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Description of document: Meeting minutes for the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, 2005-2013

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Source of document: Freedom of Information Act Request  
Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)  
FWS FOIA Officer  
Division of Information Resources and Technology  
Management  
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# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
National Wildlife Refuge System  
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 570  
Arlington, VA 22203  
Phone: (703) 358-2043  
Fax: (703) 358-1929

December 20, 2013

Re: FWS-2014-00292

This is a response to your December 10, 2013 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

In that request you sought:

1) A digital/electronic copy of the meeting minutes for the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for the time period April, 2005 to present.

Enclosed is the information found as a result of the search conducted for your request by Division of Realty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, from our headquarters office in Arlington, VA.

In accordance with the Department's FOIA regulations (43 CFR 2), there are no withholdings and no fees associated with the processing of your request. The parameters of our search effort follow:

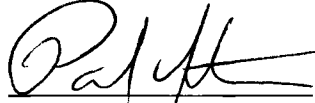
1) Scope of search: We searched our records for the approved Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting minutes from April 2005- present.

Search Results:

1) All documents that match the parameters of the request are included here, in electronic format.

Please contact Paul Steblein, Chief – Branch of Policy at 703-358-2678 if you have any questions regarding the enclosed documents.

Sincerely,



Paul Steblein, Chief  
Branch of Policy  
Division of Natural Resources  
and Conservation Planning

12/20/13  
Date

Enclosures

MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Minutes of Meeting

June 21, 2005

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MEMORANDUM "A"


MINUTES OF MEETING June 21, 2005

The Minutes of the meeting of the Migratory  
Bird Conservation Commission held on  
June 21, 2005, have been prepared for reading by  
the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these  
minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2005 SEP 21 2005

  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**HELD IN WASHINGTON ON June 21, 2005**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Tuesday, June 21, 2005, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160. The meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m., once achieving a quorum, by Assistant Secretary Craig Manson, acting as Chairman.

**The following Commission members were present:**

- HON. CRAIG MANSON, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior
- HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi
- HON. BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, Senator from Arkansas
- HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, Representative from Michigan
- MR. DAVE GAGNER, Special Assistant to the Chief, NRCS, Department of Agriculture
- MR. CRAIG HOOKS, Deputy Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency

*Ex Officio members*

- MS. KEILI HICKS, Governor Mike Huckabee's, Washington D. C. Office
- MR. PHIL WEST, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Virginia
- MR. LEE WIDJESKOG, Regional Superintendent, Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey
- MR. GREG WATHEN, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Secretary to the Commission:

- MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

Persons from the Congress of the United States, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies who attended the meeting are listed below.

- MS. KATHY HURLD, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency
- MS. KATHLEEN KUTSCHENREUTER, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency
- MS. CHANDA LITTLES, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency
- MR. ROBERT HOLIFIELD, Professional Staff Member, Senator Lincoln's Office
- MR. TODD WOOTEN, Professional Staff Member, Senator Lincoln's Office
- MR. WEST HIGGINBUTHON, Professional Staff Member, Senator Cochran's Office
- MR. PRESTON THOMAS, Professional Staff Member, Senator Cochran's Office
- MS. KATIE MURTHA, Legislative Director, Congressman Dingell's Office
- MS. AMY LEEDECKE, Legislative Assistant, Congressman Weldon's Office
- MR. CARLOS A. de la PARRA, Minister, SEMARNAT, Embassy of Mexico
- MR. ALPHONSO ZEGBE, First Secretary and Deputy Representative, SEMARNAT, Embassy of Mexico
- MS. SHEILA TOOZE, Environmental Affairs Officer, Embassy of Canada, Washington, D. C.
- MR. MARCUS WARD, Office of Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior
- MS. OLIVIA FERRITER, Staff Assistant Budget and Audit, Office of Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
- MR. MATT HOGAN, Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. WILLIAM F. HARTWIG, Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. ROBERT GRAVES, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission Coordinator, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

