

Highlights and Action Items
NABCI Federal Subcommittee Meeting
July 25, 2002

The NABCI Federal Subcommittee met July 25, 2002 at the US Forest Service, Franklin Count Office in Washington, D.C. Jack Capp chaired the meeting. Agenda items included: 1) Agenda for the US NABCI Committee meeting August 5-6; 2) Federal Budget Activities for bird conservation; 3) Federal Private Lands Programs for bird conservation.

Those attending the meeting included: Jack Capp, Debbie Pressman (USFS), Ken Williams (USGS); Mike Anderson, Charlie Rewa (NRCS); Jennifer Wheeler, Mila Plavsic, Nancy Derey, Frank Rivera and Ellen Murphy (USFWS); Antoinette Condo (State); Kathleen Kutschenreuter, Stan Austin (EPA); Jim Woehr (WMI); David Pashley (US NABCI Coordinator); Chris Eberly (DOD); Gary Johnston (NPS).

1-US NABCI Committee Meeting Agenda

David Pashley reported on the draft agenda for the August 5-6 meeting remarking that it is a pretty good agenda with many decision points. Highlights included progress on the tri-national projects and the MOU status. Pashley reported that characteristics for the tri-national projects were agreed upon; Mexico has identified sites for international collaboration projects; CEC is looking for support from US and Canada; and the need to look beyond borders for conservation of migratory birds.

Ken Williams reported/commented on the update of the Monitoring Working Group and NABCI connection to bird conservation research.

David Pashley reported that documents/packets will be mailed out for review/recommendation at the US Committee meeting in August.

Antoinette Condo reported on the International MOU meeting held in Mexico the week of July 14th. A draft agreement was reviewed and discussed by representatives of the Mexican, US and Canadian government agency representatives. The substance of the document is agreed, but questions still remain on terminology. The progress on the MOU will be presented to the US Committee at their meeting August 5-6.

David Pashley also reported on the NABCI Staff meeting of the previous week. It was a successful meeting with everyone pitching in. He also noted that former members of staff are encouraged to participate in NABCI Staff meetings and that there are not rigid/set rules because diverse participation is more important than who participates.

2-Federal Budget Activities

Jim Woehr updated the subcommittee on budget activities by the NGO Subcommittee and Ad hoc funding group. He reported that the 2/4/02 version of the budget opportunities and needs responses by the Federal agencies is still the latest version. Jim pointed out that agencies present that are not now included in the ad hoc Funding Group document should respond to the Funding

Group request and provide figures addressing what would be a minimum amount of funds/staff in order to strengthen integrated bird conservation. Suggestions for additions were discussed.

Jim Woehr also reported that the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) is planning a bird conservation workshop for January 19-20th, 2003, to bring people together to identify needs, opportunities and priorities for Fiscal Years 05, 06, and 07. He stated that the same bird groups outside the beltway that were concerned about the creation of NABCI because it would take on too much of a role are now expressing concerns that NABCI has not done enough. He reminded the group that NABCI was created to facilitate and not to dictate what needs to be done; but the need for NABCI to help obtain funding for bird conservation remains. It was clear at the last North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference that Federal and State agencies and NGOs must work closer together, including agreeing to some common needs and priorities. So, it is hoped that the workshop will involve all bird conservation entities and they will agree on a common set of priorities. A steering committee has been formed to design the workshop. They are trying to get agency leadership to attend. The workshop will be modeled after the successful WMI Farm Bill workshop held last year. David Pashley suggested formal, targeted letters of invitation.

3-Federal Private Lands Programs

This item regards Federal private land programs that now contribute or could contribute to bird conservation in the US. This topic addresses one of nine US NABCI goals: “ *Work toward an agricultural policy that provides significant benefits to bird populations...Recognition of the magnitude of the potential for sound agricultural policy to provide significant bird conservation benefits*”. Presentations were made by representatives from NRCS (Mike), EPA (Kathleen), FWS (Nancy), NPS (Gary) and FS (Jack). Handouts were distributed.

David Pashley asked the group what they want the US NABCI Committee to do with all this information. What action do we want them to take? Jack Capp is to present information on federal private land programs to the US Committee at the Committee's August 5-6 meeting. Jack Capp will work with each agency to compile information for presentation.

4-Other Items discussed

- _ Next Meeting should be in October. Jack and Bob Ford will schedule this meeting.
- _ The National Wetlands Symposium in Indianapolis will take place in early October; Dave Case is on the agenda to discuss NABCI, including the communications strategy.