

Development of a National Wild Pig Technical Committee?

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The “Wild Pig” Conference

- Pre-1988-sporadic conferences
- 1988-Orlando, FL
- 1993-Kerrville, TX
- 1999-Dallas/Fort Worth, TX
- 2004-Augusta, GA
- 2006-Mobile, AL
- 2008-St. Louis, MO
- 2010-Pensacola, FL
- 2012-San Antonio, TX
- 2014-Montgomery, AL

250 wild pig biologists, researchers, managers, etc. from multiple nations from countless agencies/organizations/businesses at one place at one time

Who's been hosting it?

- Pre-2006---key individuals (e.g., John Lewis, Dale Rollins, Jack Mayer, Billy Higginbotham, etc.)
- 2006-Present---Wild Pig Conference Committee
 - Fred Cunningham, USDA-WS-NWRC
 - Rob Denkhaus, Fort Worth Nature Center
 - Steve Ditchkoff, Auburn University
 - Bill Hamrick, Mississippi State University
 - Billy Higginbotham, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
 - Rex Martenson, Missouri Department of Conservation
 - Jack Mayer, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
 - Mark Smith, Alabama Cooperative Extension/AU
 - Jessica Tegt, Mississippi State University/former Berryman Institute, Center for Resolving Human Wildlife Conflicts
 - Ben West, University of Tennessee Extension



Everyone is stepping up to the plate

- Many states have developed task forces to address wild pig issues
- State wild pig coordinators
- Some regional/national organization and leadership
 - SEAFWA Feral Hog Working Group
 - MAFWA Feral Hog Working Group
 - USDA-APHIS federal agency group
 - Wild Pig Conference Committee

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Harness, focus, and put to work all of this knowledge, experience, and talent!



Time for National-level Leadership
and Organization?

Who is working on it?

- Wild Pig Conference Committee
 - Fred Cunningham, USDA-WS-NWRC
 - Rob Denkhaus, Fort Worth Nature Center
 - Steve Ditchkoff, Auburn University
 - Bill Hamrick, Mississippi State University
 - Billy Higginbotham, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
 - Jack Mayer, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
 - Mark Smith, Alabama Cooperative Extension/AU
 - Jessica Tegt, Mississippi State University
 - Ben West, University of Tennessee Extension
- SEAFWA Wild Hog Working Group-Jim LaCour
- MAFWA Wild Hog Working Group-Chad Soard
- USDA-WS
 - Martin Mendoza
 - Dale Nolte
 - John McConnell
 - Mike Bodenchuk

