



Partners in Flight Implementation Committee
Fall 2007 Meeting
Sunday, September 16, and Monday, September 17, 2007
Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest
Clermont, Kentucky
Draft Meeting Minutes (7 September 2007)

Sunday

Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture Overview and Update (Brian Smith)

- Brian on board in February 2007.
- 12 states; a number of boundary issues.
- Details from ppt and ask Brian for summary here.
- Dave: New JV's are going to want our input and approval for implementation plan; Terry would be the best person, but will need people to read and provide comments. Need to step up to provide information and endorsement of plans.

Kentucky, Shawchyi Vorisek

- Working on implementing state action plans.

NABCI update; AFWA committee meetings (Deb Hahn)

- Bird Conservation Committee (BCC) meeting highlights, reviewed the agenda.
 - National Conservation Need (NCN) committee meets Wed in morning.

NABCI meeting in Mexico City in August held in conjunction with Mexico NABCI meeting.

- Monitoring MOU has 13 signatures, agencies trying to cooperate and advance goals and concepts within monitoring report.
- Resolution for AFWA meeting, try to advance monitoring report.
- Continue to promote the Natural Resources Monitoring Partnership, for all to input monitoring programs into this database.
- Conservation design, working group developing three sessions for the PIF conference in McAllen.
- Continuing with idea of institutional support for integrated bird conservation and monitoring, to date have worked with state agencies and moving to meet with Federal agencies.
- Private lands subcommittee has a number of interesting items; conduct e-conference calls with national biologists to promote various bird issues, start attending regional NRCS meetings to promote bird conservation, discuss developing pilot projects for strategic habitat projects.
- Joint meeting with Mexico partners; people from both counties meet each other and differences/similarities of bird conservation in the two counties.
- Priorities: need to coordinate better on monitoring, Mexico interest in developing a national monitoring plan, regional alliances using some funds to develop, tri-national projects and how to increase funding,

- John Hoskins, MDC, has replaced Bruce McCloskey as AFWA representative and vice-chair of BCC. Kirk Nelson, Nebraska, is now chair PIF/Shorebird/Waterbird Working Group.
- Membership/representation; tri-lateral committee.

Central Hardwoods Joint Venture forest bird modeling (Todd Jones-Farrand, Jane Fitzgerald)

- 2:10 Sunday
- Habitat modeling for ecoregional landbird conservation planning, project.
- Purpose
- Objectives
- Model, factors related to density and related to productivity.
- New capabilities slide = summary.
- Tool to shape change, influence restoration and management.

Update from Science Committee on population objectives (Randy Dettmers, Janet Ruth)

- Sunday, 4:00
- Landbird population estimate database onto PIF website in the works (available soon). Make available for people to use and compare data to see if real or not.
- Powerpoint
- Good objectives specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timeline.
- Purpose, how much habitat do we need and where
- Guide to the PIF Population Estimates Database, PIF technical publication #5.
- Feedback, database is a companion to cplan; planning future versions with updates, looking for feedback. Hope to develop a web-based feedback tool in the future.
- Discussion
- Pages on website, provide links to people working on conservation design and evaluation step-up processes. For example, outline related issues and work being conducted about conservation designs, items that would be useful.
- Funding for database remains an on-going issue.
- Other items
- Science committee met in July at RMBO; addressing a number of issues outlined in Thogmartin et al. For example, time of day correction factors, pair correction factors for specific species, distance factors for different species.
- Release of CBC data results of analysis for data from 1967 to present (Dan Niven and Greg Butcher). Used a hierarchical analysis. Future use both bbs and cbc data for estimates; presented data on composite bbs and cbc analysis and found a remarkable consistency in the trend pattern.
- Fall 2007, Audubon and ABC collaborating to release an all bird watch list.
- Discussion on need for consistency with FWS list/birds of conservation concern and all bird watch list be a single list. New list should be released by end of this year, attempt to make consistent with initiative lists, and will continue to be broken down by bcr and fws regions. Objective of FWS list to highlight suite of highest priority species for which conservation is needed in fws regions.

