

USSCP Council Teleconference Notes

9 October 2014

Present: Brad Andres, Catherine Hickey, Larry Niles, Matt Reiter, Sara Schweitzer, Susan Skagen, Brian Smith, Bill Vermillion, Brad Winn

NABCI

NABCI Meeting was held in September in conjunction with release of the 2014 State of the Birds and the 2014 Watch List. Notes and actions from the meeting will be forthcoming as well as a finalized strategic plan. Filling of the national waterbird and landbird positions is in human resources within USFWS. Selecting panel will include representatives from the waterbird and PIF partnerships. Catherine and Brad attended.

ACTION: Susan Skagen agreed to activate her membership on the Monitoring Subcommittee. Brad sent note to Katie Koch on 9 Oct.

AFWA

Please see attached meeting notes. A number of items are pertinent to wetland and shorebird conservation. Sara and Joel attended.

ACTION: Brad contacted Scott Yaich on 9 Oct to see what the USSCP Council meet do regards to the Clean Water Act proposed rule on defining navigable waters.

WHSRN Questionnaire

We have received completed surveys from about half of the U.S. WHSRN sites. It would be good to complete the data collection and summary for the WHSRN Hemispheric Council meeting in November. This is left over from last quarter's actions.

ACTION: Brad to send out questionnaire to all sites with missing data and begin to summarize responses we have received. Brad will provide some level of summary to Catherine for the WHSRN meeting on 8 November.

JV – Bird Plan Workshop

Questionnaire for JV workshop, objectives, and agenda was previously sent out (Excel file). Responses were derived from the “matrix” assessment we completed in December 2011 and subsequent strategic plan developed in September 2012. Provided information will be sent participants as background for workshop discussions.

ACTION: All council review answers to questions and rating of USSCP progress and involvement with JVs. Provide comments to Brad by 24 Oct 2014. Brad to send planning team USSCP response by 27 Oct 2014.

ACTION: Brad to provide summary of current shorebird influence in Joint Ventures by assessing implementation plan inclusion of shorebird objectives, representation on technical committees, and success of NAWCA grants that provide shorebird benefits by 15 Oct 2014.

USSCP Progress

An outline of a potential format for a USSCP progress report was previously distributed. Discussion focused on the need for an update and possible re-purposing of the USSCP Council, with a focus on the oversight and broad communication functions. Depending how this document develops over the next three months, a winter face-to-face meeting will be evaluated on the next call.

ACTION: All councilors review update outline and provide comments on purpose, approach, structure, and content to Brad by 31 Oct 2014. Brad to review alternative approaches.

USSCP Council Teleconference

19 June 2014

Present: Brad Andres, Stephen Brown, Catherine Hickey, Joel Jorgensen, Matt Reiter, Susan Skagen, Brian Smith, Bill Vermillion

Transitioning Leadership. Brian Smith has agreed to take over as Chair of the USSCP Council. A Vice-Chair is also needed, preferably from an NGO. Per the Terms of Reference, the Council should agree with this appointment. Thanks to Catherine for her years of service as Chair and Vice-Chair. We agreed to have USSCP Council calls on a quarterly schedule, making the next call in September.

Actions: 1) Council to vote on Brian Smith's appointment as Chair, and 2) nominate a Vice-Chair for the USSCP Council. APPROVED BY VOTE

Bird Plan Coordinator Positions and NABCI. Catherine distributed previously a document entitled A New Model for Advancing Integrated Bird Conservation in the United States and Internationally, which describes a vision for the roles of national bird plan coordinators and other positions. Comments are being solicited by all interested parties, and Brian encouraged USSCP Council members to provide any additional comments or thoughts.

Action: Send Catherine any comments on the document by 30 June 2014. Comments are due to the US-NABCI Coordinator by 7 July. SENT, COMPLETED

Action Items from the Spring AFWA Meeting. AFWA's Bird Conservation Committee voiced its avocation for continued leadership by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the form of support if the national nongame bird plan coordinator positions. State directors will be updated on the progress and process of re-structuring and re-filling the positions.

