



Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Inc.

RESOLUTION

Northeast Conservation Investments

WHEREAS, the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Inc. (“Association”) is a quasi-governmental entity representing state (including the District of Columbia), provincial, and federal fish and wildlife agencies in the Northeastern United States and eastern Canadian Provinces; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution and Bylaws establish the objectives of the Association; and

WHEREAS, the objectives of the Association includes: (1) To encourage and promote better understanding and cooperation among its several members in dealing with the conservation of fish and wildlife resources; (2) To assist in the coordination and implementation of fish and wildlife programs of mutual interest to its members; (3) To promote a high level of fish and wildlife administration throughout the northeast region; and (4) To encourage and provide for regional projects that conserve wildlife, fish, and their habitats; and

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WHEREAS, the Association has a long history of multi-state collaboration at the regional scale, benefitting landscape conservation, and fish and wildlife populations; and

WHEREAS, the Association supports a regional fish and wildlife health coordinator who provides technical and professional services related to fish and wildlife health to all states; and

WHEREAS, the Association provides strong leadership to advance landscape scale conservation, and has benefitted from the availability of program coordinators with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to coordinate regional landscape conservation initiatives; and

WHEREAS, these examples demonstrate that the availability of regionally focused specialists provides the opportunity to build additional capacity to meet the Association's fish and wildlife conservation objectives; and

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WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Collaborative Conservation Initiative, once approved by the Department of the Interior, will establish highly efficient and streamlined administrative processes to manage federal aid grants at the regional scale; and

WHEREAS, participation in the Collaborative Conservation Initiative shall be within the sole prerogative of each State Fish and Wildlife Agency; and

WHEREAS, the Association seeks to advance and expand its capacity to meet regional conservation objectives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Inc. establishes a regional conservation business model, known as Northeast Conservation Investments (NECI); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sole purpose and mission of NECI is to enable regional collaboration to advance multi-state fish and wildlife conservation; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Directors of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies in the Association shall have full and sole authority to sanction specific proposals using the NECI business model; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association shall use the NECI business model in a manner that benefits all States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Directors of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies in the Association shall, on a time schedule determined by the Directors, consider NECI funding proposals to meet urgent and immediate regional conservation needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the funding model for any NECI proposal shall be determined by the State Fish and Wildlife Directors, and shall include consideration of funding options that may include dues assessments, use of general operating funds, or contributions from eligible State Fish and Wildlife Agency Federal Aid apportionments using the Collaborative Conservation Initiative; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association's Executive Committee shall provide managerial oversight of any NECI funded initiative, and shall provide comprehensive reports on those initiatives at the Association's Fall and Spring business meetings.

Adopted:

October 31, 2024

Providence, Rhode Island

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