- MS. BRENDA JOHNSON-TURNER, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DOUG VANDEGRAFT, Chief Cartographer, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Illustrator, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. LATOYA MUMTAZ, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. MARYTHERESE ONE BEAR, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, R2, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- MS. SUE OLIVEIRA, Regional Realty Chief, Division of Realty, R4, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. JOHN C. WATKINS, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, R4, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. WALT QUIST, Regional Realty Chief, Division of Realty, R5 Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MR. JOE MCCAULEY, Refuge Manager, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DAVID SMITH, Council Coordinator, North American Wetlands Conservation Council, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. EMILY JO WILLIAMS, Assistant Regional Director for Migratory Birds, R4, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Deputy Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. CLINT RILEY, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DAVID BUIE, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. ELLEN MURPHY, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. KEITH A. MOREHOUSE, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service

- MS. RODECIA MCKNIGHT, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. MINDY CLARKE, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. STEVE BEKKERUS, Acting Chief, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. ROBERT L. WILLIAMS, JR, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. TERRI PORTER, Truman Fellow, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. RYAN BOOTH, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. RANDY TORRES, Migratory Birds, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. KASSANDRA CERVENY, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. TIFFANY ROBINSON, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. TOM CASSIDY, The Nature Conservancy
- MR. SCOTT SUTHERLAND, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Representatives who attended the meeting on behalf of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council portion of the program are listed below.

COUNCIL EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

- MR. JOHN BERRY, Executive Director, The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, D. C.
- MR. MARY POPE HUTSON, Land Trust Alliance, Washington D. C.



## MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Assistant Secretary Manson called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. He mentioned that Secretary Norton sent greetings and she was sorry she could not be present at the meeting. Then he welcomed the commission members, new representative from the Environmental Protection Agency, State ex officio members, North American Wetlands Conservation Council Members, the representatives from the Canadian and Mexican Embassies, and others attending the meeting. He also introduced Acting Director, Matt Hogan.

Judge Manson then stated that since 1929, the Commission has overseen the establishment of 357 refuges in 49 States- over 12 million acres of marshes, prairie potholes, hardwood bottoms, and other havens for waterfowl, scattered from Maine to California and from Washington to Florida. He stated that the Commission's efforts to preserve the internationally important Cache River-Bayou DeView wetlands has taken on added significance with the recent rediscovery of the Ivory-billed woodpecker at the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge in Arkansas. The Commission approved the establishment of the refuge in 1986 for the primary purpose to preserve approximately 35,000 acres of prime bottomland hardwoods within the Cache River-Bayou DeView ten-year floodplain. Judge Manson noted that the addition proposed today at the refuge will bring the total refuge boundary to 185,000 acres. The projects before the Commission for approval today reflect the continued progress in protecting and restoring wetland habitats under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act as well as through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Judge Manson stated that today's slate of 4 U.S. standard projects under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act involve a total of 44 partners working on conservation activities that will impact almost 5,500 acres of wetland habitat. These partners will contribute almost \$32 million to these efforts. This slate typifies the outstanding return on investment for federal funds. For the 2005 fiscal year, U.S. standard projects alone have involved 406 partners contributing \$249.4 million to combine with \$40.2million of NAWCA funds to protect or restore 1.25million acres of wetland habitat. Judge Manson then proceeded to Agenda Item A.

### AGENDA ITEM A

Assistant Secretary Manson called for approval of the March 16, 2005, meeting minutes which were unanimously approved. He then called on Mr. Eric Alvarez, Secretary to the Commission, to present the six Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals for consideration. Mr. Alvarez noted that the proposal for addition and price approval at San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge would not be presented for Commission approval because we were still waiting on Governor's approval and that an ex officio from Texas was not in attendance. Mr. Alvarez stated that although there was no ex officio present for Texas, that there was a quorum and Governor's approval for Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge proposal and the Commission could proceed with approval. With the aid of maps and video projections, Mr. Alvarez presented the acquisitions proposed in the program. Mr. Alvarez, Regional Senior Realty Officers, and other Regional staff responded to questions about the individual proposals. Each state ex officio provided affirmative comments about the proposals within their representative states. The Commission's action for each proposal is given below

## **ADDITION**

CACHE RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Tucker County, Arkansas-Boundary approval was granted to expand the refuge by 9,864 acres containing 41 ownerships at an estimated cost of \$15,150,000 or \$1,750 per acre.

