



Executive Committee of the Waterbird Conservation Council Conference Call October 24, 2006

Participants

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

Next Call: November 21, 3 p.m. Eastern Time

Will focus on committees' progress on tasks.

Discussion and Decisions

Annual Meeting. An invitation (PDF document) was circulated to the full Council and guests with information on dates, travel, accommodations, general agenda and costs. The call discussion focused on details of the meeting agenda (draft attached below).

Decisions and comments: (General)

- All agenda items should have a discussion leader, and there should be a facilitator for the overall agenda. Moreover, discussion points and objectives should be scoped out for each agenda item.
- Simultaneous translation is being arranged.
- The Annual Meeting should be an opportunity for Members and guests to work jointly on project development (developing proposals and target funding sources).
- Additional preparation is needed to scope out breakout groups and Committee sessions. Committee Chairs must work with Jennifer to develop committee reports, presentations and goals, in specific, a chart of tasks and progress to date.
- The Executive Committee should meet each evening of the Annual Meeting to review the day's accomplishments, solidify a coherent vision, assess members' (especially new members') comfort, and prepare for upcoming issues the following day.

(Specific)

- For 16 January: It may be difficult to have any Ministers into the meeting, as their schedules are very unpredictable. Ian suggested that an informal reception with politicians would be a better option. However, the Director for IUCN – South America may be available to speak with the joint Councils during the day. Ian will pursue.
- For 16 January: Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative is a discussion topic for the agenda, but a discussion lead has not been identified. To best prepare for this, Jennifer and Charles Duncan (WHSRN coordinator) will discuss objectives and expectations with Herb Raffaele, Division of International Affairs, USFWS, who spearheads WHMSI. It should be noted that two WHMSI Interim Steering Committee members will be at the meeting (Rob Clay, Charles Duncan).
- For 17 January: A mid-meeting field trip was felt to be a very good idea.



Waterbird Conservation for the Americas

- For 18 January: Next Steps for the Range-wide Project is a topic on the agenda. However, as the 2007 Annual Meeting falls after the upcoming December deadline for NMBCA, Birdlife will share any developing proposals via email.

Funding-raising. Jennifer explained that funds were needed to assist Members to attend the annual meeting (estimating 10-12 members will require travel assistance). As in previous years, the institutions of some members may be able to support the travel costs of another member. Jennifer will continue to approach Members regarding travel needs and assistance, and work with funders to cover cash advances, etc. Executive members will be attempting to secure assistance from their own institutions.

The Council and Advocacy Positions/Decision-Making. The Committee discussed recommendations by a small working group regarding the Council's approach to advocacy and decision-making. Two documents were forwarded by the working group for endorsement, as well as suggested changes to the Council's terms of reference.

Decisions: The Committee accepted the "Advocacy and Involvement in Public Policy" document, with the understanding that the "disclaimer" on written positions and statements may be slightly edited on a case by case basis.

The "Decision-Making" document elicited substantial discussion because Paul Baicich felt strongly that we need much more explicit language regarding voting and criteria for decision-making. The majority of the committee felt comfortable with the language as is, and felt that success of the recommended approach can be assessed during a probationary period. Thus, the recommended approach (i.e., the chair stating that the objection is overruled based on majority opinion) was used in this case, and the document endorsed.

Committee Reports:

Postponed to the next conference call.



20 October 2006

**JOINT WATERBIRD & WHSRN HEMISPHERIC
COUNCIL MEETINGS**
Quito, Ecuador
AGENDA DRAFT

Sat, Su 13,14 Jan Possible WHSRN trip to Salinas to promote or celebrate new site there

Mo 15 Jan Day: WHSRN Hemispheric Council meeting—agenda TBD
Afternoon: Waterbird Executive Committee Meeting
Eve: Reception for WHSRN & Waterbirds attendees

Tu 16 Jan Early a.m.: Opening meeting of Waterbird Council (intros; orientation)
Rest of day: Joint WHSRN & Waterbird Council meeting
Reception with Minister of the Environment with presentations by

- Each Council to introduce their mission and strategy
- Aves y Conservacion de Ecuador, Profile Ecuador and Andes – possible discussion on Andean Wetland Program (spearheaded by Ramsar and IUCN) and involvement of the Minister of Environment

(Luncheon)

“Working Range-wide” Session

- Waterbird Council – outcomes from NMBCA-funded work
- WHSRN on Site Assessment Tool and species plans (lead?)
- Joint discussions with Ramsar and CMS – opportunities for cooperation (2 hours) – **Leads** – Rosa Montanez (Ramsar CREO Director), Francisco Rilla (CMS Neotropical Officer),
- Discussion of Role in WHMSI (lead?)
- Open discussion—areas for cooperation WHSRN & Waterbirds Council

We 17 Jan Field trip to Antisana Ecological Reserve.

Th, Fr 18, 19 Jan Waterbird Council Meetings

- See Attached Agenda



Waterbird Conservation for the Americas

**WATERBIRD CONSERVATION FOR THE AMERICAS
ANNUAL MEETING
Quito, Ecuador
AGENDA **DRAFT****

Mo-We 15 Jan – 17 Jan (See Joint Agenda with WHRSN)

We 17 Jan (Evening) – Opportunities for “regional” breakouts/caucuses, additional small groups

Th 18 Jan Continued discussion of any of previous day’s topics

Next steps of NMBCA funded Neotropical Waterbird Assessment Project

- Group discussion/tasks of the Council

Long lunch with committee and group meeting opportunities (to discuss project possibilities, developments, special concerns)

Seabird conservation –**Leads** – UMD Consultants to frame question; presentations by Esteban Frere (BirdLife’s South America Seabird Coordinator), Jennifer Arnold (new Seabird Coordinator) to discuss two programs; then recommendations from UMD Consultants.

- Group discussion/tasks of the Council (facilitator?)

(Evening) – Opportunities for “regional” breakouts/caucuses, additional small groups (Need to Scope these out)

Fr 19 January

Reports/Issues from Committees/Members (e.g., follow-up from 2006 Council)

Membership discussion – Jennifer can lead

"Coordination of Policies and Actions on Priority Issues" – Paul Kluckner
Communication Tasks – Paul Baicich (Communications Piece)

Resources/financial issues - Ian?

Technical needs/issues – Garry?

Regional – Announcements of completion/near completion of SE, UMGVL, and MANEM Plans, Other??

Resolution and Summary of Council tasks for 2007 – Eric/Chairs/Task Leads

Other Council business

New Executive, Next meeting