- Nature serve list, moving toward using IUCN ranking systems. Examples from state and federal agencies where nature serve rankings are used and significant roadblocks become present in trying to accomplish conservation actions on the ground.
- Mexico has finished its all bird assessment. Now move forward on development of a true continental plan.
- NFWF rethinking fund allocation process, currently involved in developing a risk assessment process to determine conservation return for projects funded. Looking for feedback on this process; potential for PIF to inform this process and use of landbird information in risk assessments.

PIF Priority Areas for NAWCA proposals: need for revision? (Dave Mehlman)

- 12:05 Sunday
- background, a great deal of money goes to funding projects, and one point can make the difference between being funded or not.
- Issue, project within a priority area of one of the four initiatives is given points. Question 3. Important areas for priority projects not reflected in priority areas.
- Discussion: how to redraw the pif map?
 - Number of points for project falling in all initiative areas.
 - Projects still being implemented even if not in a focus area. Issue when not in any focus area.
 - If develop an alternative it has to be done scientifically and continue to adhere to objectives of NAWCA. Use new information to update and provide a better way to support PIF. Science committee, identify key upland birds that benefit from NAWCA proposals. Currently using pif watchlist and wetland-associated species.
 - **ACTION:** revisit process of identifying wetland associated priority map. Task for the Science Committee.
 - Issue of which species to use? Which species list to use? How often need to revise maps, responsibility of each initiative to update maps.
 - Dave to identify when maps need to be updated in his position as staff to NAWCA Council and best way to proceed.

PIF Federal Agency Committee update and discussion (Chris Eberly, Carol Beidleman)

- 11:00
- Chris outlined the history of the Federal Agency sub-committee.
- Feb 2007 meeting occurred in Portland; a number of people attended that meeting and reviewed. Members of the committee in attendance recognized a need to continue with a federal partners of partners in flight have a committee to discuss issues. Concern that some agencies not able to attend all necessary meetings or have a set on the NABCI committee.
- Propose: the MOU, section 4, calls for the establishment of a Council for the Conservation of migratory birds, 4 duties of the Council shall include the following: (1) sharing the latest resource information to assist in the conservation and management of migratory birds, (2). ADD OTHERS HERE

- This meeting, discussion on what to do with a recommendation for establishment of this Council, how to implement, objectives, etc. Structure of Sec 4 Council envision high level people, potential structure similar to USNABCI committee, staff responsible for a degree of the work with two full committee meetings a year.
- Significant role for Council is to have communication and not be redundant.
- This group have a seat at the PIF Council.
- Potential concerns: existing federal representatives for NABCI would end up sitting on this council/committee; within DOI federal agency roundtable, difficult to meet due to scheduling, concern that another group of this level will not be able to get who needs to attend there.
- PIF losing focus; largest benefit is staff working on the ground has an impact to have projects/concepts endorsed by a PIF national committee. Gives ability to garner support and funding for concepts and priorities.
- Redundancy, not have same chair for multiple committees.
- MOU Council may not meet needs of PIF would still need a federal agency committee to promote PIF objectives.
- Will this council provide added value in context of what NABCI is currently doing? Do we really want to advocate another Council group? A number of tasks on NABCI 2006 work plan were not accomplished because there was not leadership or interest to complete those tasks. Need to recognize the level at which work has been done in the past, the Federal Agency committee was successful at one point in time. Need to separate high level council from need for a federal agency sub-committee.
- **Action:** TEXT form separate doc-----statement of support from PIF IC, endorse continuing function of PIF Federal Agency committee, important to maintain lines of communication thru IC. Defer to committee to decide to continue functions.
- Functions need to be articulated and people needed to be committed to this committee.

Action: The Partners in Flight (PIF) Implementation Committee strongly endorses maintaining the PIF Federal Agency Committee, recognizing the importance of its functions in facilitating PIF objectives.

These functions include:

- Providing endorsements and support for on the ground implementation at regional and local levels
- Ensuring investment and commitment to PIF interests at the highest levels within the federal agencies
- Providing a forum for communicating PIF issues and priorities within and among the federal agencies at all levels
- Facilitating interagency collaboration and efficiencies in accomplishing PIF goals
- Addressing uniquely federal issues of interest to PIF
- Serving as a forum for communicating recommendations and action items between the PIF Implementation Committee and federal agencies

- Providing a mechanism for bringing actions from the federal agencies to the PIF Council.

