****

**North American Bird Conservation Initiative- US Committee**

**8-9 August 2017**

Bureau of Land Management, 20 M St SE, Washington, DC 20003

**NABCI** [**Coordinator Overview**](http://nabci-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Coordinator-Introduction.pptx)**-** *Judith Scarl, NABCI*

Over the last six months, NABCI has:

* Finalized a [five-year strategic plan and 1-2 year Work Plan](http://nabci-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/NABCI-2017-2018-Work-Plan-FINAL.docx);
* Released a [State of the Birds](http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2017/) report focused on Farm Bill conservation programs;
* Developed a one-pager clarifying what Human Dimensions is and how it can be applied to bird conservation;
* Developed draft relevancy messaging highlighting bird conservation’s connections to clean air, clean water, human health, and economics;
* Debuted a bi-monthly [All-Bird Bulletin Blog](http://nabci-us.org/committee/all-bird-bulletin/);
* Endorsed a [North American Vision for Hemispheric Bird Conservation](http://nabci-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Vision-Statement-Trilateral-Final-revised-with-logos-002.docx) that aims to guide collaborative conservation for the next 100 years.

Discussions at this meeting will focus on bird conservation relevance, identifying national bird conservation priorities, and new opportunities to advance NABCI’s goals.

**Human Dimensions Subcommittee** [**report**](http://nabci-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/HDSubcommittee.pptx) **and discussion-** *Ashley Gramza, Virginia Tech/Tammy VerCauteren, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies*

***NABCI 2017-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 2, Subgoal 1b:*** *Enable bird conservation partners to integrate**human dimensions**science and tools into bird conservation efforts.*

The Human Dimensions (HD) Subcommittee’s work plan focuses on contributing to NAWMP HD efforts, strengthening social science capacity for bird conservation organizations, and helping bird conservationists understand how to support birdwatchers, landowners, natural resource managers, and others interested in conservation. Ashley Gramza, the National Bird Conservation Social Science Coordinator, has served in her role for 7 months; this Coordinator position expands the NABCI Subcommittee’s capacity help the bird community build social science capacity and access human dimensions resources.

The Subcommittee distributed a [one-pager](http://nabci-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/NABCI-HD-Fact-Sheet-8-18-17.pdf) that defines Human Dimensions, explains how and why HD can be used to benefit birds, and provides an example of how HD was successfully integrated in a bird conservation project. The formal release and communications ramp-up of this one-pager will take place in September, and we ask all Committee members to help distribute the one-pager at that time. The Subcommittee is also compiling bird conservation HD success stories and anticipates releasing a “story map” with these success stories in February 2018. Additionally, this Subcommittee is helping with the [Pathways Human Dimensions conference](https://sites.warnercnr.colostate.edu/pathways/) (17-20 September 2017 in Estes Park, CO), which will include two NABCI Private Lands HD sessions and an in-person Subcommittee meeting; [see this resource](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Byqk2ADkFKH4MUpMZkFOZzBaNjQ/view) for bird-related programming at Pathways..

Human Dimensions [Subcommittee Work Plan](http://nabci-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/NABCI-Human-Dimensions-Workplan_2017-2018_final.docx) was approved unanimously.

Request: Committee members to distribute HD One-Pager throughout their organizations and partnerships in September

**Communications Subcommittee report and discussion -** *EJ Williams, American Bird Conservancy*

***NABCI 2017-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 1, Subgoal 2***: *Strengthen communication within the bird conservation community.*

Matt Cimitile, Subcommittee Co-Chair, is taking a new job and this Subcommittee seeks a new Co-Chair. The Communications Subcommittee serves the communications needs of NABCI’s other Subcommittees and has been working on NABCI branding, so that NABCI products are easily recognized and identified. It has developed a template for NABCI’s fact sheets, and the [HD fact sheet](http://nabci-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/NABCI-HD-Fact-Sheet-8-18-17.pdf) demonstrates this format. The Subcommittee also presented two options for NABCI Tag Lines that could be used on NABCI fact sheets and other NABCI-branded products: “A Unified Voice for Bird Conservation” and “Working Together for Bird Conservation.” Committee discussed whether tag line should be aspirational or descriptive and tasks Subcommittee with coming up with different options. Note that language can potentially be pulled from Mission, Vision, Value Proposition, or North American Vision for Hemispheric Conservation document.

