

National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee Meeting

National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Plum Brook Station
6100 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
Assembly Room, Engineering Building
June 9-11, 2009

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Committee Members in Attendance:

Mr. Joel A. Alderete, New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau
Dr. Scott Bender, The Navajo Nation, Arizona
Ms. Karen Elaine "Maggie" Brasted, Humane Society of the United States
Dr. Clait E. Braun, The Ornithological Council, The Wildlife Society (Chair)
Mr. Howard B. Dew, Oregon Forest Industries Council
Mr. Michael T. Freeze, National Aquaculture Association
Mr. Robert E. Frost, U. S. Animal Health Association (Vice Chair)
Mr. John E. Ostrom, Metropolitan Airports Commission
Mr. Bryce R. Reece, Wyoming Wool Growers Association; American Sheep Industry Association, Inc.
Ms. Andrea L. Reed, Animal Welfare Institute
Dr. Robert H. Schmidt, Utah State University
Dr. Stephen M. Schmitt, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians
Dr. J. Maurice Shelton, Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association; American Sheep Industry Association Inc.
Mr. Scott W. Steckel, National Pest Management Association
Mr. Dan Wiltse, National Sunflower Association

Committee Members not in Attendance:

Ms. Nina C. Baucus, American Sheep Industry Association, Inc.
Mrs. Chantel R. Depp, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mr. Mathew J. Hogan, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Ms. Patti L. Strand, National Animal Interest Alliance
Mr. Richard D. Turner, National Association of State Aviation Officials

Welcome and Introductions – Bill Clay

Bill Clay, Acting Associate Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), opened the meeting and welcomed the group at 8:00 a.m. The Wildlife Services' (WS) Management Team and personnel were introduced. National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee (NWSAC or Committee) members introduced themselves and their representation.

Welcome - Dr. Travis DeVault

Dr. DeVault, WS' National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) Sandusky Field Station Leader, welcomed the group to the field station and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) facility. Logistics of the facility and the Sandusky area were covered.

Opening Remarks – Bill Clay

Bill Clay thanked the group for their participation and emphasized the importance of the Committee. Originally, the meeting was scheduled to be held in Olympia, Washington, but was moved because of program redirection of activities and the current emphasis on wildlife hazards at airports. He covered the transition to a new Executive Branch administration and the current status of political appointees. APHIS level issues discussed included: Animal ID, H1N1 influenza, and travel cost reductions. WS program issues discussed included: Fiscal Year 2010 proposed budget reductions, the historic Congressional directive funding, the outcome of the WS' Programmatic Safety Review, the status of the existing NWSAC charter and the terms of existing committee members, and the posting of WS' Program Data Reports on the website.

Welcome - Brigadier General David L. Stringer

Dr. DeVault introduced Brigadier General David L. Stringer, Director of NASA Plum Brook Station. Brigadier General Stringer welcomed the group to the NASA Plum Brook Station. He discussed the similarities of our programs from the standpoint of understanding environments albeit space versus terrestrial. He discussed the history of the Sandusky region from the Revolutionary War through the World Wars to the current NASA facilities operations. He offered the meeting participants the opportunity to tour the facility.

Administrative Issues – Joanne Garrett

Joanne Garrett, WS' Acting Associate Deputy Administrator, addressed travel reimbursement forms and requirements that were provided in the Committee member folders.

Update on Last Committee Meeting Recommendations – Martin Mendoza

Last year's NWSAC meeting was held August 5-7, 2008, in Riverdale, Maryland. Recommendations from last year's meeting were presented by Martin Mendoza, WS' Acting Deputy Administrator. He reported the status of the 2008 Committee recommendations. Each recommendation was briefly reviewed and discussed.

Committee discussions following the presentation included the status and concerns for other research field stations, results of the information transfer survey regarding research and operational communications, the costs to implement the recommendations of the Committee, the perception of the overall effectiveness of the Committee.