Monday

ORWA PIF involvement with Forest Service, BLM and NatureServe interagency special species list (John Alexander)

- ORWA PIF joining forces and creating a single sensitive species list. Important because gives biologists a chance to include all focal/priority species for planning efforts.
- BLM and USFS using NatureServe as sole source for their sensitive species list. NatureServe definition for list xxxxx.
- Handout ok to attach to minutes, letter on why and needs for a single list; signed by a number of partners, federal, state and ngo. Includes a number of recommendations and justifications.
- Importance of using ecological boundaries and not just state boundaries.
- Need from IC, to make a recommendation for Federal Committee to forward and endorse these recommendations for the entire country.
- Second action work with natural heritage system to refine criteria, understanding that this will take a long time to accomplish.
- Discussion
- If make recommendation something for the science committee to make a broader statement. Challenge the science committee to develop a protocol to use for state level analysis that includes BCRs.
- In OR WA BLM and USFS not working with FWS in development of lists. In other areas of country FWS working with agencies in creation of sensitive species lists. Need to know what is occurring in regions in regards to communication so that all agencies are working off from the same list.
- Relationship between survey and monitoring list, related to northwest forest plan.
- USFS not excluded from only using NatureServe but will vary around the country. Many times also use FWS list. Question if this issue was a part of the MOU process.
- Issues of legality and process that needs to start at the WO level. Field level offices cannot go outside of forest planning regulations. Concerns need to be addressed to Ann Zimmerman.
- Agencies using state conservation plan lists and in many places the lists are not the same. It would be helpful if the state lists were the same as the PIF list.
- Intent of letter is to urge ORWA to use the PIF list, not illegal for agencies to use PIF lists.
- Definition of regional sensitive species lists.
- Criteria, set up another assessment criteria process and how is this determined? Criteria developed by Science committee members. Recommendation describes the query and BBS.
- What to monitor will be a different list and process to determine a list.
- **ACTION ++** Need to make sure the query is the best for the national level, have Science Committee review to endorse/refine the process. Criteria may be different across the country.

- ACTION Federal Committee send letter to USFS Chief, cc Dir Fish and Wildlife; BLM chief cc Dwight Fielder (to be discussed and decided by PIF Fed Committee). Recommendation not be exclusive to nature reserve and one alternative for birds is to use the pif assessment.
 - Draft a letter from Fed agency committee, endorse and recommend as a model for agencies to use.
 - Point of discussion for Federal Committee is who sends and to who.
- ISSUE 2 Broader appeal to go to other agencies.
- Identify process for a national approach by Science committee. Potential item identifies a need for a joint federal agency committee meeting.
- Federal meeting occur in April after spring. One item would be to review Science Committee findings. SC report to spring meeting of PIF.
- Need to make clear only working with pif species. Opens dialogue for assessment of all-birds.

Updates and brief discussion items

- Bird Education Working Group Strategic Plan – (John Alexander) 15 min
 - Creating a WG Bird Conservation thru education, 20 members, meet in July.
 - Need content for a strategy plan, how to proceed organizationally, issues brought forward and developed committees to move issues forward.
 - Xxx committee education at all age groups, not just k-12.
 - Structural committee
 - Conference committee, look at other types of conferences and getting bird materials to these meetings.
 - Next meeting planned for McAllen, before. Also, education component to every session.
 - Listserve, contact J. Hawthorne (GET SPECIFICS from CAROL B).
 - A number of PIF faces around this table and committed to the efforts of working committees. Opportunity to get education and outreach work accomplished. Serving as a bridge between pif and jv's. Some state representation.
 - Question on state involvement and how pay to promote pif education at state level.
 - Angle for this group how to do science and education of adults, also get these types of projects funded.
 - Goal of WG to make sure everyone is aware of existing efforts. Make sure not creating redundant efforts but build and use existing efforts.
- McAllen – 15 min
 - Registration web page should be available soon on PIF web site.
- IMBD Update (Carol Beidleman)
 - New name
 - 2008 theme tundra to tropics connecting birds habitat and people. Have selected an Mexiacan artist. Working for a fall imbd date for the south. 5 organizations in south working to conduct events.
 - USFS website has an announcement for imbd a month in advance of the date.