Senator Lincoln stated that the Cache River bottoms provide tremendous habitat for songbirds and all types of waterfowl. She stated that the presence the Ivory billed woodpecker on the refuge is a real result of what conservation can accomplish. She stated that it is wonderful to see preservation at work.

Ms. Keili Hicks, ex officio, stated that the Director of the Washington Office of the Governor supports approval of acquisition as long as it is acquired from willing sellers.

Mr. Dave Gagner, Department of Agriculture, stated that there are thousands of acres currently protected by Agriculture in this same area and they look forward to working as a partner with the Service.

Acting Director, Matt Hogan also stated that this is a wonderful success story. He wanted to thank the Commission and hunters who purchased the Duck Stamps. The purchase of Duck Stamps provided the acquisition dollars and this is integral to conservation in this area.

## **ADDITION AND PRICE APPROVAL**

RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Essex and Richmond Counties, Virginia -Addition and price approval were granted for the easement acquisition of 355 acres in one ownership for the recommended price of \$585,000 or \$1,648 per acre.

Mr. Alvarez commented that \$1,146,790 is currently available from LWCF and will be combined with \$585,000 from the MBCF to purchase this 355 acre tract. The MBCF contribution to the purchase price equates to \$1,648 per acre.

Mr. Joseph F. McCauley, Refuge Manager, stated that the refuge was established in 1996. He noted that during the planning process for the refuge, the Service promised to focus on 10,000 acre fee target and a 10,000 easement target as well. He stated that with this acquisition the Service is trying to keep the commitment made to the public.

Rep. John Dingell asked if this was a permanent easement and stated that easements can be good and bad. Mr. Alvarez responded that this is a perpetual easement and the Service is buying all timber and development rights. The owners will be allowed to continue farming and the land will remain in the tax base, therefore it is a win/win situation for all.

TRINITY RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Liberty County, Texas- Addition and price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 330 acres in one ownership for the appraised value and recommended price of \$171,600 or \$520 per acre.

Mr. Alvarez mentioned again that there was not a state ex office for Texas present at the meeting, however there is a quorum and a letter of support from Governor. Judge Manson stated that since there was Governor's approval and acquisition was at a reasonable price that we should move forward with discussion of proposal.

Judge Manson noted that there is a large amount of land remaining to be acquired and asked Mr. Alvarez to discuss plan to acquire land. Mr. Alvarez stated that the focus had been to acquire large timber holdings first, and we are now acquiring land from other landowners. We will continue to acquire lands as willing sellers are identified.

Senator Lincoln asked about the location of the tract, and Marytherese One Bear, Realty Specialist, Southwest Region, stated that it is comprised of bottomland hardwood and some of the timber companies in the area included Louisiana Pacific and International Paper.

#### **PRICE APPROVAL**

CAPE MAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Cape May County, New Jersey-Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 19 acres in one ownership for the appraised value and recommended price of \$12,400 or \$649 per acre.

Rep. John Dingell asked about the 491-acre transfer from the Coast Guard and whether there is an active program to identify land available for transfer from other federal agencies. Judge Manson also asked about the history of the transfer. Walt Quist, Senior Realty Officer, Northeast Region stated that most of the property is beach front and dune habitat in Southern New Jersey. Mr. Quist affirmed that staff actively reviews lands considered as excess to screen property for possible Service use.

CHICKASAW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Lauderdale County, Tennessee-Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 56 acres in one ownership for the appraised value and recommended price of \$110,000 or \$1,964 per acre.

Senator Lincoln asked if 56 acres are in crop production and Sue Oliveira, Senior Realty Officer, Southeast Region stated that yes, most of the acreage is in crop production.

#### **AGENDA ITEM B**

#### **NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

Assistant Secretary Craig Manson introduced the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) portion of the meeting. Ex Officio Commission member and Council member Mary Pope Hutson (Land Trust Alliance) commented on the Canadian and U.S. proposals on the

current slates and highlighted the high partner match for both slates. Ms. Hutson also commented on the current Congressional reform activity involving charitable land donations and conservation easements. She noted the importance of conservation easements to programs such as NAWCA and requested that the Commission members take a leadership role on this issue.

