

Highlights and Action Items NABCI Federal Subcommittee meeting October 18, 2001

The NABCI Federal Subcommittee met October 18, 2001 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Building at Arlington Square, Arlington, Virginia. Jack Capp and Bob Ford chaired the meeting. Agenda items included both information topics and action items. The agenda included 1) an update on the US NABCI Committee retreat and staff work, 2) Federal coordination for budgets and program priorities, 3) a formal approval of the NABCI Communications Strategy, and 4) updates on the NABCI International Agreement, and International Demonstration Projects. Action items are provided in bold type below.

Those attending the meeting were: Kathleen Kutschenreuter (EPA), Heather Johnson (USFWS), Ken Williams (USGS), Gary Johnston (NPS), Ron Archuleta (USFS), Eric Lawton (BLM), Jack Capp (USFS), Bob Ford (USFWS).

Update - US NABCI Committee retreat and staff work

The US NABCI Committee has postponed its planned retreat in November and rescheduled the retreat for January 14-15, 2001. Staff to the US NABCI Committee, however, has continued to meet and develop background and discussion points for each of nine priority action items as requested by the US NABCI Committee. These action items and staff leads are as follows:

1. Funding for upland projects (Pat Patterson, Naomi Edelson, Bob Ford).
2. Request for Federal agency bird conservation opportunities funding. (Jack Capp, Bob Ford, Jim Woehr).
3. Bird conservation Initiative support needs (David Pashley, others).
4. Communications strategy (Ken Williams, Dave Case).
5. Conservation partnerships -the potential for "wall-to-wall Joint Ventures". (Seth Mott, others)
6. International issues and strategy (Heather Johnson, Jack Capp)
7. Monitoring (Marshall Howe, others).
8. CARA (Naomi Edelson).
9. Farm Bill and agricultural policy (Jim Woehr).

An NABCI Staff action update on these nine topics will be provided by David Pashley at regular intervals and will be forwarded to this subcommittee.

Federal coordination for budgets and program priorities, opportunities

During this subcommittee meeting, there was a lengthy discussion regarding agency/program budget outyear needs and coordination for bird conservation. Jim Woehr, on behalf of the NGO "Bird Funding Group", has requested budget information from the Federal agencies doing bird conservation work. This includes about 11 divisions/program areas of four agencies (USFWS, USFS, BLM, USGS) but other Federal agencies have information needed. As a first step, Jim will compile information provided to him by the agencies into one document and begin to

examine outyear opportunities. The next step will be to convene the agencies that supplied information for a discussion regarding these opportunities, then provide an update and request for other agency information at the next Federal Subcommittee meeting.

Gary Johnston (NPS) suggested, to better respond to this request for information from the Federal agencies, that each agency consider providing a budget outyear overview at our next meeting. Also, budget staff for each agency should be fully informed of each step in this process or responding to this request from the NGO Bird Funding Group

Approval of the NABCI Communications Strategy

The Federal Subcommittee endorsed the proposed NABCI Communications plan developed by Dave Case, and encourages the US NABCI Committee to continue a contract with Dave Case for implementation of this strategy.

NABCI International Agreement and International Demonstration Projects

Herb Raffaele (USFWS) provided an update on both the International Agreement for NABCI and the development of International Demonstration Project ideas. The International Agreement is a non-regulatory agreement for bird conservation being developed by a drafting team composed of members from Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Signatories to this agreement will be at the secretary or minister's level in each country and will be the first such document of its kind. The language will be written in such a way as to encourage other countries to participate over time. The progress continues on track, and difficult issues are about resolved. **A draft agreement will be distributed to this subcommittee for review once the drafting team has reached consensus on the draft. Later, the US NABCI Committee will be asked to review the draft and endorse it.**

The development of International Demonstration Projects is a priority issue that arose from the NABCI international meeting in Quertaro, Mexico. Characteristics of projects have been further developed and discussed by national committees from Mexico, Canada, and the US.; a US NABCI Working Group is discussing this and working on a US position and then agreement with Mexico and Canada. Contact Herb Raffaele, Jack Capp, or Bob Ford for further details.

Next meeting date

The next meeting of the NABCI Federal Subcommittee will be held November 19, 2001 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in a location to be determined.

Highlights provided by:

Jack Capp, USFS
Bob Ford, USFWS