or Wildlife Policy at an undergrad or Master’s program

**Action Item:**

Approve 2022 (R3 and Traditional) MultiState Conservation Grant Program Priority List

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM