

**HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTION ITEMS  
NABCI FEDERAL SUB-COMMITTEE  
WORKING GROUP  
MEETING**

**JULY 21, 2000**

The NABCI Federal Sub-committee working group convened July 21, 2000 at the U.S. Forest Service offices at 14<sup>th</sup> and L Streets in Washington, DC. The following notes are highlights and action items from that meeting. Action items are typed in bold print. Agenda items were grouped into four categories:

- I. meeting updates
- II. Ongoing discussions - federal funding progress
- III. communications
- IV. other business and next meeting date.

I. Meeting updates

A NABCI workshop will be held in conjunction with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting in Indianapolis September 13 and 14, 2000. The purpose of the meeting is to begin to address some of the most pressing issues facing NABCI and bird conservation implementation. A letter of invitation has been sent to contacts (handout at meeting, otherwise available upon request). Invitations are open, all interested people are welcome to attend (space is not limiting). The US NABCI Committee will meet Friday night, September 15 at 5:30 p.m. in Indianapolis.

The Bird Funding Group has met recently; minutes for that meeting were distributed for the Federal Sub-Committee. Pertinent details are included under specific agenda items below.

The NABCI meeting in Mexico in November is becoming finalized. A list of attendees has been forwarded to the US NABCI Co-Chairs for approval.

II. Ongoing discussions - federal funding progress

This committee continues ongoing discussions regarding coordinated federal funding for migratory bird management and conservation. Ken Williams, USGS, provided an update on the ICEBURG series. The third workshop is scheduled for mid-October and will concentrate on avian research needs. The Steering Committee meets in August to determine specific agenda and action items for the meeting. There is and will be integration with other agencies and non-government organizations as the meeting develops.

Paul Schmidt provided a general update for USFWS. There was a meeting at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) that included Assistant and Deputy Directors, Assistant Regional Directors, and others in July. Migratory birds is 1 of 5 budget initiatives for FY02 for USFWS. A directorate meeting is scheduled in mid-August, bird conservation and management will continue to be discussed, although no more budget work is expected until September 2000.

After a lengthy and positive discussion regarding federal agency roles, a series of action items were decided upon. These action items are:

1. The following should be sent to the NABCI federal sub-committee working group: a copy of the USFWS migratory bird budget themes, the final text for the outreach document; a list of the most current ARD contact, and a draft one page information sheet should be drafted to propose/establish a common set of terms for NABCI discussions and implementation for budget texts (Ford/Capp).

2. Common language terms should be incorporated into budget text as possible across agencies and a team should be formed that can present concepts across all agencies (Ford/Smith). The team should include a NABCI representative from every agency's budget to support other agency initiatives.

3. A migratory bird briefing, specific to NABCI, should occur with the Secretary's Office at Department of Interior (Schmidt/Williams). The Groat-Clark discussions should continue (perhaps best after CARA decision by Congress, Schmidt/Williams).

4. A letter should be mailed to agencies requesting support of NABCI and the use of common language. The letter should be strong enough to be considered a budget letter and not a programmatic letter. An attachment should define common terms, and it should be signed by the co-chairs. However, the letter should reference other strong support, such as Chip Groat (Ford/Capp/other members of sub-committee)

5. David Pashley proposed an outline for Bird Conservation Region "Implementation plans". This committee should provide further review as soon as possible to Ford, Capp and/or Pashley.

6. The Indianapolis meeting should provide a forum to discuss federal agency progress on these and other matters.

### III. Communications

The MBTA Executive Order is close to being signed, the USFWS will remain on Alert Status and provide information to this committee as soon as possible. The takings lawsuit is out of court, all federal employees are subject to take regulations. A copy of the court action is available on request.

A letter to CEC requesting continued support for NABCI was discussed at the June meeting of this group,; however, no action was taken and this item was again tabled.

**A letter that recommended the formation of a Communications Committee has been drafted by Bogart and Capp, the letter should be out for review by this committee and action taken at the next meeting.**

Outreach materials were distributed and there was a brief discussion on the progress of outreach. The web page discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

### IV. Other business and next meeting date

Craig Watson provided an update on the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture work, especially in regards to new partnership potential in Puerto Rico for migratory landbird priorities. The group thought the work was excellent and that, outside the USFWS, the progress of NABCI through Joint Venture Offices is poorly understood. **A one page summary of Joint Venture integrated bird management actions should be written for distribution, and the Indianapolis meeting be**

**used to further the word about Joint Venture work. Furthermore, it was also suggested that a Joint Venture host a Congressional tour to show off integrated bird management and conservation on the ground, perhaps in conjunction with a developing BCR implementation plan (Ford/Smith/others).**

The next meeting is planned for August 31, 2000 at the US Fish and Wildlife Service Office in Arlington Square.

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