Discussion of Agenda Topics – Clait Braun, Chair

The Committee Chair asked the membership to provide their top two issues for discussion as a precursor to developing recommendations for the Secretary's

consideration. The Committee members presented between one and two issues each. Thirty-one issues were presented and discussed by the committee:

Bob Frost

1. Disease building construction Fort Collins stimulus money?
2. Wildlife health initiative partnership USDA/AFWA

Dan Wiltse

3. New tools/methodologies to reduce predation on agricultural commodities
4. Prioritize goals and operations used to control depredation

Andrea Reed

5. WS process to establish and revise Agency directives
6. Disposition of research animals upon project completion

Stephen Schmitt

7. WS support Regional approach DC cormorant management
8. WS support matching grants for feral swine management

Robert Schmidt

9. WS recruitment of women

Scott Steckel

10. WS reorganize/reduce and streamline admin process/burden
11. WS succession planning

John Ostrom

12. Additional airport safety coordinators
13. Support development of education program for wildlife strikes

Maurice Shelton

14. WS reaffirm its commitment to protect agricultural commodities
15. Continue to research and develop new technologies for depredating animals

Bryce Reece

16. FY2010 Budget Reductions
17. Restate 2008 recommendations 8, 9, 11, 12, and 15

Mike Freeze

18. Congressional Directive definition
19. Base funding

Howard Dew

20. Watershed beaver research
21. Porcupine damage research

Maggie Brasted

22. WS public awareness program

Scott Bender

23. Reiterate 2008 Recommendation 4
24. Real time disease site tests for evaluation by WS

Joel Alderete

25. Security funding for WS facilities
26. Rabies prevention crossover fox/wolves?

Clait Braun

27. Reduction of surveillance in wild birds?
28. Looking ahead for WS 2015/2025, what is important?

General (over-arching issues discussed by the Committee as a whole)

29. Continue wild bird surveillance activities
30. NWSAC interaction with Secretary
31. Swine flu not related to farm pigs

Committee Discussions and Preliminary Recommendations – Clait Braun, Chair

The Committee discussed and combined some of the initial recommendations. Subgroups were formed to draft language for the final recommendations.

Funding Subgroup: Bob Frost, Mike Freeze, Stephen Schmitt

Issues: 1, 8, 16, 18, 19, 25, 27, 29

Health and Disease Subgroup: Scott Bender, Stephen Schmitt, Bob Frost

Issues: 2, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 31

Food Safety Protection Subgroup: Joel Alderete, Howard Dew, Maurice Shelton, Dan Wiltse, Bryce Reese, Robert Schmidt

Issues: 3, 4, 14, 15, 20, 21

Airport Safety Subgroup: John Ostrom, Scott Steckel, Clait Braun, Andrea Reed

Issues: 12, 13

Education and Information Subgroup: Maggie Brasted, Andrea Reed, Maurice Shelton

Issues: 13, 22

Management Operations Subgroup: Scott Steckel, Andrea Reed, John Ostrom

Issues: 5, 6, 7, 10,

Vision and Future Subgroup: Robert Schmidt, Maggie Brasted, Clait Braun

Issues: 9, 11, 28

The day's session was adjourned at 5 p.m. An optional tour of the NASA Space Power Facilities was provided.

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

The meeting was re-adjourned at 8 a.m.

Committee Recommendations – Clait Braun, Chair

Recommendations developed by the Committee for consideration by the Secretary are as follows. The Committee vote is shown as Y (yes), N (no), or A (abstain); the Chair only votes in the event of a tie vote which did not occur. Background information was provided by the Committee member submitting the recommendation.

Recommendation 1.

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee recommends the Secretary of Agriculture request Wildlife Services develop a process to prepare an ongoing long-range plan (3-5 year updates) for a 20-year period for the entire program (operations and research).

Approved: Y (14) N (0) A (0)

Background: Most agencies develop long-range plans to focus their efforts and measure their progress. The National Wildlife Research Center has a research needs plan which is periodically updated. Wildlife Services also needs a long-range plan for Operations focusing on what expectations are likely for the agency, possible expansion from directed Congressional initiatives, and new emerging issues from diseases transferable from wildlife to humans to implementation of strategies (still to be developed) to protect the nation's food supplies from wild animals

Recommendation 2.

