

Louisiana & Mississippi MAV Conservation Delivery Network Membership, Nominating Procedures, and Officer Terms

Membership and Membership Criterion

There are two (2) functional areas of participation in the Louisiana / Mississippi Alluvial Valley Conservation Delivery Network, hereafter referred to as CDN. The Steering Committee will provide oversight responsibilities for the CDN and function as the formal voting body for appropriate CDN needs. The Steering Committee will be the organizational body through which CDN meetings are scheduled and facilitated, as well as the body through which pertinent items of CDN business and action are reviewed and coordinated. The remaining functional level of the CDN is the Participating Membership.

The geographic area of the CDN is depicted in Figure 1.

The following criteria provide guidance regarding basic membership requirements and roles of the two areas of participation in the CDN:

Steering Committee: Initial membership and participation on the CDN Steering Committee has been restricted to appropriate Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture Management Board organizations. Additional membership and participation on the Steering Committee is reserved for agencies and organizations having a functional responsibility, a well-defined geographic mission and dedicated resources capable of implementing conservation delivery actions on both public and private lands within the CDN geography. The leadership of each agency and organization meeting these basic requirements and fulfilling the required nomination and approval procedure detailed in this document will designate one of their employees to serve on the Steering Committee and represent the agency or organization in all official Steering Committee business and functions. As the singular voting body of the CDN, the agencies and organizations represented on the Steering Committee must commit to providing a vested leadership role in the Network's decision-making processes and implementation of conservation delivery actions. The Steering Committee will be restricted to less than or equal to fifteen members to efficiently carry out necessary CDN administrative and conservation functions.

The Steering Committee will function under the leadership of the CDN Steering Committee Chair. In the absence of the Chair, the Steering

Committee Vice-Chair will preside over Steering Committee activities. The Steering Committee Chair will be a non-voting member of the Steering Committee, except for the need to break a tie vote within the Committee. Each member agency/organization represented on the Steering Committee will have one vote. All Steering Committee decisions will be derived by a simple majority vote. No procedural waiver is required by the Steering Committee to function in any decision-making process with a majority forum present. All votes of the Steering Committee members in good standing, either in person or by official written proxy, will be counted to proceed to a decision.

Participating Membership: Membership and participation on the CDN is not reserved to agencies, organizations, entities or individuals directly associated with the Steering Committee. Each CDN member agency/organization will determine the appropriate personnel within their ranks that will serve to support conservation delivery and provide resource expertise in the CDN geography. Participating membership may include multiple personnel from a given organization,. Participating members associated with each CDN agency/organization are not required to remain static and may be altered to best address the particular needs of a specific conservation delivery project/program. Any additional agency or organization personnel participating as a member of the CDN must have a functional responsibility or expertise in delivering conservation actions at the field level. The general membership body of the CDN is non-voting. Participating members of the CDN should be vested in their participation, are encouraged to attend CDN meetings, and are vital for the CDN to functionally deliver projects to the ground.

Nomination Procedures for Membership

Nominations for additional agency/organization members of the CDN Steering Committee can be submitted by any participating CDN member. Nominations must be submitted through a voting member of the Steering Committee. Prior to considering the election of a new participating agency/organization, the current Steering Committee member sponsoring the nominated agency/organization will forward to the Chair and Vice-chair , a nomination briefly (one to three paragraphs) outlining relevant information including: **Organization's name, mission statement, natural resources role, geographical scope, resource funding and delivery potential, as well as staffing availability for conservation actions.**

Upon receipt of the nomination form, the CDN Steering Committee Chair, or his designee, will share the information with the Steering Committee. No formal meeting of the Steering Committee will be required to conduct to select new members. The Chair will determine the best means of coordinating discussion and comments associated with the nomination (e.g., conference call or email). Consideration of each nominee must also include an assessment by the Steering Committee of whether the organization should also be invited to be a Steering Committee member. The Chair will call for a vote of the full Steering Committee as deemed appropriate. A simple majority vote will be required for the new member to be accepted. If a the new member is also invited to participate on the Steering Committee, the agency/organization will be asked to appoint one member of that agency/organization to serve on the Steering Committee. When a new member organization/agency is approved as a new member of the CDN, the Chair or his designee, will inform the full CDN of the election results. The election of new member agencies/organizations to the CDN can be conducted at any time under these provisions.

In order to best serve conservation delivery while remaining a functional network, good communication and coordination is an absolute requirement. The overall maximum number of participating members will be determined by the Steering Committee membership. This determination will be based upon effectiveness of the CDN and directly proportional to CDN opportunities in conservation delivery.

Steering Committee Officer Terms

The standard term of service for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee will be two (2) years. A person may serve more than one term as chair provided the terms are not consecutive. However, the standard term of two (2) years for any individual Chair can be extended one time by a simple majority vote of the Steering Committee in such cases where the vacancy of the office would be detrimental to the overall function of the CDN.

It will be generally assumed, but not required, that the Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee will succeed the outgoing Chair. However, all exchanges of officers will be confirmed by a vote of the Steering Committee members with a simple majority needed for confirmation.

Amending Operating Guidelines

These operating guidelines may be amended by majority vote of the Steering Committee. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Steering Committee Chair who will then distribute the proposed amendment to the members of the Steering Committee no less than 5 business days prior to a vote on the amendment.

Standing Committee Rosters

Steering Committee (Current Representatives):

- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries – Fred Kimmel, Chair (non-voting member)
- Mississippi Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks – Ron Seiss, Vice-Chair (voting member)
- The Nature Conservancy, Louisiana - xxxxx, (voting member)
- The Nature Conservancy, Mississippi – xxxxx (voting member)
- The Conservation Fund – Ray Herndon (voting member)
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries - xxxx (voting member)
- Ducks Unlimited – xxxxx (voting member)
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services/Partners for Fish and Wildlife - xxxxx (voting member)
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Refuges/Migratory Birds - xxxxx (voting member)

- Natural Resources Conservation Service, Louisiana - xxxxx (non-voting member)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service, Mississippi – xxxxx (non-voting member)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, LMVJV – Steve Brock (Ad Hoc member)