Ms. Hutson then introduced Ex Officio Commission member and Council member Mr. John Berry (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation). Mr. Berry commented on the current NAWCA funding levels in Congress (\$40M House; \$39.5M Senate). Mr. Berry noted the importance of high funding levels for NAWCA and expressed the hope that the Commission members would support the FY 2006 President's request of \$49M, if possible. Mr. Berry then highlighted the Small Grant accomplishments for FY 2005, noting that the \$2M funding level approved by the Commission for FY 2005 was allocated prudently. Thirty-eight proposals were approved for a total of \$1.6M. The remaining funds (\$400K) were held for future use. Partner funding for FY 2005 totaled \$8.7M. For the ten years that the Small Grant program has been active, \$12M in NAWCA funds has been matched by \$80M in partner funding, impacting approximately 100,000 acres of wetland habitat.

Mr. Berry introduced Council Coordinator Smith. Coordinator Smith presented a brief overview of the status of the NAWCF. Coordinator Smith presented the Council's recommended slate of 4 U.S. standard grant proposals (NAWCA funds = \$3,481,516; partner contributions = \$31,958,384) and 14 Canadian proposals (NAWCA funds = \$14,494,971; partner contributions = \$29,835,686). Coordinator Smith highlighted the FY 2005 Small Grant accomplishments and the ten-year results for Small Grants. He noted that the Council has requested that the Commission approve the FY 2006 Small Grant funding level of \$2M. Coordinator Smith noted that the new Federal Duck Stamp First Day of Sale Celebration will be held June 30 at the Russell Senate Office Building. He then recognized the four Congressional members of the Commission and thanked them for their support for of the Duck Stamp Program and their jointly sponsored "dear colleague" letter inviting members of Congress to the First Day of Sale Event. The entire slate of projects presented, having sufficient non-Federal partner dollars to match the NAWCF request, was recommended for approval by Senator Cochran and seconded by Representative Dingell. The slate was approved by unanimous vote. The FY 2006 Small Grant funding level request of \$2M was noted by Assistant Secretary Manson. Senator Cochran asked for additional details on what this request entailed. Coordinator Smith explained that the Commission approves the annual funding level for Small Grants in advance. Council then selects proposals and reports the slate to the Commission, typically at the June Commission meeting. The Small Grant funding level was recommended for approval by Senator Cochran and seconded by Representative Dingell. The funding level was approved by unanimous vote.

Assistant Secretary Manson asked if the Representatives from Canada and Mexico would like to make any comments. Ms. Sheila Tooze (Environmental Affairs Officer, Embassy of Canada) thanked the Commission for their continued support of wetland conservation in Canada. Carlos de la Parra (Environmental Attache, Embassy of Mexico) stated that Mexico appreciates the value that NAWCA projects bring to conservation efforts throughout the country and thanked the Commission for their support.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Acting Chairman Manson adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.



MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Minutes of Meeting

September 21, 2005

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MEMORANDUM "A"

MINUTES OF MEETING September 21, 2005

The Minutes of the meeting of the Migratory  
Bird Conservation Commission held on  
September 21, 2005, have been prepared for reading by  
the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these  
minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MAR 1 8 2006



SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**HELD IN WASHINGTON ON September 21, 2005**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, September 21, 2005, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160. The meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m., by Secretary Gale Norton, Chairman.

**The following Commission members were present:**

- HON. GALE NORTON, Secretary, Department of the Interior
- HON. BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, Senator from Arkansas
- HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, Representative from Michigan
- MR. DAVE GAGNER, Special Assistant to the Chief, NRCS, Department of Agriculture
- MR. BENJAMIN GRUMBLES, Assistant Administrator,, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency

*Ex Officio* members

- MR. JIMMY ANTHONY, Program Manager, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana
- MR. WEST HIGGINBUTHON, Professional Staff Member, Senator Cochran's Washington Office
- MR. VERNON BEVILL, Director, Game Bird Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife

Secretary to the Commission:

- MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service



Persons from the Congress of the United States, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies who attended the meeting are listed below.

