

U.S. Shorebird Conservation Council
Lunch meeting at the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group Meeting
Wallops Island, Virginia
15 September 2015

Present: Brad Andres, Stephen Brown, Catherine Hickey, Brian Smith, Brad Winn

1. USSC Council – We discussed inviting Judith Scarl to join the Council to represent AFWA and to provide a liaison to NABCI. Brian sent the invitation to Judith on 22 September 2015. Other possible positions were discussed, but those present wanted to see the current composition and re-visit the representation issue in the future. Below is the current composition and representation.

Brian Smith, Chair – Deputy Chief, Region 6 Division of Migratory Birds, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lakewood, CO

Catherine Hickey, Vice-Chair – Conservation Director, Pacific Coast and Central Valley, Point Blue Conservation Science, Petaluma, CA

Stephen Brown – Director, Shorebird Recovery Program, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, Manomet, MA

Joel Jorgensen – Nongame Bird Program Manager, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, NE

Larry Niles – Wildlife Biologist, LJ Niles Associates, Greenwich, NJ

Matt Reiter – Avian Wetland Quantitative Ecologist, Pacific Coast and Central Valley, Point Blue Conservation Science, Pescadero, CA

Judith Scarl – Bird Conservation Coordinator, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Washington, DC

Sara Schweitzer – Coastal Waterbird Management and Investigations Project Leader, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, New Bern, NC

Susan Skagen – Research Wildlife Biologist, Midcontinent Ecological Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins, CO

Bill Vermillion – Bird Conservation Specialist, Gulf Coast Joint Venture, Lafayette, LA

Brad Winn – Director, Shorebird Habitat Management, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, Manomet, MA

2. NABCI

As previously transmitted, Catherine is stepping down as our rep to the US-NABCI Committee. Thanks to Catherine for the YEARS of dedicated service. In her stead, Stephen has volunteered to serve on this committee, pending supervisor approval. We also discussed filling the other NABCI committees with folks who can represent the USSC Partnership's interests and provide a liaison to the Council. Below are the current and pending committee representatives for NABCI, AFWA, and the JVs:

NABCI Communications: Debra Reynolds, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlantic Coast JV; also link to the JV Communications, Outreach, Education Team – Agreed

NABCI Private Lands: Monica Iglecia, Manomet, Assistant Director, Shorebird Habitat Management – Pending supervisor approval

NABCI Monitoring: Susan Skagen

NABCI Human Dimensions: Joel Jorgensen

TriST/NABCI Science Team: Brad Andres, Bill Vermillion

Joint Venture Coordinators: Brad Andres

AFWA Working Group: Sara Schweitzer

3. WHSRN

We discussed the survey results from the US-WHSRN sites and the need to develop a work plan to address the needs identified in the survey, including the development of a WHSRN-US Committee. There is also a need to work on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's representative on the WHSRN Hemispheric Council.

ACTION: Develop a WHSRN-US implementation plan for 2016, in consultation with the WHSRN Executive Office – Brad.

ACTION: Contact Ken Kriese about National Wildlife Refuge System and the WHSRN Hemispheric Council – Brad.

4. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Program

As previously reported, the national coordinator position has been moved into the Division that houses the JVs, NAWCA, and NMBCA. Brad's new immediate supervisor, and those of other initiative coordinators, is Dave Gordon. The Division chief is Sarah Mott. We discussed drafting a letter to Sarah and Dave thanking the USFWS for past support of the coordinator position and urging continue support. Brian sent this letter on 14 September 2015 (attached).

Sarah responded quickly and set up an initial phone call with Brad Bortner, Brad A., Brian, Dave, and Sarah. We will report back on this call.

We also discussed the Migratory Bird Program champions and will revisit this once the other national coordinators are hired.

Related to the organization change, the work plan for the national coordinator is attached.