

NABCI-U.S. Committee
Government Relations and Partner Engagement
2022-2025 Work Plan

General Authority and Goal:

The Government Relations and Partner Engagement Subcommittee, formerly the Legislative and Policy Committee, is an independent collaborative that liaises with the NABCI Committee. It is co-led by two members of the NABCI Committee and composed of U.S. NABCI Committee member organizations. One of the chairs will represent the NABCI non-governmental (NGO) stakeholders.

The Subcommittee is focused primarily on activities that implement the U.S. NABCI Committee's Strategic Plan Goal 3: *Inform and support effective policy to advance bird conservation*. Adaptations/updates will be made based on the revised strategic plan as informed by the Bringing Back 3 Billion Birds (BB3BB) work group.

Charges:

- Deliver consistent, coordinated messaging from the NGO conservation community on key policy issues by facilitating communication with government and NGO leadership about highest-priority programs, initiatives, and needs of bird conservation
- Inform Federal agencies and other partners at the Council for Conservation of Migratory Birds
- Serve as a resource for NABCI member organizations by compiling and/or developing policy-related messages that demonstrate the importance of key bird conservation programs
- Monitor, review, and, as necessary and appropriate, facilitate the NGO Partner members' response to legislative and policy activities that may have impacts on bird conservation
- Inform the State of the Birds Report
- Incorporate relevant high-level goals, sub-goals and strategies from the BB3BB effort

Activity Scope & Procedures:

The Subcommittee will leverage expertise of NABCI NGO partners including science, policy, human dimensions, communications/outreach, conservation delivery, and international relations to achieve effective conservation strategies for birds, flora, and fauna integral to bird conservation.

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

NABCI's Federal partner engagement on this subcommittee will be to provide information and programmatic expertise. Federal partners will not be involved in developing or implementing any policy advocacy activities that NGO partners choose to pursue independent of NABCI.

This subcommittee will meet and/or engage in conference calls at least twice annually, or when otherwise determined necessary by the Chair(s), to discuss relevant policy issues and/or next steps of action in accordance with subcommittee charges.

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

Policy-related actions will be executed along channels and roles outside of NABCI to maximize the potential for elevated impacts and coordinated voices on recommendations when applicable and appropriate. Specifically:

- Where needed, NGOs of the subcommittee will develop policy without U.S. NABCI board involvement and outside of the auspices of the U.S. NABCI Committee.
- Any formal policy advisory resources (e.g., letters to agency directors on a particular program) that originate from this subcommittee must be approved by the full NABCI leadership. This subcommittee will operate on consensus of non-federal partners to inform a recommendation to NABCI leadership.

Potential Membership:

Chair – Jennifer Cipolletti American Bird Conservancy (could be time to rotate a new Chair in)
Co-Chair - Vacant

Migratory Bird Joint Ventures – Todd Fearer
Pheasants Forever – Scott Taylor
The Institute for Bird Populations – Steve Albert
Ducks Unlimited- Mike Brasher
Avian Knowledge Network- John Alexander
Bird Partnership Plan- Geoff Geupel
National Audubon- Nicole Michel
Cornell Lab of Ornithology- Amanda Rodewald
American Birding Association- Julie Davis
The Wildlife Society – Keith Norris
American Ornithological Society – Amelia-Juliette Demery/Pete Marra
Ian Stenhouse- Biodiversity Research Institute
AFWA- Alicia Hardin
Gray Anderson- National Flyway Council
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies- Tammy VerCauteren
The Nature Conservancy- Vacant
Resident Game Bird Working Group- Todd Bishop

NABCI –

Operations and Products for 2022-2025

- A. Provide coordinated messaging among key federal government programs and policies
 - 1. Coordinate updating existing bird conservation program facts sheets on NABCI's website (annually before the spring NABCI meeting) with NABCI NGO partners [Goal 3(1)(a)(3)]
 - a. Farm Bill Conservation Title Programs
 - b. North American Wetlands Conservation Act
 - c. Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act
 - d. USFWS Joint Ventures
 - e. State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program (RAWA)
 - 2. Collect resources from member organizations on bird-focused policies and programs and create new resources where gaps for priority issues are identified; post to website
 - a. Ask NABCI members for fact sheets and similar documents on priority bird conservation programs
 - b. Disseminate policy information to all NABCI members' policy leads via the NABCI website
 - 3. Develop message/document about the interconnectedness of all bird conservation programs and the role of science to inform conservation and management – go beyond the 5 programs currently listed
 - 4. Assist the NABCI Executive Committee with delivering key messages on primary bird conservation programs to conservation leaders in federal agencies [Goal 3(2)(a)(1)]
- B. Track and update NGO NABCI members on legislative and administrative proposals and the legislative calendar on issues related to bird conservation. This includes linking release of reports to congressional and administration discussion timelines [gpa: 3(1)(a)(2)]. Updates provided at NABCI meetings and bi-annually during committee meetings. Key issues to monitor include:
 - 1. 2023 Farm Bill
 - 2. Recovering America's Wildlife Act – coordination with AFWA [Goal 3(1)(b)(2)]
 - 3. Appropriations for key programs
 - 4. Bird conservation authorizing bills (ACAP, NMBCA, Bird-Safe Buildings Act, Saving America's Pollinators Act, NA Grasslands Policy Act)
 - 5. Provide expert analysis of policy topics on specific issues and recommendations for NABCI NGO activity as requested by the NABCI Committee Chairs.
- C. Advise the State of the Birds (SOTB) Team on their reports [Goal 3(1)(a)(1)]
 - 1. Assist with messaging strategy and tone
 - 2. Aid in broader partner engagement/representation and content
 - 3. Help link release of SOTB reports to congressional and administration discussion timelines [Goal 3(1)(a)(2)]
- D. Work with the Human Dimensions Subcommittee to incorporate HD and DEIJ expertise across materials, including messaging and engagement with existing and future partners
- E. Operationalize BB3BB report as relevant to committee purpose