President’s Message

The thing about the unexpected is that it is, well, unexpected! There is no way to prepare for it. The unexpected requires resilience, adaptability, perseverance, and compassion. All of us have had plenty of opportunities to exercise these skills this year due to the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In light of the impact of these unexpected events on fall travel, OFWIM has decided to host a virtual conference and business meeting in 2020, with tentative dates being October 5-6. The Ft. Collins, Colorado meeting will now occur in 2021.

We will miss meeting in person this year, but we can still stay connected! Take a look at the virtual meeting announcements in this newsletter and make sure to submit your abstract and register for the meeting. There is NO registration fee for this virtual meeting, but you will need to register to reserve your spot. Share this meeting with your colleagues – maybe folks who normally cannot attend will be able to do so this year!

OFWIM will not be offering any scholarships or awards this year with the exception of the Innovation Award – submit your application to receive recognition for a project you were involved with! There will also be an opportunity to donate to the student scholarship fund during registration in lieu of a registration fee.

I am impressed with OFWIM’s ability to function as usual during this time – committees continue with their monthly calls and work continues. I want to especially recognize Chelsea Krause and the rest of our Conference Planning Committee. This group was enthusiastically working to set up our 2020 conference in Ft. Collins until the decision to go virtual. They completely switched gears and started planning a virtual meeting, something OFWIM has not done before. Our other committees were also ready to adapt. Thank you all for your flexibility and graciousness during these unexpected developments!

As you know, OFWIM is undertaking a strategic thinking effort this year, which adds extra work for the ExCom, committees, and our members. Thank you for taking on this extra work and contributing to OFWIM’s future. And thanks to those of you who participated in our member survey – your feedback is invaluable!

A little over half of our members have renewed their membership for 2020 as of this month. Please make sure to renew your membership online or via mail to keep connected with the OFWIM community. Maintaining personal and professional connections is especially important in times like these.

My husband and I got our own bit of unexpected news earlier this year – the stork will be delivering twins around the time of our OFWIM virtual conference! Guess you just never know what the future holds.

Take care and be safe! 

-Karen Horodysky
When and why did you join OFWIM?
I joined OFWIM in 2015 when I started work at Missouri Department of Conservation. I had only been at MDC for about a month and a half when Julie Fleming asked if I would like to attend the OFWIM Annual Conference in her place as she was too busy to go but the trip had already been budgeted and approved. When she said the meeting was at Colonial Williamsburg, I jumped at the chance and couldn’t believe my good fortune. I have a degree in Pre-Civil War American History and had always wanted to go to CW. To this day, it is still the best work trip I have ever taken.

How do you feel that being a member has benefitted you?
I’ve made some wonderful contacts (and friends) through OFWIM. I’ve learned so much about how other organizations function, what other professionals are working on, and have been inspired by the creativity of many OFWIM members and outside presenters. I’ve traveled to beautiful places I’d never been and learned just how much goes into planning a national conference.

Why have you stayed a member of OFWIM?
Primarily, the people. I love seeing the same people year after year, and meeting the new members. Secondly, every year getting to spend a week in a different part of the country, seeing new things, and enjoying unique opportunities. For example, even if I had vacationed in Hood River, I would not have had the opportunity to visit the Yakama and learn about their fishing of the White Salmon River.
What message do you have for non-members?

Join us. **We are so much fun!**
The conferences always have excellent learning opportunities. The people are brilliant, creative, and generous with their time and knowledge.

Do you think you will remain active with OFWIM and why?

Yes, because of all the professional groups I belong to, and all the professional conferences I have attended, I find that I look forward to OFWIM more than any other.

What have you done to contribute to OFWIM?

Probably not nearly enough. I’ve been on the conference planning committee for the last 2 years. I spent 2 years on the TEC committee. This past year, I joined the Elections, Awards, and Nominations committee, but have been busy and have missed almost every meeting. Also, I’m planning (and making) a gorgeous new hat for the auction/raffle at the next conference. (Hint: Beth is going to love it!)

What opportunities has being a member given you and what opportunities would you like OFWIM to give you that you don’t think are available?

I think I’ve pretty much covered what OFWIM has given me. I don’t know if this is exactly what is being asked, but I would like to see more engagement of the groupsite by members. Also, isn’t it about time OFWIM went back to Maine? Or Vermont, New Hampshire, upstate New York??
A challenge for the OFWIM Membership:

The OFWIM Communications, Membership and Outreach Committee has been working to fill the gaps in our Conference Archives. We have rounded up proceedings for most of the conferences between 1994 and 2019. We are now asking the OFWIM membership to look through their private collections for copies of proceedings from the ‘missing years’, and if you could loan us copies of your proceedings for those missing years we would like to scan them and produce a PDF that we could add to our archives. Please contact Dyanne Cortez (dycort @ att.net), if you have copies of any of the proceedings listed below that you could loan us. The ‘missing years’ are:

2011 St. Louis, Missouri
“Managing Fish and Wildlife Data to Adapt to Changing Environments”

2009 Seattle, Washington
“Doing More with Less: Leveraging Resources and Through Partnerships”

2007 Shepherdstown, West Virginia
“Common Problems – Common Solutions: Advancing Natural Resource Management Goals Through Collaboration and Technology”

2005 Tallahassee, Florida
“Protecting Fish and Wildlife Through Technology”

2004 San Diego, California
“Partnerships and the Future of Fish and Wildlife Information Management”

1998 Madison, Wisconsin

1997 Reston, Virginia
“Connecting People with Resources Through Digital Information Systems”

1993 St. Louis, Missouri
Inaugural meeting of OFWIM—Any content from this meeting, proceedings or otherwise.
CALL FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS!

