



Executive Committee of the Waterbird Conservation Council Conference Call March 27, 2006

Participants

Executive Committee: Eric Mellink, Ghisselle Alvarado, Ian Davidson, Paul Kluckner, Paul Schmidt, Kathy Parsons, Don Paul, Lisa Sorenson, Paul Baicich. Also Jennifer Wheeler, Garry Donaldson, coordinators.

Next Call: May 30, 2006, 8 a.m. Pacific/11 a.m. Eastern.

Discussion and Decisions

Membership Committee report. A slate of nominations was shared with the Executive, and some discussion of nominations took place. The Membership Committee will correspond by email and narrow this list down for approval by Executive and full Council. Executive was reminded of the new Principles of Membership and Terms of Reference documents, as well as the decision to begin a process of term limits.

Technical Committee report. Kathy Parsons reported on the completion of the Marshbird Status Assessment, which involved 80 to 90 individuals. The results of the assessment will be posted on the website and referred to in the upcoming Communications piece.

Garry Donaldson reported on discussions about the planned monitoring needs document. Garry has agreed to serve as a “task master” to create and assemble the pieces of a document which will provide guidance for waterbird survey and monitoring activities.

Regional Committee report. Don Paul and Ian Davidson will be conversing to develop an approach to assess partners’ needs for regional-scale conservation, ensure cross-hemispheric communications and compatibility.

Communications Committee report. Paul Baicich reported on activities including the creation of a sample waterbirds brochure, for use by local partners, and the formation of a birds and rice working group. He encouraged use of the listservs by all Council members.

Some Council members will be attending the North American Ornithological Conference in Veracruz. Two posters relating to Council activities (the Central American results of the Neotrop project, and the Marshbird Status Assessment) will be submitted. Also, an aquatic birds monitoring techniques workshop is being planned by Ghisselle Alvarado and Jennifer Wheeler.

Policy and Critical Issues working group. Paul Kluckner intends to explore with interested Council members the mechanisms for the Council to become involved in seabird conservation policy or other priority issues, but has not yet been able to convene a conference call.

Funding opportunities. Ian Davidson has assembled a list of 60-70 funding agencies targeting bird research and conservation, drawing from Birdlife databases. Kathy Parsons is interested in working on fundraising support with Ian. Ian expressed that he felt the Council should pursue something “big” – some project or initiative that ties together regional, national, site and thematic action items.

Annual Meeting. Ian Davidson has initiated some arrangements for a meeting in Quito, January 2007. There was some discussion about dates, emphasizing the need to fit academic and regulatory schedules, as well as opportunities for co-meetings, including with WHRSN. Ian will assemble a small group to help with planning the meeting.