The [All-Bird Bulletin](http://nabci-us.org/committee/all-bird-bulletin/) is now a bi-monthly NABCI blog, which debuted in March and has released 10 issues to date. NABCI partners contribute blogs focused on six themes: monitoring, human dimensions, international/wintering grounds, working and private lands, birds as indicators, birds and public policy. EJ challenges all partners to sign up new blog readers, and partners brainstorm ways to increase blog reach, including engaging the communications staff of NABCI partner organizations, featuring NABCI on American Birding Association media, and tracking which blogs have the most views, to evaluate which are working and which are less popular.

Action: Subcommittee will revise tag line options and present Committee with new options.

Request: All partners will sign up new blog readers.

**International Subcommittee report and discussion -** *Greg Butcher, US Forest Service/Deb Hahn, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*

***NABCI 2017-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 1, Subgoal 1a.*** *Work collaboratively across countries to support partnership development that will advance full annual cycle conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.*

Prior to this meeting, NABCI endorsed the final version of a [North American Vision for Hemispheric Bird Conservation](http://nabci-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Vision-Statement-Trilateral-Final-revised-with-logos-002.docx), which urges us to look forward to what the next 100 years of bird conservation should look like. This vision is in sync with many of NABCI’s recent initiatives and talks about linking birds to indicators of human well-being. The [Convention for Migratory Species](http://www.cms.int/) (CMS) is also interested in adopting an Americas Flyways Framework: North American countries are not part of CMS, but much of Central and South America are. International Subcommittee will evaluate possibilities to link North American Vision and Americas Flyways Framework. Greg suggests that several international initiatives could do with hemispheric or “umbrella” coordination, such as grassland initiatives or shorebird plans, and Americas Flyways Framework may be appropriate to serve as the umbrella.

The [Partners in Flight VI](http://pifconference.com/) meeting will be held in Costa Rica 30 October-3 November 2017 in conjunction with the [Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation](http://www.congresosmbc.org/). This linkage will help bird community explore different methods of conservation, including payment for ecosystem services and ecotourism. Latin American scientists will be well represented, and the PIF meetings will focus on full life cycle conservation.

Action: Greg will put compiled information about international bird conservation initiatives on NABCI’s website.

**INTERLUDE**

**NABCI 2017-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 1, Subgoal 1d1:** *Maintain an effective US NABCI Committee; Ensure that biannual NABCI meetings are engaging, well-attended, and effective in advancing**priority work as identified in the NABCI strategic plan*

EJ Williams presents Judith Scarl with a Floaty Flamingo; event was preceded by great collaboration in the ladies’ room as NABCI Partners work together to inflate Floaty Flamingo, a task that presented great challenge and much lightheadedness.



**State of the Birds Subcommittee report and discussion-** *Ken Rosenberg, Cornell Lab of Ornithology and American Bird Conservancy/Tom Moorman, Ducks Unlimited*

**NABCI 2017-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 2, Subgoal 1d1:** *Produce State of the Birds reports that synthesize science and align with key policy programs or initiatives to provide an effective communication tool to encourage science-based conservation policy*

In February 2017, NABCI decided to link future State of the Birds reports closely to particular policy issues, and our [2017 report](http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2017/) focuses on Farm Bill conservation program. The report highlights a potential linkage between Farm Bill funding and the reversal or leveling off of bird population declines. The report features four Conservation Priority recommendations: 1) Increase funding for Farm Bill conservation; 2) Improve the impact of Farm Bill conservation programs on priority wildlife species; 3) Enhance the capacity of Farm Bill public-private partnerships; 4) Support the use of science to maximize Farm Bill conservation effectiveness. NABCI released this report on August 3, with copies mailed to partners, hand-delivered to House and Senate Ag Committee members, and emailed to all members of Congress. By releasing this report before a Congressional recess, information is available for Congress to take back to their districts. Throughout the Joint Venture communities, JVs are more interested in doing field tours with Congressional representatives, and Todd Fearer will help to organize Farm Bill-centric field tours.

