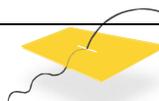


## Meeting Minutes

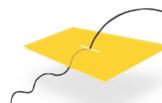
<p><b>Meeting: Joint Federal/State Policy Task Force</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b> April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Omni Interlocken, Broomfield, CO</p>	<p><b>Co-Chairs:</b> Hannibal Bolton Kelly Hepler</p>
<p><b>JTF Members Present:</b> Hannibal Bolton, Kelly Hepler, Tom Barnes, Keith Sexson, Lisa Evans, Steve Guertin, Glen Salmon, Dave Schad, Steve Barton, Joyce Johnson, Mike Piccirilli, Carol Bamberg, John Frampton, Larry Mellinger, John Gasset, John Organ,</p>	<p><b>Facilitator:</b> Joyce Johnson</p>
<p><b>JTF Members Absent:</b> Ken Elowe</p>	<p><b>Scribe:</b> Chad Klinkenberg</p>
<p><b>Guests:</b> Barry Sumners (FAC/TN WR); Steve Robertson (WSFR Chief/R2-SW Region); Anna Schmidt (USFWS/R6-Lakewood); David McGillivary (WSFR Chief/Region 6); Adam Brooks (FA Prgrm Mgr/MT FWP); Paulette Nelson (FAC/NJ DFW); Jim Hodgson (WSFR Chief/Region 3); Paul Vehlow (FAC/IL DNR); John Stafford (FAC/OK DOWC); Laura Richards (WDD Chief/ NV DOW); Steve Klein (WSFR Chief/Region 7); Carl Magnussen (FAC/KS DWP); Fred Caslick (WSFR Chief/Region 1); Sue Detwiler (WSFR Chief/Region 8)</p>	<p><b>Next meeting date:</b> September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Portland, Oregon</p>

### Key Discussion Items:

- 1) Review of JTF Action Items from August 2009 meeting - **Barnes**
- 2) Update on the Excise Tax Working Group and Relationship with Industry – **Bolton/Barton**  
Steve gave a brief overview of the main issues being worked on by this group; highlights of the last meeting (in Arlington, VA) included: Import Duties; Sales Tax on Internet Sales; Outreach and Education; Tax Changes; Motor Boat Registrations.
- 3) License Certification in FY10 – Consistent Regional Guidance – **Barton**  
50 CFR 80, which includes proposed changes to license certification, may not be final by the time the FY10 state license certification is due. The JTF discussed the need for states with different marine and freshwater fisheries licenses to correctly avoid the double counting of license participants.  
  
Discussion led to the formation of a *small working group* to provide states with guidance on license certifications
  - a) Outline license Certification process
  - b) Incorporate any modifications to 50 CFR 80 revisions
  - c) Provide guidance for licenses provided with state funds
  - d) Monitor for possible double counting inland/coastal licenses
  - e) Consequences for inaccurately certifying
  - f) Recommendation to states on what how to incorporate these recommendations
  - g) Enforcement