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee recommends to the Secretary of Agriculture that Wildlife Services (WS) maintain assistance in all 50 states by matching cooperative WS funds up to \$250,000 per state to protect the nation's natural resources, food and feed supply, and human health/safety.

Approved: Y (11) N (0) A (3)

Background: Individual State WS programs have varying operational budgets based upon past Congressional directives. Currently, Congressional directives are not allowed to be added to a States' base WS operational budget hence certain individual State WS programs are constantly in danger of being eliminated or reduced in scope. Many of these State WS programs have cooperator funds available that may also be lost if their Federal operational funds are reduced or eliminated. Guaranteeing at least a minimal amount of Federal operating funds (\$250,000) for cooperator matching will allow WS to maintain their presence in such States without eliminating cooperator programs.

Recommendation 3.

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee recommends the Secretary of Agriculture continue to support Wildlife Services in partnering with the 50 states, U.S. Department of Interior, other Federal agencies, tribes, and Non-Governmental Organizations in the national healthy wildlife concept addressed in the National Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative.

Approved: Y (14) N (0) A (0)

Background: In view of the increasing need for fish and wildlife managers to effectively address zoonotic and public health issues, a National Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative (NFWHI) was developed under the leadership of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and in cooperation with governmental agencies and non-

governmental organizations. The NFWHI is nested within AFWA's infrastructure and process and is under the formal direction of the AFWA.

Human activities, such as ecosystems alterations and the movement of pathogens, hosts or vectors, often enhance the emergence and resurgence of diseases at the interface of wildlife, domestic animal and humans. The intentional or accidental introduction of these diseases can significantly affect fish, wildlife, domestic animals or human populations and necessitate a coordinated, multi-agency response.

The mission of the NFWHI is to conserve, restore, and enhance healthy fish and wildlife resources of the United States by recognizing and respecting the missions, jurisdictions and abilities of fish and wildlife managers to address health issues.

The importance of maintaining healthy populations has long been recognized by fish and wildlife managers, and several disease issues are of growing concern to fish and wildlife, domestic animal, and public health professionals and the publics they serve. Significant diseases, such as plague, hemorrhagic disease, pasteurellosis, chronic wasting disease, botulism, viral hemorrhagic septicemia, West Nile virus, whirling disease, and others have been found in wild and farmed fish or wildlife populations in North America and can have a significant biological and economic effect on state and federal public trust resources. Reservoirs of economically important diseases including bovine brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis have inadvertently become established in native wildlife and threaten livestock industries in some areas. Foreign animal diseases eradicated from the continent decades ago, such as foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever, and those historically not reported in North American wildlife, such as highly pathogenic avian influenza, are a constant concern. Human activities (alteration of ecosystems, movement of pathogens, hosts or vectors, etc.), as well as improved recognition through advances in diagnostics and epidemiology, continually provide occasions for the discovery, emergence and resurgence of diseases at the interface of wildlife, domestic animals, and humans. The intentional or accidental introduction of new disease agents could have a significant impact on fish, wildlife, domestic animals or human populations and would necessitate a coordinated multi-agency response.

To accomplish these goals, the AFWA proposes the implementation of the NFWHI by a multi-disciplinary consortium of state, tribal, territorial, federal, university, corporate, and nonprofit organizations under the leadership of the AFWA. Although national in scope, NFWHI will not mandate programs at the state, federal, tribal, or local level. The NFWHI is dedicated to advancing the science, awareness, and fostering cooperation related to all aspects of fish and wildlife health. It is a policy framework by which all interested parties may seek both to minimize the negative impacts of disease agents in fish and wildlife, and to proactively promote healthy fish and wildlife populations. The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the development and implementation of the NFWHI, under AFWA leadership, and passed a resolution to that effect in 2005.

Recommendation 4.

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee requests the Secretary of Agriculture support Wildlife Services efforts to complete construction of a Wildlife Disease Research Building at the National Wildlife Research Center in Fort Collins, Colorado. This Biosafety Level-3 Agriculture (BSL-3AG) laboratory and animal test facility will need sustained methods development funding by fiscal year 2011.