Although the report has formally been released, when Congress returns to session there is a great deal of follow-up for NABCI. NABCI’s next step is a release event on October 4, sponsored by Senator Stabenow (D- MI); NABCI is looking for Republican co-sponsor. This event will need a lot of support from NABCI partners.

Discussion centered on additional opportunities to publicize report, including additional outreach with National Association of Conservation Districts and Land Trust Alliance, focusing some field tours on Congressional staff (rather than just members), outreach to local NRCS offices to help organize field days, and highlighting report at AFWA’s Bird and Ag Committees. Tammy VerCauteren suggests tracking outreach efforts and events. Committee members commend State of the Birds team both for the report and for the focus on policy and outreach strategies.

Action: Jennifer Cipolletti will put together a list of needs to support the release event and other State of the Birds outreach needs to circulate after NABCI meeting; Committee members will identify ways to support ongoing process of report dissemination.

**Private and Working Lands Subcommittee report and discussion –** *David Hoge, Farm Service Agency*

***NABCI 2017-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 2, Subgoal 1e***: *Promote and advance bird conservation objectives on both private and public lands.*

This Subcommittee has been extensively involved in the creation of the State of the Birds- Farm Bill report. The priorities identified in the SOTB report align closely with the Subcommittee’s three goals, which are: 1) support for a robust, bird-friendly Farm Bill; 2) Implement Farm Bill to maximize conservation outcomes for birds; 3) Advance and support private lands conservation for birds outside of NRCS/FSA programs. Subcommittee is working to engage new partners as part of Goal 3 and recently a National Association of Conservation Districts representative joined the Subcommittee. The PWL Subcommittee is looking for a Co-Chair, since Tammy VerCauteren is stepping down; Todd Fearer will remain Chair. David Hoge suggests that an individual from an NGO might be a good fit to Co-Chair.

**Legislative and Policy Subcommittee report, discussion, and work plan presentation-** *Keith Norris, The Wildlife Society*

***NABCI 2017-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 3****: Inform and support effective policy to advance bird conservation*

This Subcommittee was reinvigorated at the February 2017 NABCI meeting and Keith Norris has served as interim Chair to develop a Work Plan. The Subcommittee will focus on implementing NABCI’s strategic Goal 3 (*Inform and support effective policy to advance bird conservation*) and serve as a clearinghouse for information about legislative/policy issues related to bird conservation, as well as monitor and respond as appropriate to policy issues. Note that NGO and Federal partners will have different roles on this Subcommittee. Anticipated Subcommittee products include coordinated messaging among key programs and policies (NABCI’s 5 Fact Sheets), but Subcommittee will also coordinate information on communication tools partners have on key resources, track and provide updates on the legislative calendar and proposals, advise the State of the Birds Subcommittee on Farm Bill and future reports, and provide analysis on policy topics as requested by NABCI.

Discussion involved the need to support operational funding for US government programs, such as USFWS migratory birds, since the erosion of this funding creates challenges for effective bird conservation. Also, Committee suggested that Work Plan should be broader and encompass State of the Birds reports beyond 2017 Farm Bill report.

This Subcommittee is looking for a new Chair, and Judith Scarl is working with two potential candidates. Since the work of this Subcommittee has the potential to be more sensitive than some of the other Subcommittees, with its close link to policy, the importance of the NABCI Committee’s engagement in this Subcommittee is highlighted.

Committee unanimously approves [Work Plan](http://nabci-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Legislative-and-Policy-Subcommittee-Work-Plan-Approved-August-2017.docx) with the following modifications:

 Modify C: “Advise the State of the Birds Subcommittee on their reports, including the 2017 State of the Birds report”

 Under #2: Modify text to include “Help link releases of reports…” to cover future reports.

