



WILDLIFE DIVERSITY CONSERVATION & FUNDING COMMITTEE

VIRTUAL MEETING

Chair: Jenny Dickson, Connecticut Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection

Vice Chair: Debbie Colbert, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Date: September 10th, 2026

Time: 2:00-3:30pm (ET)

Meeting Link: <https://fishwildlife-org.zoom.us/j/82497723130?pwd=bxmKZGaj2NauqlaoWtxv5YCtZYi3.1>

Meeting ID: 824 9772 3130

Passcode: 180009

One tap mobile: +13017158592,,82497723130#,,,,*180009# US (Washington DC)

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Committee Charge: *Advocate for long-term dedicated funding and annual appropriations for the conservation of species of greatest conservation need, nature-based recreation, and conservation education and support development, implementation, and revision of State Wildlife Action Plans.*

AGENDA (ET)

2:00 PM **Welcome**-Chairwoman Jenny Dickson & Vice Chairwoman Debbie Colbert

2:05 PM **Work Group Updates**

- Bat Work Group-Trina Morris, GA DNR & Leanne Burns AFWA (5 min)
- Pollinator/Invertebrate Work Group-Ross Winton, WDFW & Sky Bruce, AFWA (5 min)
- WDCF & E&E Committee Joint Work Group-Kristin Stanford, OH DNR (5 min)

2:20 PM **General Updates**

- Wildlife Diversity Visioning Report-Jenny Dickson (5 min)
- USFWS Recommendation on State Wildlife Action Plans-Liz Wiley, USFWS; Mark Humpert, AFWA (10 min)
- State & Tribal Wildlife Grants-Mark Humpert, AFWA (5 min)
- State Wildlife Action Plan Submission and Approval-Nick Popoff, USFWS (5 min)
- State of the Bees Report-Dr. Hollis Woodard, UC-Riverside (10 min)
- Midwest Landscape Initiative & State Wildlife Action Plans-Claire Beck, MAFWA (10 min)
- WAFWA Landscape Conservation Update-Jen Newmark, WMI (5 min)
- Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy & SWAPs-Louise Vaughn & Mallory Martin, USFWS (5 min)
- Northeast Landscape Conservation Committee-Liz Wiley, USFWS (5 min)

3:20 PM **Agenda Preview Sept 17th Meeting**-Jenny Dickson & Debbie Colbert

3:30 PM **Adjourn**



WILDLIFE DIVERSITY CONSERVATION & FUNDING COMMITTEE

IN-PERSON MEETING

Chair: Jenny Dickson, Connecticut Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection

Vice Chair: Debbie Colbert, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Thursday September 17th, 2026 | 10:15-12:15 ET

Room: TBD

116th AFWA Annual Meeting (Lancaster, PA)

Committee Charge: *Advocate for long-term dedicated funding and annual appropriations for the conservation of species of greatest conservation need, nature-based recreation, and conservation education and support development, implementation, and revision of State Wildlife Action Plans.*

AGENDA (ET)

- 10:15 AM Welcome & Introductions-Chairwoman Jenny Dickson, CTDEEP
- 10:25 AM Working Group Reports (5-7 min each)
- Bat Working Group-Trina Morris, GA DNR & Leanne Burns AFWA
 - Pollinator and Invertebrate Working Group (Action on Resolution)-Ross Winton, WDFW & Sky Bruce, AFWA
 - WDCF & E&E Joint Work Group-Kristin Stanford, OH DNR
- 10:45 AM Discussion Topic #1-State Fish & Wildlife Agency Authorities
- 11:05 AM Discussion Topic #2-Recommendation on SWAPs to USFWS
- 11:25 AM National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Business Plans-Rachael Dawson, NFWF (invited)
- 11:35 AM Update on New Funding in Oregon-Davia Palmeri, ODFW
- 11:45 AM Update on AFWA 2025 Resolution on SWAPs-Jenny Dickson, CT DEEP
- 11:50 AM Update on Visioning Report-Jenny Dickson, CT DEEP
- 12:00 PM Overview of Wildlife Diversity Conservation in Pennsylvania-Scott Bearer, PA Game Commission
- 12:15AM Adjourn

Resolution 2026-##-##

**SUPPORT FOR A COORDINATED AND STANDARDIZED NATIONAL NATIVE BEE MONITORING
FRAMEWORK**

WHEREAS, the United States is home to approximately 4,000 species of native bees that support native ecosystems, agricultural production, food security, and human well-being embodied in the One Health framework; and

WHEREAS, population declines have been documented among numerous native bee species, and recent standardized assessments identified approximately 35 percent of assessed United States bee species as being at risk of extinction; and

WHEREAS, State fish and wildlife agencies play a central role in identifying priority species and information needs, guiding monitoring objectives, and applying monitoring results to State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs), species assessments, habitat management, and conservation investments; and

WHEREAS, successful national wildlife monitoring programs for birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians demonstrate the immense value, efficiency, and efficacy of coordinated sampling frameworks, shared data infrastructure, sustained technical support, and collaboration among State, Tribal, Territorial, and Federal agencies and other partners; and

WHEREAS, native bees are increasingly identified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in SWAPs, yet substantial gaps remain in information regarding their distributions, population trends, threats, and responses to management; and

WHEREAS, existing native bee inventory and monitoring efforts are often fragmented across jurisdictions, use differing methods and data standards, and lack the coordination and infrastructure needed to support reliable regional and national assessments; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. National Native Bee Monitoring Research Coordination Network (“Network”) and its partners, including at least 25 State and provincial wildlife agencies and 5 Federal agencies, have developed standardized methods for native bee data collection and a framework for designing statistically rigorous monitoring programs around SGCN and other priority species and their management information needs; and

WHEREAS, the Network and its partners are developing USBee, a coordinated national native bee monitoring and data system, to support standardized inventory and monitoring, management-relevant monitoring design, interoperable data, analysis, and technical assistance for participating agencies and partners;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (“Association”) supports the voluntary implementation of, and participation in, USBee as a coordinated, standardized, and scientifically rigorous national framework for native bee inventory, monitoring, data management, and analysis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association will work to facilitate coordination among interested agencies and partners and encourages Congress, Federal agencies, states, foundations, and other funding partners to provide sustained resources for the staffing, field implementation, taxonomic expertise, data infrastructure, analytical support, and technical assistance necessary to support a national native bee monitoring program.

DRAFT