



Waterbird Conservation for the Americas

Executive Committee of the Waterbird Conservation Council Conference Call May 30, 2006

Participants

Executive Committee: Eric Mellink, Paul Kluckner, Kathy Parsons, Lisa Sorenson, Paul Baicich. Also Jennifer Wheeler, Garry Donaldson, coordinators.

Unable to attend: Ghisselle Alvarado, Ian Davidson, Paul Schmidt, Don Paul. A miscommunication regarding the time of the call prevented full attendance.

Next Call: **July 27, 2006, 3 p.m. Eastern time** **Rescheduled August 15**

Discussion and Decisions

The Council and Advocacy Positions. In light of a proposal by Paul Baicich and Kathy Parsons to endorse a statement supporting the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, a good deal of conversation was directed towards the issue of the Council's approach to advocacy. Narrowly viewed, advocacy might be defined as engaging in politically sensitive issues, and so, our current Terms of Reference states "The Council will not take advocacy positions, but the Policy and Critical Issues Committee may present draft language on issues that may be used by interested parties." However, advocacy more generally defined means "the act of pleading or arguing in favor of something, such as a cause, idea, or policy; active support" and the Council's primary role and responsibility is to give collective voice for the interests of waterbirds. In addition, the Chair, on behalf of the Council has issued statements and letters in the past. On the call, participants offered a number of suggestions and viewpoints, but it was clear that additional work was required to resolve the Council's approach to engaging on policy issues.

Decision: The points made on the call would be integrated into draft language for the Council's Terms of Reference by Jennifer, Kathy and Paul and circulated to the full Executive Committee for approval. The Executive Committee will be responsible for Council's engagement in policy matters until the Policy and Critical Issues Committee can adopt this responsibility. Action on the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp resolution will wait until the Council's approach to engaging on policy issues is resolved.

Membership Report

The circulation of 5 nominations to the full Council received only statements of support. The five nominees will be sent invitation packages in the mail this week.

Paul Baicich expressed a continued desire to involve PRBO in the work of the Council; Jennifer suggested that one form of involvement would be in marine issues and will work to have them included in upcoming discussions on that issue.



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Policy and Critical Issues working group. Paul Kluckner indicated that he is close to convening a call to explore with interested Council members the mechanisms for the Council to become involved in seabird conservation policy or other priority issues.

Technical Committee. A brief update on the aquatic birds monitoring techniques workshop being planned by Ghisselle and Jennifer to precede the NAOC meeting was given.

Regional Committee report. No Report.

Communications Committee report. Paul Baicich reported the finalization of the model waterbirds brochure. It will be translated to Spanish and posted to the Internet in a variety of useful formats.

Funding opportunities. No report.

Annual Meeting. Participants were encouraged to provide Ian with feedback on plans for Quito in January.