**Monitoring Subcommittee Announcement**

***NABCI 2017-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 2, Subgoal 1a***:*Promote and advance bird monitoring that is integrated into strategic habitat conservation.*

Gray Anderson, NABCI’s National Flyway Council representative, who works through Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, will assume the role of Chair of the Monitoring Subcommittee.

**Non-Traditional Partnerships: Prioritizing NABCI Outreach and Relationship Building-** *Mike Carter, Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV)*

***NABCI 2017-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 1, Subgoal 1c:*** *Facilitate and promote the development of novel partnerships between conservation and non-traditional organizations (e.g., industry, urban planning associations, etc.) that provide new resources and avenues for addressing bird conservation priorities.*

Throughout the morning, Subcommittees presented potential opportunities for NABCI to engage in new partnerships beyond bird conservation. Brainstorming and discussion during Subcommittee presentations are summarized here:

**Human Dimensions**: This Subcommittee engages partners through universities, Environmental Defense Fund, the Social Science Working Group of the Society for Conservation Biology, consulting firms, state agencies, and USFS State and Private Forestry. Other organizations that could align with their goals include: agricultural producer organizations or coalitions, extension organizations, the energy industry, municipalities and watershed groups, plant conservation and pollinator groups, free-ranging cat advocates, anglers, resource conservation and development councils, rice growers (California), salt producers, crocodile/shorebird hunters, public health organizations, tourism industry, and diversity organizations.

**Communications**: This Subcommittee suggested that agricultural producers could serve as partners to draw connections between birds and organic farming. International Migratory Bird Day/Environment for the Americas targets groups that are underserved within the bird community (Latinos, etc). Private landowners and cattleman’s associations are other potential partners.

**International**: Many opportunities internationally to create biodiversity-friendly ways for people to grow crops and make a living- notable examples include shade-grown coffee, cattle, and shrimp. Also opportunities for partnerships with sustainable development agencies, including World Bank, Global Environmental Fund, and Interamerican Development Bank, which has worked with Audubon to promote ecotourism focused on birds. US AID has been providing money to USFWS for international shorebird plans, and NABCI will evaluate whether we can broaden this initiative to help other species of birds. Additional suggestions included: Foreign Ag service (David Hoge will follow up to evaluate partnership possibilities) and Peace Corps, which has many volunteers teaching sustainable agriculture.

**Private and Working Lands**: This Subcommittee has an explicit goal focused on advancing private lands conservation for birds outside of NRCS/FSA programs. Subcommittee has developed a partnership with National Association of Conservation Districts and will target new partnerships with land trusts, USFS State and Private Forestry, State Forest Agencies, Partners for Conservation, USFWS Partners Program, and game/conservation NGOs.

**Playa Lakes Joint Venture and Non-Traditional Partnerships:** Mike [presented](http://nabci-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Carter-for-NABCI-v2.pptx) about PLJV and their efforts to understand how landowners see and value playas in order to determine how best to approach new constituents for partnerships. PLJV partners with diverse partners ranging from ConocoPhillips, to the mayor and county commissioner of Clovis, NM, who were concerned about their town’s aquifer running dry.

**What factors lead to an effective partnership?** Mike explains [adaptive versus technical challenges](http://www.sgaumc.org/files/files_library/technical_vs_adaptive_challenges.pdf), and suggests that when evaluating potential partners, we should look for real reasons why we should be partnering with each other (i.e. not just because “they have money”). The most effective partnerships will usually form around adaptive problems, where everyone is on the same page, and everyone is doing the work- shade-grown coffee is a good example of this, where everyone reaps clear benefits and where goals align. In a promising or effective partnership, there is both push and pull between partners- you are not forcing the partnership, but rather receive encouragement from the new partner. When evaluating our list of potential partners, ask: Is there an adaptive challenge for birds that this partnership could influence? One way to recognize potential partners is by asking these questions: Is there an adaptive challenge for the partner that birds could benefit from? Is there a reason we are getting involved with this organization, other than a need for bird conservation funding? When engaging non-traditional partners, it helps to have a specific issue to organize around. For NABCI, this should align with our strategic plan.

