**Outcomes and Summary Notes**

8-9 August 2012 US NABCI Committee

USFWS, 4401 Fairfax Ave., Arlington, VA, Rooms 200A & B

*NABCI Committee Member Attendees:* **Jerome Ford** (Acting Chair), US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS); **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; **Chris Eberly**, Department of Defense; **Skip Hyberg**, Farm Services Agency (FSA); **Glenn Olson**, National Audubon Society (NAS); **Cal DuBrock**, National Flyway Council and AFWA Resident Game Bird Working Group; **Jennifer Lee**, National Park Service; **Danielle Flynn**, Natural Resources Conservation Service; **David Mehlman**, The Nature Conservancy; **Paul Schmidt**, Partners In Flight Initiative/ Ducks Unlimited; **Greg Butcher**, US Forest Service; **Catherine Hickey**, US Shorebird Conservation Plan/ PRBO Conservation Science; **Ken Williams**, US Geological Survey; **Jennifer Wheeler**, Waterbird Conservation for the Americas/FWS

*Guest Attendees*: Tom Will, FWS; Sally Butts, BLM; Steve Zack, Wildlife Conservation Society; Dean Smith, AFWA; Sarah Mott, FWS; Brad Bortner, FWS; Cyndi Perry, FWS; Jason Rylander, Defenders of Wildlife; Mark Humpert, AFWA; Guy Foulks, FWS; Dave Gordon, FWS; Brad Jacobs, Missouri Department of Conservation; Antoinette Condo, US State Department; David Younkman, ABC; Brad Andres, FWS; John Beavers, NAS

[Meeting Agenda](http://www.nabci-us.org/mtg_2012-08/NABCI%20Aug2012%20agenda%20as%20of%202Aug.docx)

**Agenda Topic:** ***Chair’s remarks***

Jerome Ford welcomed the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory as new members of the US NABCI Committee (Committee). He announced that Dave Scott is leaving the Ohio Division of Wildlife and thus can no longer represent the AFWA Migratory Shore and Upland Gamebird Working Group on the Committee. The AFWA working group will determine a replacement for Dave at the AFWA Annual Meeting in Sept. 2012.

**Agenda Topic*: NABCI Strategic Intent Document and Developing Priorities and Areas of Emphasis***

See handout, [“Strategic Focus Areas, Goals, and Objectives from the 2009-2013 NABCI Strategic Intent Document”](http://www.nabci-us.org/mtg_2012-08/NABCI%20Strategic%20Intent%202009-2013.doc)

*Purpose of the agenda item:* Review progress to date on the goals outlined in the 2009-2013 NABCI Strategic Intent document.

*Desired outcome:* Develop the building blocks of an 18-month work plan as well as an agreed upon process for planning for NABCI activities in 2014-2019.

***Decisions at meeting:***The current Strategic Intent Document should be thoroughly reviewed and updated no later than Jan 2014. The next iteration should more clearly state desired products and outcomes as well as describe how the Committee wants NABCI to function in the realms of marshaling resources, coordinating among members of the bird conservation community, and communications to a broader- and yet to be specifically defined- audiences. A working group will be designated at the winter 2013 meeting to develop a Strategic Intent document for 2014-2018 and a draft will be reviewed by the Committee at the summer 2013 meeting.

For the next 18 months and with the support of the Coordinator, the NABCI Committee’s work will largely revolve around the following projects and initiatives within the current NABCI Areas of Emphasis as listed in the Strategic Intent Document:

**Communications**

- Review past Committee communication plans and efforts as well as the current communication objectives listed in the Strategic Intent document; present findings to Committee at winter 2013 meeting. (Greg Butcher, Cyndi Perry, Subcommittee members)

- Identify and prioritize audiences that influence the success of NABCI and consider role of All-Bird Bulletin and [www.NABCI-us.org](http://www.NABCI-us.org) in communication efforts; present findings and recommendations to Committee at winter 2013 meeting. (Greg Butcher, Cyndi Perry, Communication staff of NABCI member orgs)

- Develop Value Proposition for Committee; present draft for the Committee’s consideration at winter 2013 meeting. (Glenn Olson, Greg Butcher, Cyndi Perry, Communication staff of NABCI member orgs)

- Summarize NABCI’s 13-year history in a document that will be useful in informing future planning efforts.