- MS. KATHLEEN KUTSCHENREUTER, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency
- MR. HANNAH LAMBIOTTE, Professional Staff Member, Senator Lincoln's Office
- MR. WEST HIGGINBUTHON, Professional Staff Member, Senator Cochran's Office
- MS. KATIE MURTHA, Legislative Director, Congressman Dingell's Office
- MS. AMY LEEDECKE, Legislative Assistant, Congressman Weldon's Office
- MR. CARLOS A. de la PARRA, Minister, SEMARNAT, Embassy of Mexico
- MS. SHEILA TOOZE, Environmental Affairs Officer, Embassy of Canada, Washington, D. C.
- MR. MATT HOGAN, Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. WILLIAM F. HARTWIG, Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DALE HALL, Regional Director, R2, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- MR. ROBERT GRAVES, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission Coordinator, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DOUG VANDEGRAFT, Chief Cartographer, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Illustrator, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. STEVE KOPACH, Chief Land Surveyor, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. LATOYA MUMTAZ, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

- MR. RIESLEY R. JONES, Regional Realty Chief, Division of Realty, R2, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- MS. SUE OLIVEIRA, Regional Realty Chief, Division of Realty, R4, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MS. BARBARA WEST, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, R4, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. DAVID SMITH, Council Coordinator, North American Wetlands Conservation Council, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Deputy Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. CLINT RILEY, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DAVID BUIE, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. SARAH MOTT, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. STEVE BEKKERUS, Acting Chief, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. NICHOLAS THROCKMORTON, Public Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. TOM REED, Visitor Services and Communications, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. ROBERT L. WILLIAMS, JR, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DAVE WALKER, Conservation Planning and Policy, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. PAT FISHER, Chief, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. TOM CASSIDY, The Nature Conservancy
- MR. SCOTT SUTHERLAND, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
- MR. ROBERT DEBLINLEN, Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife
- MR. JASPER LAMENT, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
- MR. JOHN BEALL, Pheasants Forever

MR. KEN R. SARBON, North Dakota Game and Fish Department

MR. MIKE RAKE, Arizona Game and Fish Department

MR. MATT SEXTON, The Conservation Fund

MR. RICH JOHNSON, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Representatives who attended the meeting on behalf of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council portion of the program are listed below.

#### COUNCIL EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

DR. ALAN WENTZ, Group Manager of Conservation Programs, Ducks Unlimited, Memphis, Tennessee

MR. MIKE DENNIS, The Nature Conservancy, Washington D. C.

#### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Secretary Norton called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. She welcomed the commission members, state ex officio members, and others attending the meeting. Secretary Norton then asked that each committee member and ex officio member and others introduce themselves.

Secretary Norton stated that she had recently visited the Gulf Coast which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina and expressed her concern over the impacts to National Wildlife Refuge System. She then stated that on the brighter side the Service with approval from the Commission has allocated about \$2.5 million in proceeds from the sale of the Duck Stamps which helped with the approval of the acquisitions at Cache River NWR related to the rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. The projects before the Commission for approval today reflect our progress in the protection and restoration of wetlands habitats under NAWCA and the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. To date 25 US projects involving a total of 206 partners working on conservation activities impacting 198,000 acres of wetland habitat. The partners will contribute about \$97 million. These results are based on the NAWCA seed money of \$24 million.

Secretary Norton introduced the Acting Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Matt Hogan, who then welcomed the committee members. Director Hogan stated that the devastation from hurricane Katrina is hard to describe and that the human toll and property destruction caused by the hurricane has closed 16 national wildlife refuges and the initial damage is estimated at 94 million in damages to our facilities. He also stated that during his visit to some of the impacted facilities, he had a chance to spend time with our folks working in the area and the response of the Service is inspirational. The FWS rescued nearly 2,500 people and the Incident Command Team and Service staffs from a number of Regions are working at Big Branch Marsh NWR providing food and shelter for hundreds of people. "Words cannot express how proud I am to work for this agency." Today there are 6 refuge proposals in or around the

area impacted by hurricane Katrina. These projects have been in the mix for a while and were recommended before hurricane Katrina.

