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New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Glenn Normandeau
Executive Director

October 21, 2015

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Requested Action

Authorize the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to pay the Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine Northeast Wildlife Disease Cooperative, (Vendor Code 163424) \$5,000.00, \$2,500.00 annually, in annual membership dues effective the date of Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2017. 100% Other Funds (Game Management Funds).

Funding for this payment is available in the Game Management account, contingent upon availability and continued appropriations for State Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017 as follows:

03 75 75 751520 21580000 – Wildlife Program Management– Game Management

	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>
20-07500-21580000-026-500251 Organizational Dues	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00

Explanation

Wildlife disease surveillance and management is an important and rapidly expanding component of Fish and Game's comprehensive wildlife stewardship mission. Examples of diseases the Department is currently dealing with include rabies, white-nosed syndrome, avian influenza, chronic wasting disease, snake fungal disease, brain worm, and winter tick. Many wildlife diseases have agricultural and human health significance. Like other New England wildlife agencies, Fish and Game lacks the resources to employ disease experts on staff. Instead, the Department relies on outside expertise to guide its disease-related work and activities.

The Northeast Wildlife Disease Cooperative (NWDC) is a recently formed consortium of five veterinary diagnostic laboratories located in the northeastern United States. The NWDC has four main functions: wildlife diagnostics, disease surveillance, education, and facilitation of regional communications regarding wildlife diseases. Membership in the Northeast Wildlife Disease Cooperative avails the Fish and Game Department to the following services: 1) access to diagnostic services through affiliated laboratories (fee-based/reduced-cost); 2) access for staff training at an annual wildlife disease seminar co-designed by the Department; 3) access to regional wildlife disease information through a listserv and via continuous communications from cooperating labs and member partners; 4) access to disease expertise including a field-based wildlife veterinarian, in the form of advice, representation on committees, participation in field assessments meetings, review of documents, and research and surveillance planning. New Hampshire Fish and Game considers this to be a priority partnership that yields significant benefits for our staff, our department and our state.

NWDC annual membership dues are established by Cooperative and are applied equally to all member states.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:

1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?

NWDC was established in 2013 with encouragement from Northeast states. Fish and Game has been a member for the past 2 years.

2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?

No

October 21, 2015

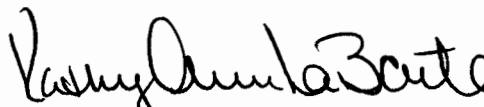
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3. How many other state's belonging to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?
Seven other northeast states are also members. Fish and Game is the only NH member of the coop.
4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)
Dues are established by the NWDC based on their cost projections and in consultation with northeast states. Each state pays the same fee for membership (currently \$2,500 per year).
5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?
*Access to disease expertise from disease experts in cooperating northeast disease laboratories;
Access to a wildlife veterinarian employed by the Cooperative;
Access to a network of disease laboratories at discounted fee levels;
Annual staff training based on expressed state needs;
Participation in a wildlife disease list-serve;
Receipt of a regional disease newsletter;
Receipt of wildlife necropsy kits;
Receipt of wildlife disease fact sheets and information;*
6. Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.
Yes. Dues cover an annual wildlife disease workshop or training for each member state. They also provide Fish and Game with access to educational materials in the form of disease fact sheets.
7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.
No
8. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips.
No
9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.
Fish and Game's Wildlife Division Chief serves as a steering committee member to the NWDC.
10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.
If Fish and Game was not a member of the NWDC, then we would lose the benefits described in #5 above. Of greatest significance would be the loss of annual technical training, the loss of access to diverse wildlife disease expertise, the loss of ready access to a network of laboratories at discounted prices, and the loss of a functioning cooperative network of wildlife expertise. The cooperative is an entity developed to fill a compelling northeast need. Loss of access to the NWDC would be a significant loss to the Department and ultimately, to the northeast region.

Respectfully submitted,



Glenn Normandeau
Executive Director



Kathy Ann LaBonte, Chief
Business Division