****

**15-16 August 2016 US NABCI Committee Meeting**

**Bureau of Land Management**

**20 M Street SE**

**Washington, DC**

**15 August 2016**

**Host Welcome**

*Kristin Bail, Assistant Director, Office of National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships*

**New Member Introductions**

The **American Birding Association** (represented at the meeting by Bill Stewart) is a 14,000 member organization focused on birders and communication. Recently, ABA has refocused its efforts on conservation and is working to get a conservation message out to the birding community.

The **Avian Knowledge Network** (represented by John Alexander) provides recommendations and guidance for data collection management and seeks to integrate data across platforms and scales. AKN is represented on NABCI’s Monitoring Subcommittee.

**Biodiversity Research Institute** is represented by Iain Stenhouse and was unable to participate in this meeting.

The **Institute for Bird Populations** (represented at the meeting by Jim Saracco) provides demographic monitoring and vital statistics for bird populations. IBP runs MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship), MoSI (Monitoring Neotropical Migrants on Their Wintering Grounds), and MAWS (Monitoring Avian Winter Survival). IBP is represented on NABCI’s Monitoring and International Subcommittees.

**The Wildlife Society** (represented by Keith Norris) is an organization of 10,000 wildlife professionals throughout North America; they are positioned at the interface of science and management conservation policy. They have a Government Affairs team in DC and can help NABCI with policy and advocacy work.

**NABCI Coordinator Updates**

*Judith Scarl, US NABCI Coordinator, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*

This NABCI meeting has two themes: Communication and Looking to the Future. The Centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty with Canada and the 80th anniversary of a similar treaty with Mexico are opportunities to celebrate success and explore how NABCI can be most effective at coordinating partners and partnerships and advancing North American bird conservation. One of NABCI’s key strengths is coordination- and one of our primary responsibilities is communication. Today’s soft launch of NABCI’s new redesigned website will allow NABCI to provide a strong, easy-to-navigate communication network to its partners. Our State of North America’s Birds report both serves as a major communication tool for NABCI partners, but also serves as a milestone to revitalize our tri-national partnership between the US, Mexico, and Canada NABCI Committees. As part of a broader 2017-2021 Strategic Planning discussion, this meeting will also focus on how NABCI can better support its third goal, ***Inform and support effective funding and policy to advance bird conservation,*** through future State of the Birds reports, coordinated advocacy and messaging efforts, and more closely linking NABCI’s communications and initiatives with specific policies and policy advocates. We ask Committee members and partner organizations to consider how you can help to engage with and support NABCI’s subcommittees and their ongoing efforts to advance collaborative bird conservation.

*Implementing the NABCI Strategic Plan- Goal 1*

**Goal 1: Support healthy bird populations through habitat conservation, management, education, monitoring and sound science.**

**Private and Working Lands Subcommittee report and discussion** (Todd Fearer**,** Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture)

*Goal 1C: Advance benefits of bird conservation on private and working lands*

**Land Trust Website**: NABCI’s State of the Birds Report on Private Lands highlighted the importance of land trusts to bird conservation, and as a result, this May Cornell launched a [Land Trust Bird Conservation Initiative website](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/landtrust/) to serve as an outreach resource for land trusts. NABCI partners can help by sharing this website with landtrusts, learning about land trust connections, and learning how to message land trusts for conservation.

**Partner Biologist Assessment*:*** This effort is a high priority. Pheasants Forever has offered to help with this effort, and Todd is gathering information from the states on shared partner biologist positions. Ideally this will be a continually updated resource and may play a role in influencing the 2018 Farm Bill through communication of the importance of these positions for implementing the Farm Bill.

**JV-FSA Workshop**: Based on the success of the NRCS-JV workshop, the PWL Subcommittee is developing a workshop or series of workshops between FSAs and the JVs to encourage stronger collaboration on the ground.

**Considerations for next PWL Work Plan**: Group needs to consider what they can actually accomplish and think about coordinating with other subcommittees, such as Monitoring.