Approved: Y (13) N (0) A (1)

Background: Because of the important impact wildlife diseases have on human and domestic animal health, it is critical to ensure there is adequate laboratory space to address national wildlife disease problems. The construction and operation of a Wildlife Disease Research Building (WDRB), a Biosafety Level-3 Agriculture (BSL-3Ag) laboratory, at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC), Fort Collins, Colorado, will enhance the nation's ability to address significant wildlife disease issues.

The NWRC has unique capabilities to address research, surveillance, diagnostics and disease control efforts in wildlife. These programs are the first line of defense against catastrophic and newly emerging animal diseases, many of which are transmissible to humans. An essential component of an increased capacity for addressing these disease programs is the construction of this BSL-3Ag research laboratory and wildlife disease diagnostic and research facility. This facility will support expanding research, methods development, and operational efforts to better understand and combat emerging and invasive wildlife diseases.

During the past three years USDA-APHIS-WS has played a critical role in efforts for first detection for Asian subtypes of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Through the WS operational program over 150,000 wild bird samples and 75,000 environmental samples were collected in collaboration with 50 state agencies. The wild bird samples were analyzed under stringent requirements laid out in the Interagency Strategic Plan by multiple laboratories in the National Animal Laboratory Health Network (NAHLN) in multiple states. The environmental samples were analyzed at the NWRC. While the HPAI screening was conducted under BSL-2 conditions, the effort and capacity of the NWRC for surge wildlife disease diagnostics were demonstrated.

Recommendation 5.

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture seek new Federal funding to place an Airport Wildlife Biologist in each state.

Approved: Y (13) N (0) A (1)

Background: Airport safety is an important national need for both commercial and private airports. Wildlife Services has pioneered the development of strategies to manage wildlife at airports and has been intimately involved with training airport personnel and

contractors in how to reduce possibilities for collisions between wildlife and aircraft. What is now needed is an expansion in direction of management practices at all airports to increase human safety while reducing aircraft and wildlife incidents. Thus, there is a need for professional wildlife biologists in every state whose responsibilities include oversight and training support for personnel at every airport in every state.

Recommendation 6.

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee recommends to the Secretary of Agriculture that Wildlife Services make efforts to solicit public input in the establishment and revision of program directives for selective, broad programmatic issues of interest to the American public.

Defeated: Y (6) N (7) A (1)

Background: Subjecting proposed directives to public review will not only promote increased transparency, a goal of all public agencies, but will also provide an opportunity for Wildlife Services to acquire potentially new, relevant, and substantive information and to better understand and appreciate public views and concerns regarding agency policy.

Recommendation 7.

The National Wildlife Service Advisory Committee recommends to the Secretary of Agriculture that Wildlife Services reduce administrative management burden on leadership staff which will allow more time to manage people rather than paperwork.

Approved: Y (11) N (0) A (3)

Background: Many of the State Directors have mentioned that they are overwhelmed with administrative burden and don't have time to do their job of managing the people and projects due to volume of administrative tasks involved in managing the paperwork. This has caused frustration from State leaders and slowed the direct customer service. Wildlife Services has initiated a succession plan for leadership and this administration burden has impeded motivated staff from seeking promotion.

Implementing this will directly improve Wildlife Services employee morale at all levels and allow time for better customer service. The byproduct of this change will improve the leadership succession program by showing the potential future leaders that leading people and working with customers is the end product desired by WS..

Recommendation 8.

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee recommends the Secretary of Agriculture seek new funds to continue and enhance Wildlife Services' research program to develop new tools and methodologies to limit adverse effects of depredating wildlife species on aquaculture, agriculture, forestry, and human safety and health.

Approved: Y (14) N (0) A (0)

Background: Effective management of wildlife populations depredating on livestock and agricultural production is contingent upon continued research to develop new and improved, cost effective, methods to manage specific wildlife species.

Recommendation 9.

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee recommends the Secretary of Agriculture support future budget initiatives for Wildlife Services so that redirection of existing resources is not necessary to maintain effective programs in all 50 states, and that the Secretary resist attempts to reduce the program budget.

