

U.S. Shorebird Conservation Partnership Council Video Call Notes 5 June 2020

Present: River Gates, Catherine Hickey, Scott Johnston, Joel Jorgensen, Robert Penner, Judith Scarl, Sara Schweitzer, Brian Smith, Bill Vermillion, Brad Winn; Brad Andres

Midcontinent Shorebird Conservation Initiative

Development of a strategic framework for the Midcontinent Shorebird Conservation Initiative is moving forward since the inaugural meeting in Panama in October 2019. Steering committees have been formed for both North (Canada, USA, Mexico) and South America, as has a hemispheric oversight committee. Regional planning teams have been formed in North America (Great Plains, Mississippi Valley, and Western Gulf Coast) to generate invitation lists and agendas for workshops. Due to the pandemic restrictions, the in-person workshops planned for both North and South America will be held via a virtual platform during the fall and early winter of 2020. Kelli Stone (North America; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and Isadora Angarita-Martínez (South America; Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative/Manomet) serve as coordinators. Funding is coming from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Albuquerque, Minneapolis, HQ, and Anchorage offices and Conoco Phillips).

Action: Make sure to loop in the appropriate Joint Venture Coordinators (Brad A., 12 June 2020). Science Coordinators have been contacted and will be invited to workshops.

NABCI's Field Guide to Developing Partnerships

One of the priorities for NABCI has been development of a field guide to partnerships, which consolidates information on private funding and working with non-traditional partners. Brian and Scott have been participating on writing teams for the effort. The focus is primarily on USA examples. A draft for review will be available by around 12 June 2020.

Action: Judith to send Brad A. draft, who will forward to Catherine, River and Robert for review and comments. Brad will consolidate comments and send to Judith by the first week of July.

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

In response to the “3 Billion Birds Lost” paper, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Migratory Bird Program is the preliminary stages of organizing an initiative around the momentum of the campaign by NGOs and other partners. Brian is working with a team to gather ideas on where Migratory Birds can contribute the most to the effort, with a focus on partnership approaches. Brad A. has provided Brian with a general overview of shorebird partnership efforts, the role of the Migratory Bird Program, and potential actions to increase the effectiveness of the partnerships (USSCP Council, flyway initiatives). Actual structure and timeline for a “product” is not yet known. There was a question about the companion Migratory Bird Program’s efforts on Focal Species. Scott serves on this team and described that the effort would build on previous information and not be building something completely new. There was concurrence on this idea and to use the Atlantic and Pacific shorebird initiatives to implement actions for target shorebirds.

Action: Brian and Scott to keep USSCP Council informed of these efforts.

USSCP Update

Completion of the update to the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, as described in the previously distributed outline, should occur over the next six months. Brad A. will take the lead on this effort and will reach out to Council members and other partners as needed for drafting particular sections. After completion, the Council should discuss the possible need to streamline governance among the flyway initiatives and the USSCP, particularly for USA-based interests and actions. The suggestion was made to include state representatives from all four administrative flyways on the USSCP Council. River and other folks in the various flyways are developing a single landing page for flyway-scale shorebird conservation, which will link to national plans, WHSRN, and other efforts.

Action: Council members review outline and send Brad A. any additional topics for inclusion. Schedule September video call to assess progress on update.

Action: Brad A. and Brian work with Sara and Joel to reach out to Flyway Nongame Tech Committees for representation.

WHSRN-USA

The WHSRN-USA Committee has a set of actions pertaining to soliciting new USA site nominations, providing a webinar on the PRISM monitoring standards, and developing a recognition award for outstanding WHSRN site management in the USA. Monica Iglesia and Laura Chamberlin (Manomet) are working with Deb Reynolds (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) to boost use of the shorebird forum launched on the WHSRN website.

Action: Robert and Brad (by 30 July 2020) to revive movement on actions of WHSRN-USA Committee.

Program on Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring (PRISM)

Matt Reiter reported that Point Blue and Cornell Lab are collaborating on development of a shorebird data entry mobile app for eBird based on PRISM non-breeding guidelines and the Migratory Shorebird Project protocol. Any data coming through this app will go into eBird but will also go into the Avian Knowledge Network if part of an existing project in the AKN. Expected launch – mid to late 2021. Cornell reached out for PRISM Committee engagement.

The Migratory Shorebird Project now has 7-8 years of good data, which will be used to look at Pacific Flyway trends for ~15 species over the next 6 – 12 months. Thirteen countries are currently participating in the survey. There is increasing discussion (between Point Blue and Manomet) of expanding MSP surveys to cover migration, particularly in Central America.

Arctic PRISM and other planned arctic breeding efforts largely on hold due to COVID-19.

Manomet Shorebird Management Manual

Brad W. reported that the update to Manomet's Shorebird Management Manual is now complete and they are looking for funding for publication and translation into Spanish.

AFWA Partners in Flight/Shorebird/Waterbird Working Group

Sara reported that development of the free-ranging cat toolkit has taken a lot of time because of expanding the scope to include both state and federal lands.