Action: NABCI Partners will share Land Trust Bird Conservation Initiative website with land trusts, as appropriate.

**Human Dimensions Subcommittee report and discussion** (Tammy VerCauteren, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies; Ashley Dayer, Virginia Tech)

*Goal 1D: Enable bird conservation partners to integrate human dimensions science and tools into bird conservation efforts.*

***Related Materials*:** *Social Science Coordinator Position Description, HD Subcommittee Workplan, NAOC Symposium Flier*

**Communications about Social Science**: Social science is about people- how they relate to and make decisions about conservation. By integrating information about how people act, we can improve the effectiveness of our bird conservation efforts. A 2013 All-Bird Bulletin provides information about what social science is, and this Subcommittee is working on a fact sheet to define social science as it relates to bird conservation.

**National Social Science Coordinator Position**: 2 years of funding (over $165k) have been secured from USDA’s Farm Service Agency, US Forest Service, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and Virginia Tech. The position will be housed at Virginia Tech and a first round of interviews occurred in early August- anticipated start date October 2016. An advisory team consisting of federal, state, JV, NABCI, and NGO representatives will help set priorities, contribute to achieving goals, and encouraging others to contribute to the position in the long term.

**Human Dimensions Subcommittee Work Plan**: HD Subcommittee is working with NAWMP on its hunter/viewer survey to facilitate feedback from NABCI partners on survey and Viewer Task Force work plan. Social Science Coordinator will facilitate creation of a HD resource directory and developing a framework for incorporating social science into strategic habitat conservation. Ultimate future direction of Subcommittee involves NABCI leading the meaningful integration of social science into bird conservation.

**Monitoring Subcommittee report and discussion** (David Pashley, American Bird Conservancy; Viviana Ruiz-Gutiérrez, Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

*Goal 1A: Promote and advance outcome –based monitoring and database management*

***Related Materials****: Draft of Demographics Monitoring Document*

**Demographics Monitoring Document**: Objectives of this document include understanding timing, geography, and other factors that limit bird populations, increasing probability that conservation actions have positive population-level results, provide better data for stronger Full Annual Cycle models, and contributing to Strategic Habitat Conservation and adaptive management. Associated actions include strengthening current bird monitoring programs (including MAPS and MoSI) and securing increased funding for these projects. Ultimate vision is for a hemispheric monitoring network where information is shared and funding is secure. Target audience for this document is the NABCI Committee.

**Future Directions of Monitoring Subcommittee**: Subcommittee Co-Chairs presented objectives and anticipated actions for the Subcommittee, which include: 1) linking citizen science to goals and structured protocols; 2) evaluating how to integrate data collected using different protocols at different spatial scales; 3) A document uniting science and management; 4) How to institute realistic monitoring programs throughout the hemisphere; 5) Understanding eBird and AKN- the structures of these programs and how information flows between them. Note: Subcommittee needs leadership to shepherd different projects, as well as to start integrating with other Subcommittees (e.g. International).

Action: NABCI Committee members to look at Subcommittee proposed actions and provide feedback on which are high priority as well as feedback on whether there are other actions this Subcommittee should be taking. Jude will send around proposed actions and Committee members to provide suggestions to David and Viviana.

Action: Chairs and Co-Chairs of all Subcommittees will think about how best to integrate priorities and projects across Subcommittees; where is there overlap between your Subcommittee and projects or focal areas from other Subcommittees?