- PIF website, Janet
 - Links to pop estimate database expected soon,
 - Conference links expected.
 - Working with Jeff, BLM, section link to bcp and state plans have been maintained by BLM, working to determine how this will continue to be maintained.
 - Working with Deb Hahn to make sure afwa state by state lists are working again.
 - Working on a section of BCR clickable maps.
 - In last 1-2 Science Committee meetings started to discuss global climate change issues and the role of PIF. Possible develop section of website with information, links to existing sites. In process of developing a bibliography of potential sites, if you have good documents or citations (best if on-line) please send to Janet. Many things occurring, for example, CalPIF endorsed a climate change bird conservation plan for California.
 - Montana revising pif plan and expected to be completed in the near future and will be up on the web subsequently.

- PIF International Working Group Update (including La Tangara status, PIF conference international travel support, etc)
 - Travel Support for McAllen conference – budget is only \$50K, which is not sufficient to adequately cover international representation. Working on prioritizing attendees from Latin America/Caribbean. Consider sponsoring the registration, hotel costs, meals, etc, for an international attendee. Contact Carol Beidleman for details.
 - PIF Mesoamerican – chair is still Jose Manuel Zolotoff (on volunteer basis). Species Assessment proposal for Meso was not accepted in the Neotrop Act submission process.
 - La Tangara is OUT of funding now. Jose will do another issue, but he has no money for internet access (roughly \$5-\$7K/year for web hosting, email and internet access). Two neo-trop act proposals for support have been funded.
 - Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB) will attend McAllen. Raffle tickets (a primary fundraiser of SCSCB) are available from Carol Beidleman).
 - Next Cerulean Warbler Summit to be held in Colombia in Oct 2008, potentially as a joint meeting with the Golden-winged Warbler group.
 - McAllen, no issues with supporting international travel.
 - PIF Council has international members and need to make sure these members receive minutes and related communication.

Timing of Spring 2008 meeting: meet on Easter weekend or not?

- Next North American in Phoenix. Traditionally meet on that Sunday, for some this would be an issue but not for others. Would this be a major problem?

- Alternative have PIF conference in February, this would eliminate issues for those with travel funding issues. Problem number of joint meetings scheduled for McAllen, not sure have enough time to get in 2 days of meeting.
 - Explore options to add IC meeting to Mcallen. Need to find out if Science Committee is planning to meeting at Phoenix. Problem with adding this meeting to everything else that is scheduled for McAllen. A number of people will have other responsibilities to organize and run meeting---may not be a productive meeting. Group agreed that Easter many not be a significant issue and discussed meeting locations in and around Phoenix.
- Second alternative cancel all PIF meetings for March. Group did not feel this was an option.
- Problem need IC to prepare for subsequent AFWA meetings.

Other Business

- Have a great deal of monitoring information that could inform global climate change. Potential to focus a future IC meeting on this issue.
- TNC Chinese tallow publication
- TWS session next week. Effort to develop a relationship with TWS was started by Chris and Terry stemming from a column by Dick Lancia outlining the disconnect between TWS membership and PIF. Symposium held next week, 11 papers, title Conservation of biodiversity through actions benefiting high priority landbirds. Report next March on how feel outreach effort went.
- USFS about to release wind energy draft guidance in Fed Register. Intent is to provide guidance on how to permit wind energy plans. Request to review draft and identify improvements.

General discussion on PIF IC meetings, how to make them useful and well-attended

- Many times discuss items and ramp up over subsequent meetings (e.g., AI, TWS, ISSSP, education); need to develop a white paper that identifies items/accomplishments of this committee. This become a newsletter item.
- For this meeting, agenda came out late in terms of timing of travel arrangements.
- There is more that we could do, important forum to discuss issues. Need for everyone to contribute items for the agenda.
- Issue of state travel, problem for some to attend regional meetings.
- Missing better interaction with the science committee. Some of this a function of timing of this meeting and TWS session. This is an usual situation.
- Dave's term as chair ends at March meeting.