Director Hogan also stated that for the first time ever, the Federal Duck Stamp Contest was held outside of Washington D. C. in Memphis, Tennessee. The winner, Sherrie Russell Meline from Shasta, CA was only the 2<sup>nd</sup> female ever to win. He mentioned that in FY 2005 the Service's Duck Stamp Office produced several new products to test collectors interest and stimulate growth in sales of Federal Duck Stamps and to help offset the cost of printing the Duck Stamps and stated that as of September 1, the new products have raised more than \$180,000.

Director Hogan stated that he would like to take a moment to recognize Mr. Robert Williams from Duck Stamp Office for his innovation and successful product development as well as the revamping of the licensing program, thanks for a tremendous job; your work had a tremendous impact on our program. He then introduced the new Chief of the Duck Stamp Office; Ms. Pat Fisher. She comes to us from the Service's Public Affairs Office. Welcome Pat to the Federal Duck Stamp Team. "We are excited to have you." Secretary Norton proceeded to Agenda Item A.

#### **Agenda Item A**

Secretary Norton called for approval of the June 21, 2005, meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved. She then called on the Secretary to the Commission, Mr. A. Eric Alvarez, to present the eight Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals for consideration. With the aid of maps and video projections, Mr. Alvarez presented the acquisitions proposed in the program. Mr. Alvarez responded to questions about the individual proposals, as well as the Regional representatives. Each state ex officio provided affirmative comments about the proposals within their representative states. The Commission's action for each proposal is given below.

#### **ADDITION AND PRICE APPROVAL**

BAYOU COCODRIE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Concordia Parish, Louisiana-Addition and price approval were granted for the acquisition of 1,550 acres in one ownership for the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,681,000 or \$1,085 per acre.

PANTHER SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Yazoo County, Mississippi-Addition and price approval were granted for the fee title acquisition of 702 acres in one ownership for the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,053,000 or \$1,500 per acre.

RED RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Caddo Bossier, Desoto, Red River and Natchitoches Parishes, Louisiana-Addition and price approval were granted for the fee title acquisition of 1,732 acres in one ownership for the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,735,000 or \$1,002 per acre.

SAN BERNARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Brazoria County, Texas-Addition and price approval of 1,031 acres were granted in three ownerships for the appraised value and

recommended price of \$1,027,150 or \$996 per acre.

TRINITY RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Liberty County, Texas-Addition and price approval were granted for the fee title acquisition of 3.22 acres in one ownership for the appraised value and recommended price of \$8,000 or \$2,484 per acre.

Rep. John Dingell was curious about the tract size at Trinity River NWR and stated that we usually acquire larger parcels and that 3 acres is a very small acquisition. Rick Jones, Chief of the Division of Realty, Region 2 stated that they are working on several other tracts comprised of about 1,200-2,500 acres and are currently negotiating with landowners.

Secretary Norton asked whether the prices paid for future acquisitions at the refuge be as costly. Mr. Jones stated that the cost will be less per acre for the other larger parcels.

### **PRICE APPROVAL**

CAT ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana- Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 160 acres in one ownership for the appraised value and recommended price of \$321,000 or \$2,006 per acre.

CATAHOULA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Catahoula Parish, Louisiana- Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 80 acres in one ownership for the appraised value and recommended price of \$60,000 or \$750 per acre.

Mr. Dingell asked if the 10,000 acres shown in the program memorandum as acquired by donation or lease was donated or leased? Mr. Alvarez stated that this is a no cost lease and 6,000 acres will be donated this month with the remaining 4,000 to be donated at a later date.

### **PRICE RE-APPROVAL**

ST. CATHERINE CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Adams County, Mississippi- Price re-approval was granted for the lease of 502.10 acres in one ownership for the appraised value of \$9,038 or \$18 per acre and recommended price of \$12,553 or \$25 per acre.

The Ex Officio member from Mississippi, Mr. West Higginbuthon, stated that school districts in Mississippi are restricted by law from conveying school section lands in fee. However, they are attempting to work out an exchange that meets the requirements of state law.