*Implementing the NABCI Strategic Plan- Goal 2*

**Goal 2: Maintain a well-coordinated bird conservation community.**

**Bird Partnership Workshop- Workshop Outcomes Oversight Team (WOOT) Report** (Todd Fearer, AMJV)

*Goal 2C: Articulate and clarify how NABCI supports and advances the priorities of the bird conservation plan partnerships and vice versa*

*Goal 2D: Support migratory bird joint ventures.*

**Overview**: Reminder that the WOOT was a product of the January 2015 workshop that brought together representatives from the Joint Ventures, NABCI, and the Bird Conservation Plan Partnerships. Many of the recommendations from the Workshop and the WOOT are integrated into this meeting and NABCI’s existing Subcommittees, such as the Social Science coordinator position and the integration of different science teams. Many of the WOOT’s recent recommendations deal with NABCI’s role as a leader in the bird community, and we need to continue to define what change NABCI is going to lead. Specific recommendations for NABCI looking forward involve advocacy- working more closely with AFWA, AJVMB, TWS, and other new members to support bird conservation (not just funding). Also, NABCI should further consider how to streamline and coordinate the broader bird conservation community and how we might define/redefine our community to address any redundant elements.

**Discussion:** What role does NABCI play in establishing priorities for bird conservation, either for funding or more generally? NABCI can potentially serve to compile and highlight priorities identified broadly by our partners and develop a list of the top priorities that are agreed on by the bird community; these priorities can be used by partners as appropriate for decision making, advocacy, etc. This may be a topic for our next meeting.

**Bird Conservation Communication: NABCI Website and Communication Tools** (Greg Butcher, USFS; Judith Scarl, NABCI)

*Goal 2A: Make NABCI priorities, tools, and resources readily available to the bird conservation community guided by a strategic communications plan*

**Website**: NABCI provided a demonstration of its new draft website to the Committee and asked Committee members to provide feedback before an anticipated October launch. Highlights of the site: Different bird initiatives linked through infographic that provides visualization of relationships within the bird community. Site should serve as a roadmap to the national and international bird conservation community and be the go-to resource for someone new to the bird conservation world. Resources directory provides links to key national-level resources for bird conservation. Note: All-Bird Bulletin will transition to a themed blog format with contributions from each Committee member organization. Note: Each Subcommittee requested to update their own pages within the NABCI website.

**Subcommittee Next Steps**: Communications Subcommittee wants to engage with other Subcommittees, determine future communications needs and how this Subcommittee can meet them.

**Action**: All Committee members to look through new website and provide suggestions to Communications Team by August 31st. Explore Resources page and make sure key relevant resources are included.

**Action**: Committee members to provide suggestions for articles for a Centennial All Bird Bulletin.

**Action**: Each Committee organization asked to write one blog for NABCI over the next year; the Communications Subcommittee will get in touch about this. USFWS offers possibility of writing the first blog.

**Action**: As part of the earlier Action for each Subcommittee Chair and Co-Chair to consider how their Subcommittee overlaps with other Subcommittees, each Subcommittee will evaluate their anticipated Communication needs and indicate their needs to the Communications Subcommittee by August 31.

**Leveraging National and International Reports for Conservation**

***In 2016, both NABCI and Partners in Flight released major, international reports using similar data to advance different elements of bird conservation. This section of the meeting presents an overview of both reports and involves a discussion on how NABCI can best leverage these reports for conservation, with a particular focus on past State of the Birds reports.***

**Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan** (Bob Ford, Partners in Flight/USFWS)

*Goal 2C: Articulate and clarify how NABCI supports and advances the priorities of the bird conservation plan partnerships and vice versa*

The [Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan Website](http://www.partnersinflight.org/) is officially live and hard copy reports are available. Key factors in the Landbird Plan include measures of Half Life (how long until we lose 50% of a population) and Area Importance. Information in the Plan is stepped down to a Joint Venture Scale and provides measures of stewardship responsibility for different species. Next step is outreach to states, federal agencies, and industry. NABCI can help with Integration (working with partners to determine where priorities overlap and where to be value-added), Delivery (developing a process to address needs for Watch List species in regional planning and local management decisions), Accountability (developing regional/local mechanisms to track habitat delivery for a population level response), and Understanding/Cognition (setting mechanisms to encourage action at the technical level to test and learn from assumptions). Hard copies can be ordered through Environment for the Americas.