- 4) Guidelines to address industry requests for excise tax reductions/exemptions (A Working group was formed to provide guidance to AFWA when considering future manufacturer requests for exemptions/reductions – working group will bring final recommendations to AFWA annual meeting) - **Schad**  
Discussion concluded that guidance in formulating recommendation should be directed by AFWA Committee members and not the trade organizations.
- 5) Revenue on Hunting Permits (Some states are including hunting permits as license revenue and some are not. It is important to protect revenue and ensure consistency across regions) - **Hepler**  
Discussion led to the formation of a small working group to look at existing language regarding certifying licenses and how to count permits, access fees etc. of some states and potentially clarify so as to protect state licensing revenue and provide consistency across regions
- 6) Use of Wildlife Restoration (WR) revenue to fund the construction of shooting ranges (sections 4c & 10) - **Johnson/Piccirilli**  
Currently, only Section 4c and Section 10 funds can be used to construct shooting ranges. The main WR funds (section 4a) cannot be used. There is no limit/percentage of the Section 4c and Section 10 funds that can be used for ranges. Issue should be addressed that there is much more WR revenue being created by the shooting sports than by hunting - it is important to remember this when making funds available for shooting range construction - Are distribution of funds proportionate to dollars coming in (i.e. revenue from ammunition, firearms, etc vs. hunting equipment)  
Discussion lead to the formation of a small working group to:  
a) come up with a summary of how states are spending 4c money as wildlife restoration dollars for 4a  
b) Update and improve previous version of Q & A sheet addressing Hunter Ed funding and eligible activities  
c) Clarify/define 'Enhancement' in relation to section 10 funding.  
d) Present any changes in the Q&A's to AFWA and Trust Funds Committee for approval prior to distribution to states
- 7) Receipts collected on federal lands (i.e. FWS Wildlife Refuges) - **Bolton**  
Discussion of such receipts being used by states as "non-fed" match for use in state/fed partnerships concluded that such money is deemed "federally appropriated dollars." Additional information is needed to assist state fish and wildlife agencies to identify as many as possible non-federal matching sources. State fish and wildlife agencies and regional grant manager staff need access to this type of information as soon as possible (see Decision Item 2)
- 8) Need for Policy Guidance – State Agency Participation in catastrophic events (re: license revenue that is not reimbursed with FEMA or similar state funds) - **Piccirilli**  
Draft recommendations for 50 CFR 80 language clarification were rejected by the committee; it was decided that strong enough language already exists to protect states from diversion in cases where state funds/resources are used to aid national disasters
- 9) Increase in State Diversions – Is the FWS-WSFR response adequate/consistent? - **Group**  
Discussion of need for collaboration between Federal Aid Chiefs and States in cases where states are in jeopardy of diversion (in order to construct solutions, or strengthen policy language, to avoid the potential diversion of appropriated state funds.)



**10) Review of JTF Charter – Hepler/Bolton**

Recommendation for the formulation of an ad hoc group to provide technical assistance to JTF was rejected on the basis as minimizing bureaucracy of the task force

Language Change: FWS/AFWA will provide language change for Director and AFWA President approval (See Action Item 1)

- a) Pull out reference to LIP Program
- b) Update membership list
- c) Change “IAFWA” to “AFWA”
- d) Change dollar amounts

**11) Using State Wildlife Restoration apportionments to fund national programs aimed at increasing hunter recruitment and retention (Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports) – Hepler/Frampton**

Glen Salmon brought forward a proposed Grant Template (for the Council’s start-up) to the JTF for review and suggestions for improvements

Discussion of Council start-up and some remaining questions lead to the suggestion for at least one or two states to go forward with the provided grant template in order to work out some of the questions on an actual grant so as to identify and fix procedural issues (collaboration between the NE Region, SE Region and SC DNR)

**12) Climate Change/Adaptation – Status of State/Fed LCC Efforts (Can/should JTF play a role) – Hepler/Frampton/Bolton**

Hannibal gave an overview of the Service’s LCC efforts. After a discussion of the long-term goals of the LCC and present state involvement, it was concluded that JTF should not be involved at this time in LCC’s.

**13) Summary of Small Working Group Meetings**

Small working groups were formed to discuss specific issues brought forth in the morning session of the JTF meeting; there were three working groups established.

*Group 1 & 2* were combined because the main theme for each group is state certification of hunting and fishing licenses.

The group discussed which items constituted a license and how states should not differentiate between permits, licenses, salt or freshwater licenses etc. If states are over/under certifying licenses they are at risk of enforcement either internally or by auditors.

The consequences are as follows:

- a) If the state under-certifies its licenses than they are shorted apportionment of funds for that year – there is no way to be reimbursed for the loss of these funds.
- b) If a state over-certifies licenses USFWS can calculate how much excessive apportionment the given state received for that year and subtract that amount from the following years apportionment. This group concluded that auditors must be trained to take a close look at over certification in order to assure fair and accurate apportionment of WSFR dollars to the states. Also, State Directors need to take a close look at hunting/angling registry prior to this year’s certification deadline to ensure their states compliance. (See Action Item 2)

*Group 3* was formed to explore the methods of states expenditure of section 4 & 10 appropriated funds.