Approved: Y (12) N (1) A (1)

Background: Under Secretary Bruce Knight, in his remarks to the NWSAC in both 2007 and 2008, emphasized the importance of the Advisory Committee’s role in assisting the agency in anticipating the future needs of the public and industry. The NWSAC is concerned by the continual erosion of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, WS budget for its core and basic areas of emphasis, namely operations, methods and aquaculture. WS has increased responsibilities during its tenure with USDA and especially within the last few years without appropriate annual budget increases. The future will demand additional manpower, resources and infrastructure to enable WS to fulfill its role. WS needs a budget that will alleviate the “rob Peter to pay Paul” syndrome. NWSAC has spent a great deal of time recommending to the Secretary that “new money” be found. The reality of the budget process is that has not happened. The Committee continues its strong belief and recommendation to the Secretary that WS budget woes and constraints must be alleviated.

Recommendation 10.

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee recommends the Secretary of Agriculture continue to support and enhance Wildlife Services (WS) rabies control programs including emergency contingency outbreaks, expedite WS-National Wildlife Research Center investigation, research and field trials of new oral rabies vaccines (ORV) and assist making these ORV options available in a timely manner, and support the overall North American Rabies Management Plan to enhance and improve rabies management in North America.

Approved: Y (14) N (0) A (0)

Background: Rabies has been a critical mission of WS, using the unique expertise of the agency. With new outbreaks and development of unique strains of Rabies in the western U.S. areas of Arizona and New Mexico, this WS Rabies expertise will be in demand to control and eradicate this zoonotic disease.

There continues to be only one supplier and one approved ORV to the WS Rabies Management program for wildlife rabies control. The current vaccine is less than optimal for many of the rabies reservoir species, and ineffective in several wildlife species that

WS must vaccinate to eradicate terrestrial rabies. Need for additional oral rabies vaccines are critical to the success of the WS rabies management program. Additionally, the lack of other ORV providers to compete with the sole provider of the current ORV to the WS rabies management program continues to stymie overall ORV development, improvements and cost containment. Should there be a manufacturing problem, such as has occurred with human rabies vaccine production, having only one supplier would stop rabies control activities, placing people, animals and wildlife at greater risk of rabies infection.

The North American Rabies Management Plan, developed and carried forward by the WS rabies section, provides a blue print for eradication terrestrial rabies in North America and should be applauded for getting the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the Navajo Nation to formally agree to cooperate in the eradication of a common problem.

Recommendation 11.

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture reaffirm that a Wildlife Services (WS) priority is to protect the production of a safe and adequate food supply which includes efforts through WS to minimize or eliminate damage from injurious vertebrate species which adversely affect agriculture, aquaculture, forestry and human health and safety.

Approved: Y (11) N (0) A (2) Absent (1)

Background: Invasive species of wildlife have been demonstrated to negatively affect livestock and agricultural producers as many invasive injurious vertebrate species have no natural predators in their newly colonized habitats. Further, human health has also been negatively impacted by some invasive vertebrate species.

Recommendation 12.

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee recommends the Secretary of Agriculture continue to support use of approved toxicants for predator control which are used by the Wildlife Services program, including continued support for, and prioritization of, the theobromine/caffeine pesticide to hasten its transition from research, development, and registration to its actual implementation and use in the field.

Approved: Y (11) N (2) A (1)

Background: Wildlife Services has responded to public interests by developing and registering effective toxicants to manage wildlife causing damage to livestock, forestry, agricultural production, aquaculture as well as those wild animals creating human health issues through infectious diseases.

Recommendation 13.

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture seek new funding to adequately fund all security issues at all Wildlife Services facilities.

Approved: Y (12) N (1) A (1)

Background: The dramatic increase to fund WS' security issues in recent years is problematic. The lack of new funding for mandatory security requirements has jeopardized WS facilities and their ability to operate at full capacity. In some instances, due to this increase in security cost, facilities have had to cease operations. WS must find new funding to pay for mandated security programs rather than translocate funding from other agency sources.

Recommendation 14.

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture support the restoration of the \$9.2M "Congressional Directives" which was removed from Wildlife Service's 2010 budget by including those funds as part of the 2011 program's base budget.

