

6 May 2015

Chris,

The discussion with the Directors was much the same as with the Fish Chiefs. Our concerns were listened to and most of the Directors agreed with us that these concerns should be addressed. Bill Hyatt noted that when he was NED President (1994–1995), they had a similar discussion but nothing came of it in subsequent years. I have enclosed the memo that Terra Rentz put together: we gave copies of this memo to the Chiefs and Directors prior to our discussions. Terra Rentz presented most of our argument to the Directors as their meeting started early, I was able to add a few observations about the presentation to the Chiefs and Terra did likewise with her presentation to the Wildlife group. Terra also talked to Cindy Delaney (Delaney Meeting Management that runs the conference) and Cindy agreed with our approach and will help us in the areas that she is responsible for.

Our goal now is to construct a memorandum of understanding that lays out responsibilities for NEAFWA, NED, and the Northeast Section of the Wildlife Society. I have sent out a draft MOU to the officers of NED and NETWS and am waiting for feedback. There are several areas that need specific language (or elimination entirely) that we need to agree on before sending it to our respective Excoms and then NEAFWA. The outcome of the discussions was primarily to have the NED Vice President act as liaison to the Program Committee of the host state: this will allow NED to have some influence on meeting location and time, symposium topics, and arrange for possible workshops. The role of the NED VP will continue in those years when the conference is outside of the NED geographical boundary. The remainder of our suggestions will flow from the Program Committee and Cindy Delaney: one opportunity arose where NED could have used an exhibit space at the conference but with such short notice, and no display on hand, we were not able to use it. This is something we need to work on for next year.

The conflict with the Northeast Natural History Conference may have helped our presentation as many of the NEAFWA officers were unaware of the conference, as was Cindy Delaney, and the fact that costs associated with that conference were about 20% less than NEFWC. I told the two groups that if I was a student, I would be more likely to go to the other conference because of cost. Many of the Directors agreed that costs were too high as many of their state employees could not get funding approval to attend.

The future for NED working with NEAFWA looks better now than it did a few months ago but only time will tell if it can be sustained.