- Proceed with Human Dimension workshop as described in, “Integrating the Science of Human Dimensions into Efforts that Engage Citizens in Support of Bird Habitat Conservation: A Proposed Role for the US NABCI Committee”. (Paul Schmidt, Dale Humburg, Kacie Miller, Ashley Dayer, Brad Bortner, Dean Smith, Skip Hyberg)

**State of the Birds Reports**

- Actively participate in the development of the 2013 State of the Birds Report on Private Lands (Jerome Ford, David Pashley, Ken Rosenberg, Dave Mehlman, Glenn Olson, Danielle Flynn, SOTB Working Lands and Science Team members)

- Explore opportunity for trinational collaboration for a 2016 State of the Birds of North America report (Jerome Ford)

- Continue leadership in implementation efforts around 2011 State of the Birds report on Public Lands and Waters in Aridlands and Forest habitats (Ken Rosenberg, Geoff Walsh, Greg Butcher)

- Move forward on the development of 2014 State of the Birds Report that updates the trend data first reported in the 2009 State of the Birds report (Jerome Ford, David Pashley, Ken Rosenberg, Dave Mehlman, Glenn Olson, Greg Butcher)

**Policy and Legislation**

- The Subcommittee will review NABCI’s relationship with Bird Conservation Funding Coalition and develop recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the efforts of the non-governmental organizations within bird conservation community’s to increase Congressional funding levels for key programs. The recommendations will be reported back to the Committee at the winter 2013 meeting. (Scott Yaich, Subcommittee Members)

**Joint Ventures**

**-** Because the Committee did not have adequate time to fully discuss at the Aug 2012 meeting, prior to the Winter 2013 meeting the Committee will discuss by phone opportunities for the US NABCI Committee to serve the Joint Venture community’s needs. (Allison will convene call among NABCI members and members of JV community)

**Monitoring**

- Based on the recommendations within the Opportunities for Avian Monitoring document, the Subcommittee will develop a set of priority activities that it will recommend to the NABCI Committee at its Winter 2013 meeting. (David Pashley, Paul Schmidt, and Subcommittee Members)

**International**

**-** Because the Committee did not have adequate time to fully discuss at the Aug 2012 meeting, prior to the Winter 2013 meeting the Committee will discuss by phone the merits of working with NABCI colleagues in Mexico and Canada to re-establish the Tri-national NABCI Committee and develop a plan forward. (Allison will convene call for any interested NABCI members)

- In collaboration with the NMBCA Advisory Committee and the PIF V 2013 International Conference Steering Committee, develop a prototype business plan for the conservation of grasslands in the Aridlands/Great Plains grasslands- Chihuahuan desert habitat linkage. (Glenn Olson, David Pashley, Dan Petit, Guy Foulks, Deb Hahn, and others from ABC and NAS)

**Agenda Topic: *Coordinator Funding***

*Purpose of the agenda item:* Discuss the ability of NABCI partners to sustain funding to support the Coordinator’s position

*Desired outcome:* Mutual understanding of willingness of NABCI partners to contribute towards funding of Coordinator’s position in 2013 and beyond.

***Decisions at meeting:*** Committee member organizations are committed to continued financial support for a Committee coordinator position. Under the leadership of Paul Schmidt, the NGO members will work together to contribute a portion of the 2013 funding needs and will report back on the amount of that contribution at the winter 2013 meeting. Cal DuBrock will explore with AFWA leadership opportunities to engage a greater number of states in funding the coordinator position. The current contributing federal agencies verbally affirmed their commitment to financial support but warned that with impending budget reductions, a greater proportion of NABCI partners will need to contribute to maintain level funding.

**Agenda Topic: *Discussion of committee composition and future growth***

See handouts, “Charter” and “Governance models comparison chart”.

*Purpose of Agenda Item:* On the heels of the recent expansion of the NABCI Committee, consider a strategy for future growth of the Committee.

*Desired outcome:* Determine mutually agreeable next steps to refine NABCI governance structure and processes.

***Decisions at meeting:*** A working group was established to assess and develop recommendations on several elements related to the governance and operations of the Committee. Allison will draft a scope of work for the working group and it will be distributed to the full Committee for approval. The working group will consist of Cal DuBrock, Catherine Hickey, Geoff Walsh, Brad Bortner, Sarah Mott, and Cyndi Perry. The recommendations will be presented to the Committee at the winter 2013 meeting. The working group’s considerations should include:

- Committee growth. The group will look at examples of partnerships (including JVs, American Wind Wildlife Institute, Field to Market) and develop a recommendation to guide the growth of the NABCI committee over time. This includes looking at term limits, lengths of individual terms, recruitment of new members, etc.

