

# US NORTH AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE COMMITTEE CHARTER

Approved June 2008, revised August 2013

## GOAL

The goal of North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) and the US NABCI Committee is to deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation through regionally-based, biologically-driven, landscape-oriented partnerships.

## PURPOSE

The US NABCI Committee exists to perform the following three functions:

- 1) to represent the United States internationally in the NABCI;
- 2) to foster coordination among United States-based bird conservation initiatives and integrated delivery of conservation activities by providing a forum for interaction;
- 3) to identify and facilitate the delivery of those resources needed to achieve conservation objectives for the birds of the United States wherever they may occur over the course of their entire life cycles.

## PHILOSOPHY

The US NABCI Committee will play a leadership role in identifying and building support for common bird conservation objectives through development of a shared vision. Such a shared vision can be a powerful tool for increasing partnerships for comprehensive bird conservation while preserving the independence of various initiatives and partners. The US NABCI Committee will not set policy but will establish a framework within which its constituents and other groups can contribute their unique approaches to achieving this vision.

## AUTONOMY and PARTNERSHIPS

The US NABCI Committee is an autonomous self-directing partnership. Its existence and success depend entirely on its relationship and accountability to key partners. Included among these are the bird conservation initiatives for which the US NABCI Committee provides a forum for interaction. Also critically important is the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, particularly the Bird Conservation Committee in which much of the genesis of the US NABCI Committee occurred. The US NABCI Committee strives to represent all perspectives of those involved in bird conservation. It is of paramount importance for US NABCI Committee members both to inform their constituency of US NABCI Committee activities and benefits and to bring issues from constituents to the US NABCI Committee for discussion and resolution.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The US NABCI Committee may add or delete members over time, adapting to changing conditions in the bird conservation community, without revising this Charter. Members will designate their US NABCI Committee representatives for two-year terms and representatives may serve multiple terms. The US NABCI Committee consists of representatives from non-governmental bird conservation organizations, Joint Ventures, the 4 major bird initiatives, as well as Federal and State natural resource agencies. The Coordinator will keep an updated list.

If a US NABCI Committee member is consistently absent from US NABCI Committee meetings, the US NABCI Committee has the right and obligation to review that membership. However, all attempts will be made to keep a member on the US NABCI Committee.

#### *Consideration of New Members to the NABCI Committee*

At any time, organizations interested in joining the Committee may submit a Membership Application to the coordinator for review and consideration by the executive council and full Committee at the Jan/Feb meeting during even-numbered years. NABCI meetings are always open to any interested participants.

Prior to the Jan/Feb meeting of NABCI in even numbered years, the executive council will review any membership applications received and provide the full Committee with a recommendation and opportunity for discussion of each. In addition, the executive council will assess the Committee's breadth and ability to address high priority and emerging issues in bird conservation. If the executive council determines that additional member organizations would assist the Committee in achieving its goals, those organizations may be invited to submit a Membership Application. Suggestions from any Committee member are welcome at any time.

In any membership decisions, the Committee and executive council will consider creating or maintaining balance among state, federal, and non-governmental entities on the Committee. In addition, an effort will be made to ensure membership reflects the diversity of disciplines and specialties necessary to advance all-bird conservation.

#### Characteristics of NABCI Committee Member Organizations

A successful NABCI Committee Member organization serves to advance the vision of protecting and restoring the populations and habitats of North American birds through one or more of the following:

- Initiating and broadening bird conservation partnerships.
- Increasing financial resources and awareness for bird conservation in the U.S. and range-wide.
- Enhancing the effectiveness of those resources and partnerships through integrated bird conservation.
- Facilitating integrated bird conservation through the natural and social sciences including monitoring, research, modeling, habitat management, human dimensions, or conservation programs.
- Facilitating conservation through communication, education, outreach or policy
- Pursuing a mission and programs that are national and/or continental in scope and maintaining a broad network of constituents engaged in all-bird conservation advancements.

## *Roles and Responsibilities*

### Responsibilities of the US NABCI Committee:

- Lead and govern the activities of the US NABCI Committee, subcommittees, and staff.
- Formulate and help implement or build capacity for strategies that further US NABCI's strategic direction and bird conservation as a whole; periodically review and update goals and objectives as necessary.
- Provide oversight of organizational and programmatic planning and evaluation.
- Ensure ethical integrity and maintain accountability for the NABCI Committee.
- Promote the activities of NABCI and enhance NABCI's visibility among partner organizations and the broader conservation community.
- Evaluate activities of NABCI and adapt or identify new strategies as bird conservation needs warrant

### Expectations of US NABCI Committee members:

- Maintain commitments of time, focus, and support necessary to achieve the NABCI vision.
- Consistently attend and engage fully in NABCI meetings, conference calls, and ad hoc working groups or subcommittees as needed.
- Participate or direct staff from his/her organization to fully participate on NABCI subcommittees and contribute to the development, promotion and implementation of NABCI projects and products.
- Possess authority to represent his/her organization in decision-making on the US NABCI Committee.
- Serve as active partners in NABCI's products and initiatives.
- Act as US NABCI ambassadors for their partner organizations and other public, private, and political leaders.
- Be alert to opportunities and threats likely to be encountered by the US NABCI Committee and the bird conservation community at large.
- Become familiar with US NABCI financial or resource needs and contribute as appropriate.
- Understand the policies and procedures of the US NABCI Committee.

## COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

Chairmanship of the US NABCI Committee will rotate biennially between the Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Chair of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Bird Conservation Committee.

The US NABCI Committee may elect an executive council to provide leadership to the US NABCI Committee by offering recommendations for potential future directions and priorities for the full Committee's consideration. The executive council serves as a resource to the US NABCI Coordinator and provides oversight for that position. The Committee facilitates decision making among members in between Committee meetings, but does not possess the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Committee.

The executive council will consist of 2 ex officio members and 4 rotating members representative of the breadth of organizations on the full committee.

- Director of USFWS or his/her designee (permanent)
- Chair of AFWA Bird Conservation Committee or his/her designee (permanent)
- Federal Agency representative
- State Agency representative
- Non-governmental representative
- Bird Initiative representative

Upon implementation of this recommendation, two members shall be elected to a one-year term and two members shall be elected to a two-year term. Thereafter, two members of the executive committee shall be elected annually at the winter meeting of the NABCI committee and shall serve for a term of two years. Nominees for the 4 rotating seats of the executive council will be selected and put forward to the full NABCI committee by their respective group of like organizations within the NABCI committee. The four groupings of like organizations are: federal agencies, state agencies, bird initiatives, and non-governmental organizations.

The Committee will self-select a chair among its members every 2 years.

#### DECISION-MAKING

Decisions will be made by consensus where possible. In situations in which consensus is not achieved and the chair determines that a decision is required, a motion will pass only with a vote of at least 2/3 of the members or their designated alternates present. The US NABCI Committee may by consensus entrust the chair with the authority to make specific decisions.

#### US NABCI COORDINATOR and STAFF

A US NABCI Coordinator will assist the chair and US NABCI Committee members in advancing the US NABCI Committees priorities. The Coordinator will be employed by an organization or agency committed to NABCI. The Coordinator will carry out activities that advance the purpose and goal and priorities of the US NABCI Committee. The US NABCI Committee chair will direct activities of the Coordinator.

Each US NABCI Committee member will designate one or more individuals to serve, along with the Coordinator, as US NABCI Committee Staff. A US NABCI Committee member may also designate themselves as Staff. Staff will be available as needed to assist the US NABCI Committee member they represent, the chair, and the Coordinator in advancing the interests of the US NABCI Committee. Staff will be responsible for communicating with their US NABCI Committee member for upcoming meetings, participating in a conference call prior to each meeting of the US NABCI Committee and participating in other conference calls and subcommittee activities as necessary.

## SUBCOMMITTEES

The US NABCI Committee recognizes the following Subcommittees—monitoring, state of the birds, conservation design, communications, private lands, policy and legislative, and international. The activity level of any given Subcommittees will vary over time. The Tri-national NABCI Committee (see below) is made up of one representative from each of the following—Federal agency, State agency and nongovernmental organization. The Tri-national designees will be members of the International Subcommittee (when active). A member of the US NABCI Committee will chair each Subcommittee. Subcommittees can be created or disbanded, as the US NABCI Committee deems necessary to meet its priorities.

## INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

The US NABCI Committee will designate three international representatives from the International Subcommittee to the Tri-national NABCI Committee. One of these representatives will be from the Federal government, one from the state wildlife agencies, and one from an NGO. International Representatives may or may not be members of the US NABCI Committee or Committee Staff, but communication between each representative and the US NABCI Committee must be assured. International Representatives to the Tri-national NABCI Committee will serve terms of two years, but may serve multiple terms. The Coordinator will assist in serving the US NABCI Committee on international issues including participation in activities of the Tri-national NABCI Committee.

## ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS AND QUORUMS

Every US NABCI Committee member is expected to attend every US NABCI Committee meeting or to send an alternate to submit a proxy for participation in any decisions or votes that may take place at a meeting. There will be no official business completed without the presence of 2/3 of the members of the US NABCI Committee (including those represented by alternates or proxies).

US NABCI Committee meetings shall be open to alternates, staff, or other invitees of US NABCI Committee members, members of the Subcommittees to the US NABCI Committee, and any other interested party. Although the US NABCI Committee welcomes such attendance, it is not under obligation to advertise meetings in any particular or general venue.

## REVIEWING THE CHARTER AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

This Charter and US NABCI Committee Structure will be reviewed and updated as necessary.