



## Waterbird Conservation for the Americas

### Executive Committee of the Waterbird Conservation Council Conference Call November 18, 2003

#### **Participants**

Executive Committee: Kathy Parsons, Ghisselle Alvarado, Jim Kushlan, Gerry McKeating, Paul Schmidt, Melanie Steinkamp. Other: Jennifer Wheeler, Bob Milko, coordinators.

Unable to participate: Pat Patterson, Ian Davidson, Frank Gill, Eric Mellink, Eric Carey, Gerald Winegrad

#### **Discussion and Decisions**

##### **❖ Goals and format of the upcoming full Council meeting, January 2004, Florida.**

The group agreed that a successful outcome of the January 2004 meeting would be a clear picture of the initiative's direction (a vision, e.g., for 3-5 years) as well as the steps needed to get there (a workplan, e.g., for the next 12 months).

A draft agenda structured around the committees was discussed. Each committee would present their vision and goals to the full Council, and enliven their presentation with an example of a relevant program or development using a guest speaker. This format appears to be a good approach for systematically presenting and discussing the long-term goals and short-term tasks of the Council. The agenda as it exists:

#### Tuesday, January 13

8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Group Breakfast, opportunity for any Committee breakouts

9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Welcome and Introduction/Overview of Council Purpose and Main Tasks/Challenges

11:00 - 12:30 Regional Committee Presentation (Share Vision and Workplan; Discussion; Guest Speaker)

12:30 - 1:30 Lunch

1:30 - 3:00 Communications Committee Presentation

3:00 - 4:30 International Committee Presentation

4:30 - 5:00 Review of Council Deliberations and Decisions

5:00 Opportunity for any Committee breakouts

6:30 Group Picnic

#### Wednesday, January 14

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 Group Breakfast, opportunity for any Committee breakouts

9:00 Regroup

9:30 - 11:00 Conservation Action Committee Presentation

11:00 - 12:30 Technical Committee Presentation

12:30 Lunch

1:30 - 3 Resources Committee Presentation

3:00 - 3:30 Review of Council Decisions Based on Discussion, Q&A

3:30 - 5:00 Remaining Council Business

There was some concern that unproductive debate of committee approaches might arise; however, discussion should be viewed as an opportunity for the full Council to understand and support the work laid out by the committees. Presentations are also an opportunity for committees to identify capacity gaps that may remain, and to solicit assistance from the full Council (e.g., Liaisons for Regional Working Groups). Finally, the guest speakers are an opportunity for committees to showcase a project or program that they view as a promising approach; share an example of progress underway; or educate the full Council on a relevant issue.



## Waterbird Conservation for the Americas

**Decision:** Kathy and Jennifer will communicate with the committee chairs that were unable to make the conference call in order to solicit their feedback on the agenda. Specifically, will Chairs be able to work with their committees to draft a one-to-two page statement of Committee Vision and Goals in advance of the meeting? Attend the meeting to present this statement? And work to find a relevant guest speaker?

### ❖ **New Council Members**

Kathy, as Chair of Nominations Committee, reported on a list of names for new Council members that had been assembled and considered by the committee. The Executive Committee approved five nominations.

**Decision:** The Nominations Committee will submit the slate of nominations to full Council by e-mail.

The Executive Committee also agreed that a member affiliated with the federal wildlife agency for the country of Mexico would be a valuable addition to the Council. Though the Council is not structured on organizational representation (e.g., having a Member from every country's federal agency), an invitation to SEMARNAT (Mexico's federal wildlife agency) would be a good way to increase representation from Mexico and would respond to that agency's known interest in participating.

**Decision:** A letter will be sent to Georgita J. Ruiz Michel Funge, Directora General de Vida Silvestre, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT) inviting a nomination.

### ❖ **Waterbirds Around the World Meeting**

See <http://www.wetlands.org/GFC/>

Global Flyways Conference 2004; April 3-8, 2004 in Edinburgh, Scotland

This conference is jointly hosted by the Governments of the United Kingdom and The Netherlands, with support from the Convention on Migratory Species, The Convention on Wetlands, BirdLife International, US Fish and Wildlife Service, North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, CIC, FACE, Waterbird Society, CAFF, Pacific Seabird Group and many other national and international organizations.

400+ people from 80+ countries are expected.

This conference would be an excellent opportunity to showcase the Waterbird Conservation for the Americas initiative. In fact, the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan is listed as a "supporter" of this Conference.

### **Decision:**

Council members considering submitting papers should please let other Council members know (via Jennifer or the listserv) how their presentations relate to the Waterbird Conservation for the Americas initiative, so that our "presence" can be coordinated. The deadline for submissions is December 31, 2003. NOTE: The deadline for financial assistance is November 30, 2003.

### **Next Meetings**

The Executive Committee will meet on the evening of January 12 in Key Largo, Florida, prior to the beginning of the full Council meeting.

The next full Council meeting is scheduled for January 13 and 14, 2004 in Key Largo, Florida (one hour south of Miami).