New Hampshire
Fish and Game Department

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Stephanie L. Simek, Ph.D.
Executive Director

1B - 11/10/26

October 13, 2026

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Requested Action

Authorize the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to pay the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA) Petersburgh, NY 12138 (Vendor #156444), $4,800.00 annual membership dues effective upon Governor and Council approval for the period January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027. 100% Fish and Game Funds.

Funding for this payment is available in account Business Management as follows:

	FY 2027
03-075-075-750520-21100000-026-500251 Organizational Dues	$4,800

Explanation

The Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA) was founded in 1946 as a quasi-governmental organization of public agencies charged with the protection and management of North America's fish and wildlife resources. NEAFWA's governmental members include all the fish and wildlife agencies of the 13 Northeast States and the District of Columbia.

NEAFWA 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. NEAFWA'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 the Northeast Region. NEAFWA 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.

This annual membership dues assessment is a fee established in NEAFWA bylaws by vote of the state agency directors.

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 1946, 80 years. NH Fish and Game was a founding member and the Director at the time, Ralph Carpenter II, was the first chairman.

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?
   The 13 northeast states and the District of Columbia. Fish and Game is the only New Hampshire state agency which is a member.

4. How is the dues structure established?
   A fixed fee, the same for each member state, established in the bylaws by vote of the state agency directors.

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5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?
   The organization, through its meetings and regional conservation needs program, fosters communication, exchange of ideas, and multi state efforts to deal with regional problems associated with habitat loss, endangered species, invasive species, climate change, and other issues that don't recognize political boundaries.

6. Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.
   Training, education, and research are typically funded through the regional conservation needs program using federal grants.

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 typically travels twice a year to meetings in the northeast US. At the time of this writing that travel is being covered by a federal grant. At times staff may travel in support of technical committees. This may include the Wildlife Chief, Inland Fisheries Chief and the Non-Game Coordinator. In cases where members may be asked to travel to represent the Association in other organizations NEAFWA covers the costs of travel.

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, as directed and approved by the Executive Director, may take on technical and supporting roles.

10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.
    The opportunities for multistate coordinated efforts to attack various problems, as mentioned in #5, would be lost as well as the ability of New Hampshire to influence the Association in areas important to our state. Also, the two Association meetings are touch points attended by our regional federal partners in the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the US Forest Service. We are far stronger as an association of 13 states pursuing a collective state perspective with the federal agencies than as individual states speaking alone.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie L. Simek, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Kathy Ann LaBonte, Chief
Business Division

Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Inc.
250 Rabbit College Road
Petersburgh, NY 12138

2027 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

Bill to:

New Hampshire Fish & Game Department
11 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Attention: Dr. Stephanie Simek, Executive Director

Invoice: 2027-01

Amount: **$4,800** (Due by July 1, 2027)

Membership Period: January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027

Make Checks Payable to:

Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Inc.

(Federal Tax identification number: 02-0418794)

Mail Checks to: Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Inc.
c/o Gordon R. Batcheller, Executive Secretary
250 Rabbit College Road
Petersburgh, NY 12138

Or use an agency card: See http://www.neafwa.org/direction.html
(Passcode, July 1-December 31, 2026, "Labrador"). Note: Payments by card require an additional charge to compensate for bank fees (see above).

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Nova Scotia · Ontario · Pennsylvania · Prince Edward Island · Quebec
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