Approved Y (12) N (1) A (1)

Background: The loss of \$2.5M from Methods Development will directly affect the registration of toxicants, closing of field stations and the ability for WS to provide the ability to research new and better methods. The loss of \$6.7M from Operations will directly affect the ability to keep state offices open, provide regional services and thwart the ability for states to acquire matching funds. Loss of these funds directly affects WS ability to resolve conflicts, directly affects local economies and negatively will affect many small and large producers.

Recommendation 15.

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee recommends the Secretary of Agriculture have Wildlife Services' (WS) National Wildlife Research Center investigate and evaluate field diagnostic disease tests that are currently being developed, including, but not limited to plague, tularemia, tuberculosis, and anthrax for potential use by state WS programs and other state, Federal, and tribal agencies in their wildlife disease programs.

Approved: Y (14) N (0) A (0)

Background: Wildlife Services provides invaluable surveillance for States and cooperators for several zoonotic diseases. Furthermore, several of these diseases are threats to wildlife and endangered species reintroductions. However, due to the increased interest and occurrence of many of these diseases and the current dependence upon a central laboratory diagnostics, timeliness and usefulness of results has declined. Several field use diagnostic tests are in development, but need to be evaluated for their potential use by field personnel. If these tests are useful, this would greatly improve turn around and response times to cooperators and disease management. The intent of this recommendation is not for the National Wildlife Research Center to become a diagnostic laboratory, but to evaluate these tests as they become available.

Recommendation 16.

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee recommends the Secretary of Agriculture support Wildlife Services in partnering with Bird Strike Committee USA and other aviation industry representatives to reduce the threat of wildlife hazards to aircraft operations.

Approved: Y (14) N (0) A (0)

Background: Coordination among agencies involved in reducing and managing wildlife hazards at airports to aircraft is crucial to proactive and prompt actions to protect the public that travels in aircraft, both commercial and private. Partnering among agencies and industry is the most effective and cost effective way to meet the goals of all groups involved with managing the potential for and preventing bird strikes with aircraft. Wildlife Services is the professional wildlife agency best trained to serve in the partnering role, nationwide.

The following table documents individual Committee member votes in regard to each recommendation.

| Recommendation | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|--------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Name | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Joel Alderete | y | y | y | y | y | n | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y |
| Scott Bender | y | y | y | y | y | n | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y |
| Maggie Brasted | y | y | y | y | y | y | a | y | a | y | a | n | a | a | y | y |
| Howard Dew | y | y | y | y | y | n | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y |
| Michael Freeze | y | y | y | y | y | n | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y |
| Robert Frost | y | y | y | y | y | n | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y |
| John Ostrom | y | y | y | y | y | a | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y |
| Bryce Reece | y | y | y | y | y | n | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y |
| Andrea Reed | y | a | y | y | y | y | y | y | n | y | a | n | y | n | y | y |
| Robert Schmidt | y | a | y | y | a | y | a | y | y | y | absent | a | y | y | y | y |
| Stephen Schmitt | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | n | y | y | y |
| Maurice Shelton. | y | a | y | a | y | n | a | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y |
| Scott Steckel | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y |
| Dan Wiltse | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y | y |

The final Committee decision was:

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee affirms that the Chair and Vice Chair of the 2009 Committee are the designated persons to contact the Secretary of

Agriculture in behalf of the Committee to highlight and discuss the approved recommendations

The day's session was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Thursday, June 11, 2009

The meeting was re-adjourned at 8 a.m.

Overview of the Airport Wildlife Hazards Program - Mike Begier

Mike Begier, WS' National Airport Hazards Coordinator, provided an overview of the Airport Hazard program. A group award was presented to the employees overseeing the Bird Strike Database. Questions from the Committee members were addressed.

Overview of Research Station – Dr. Travis DeVault

Dr. Travis DeVault provided an overview of the field station, including the current research focus, and personnel. Questions from the Committee members were addressed.

An optional tour of WS' Sandusky Field Station and the tour of Cleveland Burke Lakefront Airport Operational and Research program were provided following the meeting.