Objectives

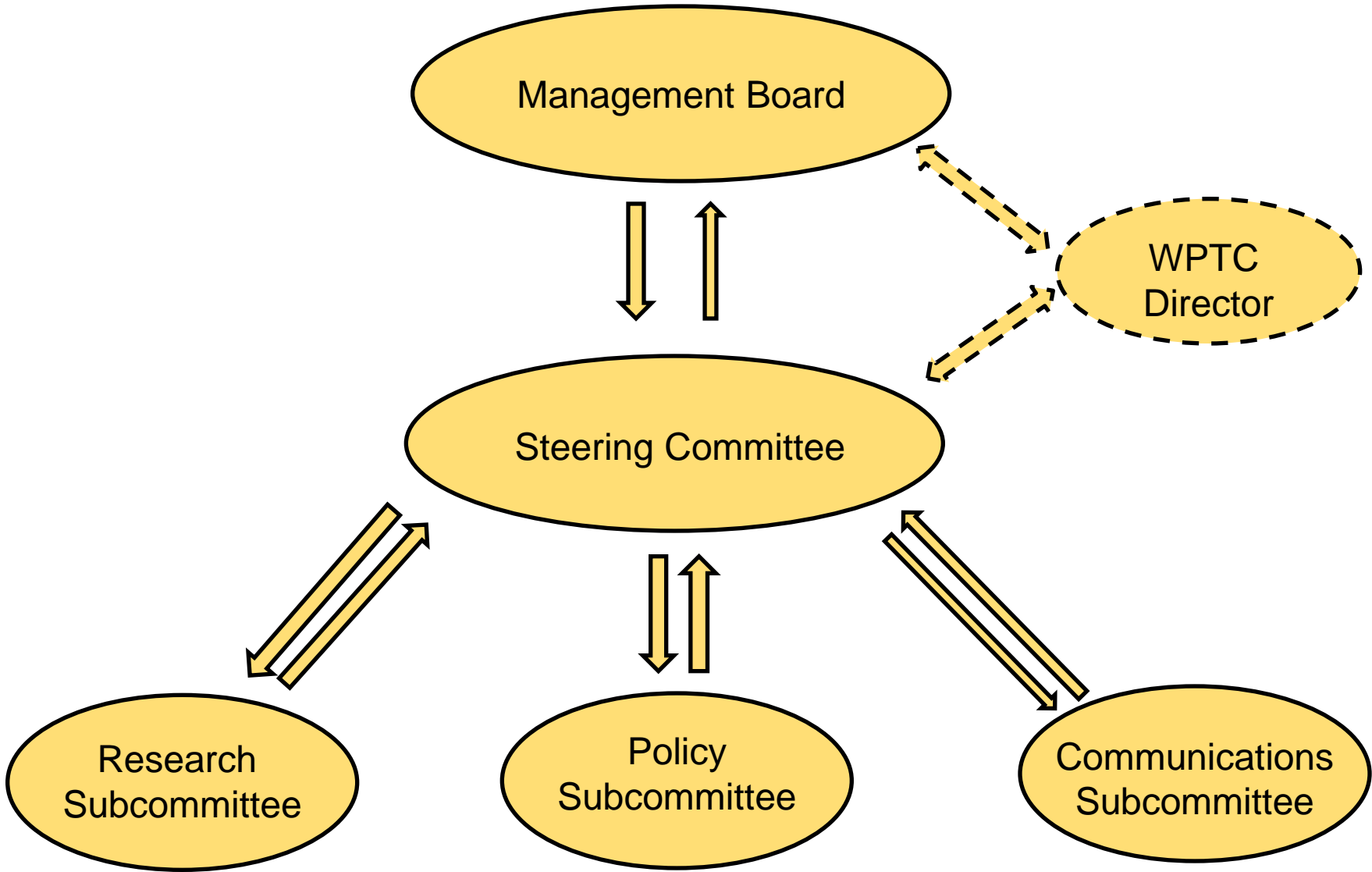
- Provide national leadership and a collective voice for science-based management of wild pigs
- Provide a forum for the exchange of information among stakeholder groups
- Identify knowledge gaps in the biology, ecology, and management of wild pigs
- Provide sound science-based information to the public, administrators, and policy makers regarding the management of wild pigs

Membership

- Natural resource professionals employed by a state agency, provincial or federal agency, academia, conservation organization, or private company that has an interest in the management (reduction) of wild pig populations

Structure

- Steering Committee
 - Approximately 10-12 members
 - Elected positions (e.g., Chair, Chair-elect, Past-Chair, Secretary/Treasurer)
 - Standing seats
 - SEAFWA Wild Hog Working Group Representative
 - MAFWA Wild Hog Working Group Representative
 - USDA-WS (State Director)
 - At-large elected seats (3-4 seats)
- Subcommittees (e.g., research, policy, outreach)
 - Objectives:
 - Provide expertise, leadership, and guidance to Steering Committee in specific areas
 - Propose actions for the consideration of the Steering Committee
 - Subcommittee Vice-Chair and Chair



Course of Action

1. Input from YOU!
 - Survey link on Wild Pig Conference website
2. Incorporate YOUR input in the development of by-laws
 - Circulate proposed by-laws for additional input from YOU
3. Revise by-laws accordingly

Many things to consider and get worked out!

- Further refinement of goals, objectives, and structure
- Seeking “buy-in” from agencies
- How will the Wild Pig Conference fit in?
 - As is, every two years?
 - Annual meeting?
 - Wild Pig Conference = NWPTC meeting?
 - NWPTC-WPC hybrid working meeting?
 - Time for Subcommittees to meet and do some work!
(in addition to email correspondence throughout the year)