**State of North America’s Birds Update** (Ken Rosenberg, Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Judith Scarl, NABCI)

*Goal 2G: Create State of the Birds Reports and WatchList; ii. Collaborate with Canadian Wildlife Service and Mexico in the development and implementation of the 2016 State of North America’s Birds Report.*

***Related Materials****:* State of North America’s Birds Report

The NABCI Committees of the US, Mexico, and Canada released their first tri-national [State of North America’s Birds report](http://www.stateofthebirds.org/) (SONAB) on 18 May 2016 in Ottawa, Canada; this report assesses all 1,154 bird species across these three countries. One-third of these species are on the Watch List, indicating a need for urgent conservation action. Oceans and tropical/subtropical forests are the habitats with the greatest percentage of species of concern. The report also highlights success stories and shows that investment in conservation works, such as for wetlands.

The primary audience for this report is Congress/government, and the public via the media. SONAB was released during the Trilateral meeting by the Canadian Minister of the Environment with a simultaneous event at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC. NABCI partners held a Hill briefing to members of Congress on May 18th, and the report was distributed to all members of the Canadian Parliament. The report is accompanied by a [“Change” webpage](http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2016/resources/change/) that highlights actions that government, industry, and the public can take to support bird conservation. NABCI Committee members are encouraged to share messaging from this report with their leadership and link to the report from their websites.

**Discussion: Leveraging State of the Birds Reports for Conservation/The Future of State of the Birds** (Greg Butcher, US Forest Service; Dave Mehlman, The Nature Conservancy; Scott Yaich, Ducks Unlimited)

*Goal 3B. Implement recommendations included in State of the Birds reports*

This discussion focused on evaluating the effectiveness of State of the Birds reports in effecting change and exploring future directions for the State of the Birds Subcommittee and subsequent reports. These reports should be policy-relevant, so we need to reach out to policy makers and policy advocates early in the process to ask what information or messaging they need to make decisions or advocate. **Thoughts:**

-Reports are excellent and get more attention than any other NABCI product, but need to focus more on linking reports to policy and communicating report’s message/desired outcomes

-Possibility to create more specific reports that focus on single issue, message, habitat, or agency

-Pull out shorter, more focused pieces of reports that align with specific policy efforts or opportunities; better articulate specific policy goals in advance

-Tie reports into human interest and the environment; focus not (just) on birds, but use bird science to focus on water or other, broader issues

-NABCI can show leadership by bringing bird groups together to identify messages that will resonate with the environmental and conservation community beyond birds

-Next step- Get advice from “policy people” to determine what messaging would be most effective and what we can influence

-Next step- Get advice from leadership (e.g. Dan Ashe) to determine what science, information, or other messaging they need to make decisions

Action: Small group will meet to continue this discussion and: 1) look for pieces of NABCI work plan that align with policy relevant opportunities; 2) consider shorter pieces of SOTB reports to pull out; 3) formulate how to approach policy advocates and leaders (i.e. what is our “ask” when we approach policy advocates? What type of input and outcomes are we looking for?). After that, next step is to meet with policy advocates, evaluate what policies are on the horizon, determine most effective way to influence these policies in collaboration with policy advocates.

**International Bird Conservation: Developing a Vision and NABCI’s Role** (Glenn Olson, Audubon; Brad Bortner; USFWS)

In February 2016, NABCI formed an international subcommittee to address tri-national issues in collaboration with Mexico and Canada, and to evaluate NABCI’s broader role in hemispheric conservation. This Subcommittee is involved in a few issues: 1) International Partnerships- engaging broader partners such as the World Bank to see whether we can align our priorities and influence part of their budget; 2) Developing a Hemispheric Vision- US, Mexico, and Canada have been charged to develop a vision for hemispheric bird conservation, and this Subcommittee is engaged in this process. From both of these issues, it becomes clear that we need to engage beyond bird conservation and broaden our language to make connections between birds and ecosystem health and other human interests. Next Step: Subcommittee needs to develop a work plan to connect different efforts into a structured initiative.

