

Highlights and Action Items

NABCI Federal Subcommittee meeting

November 19, 2001

The NABCI Federal Subcommittee met November 19, 2001 at the US Forest Service, Franklin Court, Washington DC. Jack Capp and Bob Ford chaired the meeting. Agenda items included both information topics and action items. The agenda included 1) Federal coordination for budgets and program priorities, 2) an update on the US NABCI Committee retreat, 3) NABCI Communications, 4) International update, and 5) the results of a NABCI briefing with the National Park Service. Action items that follow are in bold type.

Those attending the meeting were: Kathleen Kutschenreuter (EPA), Heather Johnson (USFWS), Ken Williams (USGS), Mike Anderson (NRCS), Ron Archuleta (USFS), Eric Lawton (BLM), Jack Capp (USFS), Bob Ford (USFWS). Jim Woehr (WMI) was invited to attend to provide the subcommittee with an update regarding the federal budget coordination request.

Federal budget coordination - progress on the request from the NGO Bird Funding Group

Jim Woehr, WMI staff and representing the Bird Funding Group, provided an update to the subcommittee regarding the progress in developing coordinated outyear needs for bird conservation among federal agencies. The Bird Funding Group has solicited outyear needs assessments from about 13 divisions/program areas in four different agencies (USFWS, USFS, BLM, USGS). It was pointed out that this is not a budget matter; but it is rather an assessment of what it takes from the Federal agencies to get the bird conservation job done. However, if each agency should choose to do so, they could use this information in building agency budget requests. The Funding Group is seeking other agency needs information. Other agencies wanting to respond should to the Funding Group request should contact Jim Woehr to submit outyear needs into this process, but those needs have to be work directly for bird conservation. One difficult task in this process is finding any duplication of needs and providing efficiency to the process among agencies. However, if needs are addressed in small pieces annually, then duplication of effort among agencies can be identified and evaluated each year and corrected over time.

The next steps in this process are to: 1) improve/revise outyear needs and description from agencies (**summary text should focus on linkages among agencies and not the needs themselves**), 2) review by NABCI staff in December, 3) request briefing for each of the US NABCI Committee members ; and 4) present the findings to the US NABCI Committee in mid-January. **A report will be provided to the Federal Subcommittee at the next Subcommittee meeting.**

The Federal Subcommittee endorsed the concept of collaboration and cooperation for outyear needs among Federal agencies to improve Federal efficiency for bird conservation.

Update - attendance at the US NABCI Committee retreat

The US NABCI Committee retreat will be held January 14-15, 2002 at NCTC in West Virginia. The co-chairs have asked that NABCI Staff be in attendance, which includes the one rep for each Committee member, the "special" reps (Niles and Milliken), David Pashley, and the chairs of the working groups (Communications, International, and Monitoring), plus Dave Case to facilitate. The co-chairs have specifically asked that the meeting be limited to these staff.

NABCI Communications

The NABCI Communications strategy continues on track, as reported at the Federal Subcommittee meeting on October 18, 2001. Federal agencies are encouraged to financially support the continuation of Dave Case for implementation of that strategy. If this is a multi-year commitment, EPA expressed the possibility of contributing more this year, but none in subsequent years, to ease problems with budget planning and delivery.

A brief update on web site progress was provided. **The web page may be an agenda item for the next meeting.**

International update

Heather Johnson provided an update on international activities for NABCI. The concept of demonstration projects and the Trinational Agreement are moving forward on track with the last report of October 18, 2001. In addition, a "Lessons Learned" document is proposed for web site distribution that highlights existing projects, and will include a how to section for people developing proposals. Jack Capp reported that the International NABCI agreement document is nearing completion. The Agreement teams from Canada, Mexico, and US are making their last review. Following agreement by these teams, the proposed agreement will be sent out for review by the NABCI staff and others with the goal of presenting a proposed agreement at the US NABCI Committee meeting in January. Canada and Mexico will follow similar review processes and country approval.

National Park Service briefing

Jack Capp, Bob Ford, and Gary Johnston provided an informal NABCI briefing to Mike Soukup, Associate Director for National Park Service. We covered several topics with him specific to Park Service involvement in NABCI, including:

- 1) international coordination (e.g. Park Flight program, exchange of biologists/planners with Latin America),
- 2) monitoring and assessment (contribution of Park Service data, opening parks to independent, coordinated research),
- 3) integrated conservation planning based on Bird Conservation Region,
- 4) the use of Joint Venture partnerships for delivery of habitat moneypartnerships,
- 5) Conservation education, and
- 6) federal budget coordination, as requested by the Bird Funding Group.

We stressed that NABCI is a forum for bird conservation discussions and, most importantly, NPS and bird conservation would benefit by NPS contributions through the Federal Agency Subcommittee (via Gary Johnston).

Next meeting date:

The next meeting will be after the US NABCI Committee retreat on January 14-15, 2002. The date and location will be announced shortly thereafter.

Highlights submitted by:

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