**Discussion**

In reaching out to non-traditional partners, NABCI should consider what messaging will resonate with these partners- what do our partners care about? Important to also consider who is a credible messenger of this messaging that is relevant and will resonate. NABCI doesn’t need to abandon its bird mission, but our messaging won’t always lead with bird conservation.

Some of our policy goals may be aligned with partners outside of bird conservation. For example, the State of the Birds- Farm Bill report is one specific issue that NABCI can rally around to engage new partners. Sometimes the bird community is at odds with agricultural producers who are more interested in non-conservation farm bill programs. How can we come together around a good farm bill that we can all support? Some support among Committee members for starting with the Farm Bill and focusing additional partner engagement on organizations that either can support Farm Bill conservation programs or that we can partner with for successful implementation of Farm Bill programs. To do this, we need to think about what specific issues we want to address related to the Farm Bill. Many of these issues are already identified through our Subcommittee’s existing work plans, but consider longer-term goals as well related to successfully implementing conservation through the Farm Bill.

Action: Within the next 6 weeks (deadline: 30 September), each Subcommittee will evaluate their list of potential partners, using Mike’s questions presented above, and identify a short list of 2-3 partners with which that subcommittee may share an adaptive challenge related to supporting a strong 2018 Farm Bill or implementing Farm Bill conservation programs. All Subcommittee Leads will have a conference call in ~2 months (mid-October) to present each Subcommittee’s short list, evaluate overlap between Subcommittees, and identify individuals to take the lead on exploring highest-priority new partners. This list will be distributed to NABCI Committee members to determine whether Committee members and their organizations already have relationships with potential partners and whether they can help facilitate broader partnerships through NABCI, or what support they need to grow these relationships.

**National Bird Conservation Priorities-** *Judith Scarl, NABCI*

***NABCI 2017-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 1, Subgoal 1****: Support, develop, integrate, and promote priorities of regional, national, and international bird conservation partnerships.*

***NABCI 2017-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 3, Subgoal 1:*** *Facilitate coordinated communication with government leadership about highest priority programs, initiatives, and needs of bird conservation.*

**Background**: In February 2017**,** the US NABCI Committee agreed to compile a short list of the top priorities for bird conservation.  Since then, NABCI has: 1) proposed a process to identify priorities; 2) extracted threats, needs, and opportunities from all US/North America State of the Birds Reports; 3) developed a draft document that organizes and categorizes high-level needs and opportunities from State of the Birds reports.

NABCI’s Vision is “Healthy and abundant populations of North American birds are valued by future generations and sustained by habitats that benefit birds and people.” The State of North America’s Birds report identifies five habitats in which birds need the most urgent and critical action beyond what we are already doing: oceans, tropical/subtropical forests, coasts, aridlands, and grasslands. Top priorities identified by NABCI should reflect the most critical needs or opportunities for the broad bird conservation community to work towards in order to achieve our vision across critical habitats. After identifying top priorities, NABCI would support and promote these priorities within and outside of the bird community, consistent with our strategic plan. This would include facilitating coordinated communication with government leadership about the highest priorities in bird conservation. The proposed process for identifying top priorities includes:

1. Extracting all priorities from past State of the Birds reports, cross-checking with four Bird Plans to ensure national-level Plan priorities are represented;
2. Incorporate feedback from the NABCI Committee on priorities that are missing from this list;
3. From comprehensive priorities list, develop and distribute survey to NABCI Committee members evaluating which of these broad priorities to elevate
4. Evaluate results of survey and develop short list of top priorities to elevate over next ~3 years

We anticipate two products from this initiative: 1) a comprehensive but organized list of bird conservation priorities, for an internal audience (bird conservation partners and leadership); 2) a short list of top priorities to elevate, with an external audience (federal leadership, foundations, new partners outside of bird conservation).