***Goal 3: Inform and support effective funding and policy to advance bird conservation***

**Blue Ribbon Panel Updates** (Glenn Olson, Audubon; Ron Regan, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, or Mark Humpert, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies)

**Related Materials:** Blue Ribbon Panel report

After spending 12 months looking for ways to enhance funding for state fish and wildlife agencies to enable them to address the full suite of fish and wildlife species, the Blue Ribbon Panel released its final recommendations for wildlife diversity funding in March of 2016. Recommendation 1: Direct up to $1.3 billion of new money to state fish and wildlife agencies. Recommendation 2: Work on agency transformation and relevance for the future (engage and serve broader constituencies). A bill (Recovering America’s Wildlife Act- [H.R. 5650](https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/5650/cosponsors?pageSort=lastToFirst)) was introduced in the House in July and partners are working to get 10 Democrats and 10 Republicans to co-sponsor this bill. AFWA has hired a campaign manager- Sean Saville- and is working with an ad agency (Moroch) to develop branding and common themes to support the campaign.

**Bird Conservation National Messaging and Coordinated Advocacy** (Judith Scarl, NABCI/AFWA)

*Goal 3Aii: Disseminate (and develop as necessary) messaging that reflects importance of key bird conservation programs (NAWCA, NMBCA, JVs, Duck Stamp, etc.)*

**Related Materials:** 6 Coordinated Messaging Documents

In collaboration with AFWA and the Association of Joint Venture Management Boards, NABCI formed an ad hoc coalition to develop consistent messages about high priority programs for the bird community. We developed or compiled messaging documents about NAWCA, NMBCA, SWG, Farm Bill, and the Joint Ventures and developed a “Partnerships and Programs for Bird Conservation” document that shows how these five key programs connect and support all-bird conservation. Messaging was used at the Joint Venture fly-in in April as well as at the State of the Birds Hill briefing in May and will be available on NABCI’s new website. Partners are encouraged to use these messages to tie their own communications and asks back to national priorities and messages.

**Discussion: Defining NABCI’s future role in informing and supporting effective bird conservation funding and policy**

During this discussion, NABCI further brainstormed about its role in policy and advocacy. Specific actions NABCI can take to inform and support effective funding and policy for bird conservation are highlighted in yellow below.

**Thoughts:**

-NABCI can form coalitions that support advocacy; this effort could be supported by NABCI’s new members

-Can support JVs in their expanded efforts to engage in advocacy

-If we successfully advocate for more funding, how does the community decide where the money goes? Does NABCI have a role in this?

Possible Task: NABCI could create a document identify top priorities in the bird conservation community by compiling recommendations from State of the Birds reports and other priority recommendations. This could be used as a cross-check by granting agencies to evaluate whether they are funding top community priorities.

-Link bird conservation more closely to natural resource conservation and management; improve the message about how birds are indicators that can help natural resource managers. Make bird messaging about water, clean air, climate, wood, etc.

Possible Task: Develop fact sheet that discusses how birds can be used as indicators for broader conservation and management goals.

-Better define what we mean by policy and advocacy. Advocacy can happen within agencies and within land trusts to implement policy, not just advocacy to create policy. Can work with government partners to provide input on how to incorporate bird-friendly practices into regulations.

-Federal agency representatives meet with Congress to discuss priorities and this process can be more coordinated and effective.

Possible Task: Work with other federal agencies to develop strategy to increase effectiveness and coordination prior to Congressional meetings. Agencies can bring NABCI handout and talk about partnership work at these meetings.

-NABCI should play a role in organizing policy advocates in order to more effectively increase resources for bird conservation.

-Can reactivate Bird Conservation Funding Coalition around Blue Ribbon Panel.

Possible Task: Work with partners to advocate for Blue Ribbon Panel funding.

Possible Task: Develop All-Bird Bulletin/Blog highlighting examples of work states are doing to support bird conservation

-Concern that if BRP is funded, Congress will not see the need to support other bird conservation funding programs. Important to continue to advocate for existing programs.

Possible Task: Develop unified messaging that shows how existing programs PLUS new Blue Ribbon Panel funding complement each other.

