

WBCI Statewide Meeting Draft Agenda

Day One Tuesday, February 4: 10:30 to 5:00

10:30 Welcoming Message from Steve Miller - conference kick-off

10:40 Andy Paulios - WBCI overview/introduction. Outline Meeting strategy and WBCI strategy and implementation goals.

11:10 Rick Kearney - International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency's involvement with all-bird conservation, NABCI and the Bird Conservation Region Plans.

11:45 Lunch - Westwood Center

* The following talks will begin with a national and regional perspective on the different bird plans followed by an example of implementation in Wisconsin *

12:40 North American Waterfowl Management Plan - Barb Pardo (USFWS), Tim Grunewald (WDNR)

1:20 U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan - Bob Russell (USFWS), Bill Volkert (WDNR)

2:00 North American Waterbird Conservation Plan - Linda Wires (U-MN), Sumner Matteson (WDNR) and Fred Strand (WDNR)

2:40 Partners in Flight - Tom Will (USFWS), Steve Richter (TNC)

3:20 "**BREAK**" - Refreshments provided

* The following talks are related planning efforts that will help implement the goals and objectives of the above bird conservation plans, and will help in our discussion of Bird Conservation Focus Areas. *

3:40 TNC Great Lakes Bird Ecoregional Planning - Dave Ewert (TNC)

4:05 Bird Conservation: Western Great Lakes Region - Bob Howe (UW-GB)

4:30 Important Bird Areas Program - Noel Cutright (WSO, WE-energies)

5:00 Wrap-up and directions for the evening and following day.

Supper On your own in Wausau!!

Evening Social: Refreshments will be provided at the Westwood Center and hopefully will generate lots of good discussion on the day's events. All are welcome to attend.

Day Two Wednesday, February 5 8:00 - 5:00:

8:00 - Andy Paulios - Workshop strategy. The working portion of this meeting will focus on Bird Conservation Focus Areas.

8:15 - Breakout groups based on Habitat Subcommittees. Each group will generate recommendations for what a Bird Conservation Area is.

"BREAK" - Refreshments provided during meetings

10:30 - Large group will reconvene to summarize discussions and come to concensus on Bird Conservation Areas. introduction and review of past IBA nomination efforts.

11:30 Lunch - Westwood Center

12:30 - Breakout groups based on Habitat Subcommittees. Based on summary of discussions from the morning, groups will work through action plan(s) for a selected set of Bird Conservation Areas within their Habitat grouping. Discussion will focus on creating ideas and plans for generating funding and partnerships which will help achieve conservation goals for these areas.

"BREAK" - Refreshments provided during meetings

3:30 - Large group will reconvene to discuss highlights from afternoon working groups. This will generate action items for discussion in future WBCI meetings.

4:30 - Meeting summary and wrap-up.

Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative
Coordinator Progress Report for 12/12/02



I. Statewide Meeting Planning

Since the last CC meeting I've been busy planning the WBCI Statewide/BCR planning meeting with the help of Greg Butcher, Sue Foote-Martin, Karen Etter Hale, Sumner Matteson, and others who have offered comments to the initial format. The meeting will take place on Feb. 4 and 5th at the Westwood Center in Wausau, WI. I'm currently working with Rick Kearney from IAFWA to secure funding for all state employees that are planning to attend. I'm also contacting potential speakers for each of the time slots. Since the meeting will be geared towards developing an action plan for all-bird conservation in Wisconsin and BCRs 12 and 23, the WBCI Habitat Committees will each meet once in January to prepare the necessary data for accomplishing this task.

II. Bird Conservation Region Planning

Part of my position description is also BCR coordinator for BCR 12. To this end, I have been busy developing partnerships across the BCR through the Statewide Meeting organization. Since former BCR meeting plans have not worked out, we would like to invite those key participants from MN and MI to speak and participate in order to build momentum for an eventual BCR wide meeting.

I have also been working with Jaime Edwards from MN DNR in Rochester, to begin developing plans for a all-bird meeting in MN.

On Dec. 5th I gave a talk at Luther College in Decorah, IA about all-bird planning, NABCI, and WBCI and hopefully generated some support for our efforts in the Driftless Area of BCR 23.

III. Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail

I have been supporting the Birding and Nature Trail and Sue's work in a number of ways. We have an extensive grant application in to the Coastal Management Program and are planning two grants for the Department of Tourism's Joint Effort Marketing (JEM) grant program. In addition, Ron Windingstad and myself have started relations with the Wild Birds Unlimited Grant to possibly fund displays at the Crex Meadows Center.

In addition to grant writing, I also attended the Birding Trail meetings centered around World Tourism Day in Grantsburg. Ted presented the Trail concept to the DNR Natural Resources Board on Wed. and to some legislators and the public on Friday morning.

IV. Habitat Committee Meetings and Updates

All of the Habitat Committees have met at least once since the last CC meeting except the Forest and Barrens Committee. Unfortunately the CWD effort curtailed a meeting date for the Forests committee. However, meetings are planned before the Statewide meeting.

I've been meeting with Bob Howe at UWGB to further development of a database driven product (no official name yet) for the Habitat Committee. This product would contain species-specific information as well as information about habitat needs, etc. It would be a product that land managers of all types as well as land owners would be able to use. Bob and I have convinced a graduate student to take on the product as part of a larger thesis idea. This is great news as the final product will involve extensive time devoted not only to species information, but also to computer skills. Bob has agreed to support this grad student through the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity.

I've also been involved with the Urban Habitat Committee in developing a response to the plans for the Lakeshore State Park. Theresa Grippentrog is willing to meet with the group to listen to any comments that we may have to improve the designs for birds!!!

V. Outreach Committee Meetings and Updates

I've attended a number of exciting meetings with the Outreach Committee and the Communications subcommittee. Matt Schlag-Mendenhall has done a wonderful job with the WBCI brochures, and we've finished our first official printing. Our WBCI display is finished and is located in my office for anyone's use.

The Statewide Communications subcommittee got off to a wonderful start and will eventually be very successful. New members such as those at ICF and UW will add to the Outreach committee's effectiveness.

We've also began discussions about creating an Education Subcommittee, which I believe to be an excellent idea. I've already developed a relationship with a public school and the Conserve School in Land O' Lakes to take part in this subcommittee. The Conserve School is very interested and is looking for curriculum ideas that gets their students out into nature.

VI. Driftless Area Initiative

On November 6th and 7th I met with representatives from the Driftless Areas Initiative in LaCrosse, WI. The theme for the meeting was the dairy industry and grazing initiatives. While this group does have a strong soil and water conservation interest, I made a case for including habitat preservation as part of this overall emphasis. I presented WBCI and invited membership groups to sign

the endorsers form. There were quite a few agricultural groups present that WBCI does not yet have as endorsers and we need to follow up with the grazing networks and RC&Ds that were present.

I also offered some potential projects and planning that this multi-state initiative could support for grassland bird conservation in the region. Wisconsin has been doing bird/agriculture research and has much to offer this group in the form of habitat guidelines. I suggested that a planning effort across the region taking into account biodiversity, highly erodable lands, ownership, and land use might help them to direct their efforts for the greatest conservation value. I also offered the ideas of nature/agricultural related tourism and value added marketing of grass-based products as potential ideas.

VII. Ad Hoc Funding Committee - Budget

The Ad Hoc Funding Committee has met twice since the last Coordinating Council meeting in September. Our first meeting concentrated on multiple ideas for the future of WBCI's funding situation. We developed a number of potential action items including: non-profit status, developing a structure to set funding priorities for the future, organizing potential funding needs for partners, oversee spending, ensure representation in DNR budget, re-visit habitat stamp ideas, etc.

At our second meeting we developed priorities for spending remaining 02 moneys that had not been allocated as of yet. It was decided that the Birding and Nature Trail deserved our immediate attention. This is one of our flagship projects and will not be eligible for SWG funding from the 03' budget.

VIII. Website Progress

We have finished the contract with Fermata Inc. to host the WBCI website. I have updated the links to all partner websites and hope that they have added a link on their own websites about WBCI (Hint, Hint)!! Once Statewide Planning quiets down, the website will get more elaborate attention. I'd like to generate a separate page for each committee as a way for the public to keep tabs on what's going on.

Under the News category I've created a link for West Nile Virus updates, Birding and Nature Trail updates, and the Cat's Indoors Campaign. Any other suggestions are welcomed.