**Outcomes and Next Steps**

**10-11 September 2014 US NABCI Committee Meeting**

**US Forest Service International Programs**

**1 Thomas Circle NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC**

***NABCI Committee Member Attendees****:* **David Pashley**, American Bird Conservancy (ABC); **Gordon Myers**, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA); **Geoff Walsh**, Bureau of Land Management (BLM); **Ken Rosenberg**, Cornell Lab of Ornithology (CLO); **Skip Hyberg/** **David Hoge**, Farm Services Agency (FSA); **Glenn Olson**, National Audubon Society (NAS);**Greg Butcher**, US Forest Service; **Catherine Hickey**, US Shorebird Conservation Plan; **Anne Kinsinger**, US Geological Survey; **Jerome Ford**, US Fish & Wildlife Service; **Todd Fearer**, Migratory Bird Joint Ventures; **Dave Mehlman**, The Nature Conservancy; **Danielle Flynn**, NRCS; **Scott Yaich**, Ducks Unlimited; **Bob Ellis**, North American Waterfowl Management Plan; **Brad Bortner**, Waterbird Conservation for the Americas; **Greg Butcher**, USFS

***Guest Attendees*:** Dean Smith, AFWA; Cyndi Perry, FWS; Guy Foulks, FWS; Dave Gordon, FWS; John Alexander, Klamath Bird Observatory; Deb Hahn, AFWA; Ken Kriese, USFWS; Alicia King, FWS; Mary Pfaffko, AFWA; Vicki Arthur, USFS; Eric Kershner, USFWS; David Younkman, ABC; Anne Law, ABC; Charisa Morris, USFWS; USFWS; Brad Andres, USFWS; Roxanne Bogart, USFWS; Steve Hilburger, US Geological Survey; Jennie Duberstein, FWS; Ashley Dayer, CLO; Ian Davidson, NFWF; Scott Johnston, FWS; Matt Jeffrey, Audubon; Cal DuBrock; Jocelyn Aycrigg, Univ. of Idaho; Gus Axelson, CLO; Allan O’Connell, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center; Barb Bresson, USFS; Lesley Kordella, USFWS

**1. Agenda Item:** NABCI Strategic Plan (Parts 1 and 2)

***Purpose of Agenda Item (Part 1):****Allison will review the outcome of the July 31 conference call to discuss the draft strategic plan with NABCI members. In general, many components of the plan were agreeable to Committee members, including the revised vision and mission statements (with minimal revision). However, given ongoing conversations related to the IBC Team and the JV Summit, Conservation Business Planning, and NAWMP Human Dimensions work, committee members preferred to hold off on approval of the entire plan until some closure has been reached on those topics. We will use Part 1 of the Strategic Planning agenda item to review those parts of the plan where we have support and consensus for approval as well as those topic areas requiring more discussion and highlight where those discussions will take place during the NABCI meeting.*

***Purpose of Agenda Item (Part 2):*** *Review decisions and progress made during meeting on clarifying portions of the Strategic Plan and determine if Committee members are ready to approve the plan.*

**Outcomes and Next Steps:** Following thorough discussion and moderate revision of the draft plan, Committee members approved [a 2014-2016 strategic plan for the US NABCI Committee](http://nabci-us.org/mtg_2014-09/2014-2016%20Plan%20Goals%20Actions%20Tasks%20Approved%20at%20Sept%202014%20meeting.pdf). The Committee notes that revisions may be warranted following the December 2014 Joint Venture- Bird Conservation Plan Partnership- NABCI workshop and will review and discuss any necessary updates at February 2014 meeting. Additionally, small working groups may meet prior to Feb 2015 NABCI meeting to discuss topics currently not included as work items in the strategic plan but remain of interest to the NABCI Committee. These include: bird conservation on public lands, exploring how NABCI might engage in full-life cycle conservation beyond North America, policy and funding issues for bird conservation, and collaborative opportunities with LCCs. [A one page version of the plan is available.](http://www.nabci-us.org/mtg_2014-09/014-2016%201%20Page%20Plan%20Goals%20Actions%20Only%20Approved%20at%20Sept%202014%20meeting.pdf)

**2. Agenda Item:** Advancing Integrated Bird Conservation: A new chapter for Bird Conservation Plan Partnerships

***Purpose of Agenda Item:****Brief NABCI members on recommendations to advance bird conservation through closer and more clearly defined working relationships among the four Bird Conservation Plan Partnerships, the Joint Venture network, and the US NABCI Committee. This discussion should inform and provide additional detail to the part 2C of the draft Strategic Plan.*

**Outcomes and Next Steps:** The US NABCI Committee voiced support for the recommendations proposed development of the Integrated Bird Conservation Team as described in Brad Bortner’s presentation. Committee members were invited to submit comments or suggestions to the draft plan to Allison by September 24th. The authors of the recommendations will revised and recirculate the recommendations this fall.