-Need to develop specific strategies that stem from Strategic Plan Goal 3.

-State of the Birds reports have common threads.

Possible Task: Pull out common threads from State of the Birds reports.

-Our five NABCI priorities do not include basic support for science, which comes from USFWS Migratory Bird program. Need science to guide where the money goes; consider adding basic science information as a high priority. NABCI can play a role in bringing that science to the development of priorities and policy.

Note that this discussion is continued on Day 2 as part of a Strategic Planning conversation.

**Day 2: 16 August 2016**

**Developing NABCI’s 2017-2021 Strategic Plan** (Judith Scarl, NABCI; Suzan Klein, Keystone Policy Center)

Related **materials:** NABCI 2014-2016 Strategic Plan Progress Update

**Overview of 2013-2014 Strategic Plan Development Process**: As part of the last Strategic Plan development, NABCI: 1) developed a Value Proposition which identified the unique niche NABCI fills for bird conservation; 2) Established overarching goals for NABCI Committee, as well as actions and tasks associated with those goals as part of a work plan.

Since the last Strategic Plan, we’ve had progress and change in the bird community, including:

-Bird Partnership Workshop identifying priorities in the bird community and clarifying roles of six major national bird partnerships;

-Increased focus on social science and incorporating human dimensions into bird conservation

-Unifying science capacity in the bird community

-Promoting NABCI with a strong, driving leadership (advocacy role)

-Emphasis on full life cycle conservation and formation of International subcommittee

-5 new NABCI Committee members, which broadens our representation and increases our capacity

**Proposed Process for Development of 2017-2021 Plan**: NABCI’s Executive Council recommends that we develop a 5 year strategic plan to optimize the balance between developing a plan and doing the work as well as to push ourselves to think about longer-term goals. Our proposed process is:

-Evaluate the current strategic plan and indicate what’s missing based on NABCI’s current subcommittees and recommendations from the Bird Partnership Workshop (completed by Coordinator and Executive Council July 2016)

-NABCI Committee Member survey on mission, vision, value proposition, and goals (completed August 2016)

-Subcommittees evaluate and update Work Plans (by January 2017); high-level Subcommittee goals will be incorporated into broader Plan

-Additional community outreach, possibly via webinar or expanded surveys, to give other partners the opportunity to provide feedback on NABCI’s goals and directions

-Draft Strategic Plan (mission, vision, value proposition, high-level goals, sub-goals) by February 2017

-Continue to build work plan (actions and tasks)- complete by August 2017

**NABCI Committee Member Planning Survey Results**: Prior to this meeting, Judith distributed a survey to NABCI Committee Members that asked how well our existing mission, vision, value proposition, and goals reflected NABCI’s purpose/niche. The survey gave respondents the opportunity to comment on mission, vision, and goals. 17 out of 28 Committee members responded.

Summary of Survey Responses (Scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being disagree/does not align; 10 being agree/aligns well)

**How well do you think NABCI’s mission statement reflects what you think should be the overall purpose of the US NABCI Committee?**

Response Average: 8

Comment Themes: Don’t change the mission (2 people); suggestions for minor wordsmithing (3 people); mission may be too narrow (2 people), expand on NABCI’s diverse range of partners (2 people)

Coordinator Recommendation: Keep existing mission.

**How well do you think NABCI’s vision reflects what NABCI is trying to accomplish?**

Response Average: 8 (with 14 out of 17 respondents answering 8 or above)

Comment Themes: Don’t change the vision (3 people); add reference to birds as indicators of environmental health/habitat or landscape condition (4 people); add reference to habitat (2 people); “Healthy” can mean different things (2 people)

Coordinator Recommendation: Consider whether to broaden vision to incorporate habitat or birds as indicators, as a reflection of NABCI’s discussions about aligning bird conservation priorities with broader conservation, economic, and social priorities.

**How well do you think NABCI’s value proposition identifies NABCI’s unique niche in the bird conservation community?**

Response Average: 7.9 (respondents not given opportunity to comment)

Coordinator Recommendation: Keep current value proposition, since it was developed so recently.

