

2005

The 45th Ohio Fish and Wildlife Conference was held on February 4, 2005, at the Fawcett Center, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. The guest speaker was James Earl Kennamer, Senior Vice President for Conservation Programs, National Wild Turkey Federation. His topic was "Implementing Scientific Wildlife Management: Successes, Challenges, and Opportunities."

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Mion. Mike Tonkovich presented the minutes from the 2004 meeting for Secretary Mike Reynolds. Joe Mion presented a financial report for Treasurer Stacy Xenakis, showing a balance of \$6,628.86.

OLD BUSINESS

Program - Program Committee Chairman and President Elect Dave Swanson presented an overview of this year's conference.

Nominations - Luke Miller announced the following election results:

- President - Dave Swanson
- President-Elect - Dave Kohler
- Secretary - Mike Reynolds
- Treasurer - Vacant (see Appendix 1)

Resolutions - Jeff Herrick presented two resolutions:

- Captive Cervids: Carolyn Caldwell penned a resolution to support the Division of Wildlife's efforts to strengthen statutory authority over captive cervids in Ohio. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Luke Miller and seconded by Kendra Wecker. The motion passed.
- Federal Aid Funding: Pat Ruble had written a resolution intended to prevent the loss of Federal Aid funding and the diversion of sportsman's license dollars from the Division of Wildlife. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Dennis Case and seconded by Tim Plageman. The motion passed.

Legislation - Kendra Wecker reported on the following state and federal legislation:

- HB 329 - Sportsman's License Plate bill passed authorizing 4 new wildlife plates to be available July 1, 2005.
- The ODNR has proposed an omnibus bill that will be introduced this spring that will take care of many housekeeping-type items for all the Divisions. In the State budget bill introduced this year, a few items affect the Division

of Wildlife. A proposal was introduced to change youth license requirements from age 15-and-under to age 17-and-under. It will cost Division of Wildlife \$350,000 per year, but benefits of recruiting hunters outweigh costs. Another item in the budget is a proposal requested by nuisance wildlife control operators themselves to require a permit and fee to license nuisance wildlife control operators. It will include training and certification by the Division of Wildlife.

- The United States Sportsman Alliance will hold a legislative reception for sportsman and members of the General Assembly to discuss hunting and fishing issues of concern. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The event will be on February 22 from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Athletic Club in downtown Columbus.

On the federal level:

- Wildlife Grant Program. The Division of Wildlife receives an annual SWG appropriation. It is a great funding source for the Division of Wildlife and it helps fund wildlife diversity projects. The Teaming With Wildlife Coalition, which includes a group from Ohio, will have a rally on March 1 in Washington DC to rally support for State Wildlife Grant funding.

Historian

Allen Lea thanked Gary Ludwig for giving the historian report last year. He reminded everyone to keep sending copies of official correspondence of OFWMA and other items to him for archiving.

Awards

- The 2005 Achievement Award was not given. (see Appendix 2)

NEW BUSINESS

The OFWMA received a donation request of \$300.00 from Steve Gray, Chief of the Division of Wildlife and Director of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The money would offset the cost of hosting the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies annual meeting June 10-13, 2005 in Huron, Ohio. Larry Goedde made a motion to donate funds for the meeting and it was seconded by Scott Hale. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor of the donation.

The OFWMA received a donation request of \$300.00 from Steve Gray, Chief of the Division of Wildlife and Director of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The money would offset the cost of hosting the annual meeting of the Midwest Private Lands Working Group on May 15-18, 2005 in Huron, Ohio. Dave Graham made a motion to donate funds for the meeting and it was seconded by Kendra Wecker. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor of the donation.

Joe Mion pointed out that there is a shortage of candidates to serve as officers and committee chairs. No comments or discussion was generated among the membership.

Jeff Herrick called for a motion to donate \$300 to the United States Sportsman's Alliance. A motion was made to donate \$300 to USSA by John Daugherty and seconded by Allen Lea. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no other new business, Joe Mion passed the gavel to new President Dave Swanson. Dave then presented Joe with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to the OFWMA. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Donna Daniel and seconded by Dave Graham. The motion passed unanimously.