New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Scott R. Mason
Executive Director

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March 8, 2024

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 Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), Washington, DC, (VC #169599) $38,143 annual membership dues effective upon Governor and Council approval **retroactive** for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. 100% Fish and Game Funds.

Funding is available in account Business Management as follows:

03 75 75 750520 2110 – Administrative Support – Business Management		FY 2024
20-07500-21100000-026-500251	Organizational Dues	$38,143

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.

The request is **retroactive** due to the timing of when the invoice was received by the Department, as there was not adequate time to request approval prior to January 1, 2024.

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, 122 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.

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 it's 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,

Scott R. Mason
Executive Director

Kathy Ann LaBonte, Chief
Business Division

INVOICE

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
1100 First Street, NE
Suite 825
Washington, DC 20002

INVOICE #	:	24-State-29
DATE	:	10/19/2023
DUE DATE	:	**10/19/2023**
TOTAL AMOUNT	:	**$38,143.00**
TOTAL DUE	:	**$38,143.00**

Bill to: New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
Attn: Scott Mason
2 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

DESCRIPTION / MEMO	AMOUNT
Base 2024 State Membership Dues	$38,143.00

Remit one copy of this invoice with your payment. Include Invoice number on check. Contact jyattaw@fishwildlife.org with questions. Thanks for your continued SUPPORT!	**TOTAL AMOUNT:**	**$38,143.00**

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
1100 First Street, NE
Suite 825
Washington, DC 20002

TOTAL DUE: **$38,143.00**

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

Customer Id: AFWA_C-01818
Invoice #:24-State-29

Bill to: New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
Attn: Scott Mason
2 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Remit to: **Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies**
1100 First Street, NE
Suite 825
Washington, DC 20002
United States