**How well do NABCI’s three overarching goals reflect what you think NABCI should be working to achieve?**

Response Average: 8.2

Comment Themes: Don’t change anything (4 people), minor wordsmithing (4 people). Other responses were disparate and didn’t fit into themes; some focused on *how and whether* we are achieving our goals, rather than what our goals are.

Coordinator Recommendation: Since there is reasonable agreement that overarching goals are generally good, focus most of our discussion and effort on sub-goals.

**How well do each Goal’s sub-goals reflect what you think NABCI should be doing in support of that Goal?**

Response Average for Goal 1 Sub-Goals: 7.4

Response Average for Goal 2 Sub-Goals: 7.6

Response Average for Goal 3 Sub-Goals: 7.3

Comment Themes:

Goal 1: Not inclusive enough- limited to existing subcommittees. Consider broadening. (2 people)

Goal 2: Few comments on this sub-goal.

Goal 3: Need to be more explicit, with more specific sub-goals that better support the overall goal (5 people)

**Coordinator Recommendation**: Focus on Goal 1 and its accompanying subgoals to evaluate whether this should be broadened or re-written; Focus on Sub-Goals for Goal 3 and build more specific sub-goals, actions, and tasks based on policy and funding discussions.

**Discussion: NABCI Vision**: **Should NABCI expand its vision statement to mention habitat and/or link bird conservation to other human priorities?**

-Some people felt that the human element is already included in the “valued by generations to come” phrase

-Discussion about who the vision is for- we say that it is an internal statement for us, and because of this some feel that it works as is, but for outsiders it may not be clear.

-Vision is what guides us when we come together, but we need to make this relevant outside our community as well.

-Expanding the vision may be more about the “how” we do things

-Important to keep vision simple

-Incorporating the habitat element could be useful in including broader issues that the public cares about even if they don’t care about bird conservation

-Thought that the vision should be bold and indicate that we are doing something bigger.

Action: Coordinator and Executive Council will produce 2 additional statements for consideration by the Committee: 1) existing Vision; 2) Vision statement that includes habitat; 3) Vision statement that includes habitat and human elements

**Discussion: Goal 1** **(“Support healthy bird populations through habitat conservation, management, education monitoring and sound science.”)**

This discussion took two different directions; first, we discussed additional priorities that could be added as sub-goals to more completely address and satisfy Goal 1. More broadly, however, we discussed how the Goals and Sub-Goals of the strategic plan are structured and identified the need for some structural rearranging. While conceptually many of the ideas we want to incorporate are present in the existing strategic plan, many of our existing sub-goals reflect actions rather than goals, and we need to consider and clarify how best to communicate both what we want to achieve (goals) and what we want to do (actions/tasks). First, think broadly about what we want to accomplish, and then evaluate how our existing projects/programs (subcommittees) fit into that structure.

Broad Discussion Elements and Thoughts (note that these are individual comments or themes and not necessarily points of agreement):

**Organization and Language**

-Subgoals should link to their overarching goals but also be items of high importance to NABCI.

-Suggestion to shorten Goal 1 to read: Support healthy bird populations through habitat conservation using sound science.

-Goal 1 gets at what the Subcommittees are trying to achieve; should link back to Subcommittees, who can implement goals via action items

-Suggestion that Breck recreate vision statement

-Suggestion to re-write Goal 1 to incorporate the work of our existing Subcommittees, and have a second goal that includes things that are not yet incorporated into Subcommittees.

-Comment (with support) that NABCI should be more than the sum of its parts. It’s when we work together that things happen. Avoid developing silos that don’t communicate or collaborate between them.