This group concluded that no decisions can be made until data is collected in relation to how states are spending 4c dollars as WSFR. Group will also finalize the section 10 Q&A document for review of JTF members prior to the next meeting. (See Action Items 3 & 4)



**14) Status of Regulation Revisions (50 CFR Parts 80, 83, 85, 86) – Barnes**

Tom gave a brief overview of some of the proposed changes to the regulations (50 CFR 80, 83, 85, and 86) which address several grant programs administered by the WSFR program. A Draft of 80 and proposal to rescind 83 should be published in the Federal Register shortly. Revision of 86, Boating Infrastructure Grants, is almost ready for internal review and should be published by the end of the year. Revision of 85, Clean Vessel Act, is scheduled for next year. Once draft revisions are published there will be a 60 day public comment period before a proposed rule will be finalized. (See Action Item 6)

**15) Update on Service Manual Chapter – Johnson**

Joyce reviewed chapters that are complete, and under review, or chapters that will be published for review shortly.

**16) State Involvement with the new Info Management Tool for State Wildlife Grants – Bolton**

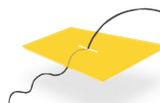
Hannibal gave a background and overview of the new *Tracking, Reporting and Decision Support System* which is being cooperatively developed by WSFR and several State F&W Agencies (through the support of SWG dollars). The need for this system stemmed from the lack of an adequate program reporting and accomplishment database and that the FAIMS database will be obsolete once DOI mandates use of FBMS (Federal Business Management System). A prototype of this new Decision Support System will be presented at AFWA's annual meeting in Michigan this fall. The prototype is being jointly tested by USFWS and Washington State DFW. Other states, such as ID, MT and OR are poised to participate and include their State Wildlife Action Plans in the database.

**17) Proposed Regulations for the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Program, including apportioned, competitive and Tribal sub-programs – Barnes**

Tom explained the previous lack of regulations for the SWG Program and the need to establish them presently. Discussion by the group concluded to wait on discussing regulations until the current Manual Chapter was finalized. The SWG Manual Chapter will be sent for another 30 day review shortly; at which time states/coordinators should address any concerns they might have to the WSFR Policy Division in Washington. If red flags identified cannot be dealt with internally, the issue(s) will be brought to the JTF in September.

**18) 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pittman-Robertson Act – Working together to celebrate this event in 2012 – Bolton/Hepler**

Discussion concluded the importance of using 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a forum to create a greater understanding of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation amongst the general public and those residing outside of the hunting, fishing, and conservation community.

**19) Discussion of how the JTF can better support Regional Chiefs and States – Hepler/Bolton**

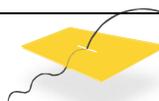
**Decisions Made:**

- 1) JTF Roster and update to be published in AFWA Director's Line – Carol Bambery, AFWA
- 2) USFWS will add both published documents detailing example uses of federal funds as match by the states to WSFR “tool kit” for broader understanding
- 3) USFWS (Washington Office) will create an electronic archive to document all materials relevant to the Joint Task Force
- 4) Amend JTF charter to incorporate the following changes:
  - a) Pull out reference to LIP
  - b) Update membership list
  - c) Change “IAFWA” to “AFWA”
  - d) Change dollar amounts

Additional revisions and additions should be sent to Carol Bambery (See Action Item 1)
- 5) Discussion by the group concluded to wait on discussing regulations until the current Manual Chapter was finalized. The SWG Manual Chapter will be under a 30 day review shortly; at which times states should address any concerns they might have with the WSFR Division in Washington. If red flags cannot be dealt with internally the issue will be brought before the JTF in September.

**Follow up Actions:**

<b>Follow up Actions:</b>	<b>Who:</b>	<b>By when:</b>
1) Committee should provide JTF Charter changes and revisions to Carol Bambery (AFWA)	All JTF Members	May 1st
2) [JTF Working Group 1 & 2] Trust Funds Committee will collaborate with USFWS to formulate an informative, proactive memorandum (to be published in AFWAs Directors Line) regarding angler registry and license certification prior to the next certification deadline.	Trust Funds Committee	Prior to next certification deadline
3) [JTF Working Group 3] Group will come back to JTF in September with an analysis of how states are spending section 4c and section 10 funds	Joyce Johnson, Carol Bambery, Dave Schad	Prior to next JTF Meeting
4) [JTF Working Group 3] Group will complete section 10 Q&A document and distribute to JTF members for revue prior to next JTF meeting	Joyce Johnson, Carol Bambery, Dave Schad	Prior to next JTF meeting