- Formation of an executive committee. A small executive committee would enhance NABCI’s ability to provide the Coordinator with guidance in between meetings. Precautions to avoid any new structure that might serve to disengage the full suite of NABCI partners should be taken.

- The NABCI charter will be updated as appropriate for the changes agreed upon by the full committee at the winter 2013 meeting.

**Agenda Topic: *Advancing Bird Monitoring: A proposal to direct the work of the NABCI monitoring* Subcommittee**

*Purpose of Agenda Item:* Under the leadership of David Pashley and Paul Schmidt, the NABCI monitoring subcommittee is re-forming and will seek approval from the NABCI Committee for its new roster and planned areas of focus.

*Desired outcome:* Committee approval of Subcommittee’s plans

***Decisions at meeting:*** David Pashley and Paul Schmidt have the support of the Committee to re-establish the Monitoring Subcommittee. The current list of members includes: David Pashley, Paul Schmidt, Dale Humburg, Katie Koch, Ken Rosenburg, Brad Andres, John Alexander, a marine rep to be recommended by Jennifer Wheeler, John Sauer, Viviana Ruiz, Charlie Rewa, and Mary Rowland. The Subcommittee should consider what recommendations from the 2007 Opportunities to Improve Avian Monitoring document have not been implemented. Other possible initiatives for the Subcommittee to consider are: engaging with NFWF to improve monitoring of avian response to their investments; monitoring the effectiveness of agency conservation actions; capacity to support regional monitoring coordinators; and how to use monitoring data to support the State Wildlife Action Plan effectiveness measures.

**Agenda Topic: Coordinated Conservation of Neotropical Migratory Birds**

See handout, [“Neotrop Business Plan overview”](http://www.nabci-us.org/mtg_2012-08/Neotrop%20Business%20Plan%20overview.doc)

*Purpose of Agenda Item:* Brief the Committee on efforts to develop business plans for the conservation of neotropical migratory birds in collaboration with NFWF, the NMBCA Advisory Committee, and the PIF V International Conference.

*Desired outcome:* Committee approval of plans for the development of business plans for the conservation of neotropical migratory birds.

***Decisions at meeting:*** The Committee endorses the direction and next steps planned for the development of business plans for the conservation of neotropical migratory birds. These next steps can be summarized as:

1. Development of grasslands prototype business plan prior to August 2013

2. Create clearinghouse of existing business/conservation/action plans for bird-oriented plans.

3. Develop white paper on a business planning approach to bird conservation.

4. Integrate business planning approach with PIF V Conference Planning

5. ID potential funders for new investments in neotrop conservation

**Agenda Topic: Integrating the Science of Human Dimensions into Efforts that Engage Citizens in Support of Bird Habitat Conservation**: **A Proposed Role for the US NABCI Committee**

*See handout,* [“Proposed Role in HD for the NABCI Committee”](http://www.nabci-us.org/mtg_2012-08/HD%20proposal%20to%20NABCI%207July2012.docx)

*Purpose of Agenda Item:* Review proposal for NABCI to host workshop that would kick start integration of existing human dimensions science with bird conservation programs

*Desired outcome:* Committee feedback on and approval of proposed workshop

***Decisions at meeting:*** The Committee agreed to move forward in the development of a workshop and to support the effort by charging a registration fee in lieu of fundraising to provide travel support for the invited guests. If possible, the workshop should be scheduled in conjunction with the winter 2013 NABCI meeting so that Committee members can most easily attend the workshop. Efforts should be made to collaborate with the National Flyway Council human dimensions efforts.

**Agenda Topic: 2013 State of the Birds on Private Lands Report**

*See handout,* [“SOTB Private Lands Outcomes”](http://www.nabci-us.org/mtg_2012-08/SOTB%20Private%20Lands%20Outcomes.docx)

*Purpose of Agenda Item:* Update Committee on status of report and review the desired outcomes for the report as developed by the Science Team.

*Desired outcome:* Committee feedback to guide the future development of the report and the key messages throughout.

***Decisions at meeting:*** Report should emphasize success stories that exemplify the conservation impact of the farm bill. The role of the USFWS Partners program, state agencies, and others- in addition to the role of NRCS and FSA- are important. The success stories should be geographically representative of the entire country and could highlight NE woodlot owners, CA rice growers, etc. If possible, specific recommendations should be incorporated into the report. One use of the report will be to show OMB how these programs move the needle on conservation. Committee members who have specific examples of successes that might be appropriate to include in the report should send them to Allison.

