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New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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November 18, 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 Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Washington, DC 20001 (Vendor #169599), \$24,125.00 annual membership dues effective the date of Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2016. 100% Fish and Game Funds.

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

03 75 75 750520 2110 – Administrative Support – Business Management

20-07500-21100000-026-500251	Organizational Dues	<u>FY 2016</u> \$24,125.00
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Explanation

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) was founded in 1902 as a quasi-governmental organization of public agencies charged with the protection and management of North America's fish and wildlife resources. AFWA's governmental members include all the fish and wildlife agencies of the 50 states, and Canadian provinces, and federal governments of the U.S. and Canada.

AFWA is a key organization in promoting sound resource management and strengthening federal, state, and private cooperation in protecting and managing fish and wildlife and their habitats in the public interest. AFWA's role is to cultivate relations and mutual understanding among those officially engaged in the conservation of our natural resources and to especially coordinate the efforts of public administrative agencies responsible for the protection, preservation, and management of fish and wildlife resources of North America. AFWA is a valuable resource in the efforts to promote fish and wildlife management and create and foster a healthy atmosphere in favor of better laws for the protection and management of natural resources. AFWA works to develop sound public understanding and appreciation of the economic and ethical importance of conserving and wisely managing the natural resources of North America.

This annual membership dues assessment is a fee established in AFWA bylaws and is applied equitably to each state in the country. Payment of annual membership dues provides the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department with the opportunity to utilize AFWA's services and resources to insure actions are wisely taken to conserve and manage the fish and wildlife resources of our state.

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?
Since 1902, 113 years.
2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?
No
3. How many other state's belonging to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?
All 50 states belong to this organization. Fish and Game is the only state agency which is a member.
4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc)
The dues assessment is a standard fee established in AFWA bylaws with an escalator based on the CPI. It is applied equitably to each state in the country.

REGION 1
 629B Main Street
 Lancaster, NH 03584-3612
 (603) 788-3164
 FAX (603) 788-4823
 email: reg1@wildlife.nh.gov

REGION 2
 PO Box 417
 New Hampton, NH 03256
 (603) 744-5470
 FAX (603) 744-6302
 email: reg2@wildlife.nh.gov

REGION 3
 225 Main Street
 Durham, NH 03824-4732
 (603) 868-1095
 FAX (603) 868-3305
 email: reg3@wildlife.nh.gov

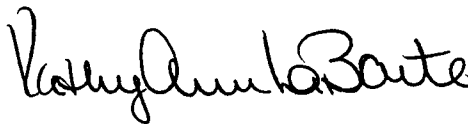
REGION 4
 15 Ash Brook Court
 Keene, NH 03431
 (603) 352-9669
 FAX (603) 352-8798
 email: reg4@wildlife.nh.gov

5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?
AFWA represents all the state wildlife agencies. The Directors of the agencies make up the decision making body of AFWA. There is a permanent staff in Washington that monitors all federal legislative and budget activities and keeps the state agency directors informed of what is going on and who needs to be contacted to move a particular issue. AFWA also represents the states in discussions and negotiations with the federal agencies we interact with; notably the US Fish & Wildlife service, The Forest Service, and USDA.
6. Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.
Yes, training and educational materials are included, sometimes the cost is included and other times it is not.
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.
The Executive Director travels 2-3 times annually, destinations vary and most of the cost is paid by AFWA.
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).
The Executive Director is directly involved with this organization and is a voting member. Staff utilizes available training and educational materials as well as participates in technical committees that develop positions on issues of the day or investigate better methodologies to carry out our roles as stewards of the nation's fish and wildlife resources.
10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.
As noted above in 5, AFWA represents all the states and acts to keep us all informed about what is happening in Washington. Like every other state, 30% or more of our funding comes from federal sources, mostly dedicated but subject to misappropriation if not paid attention to.
- Secondly, there is a lot of interplay between the federal resources agencies and the states. AFWA acts to insure that state's issues get fair consideration by the federal resources agencies, whether its New Hampshire or Texas. AFWA helps to insure we present the strength of a unified front in Washington.*
- Finally, fish and wildlife do not recognize political boundaries. AFWA offers a forum for states to join together to work on common problems such as species of concern that range across more than one state and to become informed about other states methods and histories in dealing with issues so we don't repeat mistakes and reinvent wheels. Loss of access to AFWA would be a significant loss to the Department.*

Respectfully submitted,



Glenn Normandeau
Executive Director



Kathy Ann LaBonte, Chief
Business Division



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

The voice of fish and wildlife agencies

1100 First Street, NE, Suite 825
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: 202-838-3474
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Email: info@fishwildlife.org

October 28, 2015

Glenn Normandeau
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
2 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Glenn:

Enclosed please find a statement for membership dues with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for calendar year 2016. The total state dues amount is \$24,125.00.

The amount reflected on this statement is per the Association's By-Laws that call for annual dues to be adjusted by inflation each year. The dues for 2016 were increased by \$25.00 based upon the Consumer Price Index. This amount was approved by the Executive Committee and the membership during the Association's Annual Meeting this past September in Tucson, Arizona.

We very much appreciate your continued financial support of the Association, and we look forward to serving you and your agency in the coming year. We continue to work hard to bring value and solutions to the national policy issues of most importance to state fish and wildlife agencies.

If you have any questions concerning this membership dues billing, please call me at 202.838.3465 or email me at rregan@fishwildlife.org.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Regan
Executive Director

Enclosures: Membership Dues Statement

ASSOCIATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES
www.fishwildlife.org



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
1100 First Street NE, Suite 825
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: 202-624-7890

Federal ID: 41-6029770

INVOICE

Invoice Date:
October 28, 2015

Invoice Number:
030/NH/16

Bill To:
Glenn Normandeau
Director
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
2 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Description:

State Membership Dues for 2016

Total Due: \$24,125.00

Membership dues paid to AFWA are not tax-deductible under Internal Revenue Service guidelines.

Please make check payable to the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and remit one copy of this invoice with your payment to the address above. **Please include our invoice number on your check.**