**3. Agenda Item:** A Workshop to Advance North American Bird Conservation

***Purpose of Agenda Item:****Share plans for and seek guidance regarding a meeting among Joint Venture staff, Bird Conservation Plan Partnership staff and partners, and US NABCI staff and partners planned for Dec 2-4 in Texas. The summit agenda will address specific opportunities for more effective coordination, collaboration and integration of priorities and activities among the three networks. Participants will also consider roles, responsibilities and expectations of JVs, BCPPs and NABCI with respect to one another, and options for improving collaboration and integration across the initiatives. This discussion should inform and provide additional detail to the part 2D of the draft Strategic Plan.*

**Outcomes and Next Steps:** NABCI members who are interested in representing the NABCI Committee at the Workshop were asked to contact Allison to that effect by September 24th. Allison will share a series of questions with NABCI Committee members this fall to further inform the workshop agenda.

**4. Agenda Item: Human dimensions research on the associations between conservation behaviors and birdwatching and hunting**

***Purpose of Agenda Item:****As a follow-up to the NABCI Human Dimensions workshop (February 2013), Ashley will present on recent research conducted by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Cornell University that explores associations between voluntary conservation behaviors and participation in hunting, birdwatching, and both activities. This research addresses a gap identified at the workshop that conservation behaviors of hunters and birdwatchers have not been directly compared.*

**Outcomes and Next Steps:** A paper on these results has been accepted by the Journal of Wildlife Management and is pending publication. We will share the publication and powerpoint slides with the NABCI Committee when available. In the meantime, below is the abstract:

*Birdwatching, hunting, and conservation behavior: associations and management implications*

Outdoor experiences are widely considered to be a key precursor to conservation-oriented actions, but few studies have explored specific links between nature-based recreation and conservation behavior. We surveyed landowners, hunters, and birdwatchers (n = 1261) living in rural areas of New York to explore associations between participation in wildlife-dependent recreation and engagement in voluntary conservation behaviors that occur in both the public sphere (with direct local environmental impacts) and private sphere (with broader, more indirect impacts). Based on self-reported recreation preferences and participation rates, respondents were grouped into four categories: non-recreationists, hunters, birdwatchers, and birder-hunters (i.e., individuals who regularly engaged in both activities). Differences! in socio-demographic characteristics and environmental beliefs among the four groups were evident. Controlling for these variables, logistic regression models showed strong positive associations between wildlife-dependent recreation and multiple public sphere conservation behaviors including habitat enhancement, donations to support environmental protection, and wildlife recreation advocacy. Compared to non-recreationists, hunters and birdwatchers were 2-3 times more likely to donate money for conservation purposes, 4-5 times more likely to volunteer to improve wildlife habitat in the community, and 2-13 times more likely to enhance habitat on private land. Birder-hunters were even more likely to engage in these activities, with their likelihood of donating to conservation 6 times higher and their likelihood of participating in private land habitat enhancement 23 times than non-participants. While birders and birder-hunters were most likely to vote in favor of conservation! policies and participate in environmental groups, hunters and birder-hunters were most likely to engage in wildlife recreation advocacy. Recreation group membership was not a significant predictor of private-sphere conservation behaviors such as recycling, energy conservation, and green purchasing. Results revealed behavioral similarities among hunters and birdwatchers that challenge common assumptions and highlight the conservation potential associated with all types wildlife-dependent recreationists. Managers hoping to generate additional support for conservation should therefore consider how to foster maximum participation in both hunting and birdwatching and not view the two as mutually exclusive activities.

**4. Agenda Item: Partner Highlight USGS Bird Conservation Science**

*Steve Hilburger, USGS Wildlife Program and Allan O’Connell, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center*

***Purpose of Agenda Item:*** *This is an opportunity for Committee members to learn more about the work of a NABCI partner organization. Steve will provide an overview of USGS bird conservation science programs and Allan will present on the Bird Banding Lab and the Breeding Bird Survey.*

**Outcomes and Next Steps:** [Steve and Allan’s ppt presentation](http://nabci-us.org/mtg_2014-09/USGS%20Overview%20NABCI%20Sept%202014.pdf) and [list of USGS Science Resources](http://nabci-us.org/mtg_2014-09/USGS%20Avian%20Capabilities%20and%20Recent%20Products.pdf) is available on the NABCI website.