We would love to see your work!
- Published papers
- New tools
- Professional shoutouts
- Awards and accomplishments
- Interesting webinars

Due: August 21\textsuperscript{st} for September Newsletter

Questions? Contact: Jordan Holtswarth at Jnholtswarth@gmail.com

SUBMIT TO: http://www.ofwim.org/publications/newsletter-submission/
Join us!

OFWIM VIRTUAL CONFERENCE AND BUSINESS MEETING

October 5-6, 2020

No registration fee

www.ofwim.org
2020 Conference Announcements

Registration is OPEN!

Follow this link to register:

https://cvent.me/d4PzMB

Don’t forget, there is NO REGISTRATION FEE associated with this virtual conference! Please share this information with colleagues who might be interested in joining OFWIM!

We want to hear from you at the virtual conference!

We are looking for a few folks that might be interested in participating in a panel discussion focusing on how our jobs have been altered by Coronavirus (COVID – 19) and impacted the way we work. Specifically, we would love to have an open dialogue and explore the successes and failures amongst our agencies. If interested or have a unique story to tell, please reach out to Chelsea Krause (ckrause@siouxfalls.org).
2020 OFWIM ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: Virtual Session

Submit your abstract for the 28th Annual OFWIM Virtual Conference at:

https://forms.gle/RHrqVaV5rgaK332f9

**FINAL DEADLINE** for abstract submission is Friday, August 28th, 2020.

Check out the OFWIM website for examples of previous biographies and abstracts. Please note all presentations will be made available on the OFWIM website.

**Tentative dates: October 5th - 6th, 2020**
Schedule will be finalized closer to the conference!

Contact us at (605) 261-8942 or ckrause@siouxfalls.org
Innovation Award 2020: Application Announcement

The Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) invites individuals and conservation agencies/organizations to apply for the OFWIM Innovation Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize excellence in the advancement of fish and wildlife information management technology or processes.

Nominated projects/applications will be evaluated for their technical accomplishment, innovation, success in meeting their stated goals, and/or success in developing and sustaining a partnership.

Eligibility for this award is open. Nominees may be individuals or agencies/organizations, but the nominee must have retained creative control over any website or technical application. This form may be used to nominate the submitter’s work or that of others.

The winning individual or organization will receive a 1-year free membership to OFWIM, as well as recognition at the 2020 Conference in Colorado, and on the OFWIM website.

Please find the Innovation Award 2020 Application at:
http://www.ofwim.org/awards/

Send the completed nomination form (electronic submission) to:

Jessica D. Perkins, GISP
GIS & Technical Support Program Manager
Wildlife Resources Section, WVDNR
E-mail: jessica.d.perkins@wv.gov

For additional information, please contact Jessica Perkins @ 304-637-0245 extension 2042 or at Jessica.D.Perkins@wv.gov.
For more information about OFWIM, visit www.ofwim.org.

NOMINATION DEADLINE:
August 1, 2020.

The award winner will be notified at the OFWIM 2020 Conference, October 4 - 8, 2020.
JOIN OFWIM NEXT YEAR IN
FORT COLLINS, CO!

October 3rd-7th, 2021

The 2020 Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers Annual Conference and Business Meeting is heading to Colorado!

FORT COLLINS WAS NAMED ONE OF THE 14 BEST PLACES TO TRAVEL IN 2019 BY FORBES!

Situated at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, 60 miles north of the Denver Airport, Fort Collins has recreational opportunities, diverse cultural attractions and a vibrant nightlife. Fort Collins prides itself on the many restaurants and outdoor activities, a picturesque downtown and of course, the beer. Fort Collins is always full of things to do, no matter the season.
## OFWIM OFFICERS

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Karen Horodysky</td>
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<td>President Elect</td>
<td>Chelsea Krause</td>
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<td>Member-At-Large</td>
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<td>Past President</td>
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## OFWIM COMMITTEES

### Communications, Membership, & Outreach
- Julie Defilippi Simpson (Chair)
- Susan Watson (Vice-Chair)
- MaryEllen Wickett
- Chris Gerecke
- Donald Schrupp
- Dyanne Cortez
- Heather Konell
- Karen Horodysky
- Jordan Holtswarth
- Julie Prior-Magee
- Mike Bialousz
- Liz Clark

### Conference Planning
- Chelsea Krause (chair)
- Amy Ewing
- Andrew Treble
- Beth Stys
- Rebecca Scully
- Brittany Bajo
- Don Schrupp
- Dyan Pursell
- Jordan Holtswarth
- Karen Horodysky
- Keith Hurley
- Lynn Barrett
- MaryEllen Wickett
- Sabra Tonn
- Susan Watson
- Michael Barbour

### Elections, Nominations, & Awards
- Jim Husband (Chair)
- Beth Stys (Vice-Chair)
- Kyle Kaskie
- Ross Scott
- Jessica Perkins
- Mack Frantz
- Dyan Pursell
- Sabra Tonn
- John Taylor

### Training & Education
- Michael Barbour (Chair)
- Amy Ewing
- Keith Hurley
- Rebecca Scully
- Ross Scott
Of the **45** current members, we have representation from **21** different states!