For more information on background, process, proposed products, [see Judith’s presentation](http://nabci-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Priorities-Presentation-FINAL-for-online.pptx).

Currently, we have a draft of the comprehensive, organized priorities list, divided into four categories: **habitat management, science, engagement/partnerships, and policy/funding/land acquisition**. This document can be used to communicate the importance of bird conservation work, justify funding requests, evaluate progress on bird conservation priorities, and put local and regional efforts into a national context.

**Discussion: Proposed Categories**

 Suggestions included changing the “habitat management” category to “land conservation” or just “habitat”. Consider incorporating more into the “Engagement and Partnerships” category. “Policy, funding, and land protection” is a catch-all, and we may want to consider subdividing this.

**Discussion: What’s Missing?**

 *Note: Some of the “missing” elements may already be encapsulated or represented within existing subcategories, but partners mentioned the following as items to consider if they are not included already.*

 -We explicitly mention conservation on public lands, but could call out private lands conservation more, and the need to keep working lands working- general agreement that private and working lands should be included

 -Bird harvest is not included

 -What about population objectives, not just habitat objectives?

 -Making bird conservation relevant is not included

Generally, Committee members feel that the proposed process is appropriate to identify the highest-priority actions or opportunities that NABCI should elevate over the next ~3 years.

Next Steps/Actions include:

-A team consisting of Judith Scarl, Greg Butcher, Tammy VerCauteren, Gray Anderson, Becky Keller, Bob Ford, Todd Fearer, EJ Williams, Ken Rosenberg, and Steve Hilburger will evaluate Committee feedback and modify broad Priorities document.

-Bob Ford, Jorge Coppen, and Brad Andres will work with Judith Scarl to ensure Bird Plan priorities are represented adequately

-Revised document will be recirculated among NABCI Committee

-Team will develop survey based on revised comprehensive document- survey’s goal will be to determine which priorities in each category to elevate to a priorities “short list”

**The Relevance of Bird Conservation: Initial Messaging for Partner Outreach-** *Steve Albert, Institute for Bird Populations*

***NABCI 2017-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 3, Subgoal 2b:*** *Demonstrate bird conservation’s strong ties to healthy land, water, and people in order to communicate relevance beyond birds;* ***Subgoal 2b2****: Develop initial talking points supporting bird conservation relevancy for meetings with agency leadership, funding organizations, and non-traditional partners*

At the February NABCI meeting, a small team (Steve Albert, Matt Cimitile, John Alexander, with support from Judith Scarl) was formed to develop a one-pager that highlights the relevancy of bird conservation. As an intermediate step in the process towards developing an effective, concise document that can be used to communicate with leadership as well as other partners outside of bird conservation, this team developed a broader draft document that presents specific examples of how activities that benefit bird conservation also have positive links to economics, human health, clean air, and clean water. Examples are short, quantifiable, and linked to their source.

**Discussion points:**

 -National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation will be released in August and could inform this document

 -This messaging will be useful to the JV community, since JVs get asked frequently about relevance.

 -Suggestion that document could have a preamble that specifies “this is where studies have been done, but these relationships are pervasive.”

 -Document could be translated into a story map

David Hoge volunteered to reach out to USDA Economic Research Service for additional support on this team, and Rachel Levin volunteered to join the team, as did Dave Trevino (post-meeting).

Next Steps: Team will continue to compile and hone examples.

**Opportunities for NABCI Part I: National Geographic’s “Year of the Bird”-** *Susan Hitchcock, National Geographic Partners*

**Background**: National Geographic is organizing a 2018 “Year of the Bird” campaign, with a mission “to heighten and broaden public awareness of birds in our landscapes, rural and urban, around the world, as symbols of nature’s interconnectedness and as messengers about the need to care for the planet we share.” Engaging in this campaign may help NABCI achieve some of its goals, including demonstrating bird conservation’s relevance and exploring how to engage birdwatchers in conservation funding.

