

Sportsmen for Wetlands Coalition Charter and Memorandum of Understanding

A. Purpose.

The purpose of the MOU is to establish the Sportsmen for Wetlands (SFW) Coalition and to define the coalition's shared purpose, goals and strategies. These efforts are designed to advance a common goal of wetland conservation by member organizations through education, communication, and policy development assistance with local, state and federal elected officials and policymakers.

B. Mission & Goals

The mission of the Sportsmen for Wetlands Coalition is to engage Wisconsin's hunting, angling, trapping, and conservation communities in pro-active and collaborative wetlands education and conservation advocacy.

Coalition goals are to:

1. Raise awareness of the ecological and economic importance of wetlands.
2. Promote the outdoor recreational value of wetlands.
3. Educate and advise Wisconsin leaders about how wetlands benefit their communities in order to improve policy outcomes for wetlands.
4. Cultivate a more collaborative and strategic approach to the conservation, restoration, and management of Wisconsin's wetland resources.
5. Increase engagement and investments in wetlands conservation.

C. Approach and Activities:

The coalition's work is strictly non-partisan and relies on the active engagement of the broad constituency of individuals and organizations who value and wish to conserve, restore, and manage Wisconsin's wetlands for the use, enjoyment, and benefit of current and future generations.

D. Governance and Structure

1. Steering Committee

A. The SFW coalition is governed by a Steering Committee comprised of the organizations that are signatories to this MOU. Steering Committee members agree to participate to the extent their capacity allows in all of the following activities:

1. Meetings related to coalition administration and planning of outreach activities.
2. Development and implementation of a SFW Communications Plan.
3. Recruitment of SFW coalition members and volunteers.
4. Participation in and promotion of SFW sponsored events.
5. Identification and cultivation of sponsors and funders for coalition activities and events.

6. Establishing and maintaining positive working relationships with the Office of the Governor, State Senate, State Assembly, the Wisconsin Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, local policymakers, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Examples of expected coalition activities include, but are not limited to:

- Field based learning for elected officials and community leaders
- Coordinated media and outreach campaigns
- Capitol education events
- Development and distribution of wetland education materials
- Policy engagement as the following conditions allow:

B. Legislation, Regulations and Public Policy

- Steering Committee meetings will provide a forum for coordination and information sharing on legislative issues.
- Steering Committee members will collaborate on proactive legislation where there are shared priorities.
- Steering Committee members will make themselves available to policymakers for consultation on policy development; however, SFW will not take positions on proposed regulations or legislation.
- Participation in the coalition imposes no restrictions on the rights or abilities of Steering Committee organizations or coalition members to take positions on proposed legislation.
- This MOU does not imply consensus agreement on matters of public policy or programs advocated by individual organizations. The organizations do agree to communicate openly in this area and to work together whenever possible.

C. The Steering Committee shall elect an Executive Committee to include 2 Co-Chairs and a Secretary to oversee coalition administration and facilitate meetings.

D. Responsibilities for planning and implementation of other coalition activities shall be shared equally among the members of the Steering Committee unless or until funding is secured to compensate one or more groups to coordinate coalition activities.

E. This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to the MOU will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures. Such endeavors, if any, will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate authorities.

F. To the extent possible, decisions by the Steering Committee shall be made by consensus. When voting, only one vote per organization shall be allowed.

Where unanimous agreement cannot be achieved, decisions require support of more than half of the organizations that are signatories to the MOU.

- G. Participation on the Steering Committee is voluntary and ongoing. Any organization that wishes to no longer serve as a member of the Steering Committee shall notify the Executive Committee in writing.

II. Membership:

- A. The work of the SFW coalition is carried out in collaboration with SFW members. Membership is open to any organization or business operating in Wisconsin that:
- Has an outdoor heritage, land conservation, or wetland-focused mission;
 - Supports the coalition goals as described in this MOU; and,
 - Agrees to participate in, or help amplify the reach of, the coalition's wetland education and conservation advocacy activities.
- B. The Steering Committee reserves the right to deny or remove membership status in cases where an organization's or business' core mission or activities work at cross purposes to coalition goals or when the organization violates the standards of conduct that are essential to achieving coalition goals (i.e., non-partisan, civil discourse about wetland issues).

E. MODIFICATION, TERMINATION, AND OTHER CONDITIONS.

- A. This MOU becomes effective when signed by all signatory parties and remains in effect for two years. It may be extended for additional two year periods by the agreement of the Steering Committee.
- B. This MOU may be modified or amended at any time by mutual agreement of all parties in writing, and may be terminated by any party upon sixty (60) days prior written notice to the steering committee.
- C. This MOU in no way restricts the parties from participating with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals. All parties recognize the importance of continuing cooperation and participation with non-governmental organizations and institutions in programs of mutual interest.
- D. If any provisions of this MOU are determined to be inconsistent with existing laws or regulations or directives governing the signatories, then the provisions of this MOU not affected by a finding of inconsistency shall remain in full force and effect.

F. Confidentiality.

In order to ensure the integrity of the Coalition’s strategic initiatives, all Steering Committee correspondence and discussions shall remain confidential and not shared unless agreed upon by the Steering Committee.

G. Signatory Parties.

By entering into this MOU the following organizations hereby agree to support, participate in and uphold the terms of this MOU:

Ducks Unlimited
7322 Newman Blvd., Building 1
Dexter, MI 48130

Printed Name, Title

Signature

Date

Pheasants Forever Wisconsin
5102 Sunrise Ridge Trail
Middleton, WI 53562

Printed Name, Title

Signature

Date

Wisconsin Conservation Congress
22514 Rockville Road
Kiel, Wisconsin 53042

Printed Name, Title

Signature

Date

Wisconsin National Wild Turkey Federation
E7624 Cty. Highway P Westby
WI 54667-9739

Printed Name, Title

Signature

Date

Wisconsin Trappers Association
P.O. Box 305
Oregon, WI 53575-0305

Printed Name, Title

Signature

Date

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, Inc.
2600 North Mayfair Rd., Suite 1000
Milwaukee, WI 53226

Printed Name, Title

Signature

Date

Wisconsin Waterfowl Association
P. O. Box 427
Wales WI 53183-0427

Printed Name, Title

Signature

Date

Wisconsin Wetlands Association
214 North Hamilton Street, Suite 201
Madison, WI 53704

Printed Name, Title

Signature

Date

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
540 W James Street Suite 500
Poynette, WI 53955

Printed Name, Title

Signature

Date