

Highlights and Action Items

NABCI Federal Subcommittee meeting

November 7, 2002

The NABCI Federal Subcommittee met November 7, 2002 at the US Forest Service, Franklin Court, Washington DC. Primary agenda items included both information topics and action items. Action items are highlighted in bold type below. The agenda included 1) an update on the US NABCI Committee actions, 2) Communications, and 3) Setting the FY agenda.

Those attending the meeting were: Antionette Condo (State), Kathleen Kutschenreuter (EPA), Debbie Pressman (USFS), Eric Lawton (BLM), Jack Capp (USFS), and Bob Ford (USFWS). Jim Woehr (WMI) attended the meeting as representative of the NABCI NGO subcommittee and the Bird Funding Group.

I. Update

Capp and Ford provided a brief update from the US NABCI Committee. The US NABCI Committee's last meeting was August 5-6, 2002. The Committee made significant progress on each of their 9 action items (see minutes from different mailing, from David Pashley). Jack Capp presented a report from the Federal Agency Subcommittee, and concentrated on Federal Agency private lands programs (separate handout available from Jack Capp). The US NABCI Committee agreed that this was an appropriate course of action for the Federal Agencies, and that the Subcommittee could broaden its work to encompass the entire area of private lands programs in existence at federal and state levels.

The US NABCI staff meeting was held at The Nature Conservancy office in Arlington, VA on October 22, 2002. Among the most notable actions taken by staff included a **recommendation to the US NABCI Committee that research be included as a priority action item for discussion**. This will, as a result, also enter into Federal Agency discussions over the next year or more.

A national GIS working group is being formed. The idea originated during the Partners in Flight meeting in Big Sky Montana in September 2002. However, subsequent discussions have included all bird initiatives. Eric Lawton (BLM) and Chris Eberly (DoD) are a members of that working group.

The next US NABCI Committee meeting will be January 28-29, 2003 in Washington, DC, immediately following a WMI bird conservation workshop.

II. Communications

Roxanne Bogart (USFWS) could not attend this meeting, but submitted a report from the Communications working group (handout at meeting, copy available on request from Roxanne). Highlights from the Communications working group include 1) a new electronic "All-Bird Bulletin", starting in November (please consider news items for future editions), 2) the announcement

that the Trinational MOU for bird conservation is en route for signature by Secretary Norton (DOI), and 3) hosting a US NABCI staff retreat February 19-21, 2003 in Leesburg, VA.

The web page continues to receive positive feedback (<http://www.nabci-us.org>). **Please check the Federal Subcommittee listing and make sure your agency contact information is correct. EPA requested a federal agency mailing list; the list is available to others on request as well (to be provided by Capp and Bogart).**

Two questions came up regarding the web page:

* “can you download the power point slide show?” - Yes, the power point is designed to be downloaded, the **Communications Group will check on (and correct) any possible problems there.**

* “what is the status and intent of the case studies?” - The objective of case studies is provide examples that illustrate the vision of NABCI, although these examples may not necessarily be a result of NABCI.

III. Setting the next FY agenda

The primary topic of discussion was the WMI workshop for bird conservation to be held in Washington DC on January 26-27, 2003, and the role of Federal Agencies in preparing for that workshop. One objective of the workshop is to bring together NGOs from around the country to find common ground with federal agencies regarding bird conservation needs, and to provide NGOs the opportunity to better learn how Congress and the appropriations process works.

The work that Federal Agencies have accomplished through this subcommittee will play a prominent role in the workshop - that is, major themes for bird conservation, text describing various agency missions and the contribution to bird conservation, and most importantly, the outyear needs that were compiled by several agencies and submitted to the Bird Funding group in the fall of 2001. The WMI workshop is designed to provide NGOs with this and other information so constituents can make informed decisions about funding needs of federal agencies.

Many issues need to be clarified for the Federal Agencies to play an important role in this workshop, including another review of supporting outyear text and documents that have been developed through this subcommittee.

A small group (Jack Capp, Debbie Pressman, Bob Ford) was asked to meet with WMI and work though several of these issues and report back to the Federal Agency Subcommittee via e-mail. {Update, added to highlights on November 18, 2002: Jack Capp, Debbie Pressman, and Bob Ford met with Jim Woehr to further clarify the role of the Federal Agency Subcommittee during the January 26-27 WMI workshop. Actions for federal agency subcommittee members include: 1) a review of the “synthesis document” we developed in summer of 2001 - Ford/Bogart to forward to

subcommittee; 2) begin to discuss importance of meeting to senior representatives in your agency - Capp and Ford willing to visit agencies for informal briefings if so desired; call Ford with questions; 3) further review of agenda and details of breakout sessions. Tentatively, we decided it may be best for an NGO to present a Federal agency summary of bird conservation outyear needs).

IV. Other items of interest

The State Department announced a natural resources conference for the western hemisphere governments to concentrate on migratory species (birds, turtles, butterflies). Tentatively, the meeting will be held in Mexico, more details are to be announced at a later date, most likely through a letter to each agency

Dates to remember, a summary:

November 2002 - look for the new "all-bird bulletin" by e-mail!

January 26-27, 2003 - WMI workshop, Washington DC

January 28-29, 2003 - US NABCI Committee, Washintgon DC

February 19-21, 2003 - US NABCI staff retreat, Leesburg, VA

III. Next meeting date

The next meeting date for the NABCI Federal Agency Subcommittee is the week of January 13, 2003; tentatively planned for January 14 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Please contact Bob Ford if you prefer alternative dates/times that week.

Highlights and Action Items were compiled and submitted by Jack Capp and Bob Ford.