National Geographic Society, National Geographic Partners, Audubon, and Cornell, along with other partners, are building a plan to engage people who don’t usually pay attention to birds- 2018 Year of the Birds is meant to help the bird community raise our voices together about the importance of birds and bird conservation. A partner toolkit will be available early this fall, and the campaign will involve a monthly call to action, with a different theme each month. 8 bird-focused articles will appear in National Geographic Magazine, and a “Birds of the PhotoArk” book will be released. National Geographic Society has also committed financial support to bird conservation (contact Catherine Workman, cworkman@ngs.org).

NABCI partners are already engaged in YOTB:

**USFWS** is working with National Geographic to highlight Duck Stamp purchases as conservation actions, and may work to implement Bird Ambassadors program nation-wide, visiting diverse or underserved communities with bird conservation messages.

**ABC** is working on Global Big Days, hoping to include some partner reserves in these events. They are also working to highlight how ecotourism can support birds throughout the Americas.

**Cornell** is considering monthly co-branded themes, including the Duck Stamp and Global Big Days. They will encourage people to participate in backyard bird counts and are working with National Geographic to revise a migration map.

**Institute for Bird Populations** is considering how this aligns with a bird genoscape project, mapping migratory pathways, and linking breeding and wintering sites for subpopulations or subspecies of birds.

**Bird Conservancy of the Rockies** is working with Nat Geo on bringing speakers and educational materials out west.

Ducks Unlimited, Joint Ventures, National Park Service, South Carolina DNR are also participating.

**Additional NABCI Opportunities**

 National Geographic campaign could align with public outreach related to NABCI’s policy initiatives. Although National Geographic treads lightly with political issues, they make bold statements about the condition of the world and the implications of government. Christine Dell'Amore <Christine.DellAmore@natgeo.com> is contact to pitch ideas.

Next Steps: Legislative and Policy Subcommittee to look at calendar of legislative action and consider what public messaging would support NABCI’s positions, and reach out to National Geographic with proposed content and timeline.

**Opportunities for NABCI Part II: International Ornithological Congress-** *Bob Elner, Convener, 27th International Ornithological Congress/Scientist Emeritus, Environment and Climate Change Canada*

The [International Ornithological Congress](http://www.iocongress2018.com) (IOC) will be held in Vancouver in August 2018 in conjunction with the Vancouver International Bird Festival. While historically the IOC has focused primarily on academic bird science, in 2018 the conference aims to create a large and diverse assembly of international bird interests, including conservationists, the arts, businesses, and the public. These events will feature musicians, artists, and youth components- meeting organizers expect 30,000 members of the public to attend, as well as bird scientists from around the world. IOC organizers highlight opportunities to stage Year of the Bird events to the public, use complimentary meeting/symposium space, or host exhibitions or workshops.

Next Steps: International Subcommittee will discuss potential opportunities and evaluate how to proceed. Human Dimensions Subcommittee will evaluate opportunity as well. In particular, Subcommittees should consider whether this is an opportunity to distribute NABCI’s relevancy messaging or top priorities messaging.

**Subcommittee Work Plan Template-** *Judith Scarl, NABCI*

***NABCI 2017-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 1, Subgoal 1d:*** *Maintain an effective US NABCI Committee*

**Background**: Subcommittees are expected to develop work plans at regular intervals; these work plans guide Subcommittee actions, ensure that Subcommittee goals and NABCI goals are aligned, and help identify areas of potential collaboration between Subcommittees. To date, no template exists to guide Subcommittees in Work Plan development.

This presentation focuses on a Subcommittee Work Plan Template that provides guidance to Subcommittees on how to structure, submit, and update their Work Plans. Committee unanimously approves [Subcommittee Work Plan template](http://nabci-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Final-Guidance-for-Creating-NABCI-Subcommittee-Work-Plans.docx), which Subcommittees will use to guide their future strategic plan development and revisions.

