**NABCI-U.S. Committee**

**Policy and Legislative Subcommittee**

2017-2019 Work Plan

**DRAFT FOR APPROVAL 07/21/2017**

**General Authority and Goal:**

The Policy and Legislative Subcommittee is a subcommittee of the U.S. NABCI Committee. It is led by a member of the U.S. NABCI Committee and composed of U.S. NABCI Committee member organizations.

The Subcommittee is primarily focused on activities that implement the U.S. NABCI Committee’s Strategic Plan Goal 3: *Inform and support effective policy to advance bird conservation*.

**Charges:**

* Deliver key, consistent messaging from the bird conservation community on key policy issues by facilitating coordinated communication with government leadership about highest-priority programs, initiatives, and needs of bird conservation
* Serve as a resource for NABCI member organizations by compiling and/or developing policy-related messages that demonstrate the importance of key bird conservation programs and related legislation to help NABCI and NABCI member organizations inform and support effective policy to advance bird conservation
* Monitor, review, and, as necessary and appropriate, facilitate NABCI-U.S. Committee response to legislative and policy activities that may have impacts on bird conservation

**Activity Scope & Procedures:**

As NABCI is not a policy-making body, this committee will provide information about policies and programs related to bird conservation. We will focus our activities on current and proposed U.S. federal legislation, regulations, and funding that pertains to the conservation and management of bird populations and their habitats in North America.

NABCI’s Federal Partner engagement on this committee will be to provide information and programmatic expertise. They will not be involved in developing or implementing any policy advocacy activities that NABCI may choose to pursue.

This committee will meet and/or have conference calls at least twice annually, or when otherwise determined necessary by the Chair, to discuss relevant policy issues.

The Committee will determine relevancy of a policy issue and the potential to develop communication materials by evaluating 1) the history of NABCI’s engagement on the topic, 2) the importance of the issue to bird conservation on a regional, national, and international scale, 3) the ability of NABCI to engage the broader bird conservation community on the issue, and 4) the ability of NABCI to add value to the efforts of others.

Any formal policy actions (e.g. letters to Agency directors on a particular program) that originate from this committee must be approved by the full NABCI leadership. This committee will operate on consensus of non-federal partners to inform a recommendation to NABCI leadership.

**Membership:**

*VACANT* - *Chair*

American Bird Conservancy – Jennifer Cipolletti

Bureau of Land Management – Geoff Walsh

Migratory Bird Joint Ventures – Todd Fearer

Pheasants Forever – Scott Taylor

The Nature Conservancy – David Mehlman

The Institute for Bird Populations – Steve Albert

Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries – David Whitehurst

The Wildlife Society – Keith Norris

NABCI – Judith Scarl, *ex officio*

**Operations and Products for 2017-2019:**

1. Provide coordinated messaging among key federal government programs and policies
2. Update existing bird conservation program facts sheets on NABCI’s website (annually) [Goal 3(1)(a)(3)]
   1. Farm Bill Conservation Title Programs
   2. North American Wetlands Conservation Act
   3. Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act
   4. USFWS Joint Ventures
   5. State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program
3. Collect resources from member organizations on bird-focused policies and programs and create new resources where gaps for priority issues are identified; post to website
   1. Put out call to NABCI members for fact sheets and similar documents on priority bird conservation programs
   2. Disseminate policy information to all U.S. NABCI members – specifically their policy leads – via the U.S. NABCI Website
4. Develop overarching message/document about the interconnectedness of all bird conservation programs and the overarching role of science capacity to inform conservation and management decisions – go beyond the 5 programs currently listed
5. Assist the NABCI Executive Committee with delivering key messages on primary bird conservation programs to conservation leaders in federal agencies [Goal 3(2)(a)(1)]
6. Track and update NABCI members on legislative and administrative proposals and the legislative calendar on issued related to bird conservation. Updates should be provided 6 times per year, or as deemed appropriate by the Subcommittee Chair. Key issues to monitor include:
7. 2018 Farm Bill
8. Recovering America’s Wildlife Act – coordination with AAFW [Goal 3(1)(b)(2)]
9. Appropriations for key programs
10. Bird conservation authorizing bills (ACAP, NMBCA, Federal Safe Buildings Act, Saving America’s Pollinators Act)
11. Advise the State of the Birds Committee on their reports, including the 2017 Report on Farm Bill Conservation Programs
12. Assist with messaging strategy, tone, and content [Goal 3(1)(a)(1)]
13. Help link release of reports to congressional and administration discussion timelines [Goal 3(1)(a)(2)]
14. Provide expert analysis of policy topics on specific issues and recommendations for NABCI activity as requested by the NABCI U.S. Committee Chairs