Action: Sara or Allison to forward revised A New Model for Advancing Integrated Bird Conservation in the United States and Internationally to the Bird Conservation Committee Chair to distribute to State Directors.

** Response from Allison: I met with the National Flyway Council last week and briefed them on the paper. They are going to share with the Flyway Councils and Non-game technical sections this July. We also discussed including a presentation of the ideas in the document on the agenda of the AFWA Bird Conservation Committee meeting in September.

TriST Meeting in Denver. The Tri-Initiative Science Team will hold a meeting in Denver from 30 June to 2 July 2014. The agenda was previously sent out. Brad and Bill will be attending. DONE

JV-Bird Conservation Plan Summit in December. A meeting to further communications between the bird conservation plan partners and the Joint Ventures is being planned for early December in Austin, Texas. The prospectus for this meeting was sent previously. We are looking to have representation from the USSCP at this invitation only meeting.

Action: Nominate five individuals to represent the USSCP at the summit. DONE: Bill, Brad, Brian, Catherine, Joel, Sara.

State of the Birds and Shorebirds of Conservation Concern. The 2014 State of the Birds will feature a review of the habitat-based indicators that were developed for the 2009 report. Brad has been working with Paul Smith of the Canadian Wildlife Service to include an analysis of migration data for long-distance migrant boreal- and arctic-breeding shorebirds. The report will also release the next Watch List. We are attempting to better meld the assessment processes across taxonomic groups and to better align the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Birds of Conservation Concern with the Watch List. A preliminary draft of shorebirds of conservation concern has been circulated for review, and the next draft is about ready for additional review.

The State of the Birds 2014 will be released in September (to coincide with a Smithsonian anniversary, I believe), which also happens to be around the newly designated "World Shorebird Day". We need to tie these two events together and use the opportunity to raise the awareness of shorebirds.

Actions: 1) Finalize next draft of the Shorebirds of Conservation Concern and distribute for review SEND BY 25 AUGUST – WILL BE SENT BY 11 OCTOBER

2) develop generic press release linking the State of the Birds and World Shorebird Day. NOT COMPLETED. EVENTS BY POINT BLUE AND MANOMET, BRAD IN COLORADO, OTHERS

WHSRN-US. As you likely know, Rob Clay has replaced Charles Duncan as Director of WHSRN. Catherine and Brad have had initial discussions with Rob about the relationship of the USSCP and WHSRN. A few items remain from past discussions to address concerning WHSRN.

Actions: 1) Assess the status of the US-WHSRN site questionnaire responses and develop a strategy to complete the site surveys; summarize and report results to the WHSRN and USSCP Councils; target is November 2014, 2) Catherine to draft a letter for the WHSRN Council to NRCS for supporting wetland conservation at important shorebird sites in the Central Valley of California, 3) Brad to draft a letter to NRCS thanking them for support of wetland conservation programs in areas such as the Gulf Coast, Rainwater Basins, and Central Valley, 4) explore the possibility of a face-to-face USSCP Council meeting in conjunction with the WHSRN Council. NOT DONE. ADDRESSED ON 9 OCT CALL.

Flyway Plans. The Atlantic Shorebird Conservation Business Plan is continuing to be developed by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation staff and USSCP partners along the Atlantic coast. The goal is to submit the business plan to the NFWF Board at their August meeting. Efforts for an Americas Pacific Plan are still in the initial stages.

Action: Catherine and Brad (and others) to meet with Ian Davidson (NFWF Bird Coordinator) in September to discuss NFWF's strategy for these flyway business plans. DONE 9 SEP 2014

PRISM. The Migratory Shorebird Project continues to expand along the Pacific Coast, particularly in Central America, and there will be a workshop at the next meeting of the Mesoamerican Society for the Biology and Conservation. There is a need to work on developing specific protocols for non-breeding shorebird surveys that can be used by the National Wildlife Refuge System and other partners.

Action: Matt and PRISM Committee to discuss the need and strategy for developing non-breeding protocols. FIRST CALL ON 22 JULY. FOLLOW-UP WITH KATIE KOCH AND AKN FOLKS ON 178 SEP 2014.