**Content Suggestions**

-Consider adding work plan items related to science and how to support science that promotes bird conservation

-Currently, our Sub-goals are not a comprehensive way to achieve Goal 1- we are missing elements of public land conservation, Joint Venture partnerships, international work, etc

-Suggestion to add climate change science and tools to implement climate change adaptation strategy through partnerships

-Suggestion to use suites of species as indicators and use birds to guide and improve natural resource management

-Suggestion that NABCI should be helping partners to implement the objectives of the bird conservation plans

-Suggestion to add an education/outreach component to our goals

-Suggestion to add a public lands component

Action: A team consisting of Judith Scarl, Geoff Walsh, Todd Fearer, David Hoge, John Alexander, Tammy VerCauteren and Ken Williams will reorganize the goals and sub-goals to reflect the most important things NABCI wants to achieve; this structure can then be used to identify actions and tasks that can accomplish those goals. Goal and sub-goal reorganization to be completed by the end of October and submitted to Executive Committee.

**Discussion: Goal 3 (“Inform and support effective funding and policy to advance bird conservation”)**

The purpose of this discussion was to continue brainstorming about how NABCI can most effectively inform and support funding and policy for bird conservation (Strategic Plan Goal 3). We summarized the suggestions emerging from the August 15 discussion (bullets, black); additional thoughts are in blue (thoughts may reflect individual viewpoints and may not be agreed on by all Committee members):

* Develop targeted State of the Birds reports that are linked to specific policy initiatives/upcoming legislation
* Identify national priorities in bird conservation (start with common threads from State of the Birds reports)

-NABCI should work to identify international priorities as well and should think more towards international/full life cycle conservation policy. Consider developing an ABCI or WHABCI (Western Hemisphere).

* Develop (reactivate) Bird Conservation Funding Coalition to advocate together
* Develop messaging connecting how birds can help natural resource managers manage natural resources (demonstrate value of birds as indicators)

-Consider the communication element. We should both develop and deliver these messages.

-Using birds as indicators to catalyze better ecosystem management. Use this messaging to demonstrate how birds are indicators of human health and well-being.

-Note that while NABCI thinks of itself as a communicating body, we may want to be flexible to needs of current advocates and create documents that *they* need (not that we think they should use).

* Develop and implement strategies for federal agencies to work together to meet with Congress re: natural resources/public land management
* Advocate for Blue Ribbon Panel funding
* All Bird Bulletin (or blog) focused on state success stories to support Blue Ribbon Panel/advocate for funding
* Develop messaging showing how Blue Ribbon Panel funds and existing programs complement each other
* Empower and encourage other groups to act as advocates; we should advocate for others within the system to also act as advocates. It could help to have representatives/spokesperson from private industry to champion this cause. Consider adding private industry to NABCI or otherwise engaging? We can also consider building relationships with agriculture advocacy groups, as well as the existing Teaming with Wildlife coalition.

NABCI members representing NGOs with advocacy staff agreed to encourage their colleagues to collaborate with NABCI when we are ready to start a dialog with policy advocates. We emphasized the importance of having talking points to approach these policy advocates to convince them to make this collaboration a priority.

Action: A team consisting of Judith Scarl, Keith Norris, Greg Butcher, David Whitehurst, and EJ Williams will examine the suggestions from this meeting on this goal and prioritize a small number of actions and tasks from these suggestions. Team will consider the different kinds of policy (legislation, agency policy, implementation of agency policy) and evaluate which of these NABCI can and should work to influence.

**Additional NABCI Business**

Announcements:

-Gary T. Myers Award will be presented at the NAOC plenary on Friday (recipient Catherine Hickey from Point Blue Conservation Science)

-Cornell Lab of Ornithology and American Bird Conservancy have a new agreement on Science for Conservation Action- taking Cornell’s science and applying it to ABC policies and programs. Ken Rosenberg will be a joint ABC-CLO employee.

-New published paper in Bioscience – “Completing the System: Opportunities and Challenges for a National Habitat Conservation system”. NABCI is one of 3 models used to fill in gaps in national protected areas

**NABCI Chairmanship rotates biennially between the Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (or his proxy) and the Chair of AFWA’s Bird Conservation Committee. At the conclusion of this meeting, Jerome Ford will end his tenure as NABCI Chair and Chairmanship reverts to Gordon Myers.**