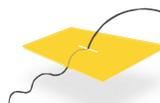


<p><b>5)</b> JTF will reconvene in Portland, Oregon in September</p>	<p>JTF</p>	<p>September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010</p>
<p><b>6)</b> Glen Salmon requested that all meeting members attentively review the proposed regulatory changes and make any necessary additions or revisions within the 60 day comment period.</p>	<p>All JTF meeting participants</p>	<p>Within 60 days of draft revision publication</p>
<p><b>7)</b> All efforts will be made to address any of the states concerns by the WSFR Division (Washington Office) following the 30 day comment period for the SWG Manual Chapter.</p>	<p>USFWS WSFR Division (Washington Office)</p>	<p>Prior to next JTF Meeting</p>

**Committee Reviewed and Approved Minutes and Action Items From Last Two Days**

**Next JTF Meeting Date was decided (See Action Item 5)**

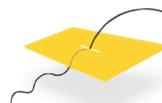
**Adjourn**



Joint Federal/State Policy Task Force  
Omni Interlocken - Broomfield, Colorado  
April 13 and 14, 2010  
-----AGENDA -----

**TUESDAY, JTF-only Session**

8 am Welcome/Introductory Remarks/Agenda Adjustment - Hepler/Bolton  
8:20 Review of JTF Action Items from August 2009 that are not complete -  
Barnes  
8:40 Update on the Excise Tax Working Group and Relationship with Industry -  
Bolton/Barton  
9:00 License Certification in FY10 - Consistent regional guidance re:  
certification - Barton  
9:20 Guidelines to address industry requests re: excise taxes -  
Hepler/Schad  
  
10:00 - BREAK  
  
10:20 Revenue on Hunting permits - Some States include hunting permits  
(turkey, duck, etc) as license revenue and some are not. Need to  
protect revenue and ensure consistency across regions - Hepler  
10:40 HE - Sections 4&10- available funds for shooting range construction  
- Johnson/Piccirilli  
11:00 Need for Policy Guidance - State agency participation in  
catastrophic events - re: license revenue that is NOT reimbursed  
with FEMA or a similar state agency funds - Piccirilli  
11:20 Increase in State Diversions - is the FWS-WSFR response  
adequate/consistent? - Johnson  
  
11:30 - LUNCH  
  
12:30 Review of the JTF Charter and general discussion of any needed  
changes - Hepler/Bolton  
1:00 Summary - and assign identified tasks to Small Groups  
1:20 Small Groups Meet  
  
2:30 - BREAK  
  
3:00 Using Wildlife Restoration funding for national programs to  
increase hunter recruitment and retention (similar to RBFF effort) -  
Hepler/Frampton  
3:20 Climate Change/Adaptation - Status of State and FWS/LCC efforts.  
Can/should the JTF play a role? - Bolton/Hepler  
3:40 Small Groups - Reports and Recommendations  
4:20 Review of JTF Action Items and schedule - Hepler/Bolton  
  
5 pm - ADJOURN



**Joint Federal/State Policy Task Force  
Omni Interlocken - Broomfield, Colorado  
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**WEDNESDAY - JTF/Chiefs/State Reps Session**

8 am Welcome/Introductory Remarks/Agenda Adjustment - Bolton/Hepler  
8:20 Introductions of participants  
8:40 Status of Regulation revisions (50 CFR Parts 80, 83, 85 and 86) -  
Barnes  
9:00 Summary/Discussion of Proposed Draft Rule 50 CFR 80 - Barnes  
9:20 Update on Service Manual Chapters - Johnson  
9:40 State involvement with new Information Management Tool for State  
Wildlife Grants - Bolton  
  
10:00 - BREAK  
  
10:20 Proposed Regulations for the State Wildlife Grant Program, including  
apportioned, competitive and Tribal subprograms - Barnes  
10:40 75th anniversary of PR - working together to celebrate the event in  
2012 - Bolton/Hepler  
11:00 Discussion of how the JTF can better support Regional Chiefs and  
States - Hepler/Bolton  
11:40 Meeting Summary and Review of Action Items  
  
Noon - ADJOURN