**5. Agenda Item:** E**ngaging land trusts in bird conservation – Recommendations based on research**

*Ashley Dayer, Cornell Lab of Ornithology*

***Purpose of Agenda Item:****To advance the Private & Working Lands Subcommittee's strategic plan task related to land trusts, Ashley will present on social science interview and survey results related to land trusts and bird conservation, then the Committee will review recommendations from the Subcommittee on how the Subcommittee and NABCI partners can best work with land trusts.*

**Outcomes and Next Steps:** [Ashley’s ppt presentation is available on the NABCI website](http://nabci-us.org/mtg_2014-09/Land%20Trust%20Initiative%20for%20NABCI%20US%20Comm%20v4.pdf)

**6. Agenda Item**: **State of the Birds 2014 Debrief**

*Ken Rosenberg, CLO and Allison Vogt, AFWA*

**Purpose of Agenda Item:** Reflect on the 2014 State of the Birds report development and release. This is an opportunity for the Committee to share successes, areas for improvement, and consider next steps.

**Outcomes and Next Steps:** The full report, Watch List, Common Species in Steep Decline List, links to media coverage, and other resources are available at www.stateofthebirds.org

**7. Agenda Item: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Bird Conservation Programs**

*Ian Davidson, NFWF*

***Purpose of Agenda Item:*** *Ian**joined NFWF as Director of Bird Conservation in March 2014. Previously Ian worked for BirdLife International as regional head of the Americas and spent a decade implementing conservation at globally important bird areas (IBAs) and in critical ecosystems throughout the Western Hemisphere. Part of this work entailed an extensive inventory of IBAs in North, Central and South America. From 2009 to 2014, he served as Executive Director of Nature Canada. Ian will share his perspective on current and future NFWF investments in bird conservation.*

**Outcomes and Next Steps:** [Ian’s presentation is available on the NABCI website](http://nabci-us.org/mtg_2014-09/NFWF%20overview%20of%20programs_September_NABCI.pdf)

**8. Agenda Item: The Role Conservation Business Planning In Bird Conservation- Panel Discussion**

*Ian Davidson, NFWF; David Younkman, American Bird Conservancy; Matt Jeffery, National Audubon Society; Scott Johnston, US Fish and Wildlife Service*

***Purpose of Agenda Item:*** *There is an increasing need to quantify the impacts of conservation actions and provide evidence that investments yield intended results. The conservation business planning approach offers a mechanism to develop a road map for conservation and methodically focus conservation efforts on threats and drivers of greatest importance to the conservation target. Panelists will offer their perspectives on the current state of business planning in the bird conservation community and how to best use business plans to implement coordinated bird conservation and engage a full suite of domestic and international partners going forward. The Committee will consider these perspectives in discussing its role in supporting a conservation business plan approach*.

**Outcomes and Next Steps:** The Committee outlined the following next steps in response to the panel’s presentations and discussion: 1) Create ad hoc working group to develop a best practices/recommendations document that outlines key elements of business planning approach, clarifies methodology and terminology associated with the process, and other content as determined by working group; 2) Consider the role of resident game bird plans in ongoing full lifecycle planning efforts; and 3) Host web-based trainings for individuals leading the development of conservation business plans, with an emphasis on how to evaluate and monitor progresstowards implementation.

**9. Agenda Item: Engaging Member-based NGOs in NAWMP Human Dimensions Survey Effort**

*Cal DuBrock*

***Purpose of Agenda Item:*** *The NAWMP Human Dimensions Work Group (HDWG) is seeking assistance with a continental assessment of the preferences of hunters, waterfowl conservationists and viewers, and the general public to inform waterfowl and wetlands conservation objectives and actions under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP).*

**Outcomes and Next Steps:** Cal and Allison will follow up with NABCI NGOs regarding their interest in collaborating on the NAWMP Human Dimensions survey. [Cal’s presentation is available on the NABCI website.](http://nabci-us.org/mtg_2014-09/HDWG%20Plan%20Committee%20Update%20September%202014.pdf)

**10. Agenda Item: Commemorating the 2016 Centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty**

*Jennie Duberstein, Sonoran Joint Venture, USFWS*

***Purpose of Agenda Item:*** *2016 is the 100-year anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty and an opportunity to celebrate and highlight a century of bird conservation. An internal team within USFWS has begun to identify goals and objectives for celebrating the centennial- but recognizes the important role that partners will play in a successful effort. This workshop will brief NABCI partners on progress to date by the FWS team and engage any interested partners in refining and implementing those plans.*

**Outcomes and Next Steps:** Committee members should follow up with Jennie to get more involved or visit <http://www.fws.gov/birds/MBTreaty100/> for more information. [Jennie’s ppt presentation is available on the NABCI website.](http://nabci-us.org/mtg_2014-09/DUBERSTEIN-MBT-Centennial-NABCI-2014-09.pdf)