

## WHSRN-US Committee Teleconference Notes – 28 February 2018

Present: Brad Andres, Joe Buchanan, Laura Chamberlin, Glen Hensley, Monica Iglecia, Stephanie Koch, Rob Penner, Khara Strum, Darrin Welchert.

Guest: Rob Clay.

Absent: Alex Wilke.

**1. WHSRN Executive Office Coordination.** Laura Chamberlin is WHSRN's Community Engagement Coordinator, working primarily in Delaware. However, some of her time will now be directed toward working with the US and Canada WHSRN Committees and with the sites in the two countries. To that end, she is developing a "New Site Toolkit", which will provide information on signage, dedication ceremonies, and other services that can be provided by the Executive Office. One task is to update the site's profile on the webpage. The US site contact list has been updated.

**Action 1:** The WHSRN-US Committee to work with Laura to develop a few questions to ask managers about the current status of their site and activities that are being undertaken, such as monitoring (Brad, Laura, Monica, Rob Penner; review by committee).

**2. Updating Biological and Landowner Criteria.** In November, we sent a letter to the WHSRN Executive Office regarding some suggested changes in biological criteria and language for land owner/manager involvement and participation. Other countries have also had some issues with the landowner involvement, for example, the First Nations in Canada. In May, Rob Clay will be establishing a hemispheric-scale committee to explore the problem and recommend changes to the WHSRN Hemispheric Council at their September meeting.

**Action 2:** Participate in hemispheric criteria committee. Joe Buchanan volunteered for the committee and others might be enlisted.

**3. Recently Designated Sites.** Note that there will be a 100<sup>th</sup> site celebration on the Georgia Barrier Islands in May. As Chair, Rob Penner sent to the South Carolina DNR Director thanking him for support of the Cape Romain-Santee Delta Region expansion to include DNR lands (the 101<sup>st</sup> site).

**4. New Sites.** Alex and Brad have completed a preliminary list of USA sites that meet overall international or hemispheric numerical criteria or % of a biogeographic population at all levels (see attached). A number of breeding sites for Snowy Plovers in the Great Basin have been identified by National

Audubon as priorities for their *Water and Birds in the Arid West: Habitats in Decline* initiative. There may be ways to partner with National Audubon to nominate these sites for the WHSRN network and to provide any technical assistance from the shorebird angle we can. We discussed a two-prong approach for working on potential sites: 1) develop a strategy for engaging potential site managers or owners, and 2) continue to identify potential USA sites for Wilson's and Snowy Plovers.

**Action 3.** Craft a letter to National Audubon's Saline Lakes Coordinator to express the interest of the WHSRN-US Committee and open the door for potential collaboration for sites in the Intermountain West (Brad, Khara, Rob Penner).

**Action 4.** Review other potential sites and identify possible contacts. Draft a similar letter asking about the feasibility of nominating the site (Alex, Stephanie, Darrin).

**Action 5.** Identify important sites along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts for Wilson's and Snowy Plovers (Alex, Brad, Darrin). Also review Great Plains sites for Snowy Plovers (Brad, Glen).

**5. Communication Forum.** Monica, Laura and other staff at Manomet have looked into a medium for an electronic communication platform and are recommending the "forum" approach. In brief, a forum provides threads for conversation. A repository would still be needed but could be provided by the USSCP website. A few questions arose regarding the searchability of threads, the ability to send a digest of threads, and the need to identify and limit categories of discussion. It was agreed that the audience would be anyone interested aspects of shorebird habitat management either in or outside of current WHSRN sites. Manomet was house the forum.

**Action 6.** Develop an outline of the structure and function of a shorebird management forum (Monica, Laura, Manomet IT staff).