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New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Glenn Normandeau
Executive Director

December 31, 2018

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Requested Action

Authorize the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to pay the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine Northeast Wildlife Disease Cooperative, (Vendor Code 252105) annual membership dues, \$2,500 each year for a total of \$5,000, effective upon Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2020. 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 2019 and 2020 as follows:

03 75 75 751520 2158 – Wildlife Program Management– Game Management

		<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020*</u>
20-07500-21580000-026-500251	Organizational Dues	\$2,500	\$2,500
			*Pending Budget Approval

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 and parasites the Department is currently dealing with include rabies, canine distemper, chronic wasting disease (CWD), white-nosed syndrome, avian influenza, 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 and assist in its disease-related work and activities.

The Northeast Wildlife Disease Cooperative (NWDC) is a 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 wildlife disease seminars; 3) access to regional wildlife disease information through a quarterly newsletter, a list-serve and via continuous communications from cooperating labs and member partners; 4) access to disease expertise including a field-based wildlife veterinarian available 24/7, including technical consultations, representation on committees, participation in field assessments, review of disease-related literature and documents, research and surveillance planning, and emergency responses. 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 the Cooperative and are applied equally to all member states. Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues requests and membership approval submissions:

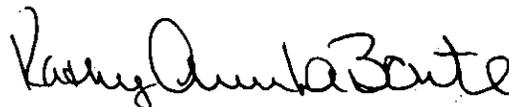
1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization? *NWDC was founded in 2011; NHFG has been a member of the NWDC since 2013.*

2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to? *No, the NWDC was created to fill a recognized lack of wildlife disease services in the Northeast.*
3. How many other state's belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member? *We are the sole NH member. A total of 8 northeast states and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service belong to the NWDC.*
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 cost projections and in consultation with member states. Each state pays the same fee (currently \$2,500 per year).*
5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?
 - *Access to a wildlife veterinarian employed by the NWDC;*
 - *Access to a network of disease laboratories for diagnostic testing at discounted prices;*
 - *Opportunities for no-cost staff trainings based on Department disease management needs;*
 - *Participation in a wildlife disease list-serve and access to regional disease data sets;*
 - *Receipt of wildlife disease fact sheets and a quarterly wildlife disease newsletter;*
 - *Participation in a regional disease collective with shared management goals and needs;*
6. Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail. *Yes, NWDC offers no-cost annual wildlife disease workshop for each member state. They also provide members with access to educational materials in the form of disease fact sheets, a newsletters, a list-serve, and regional disease data sets.*
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, except for elective educational and training opportunities.*
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 employees are directly involved in education and training. Fish and Game's Wildlife Division Chief is a NWDC steering committee member.*
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, we would lose the benefits described in #5 above. Of greatest significance would be 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 educational materials and training opportunities. 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.*

Respectfully submitted,



Glenn Normandeau
Executive Director



Kathy Ann LaBonte, Chief
Business Division