**Agenda Topic: Future State of the Birds Reports**

*Purpose of Agenda Item:* The NABCI committee has not yet formally considered topics or scheduling for State of the Birds reports beyond 2013.

*Desired Outcome*: Determine schedule and themes for future State of the Birds reports and consider proposal from the Migratory Birds table of the Trilateral to develop of a continental report in 2016 (the 100th anniversary of the US-CAN Migratory Bird Convention).

***Decisions at meeting:*** A 2014 report will be developed as a 5-year reassessment of the original 2009 State of the Birds report. Jerome will explore the opportunity to proceed with a continental report in 2016 with his colleagues in Mexico and Canada.

**Agenda Topic: Continued Implementation of 2011 Public Lands and Waters Report**

*Purpose of Agenda Item:* Brief the Committee on efforts to use messages from the 2011 State of the Birds report on Public Lands and Waters in Aridland and Forest habitats.

***Decisions at meeting****:*Due to lack of time, the Committee did not discuss this topic. Allison will convene a webinar prior to the winter 2013 meeting in order to update and seek feedback from the Committee on additional opportunities to advance these efforts.

**Agenda Topic: State of Canada’s Birds report**

*See handout,* [“State of Canada’s Birds report”](http://www.stateofcanadasbirds.org/)

*Purpose of Agenda Item:* Brief Committee on key messages from this recently released report.

*Desired Outcome*: None- informational only

**Agenda Topic: Future Directions for Shorebird Conservation**

*See handout,* “[USSCP Strategic Plan](http://www.nabci-us.org/mtg_2012-08/USSCP%20Strategic%20Plan.docx)” and PPT presentation, [“USSCP Structure”](http://www.nabci-us.org/mtg_2012-08/UsscpStructure2012.pdf)

*Purpose of Agenda Item*: Brief and seek feedback from the Committee on the U.S. Shorebird Council’s strategic plan as well as highlight a recent planning effort specific to Atlantic Shorebirds.

*Desired Outcome*: Informational- determine next steps for Committee as appropriate

**Agenda Topic: Outcomes from the Migratory Birds Table at the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management**

*See handout,* “[XVI Trilateral Committee (May 2012) - Migratory Bird Working Table Action Items](http://www.nabci-us.org/mtg_2012-08/Trilateral%202012%20Migratory%20Birds%20Table%20Action%20Items.docx) and [XVI Trilateral Committee (May 2012) - Report from the Migratory Bird Working Table](http://www.nabci-us.org/mtg_2012-08/Trilateral%20Mig%20Birds%20Table%20report%20to%20Exec%20Table.pdf)”

*Purpose of Agenda Item*: Brad Bortner, Chief of the Division of Migratory Bird Management, will update the Committee on priority actions related to migratory birds identified during the 2012 meeting of the Trilateral Committee.

*Desired Outcome*: Brad was unable to be present for this portion of the meeting.

Informational- determine next steps for Committee as appropriate

**Agenda Topic: Q & A on Topics Included in the Written Update**

*See handout, “*[Written Updates for Distribution](http://www.nabci-us.org/mtg_2012-08/Written%20Updates%20for%20distribution.pdf)”

*Purpose of Agenda Item*: Share information that cannot be accommodated by presentations at the meeting among Committee members.

*Desired Outcome*: Informational- determine next steps for Committee if appropriate.

**Agenda Topic: Human-related Bird Mortality- Assessments from Canada and the US**

*See handout, “*[Loss et al. Mortality Review](http://www.nabci-us.org/mtg_2012-08/Loss%20etal%20Mortality%20Overview.pdf)”

*Purpose of Agenda Item*: Brief the committee on work undertaken to quantify the level of bird mortality associated with various sources of take.

*Desired Outcome*: Informational- determine next steps for Committee if appropriate.

***Decisions at meeting****:* The Committee asked for a briefing on future results of this work

**Agenda Topic: Legislative Updates**

*See handouts,* [“FY 2013 Appropriations Review](http://www.nabci-us.org/mtg_2012-08/FY%202013%20Appropriations%20Update%20for%20NABCI.docx)” and [“Farm Bill Update”](http://www.nabci-us.org/mtg_2012-08/Farm%20Bill%20Update.docx)

*Purpose of Agenda Item*:Brief Committee members on recent and pending legislation, FY13 appropriations, and implications of FY 12 funding cuts.

*Desired Outcome*: Informational- determine next steps for Committee if appropriate.