**Executive Council Membership**- *Jerome Ford, US Fish and Wildlife Service/Gordon Myers, NC Wildlife Resources Commission*

***NABCI 2017-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 1, Subgoal 1d:*** *Maintain an effective US NABCI Committee*

The Executive Council is a six-member body that works with the Coordinator on NABCI governance and other big-picture issues between meetings. The Council works on NABCI meeting preparation to ensure that our biannual meetings are as productive and effective as possible. Individuals that serve on the Council represent the broader NABCI Committee within this advisory team: the Director of USFWS and the Chair of AFWA’s Bird Conservation Committee, NABCI’s Co-Chairs, serve as ex-officio members, and the EC also has a state seat, federal seat, NGO seat, and Bird Plan Partnership seat. These six positions are currently held by Jerome Ford, Gordon Myers, <state seat vacant>, Greg Butcher, Tammy VerCauteren, and David Whitehurst, respectively. Members serve a two-year term with no term limits, and the state and partnership seats are open to nomination at this meeting.

Gray Anderson was nominated and confirmed for the state seat, and David Whitehurst was nominated and confirmed to continue his tenure as partnership representative.

**Ad Hoc Awards Subcommittee-** *Judith Scarl, NABCI*

***NABCI 2017-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 1, Subgoal 2c****: Recognize leadership within the bird conservation community.*

**Purpose:** Each winter, NABCI solicits nominations for the Gary T. Myers award. An ad hoc Awards Subcommittee evaluates the nominations and brings a recommendation to the NABCI Committee at the February NABCI meeting. We are looking for the ad hoc team to evaluate nominees for the 2018 Award.

**Preferred Outcomes**: 3-4 volunteers come forward to join the Awards Subcommittee.

EJ Williams, Tammy VerCauteren, David Whitehurst, and Geoff Walsh volunteered to serve on this Subcommittee for the 2018 Gary T. Myers Award.

**[CLOSED SESSION] NABCI Budget and Future Funding Strategy**- *Judith Scarl and NABCI Executive Council*

***NABCI 2017-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 1, Subgoal 1d3****: Ensure sufficient resources for NABCI coordination and projects through financial support of NABCI coordinator and other NABCI needs, as appropriate*

**Purpose**: With federal funding becoming more uncertain, NABCI may need to diversify its funding strategy to ensure continued strong financial support. Judith presented NABCI’s budget and the Executive Council led a discussion on increasing contributions from NGO partners.

Committee members agreed that to maintain an effective and equitable partnership, all partners should be expected to contribute financially to NABCI. The NABCI Committee approved a proposal outlining a 70/20/10 model, in which federal, state, and non-governmental organizations are expected to contribute 70%, 20%, and 10% of NABCI’s funding through AFWA, respectively. While federal and state partners are close to meeting this goal, the proposal outlines a mechanism through which NGO contributions are ramped up over a five-year period so that by 2021, all NGO partners are expected to provide a minimum contribution of $1000.

**Next Meeting Host/Venue**

There was some consensus that keeping meetings in DC allows federal partners to participate, so meetings should remain in DC but could incorporate a field trip.

NABCI Coordinator will follow up with NFWF on whether they might host a future meeting. Other options include USFS International (not available on Tuesday mornings) and USFWS. David Whitehurst proposed additional locations within the DC area that are slightly more remote, such as meeting rooms at George Mason University, that NABCI can follow up on.

**Announcements and Additional Items**

The **Alliance for America’s Fish and Wildlife** (AAFW) is the campaign spun off from the Blue Ribbon Panel efforts, which is recommending a mechanism to use royalties from oil and gas for conservation. The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act bill is expected to be introduced later this year, and the AAFW will stage a campaign around this bill.

The LCCs are developing guidance on recommended practices for landscape conservation design, and they will release a landscape conservation performance framework in the next few weeks. They are also working to make sure LCC data and tools are in a shared spot within [ScienceBase](https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/), a USGS data sharing platform.

**Brad Bortner** is retiring at the end of December 2017 and stepping down from his role representing the Waterbird Council on NABCI.