### **AGENDA ITEM B**

#### **NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

Secretary Gale Norton introduced the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) portion of the meeting. Secretary Norton then introduced Ex Officio Commission member and North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) member Alan Wentz (Ducks

Unlimited). Dr. Wentz commented on the success of the recent Duck Stamp contest held in Memphis, TN. Acting U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Matt Hogan thanked Ducks Unlimited for their support of the contest. Dr. Wentz then noted the 40 high quality proposals on the NAWCA slate, the first slate for the FY 2006 cycle. He highlighted the Canadian slate of 15 projects that combine \$9.9M in partner funding with \$4.9M in NAWCA funds to protect and restore over 47,000 acres of wetland habitat. Dr. Wentz then introduced Ex Officio Commission member and Council member Mr. Michael Dennis (The Nature Conservancy). Mr. Dennis commented on the current U.S. slate of 25 projects with NAWCA funds of \$24M being supplemented with \$97M in partner funding. Over 198,000 acres of wetland habitat will be protected and restored and, most importantly, hundreds of partnerships have been created by the NAWCA funding catalyst.

Mr. Dennis then introduced Council Coordinator Smith. Coordinator Smith presented a brief overview of the status of the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund. Coordinator Smith then presented the Council's recommended slate of 25 U.S. standard grant proposals (NAWCA funds = \$24,094,701; partner contributions = \$96,971,314) and 15 Canadian proposals (NAWCA funds = \$4,881,600; partner contributions = \$9,878,400). Coordinator Smith highlighted several U.S projects, especially noting the wetland terracing restoration work ongoing in the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Phase II project and the high success rate accomplished to date in restoring submerged aquatic vegetation, stabilizing shorelines from erosion and improving water quality. Senator Lincoln requested clarification on the acreage totals for the Northern Coteau Area Wetland Project Phase V and the Wetlands Protection, Restoration and Enhancement on Private Lands in the Lower Mississippi Valley and Gulf Coastal Plain Phase II projects. Coordinator Smith noted the 30,406 and 25,698 acreage totals for these two projects, respectively. The entire slate of projects presented, having sufficient non-Federal partner dollars to match the NAWCF request, was recommended for approval by Senator Lincoln and seconded by Congressman Dingell. The slate was approved by unanimous vote.

Secretary Norton then asked if the Representatives from Mexico and Canada would like to make any comments. Carlos de la Parra (Environmental Attache, Embassy of Mexico) stated that although no Mexican projects were on the current slate, Mexico appreciates the value that NAWCA projects bring to birds that migrate to Mexico, and thanked the Commission for their continuing support. Ms. Sheila Tooze (Environmental Affairs Officer, Embassy of Canada) commented on the recent destruction from Hurricane Katrina and offered Canada's sympathy and support. She then thanked the Commission for their continued support of wetland conservation in Canada.

Secretary Norton then reintroduced Ex Officio member Dennis who presented Council's response to a March 2005 Commission request to develop a plan for the appropriate use of substantial Migratory Bird Treaty Act fines when they are made available to the NAWCA program. Language describing the Council's recommendation will be provided to the appropriate Department of Justice office when a Court is considering imposing fines in the future. Ex Officio Wentz then introduced the Council Staff and highlighted their responsibilities and accomplishments. Commission member Mr. Ben Grumbles, EPA, commented on the Hurricane Katrina situation and how this disaster highlights the importance of wetlands not only for wildlife habitat but also for storm protection. He thanked the Commission for their efforts to

protect and restore wetlands throughout the U.S.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Norton adjourned the meeting at 9:37 a.m.





MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Minutes of Meeting

June 14, 2006

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MEMORANDUM "A"

MINUTES OF MEETING JUNE 14, 2006

The Minutes of the meeting of the Migratory

Bird Conservation Commission held on

June 14, 2006, have been prepared for reading by

the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these

minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DATE SEP 13 2006



SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON JUNE 14, 2006**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, June 14, 2006, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

- HON. DIRK KEMPTHORNE, Secretary, Department of the Interior, Chairman
- HON. BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, Senator from Arkansas
- HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, Representative from Michigan
- HON. CURT WELDON, Representative from Pennsylvania
- HON. MARK REY, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Agriculture
- MR. DAVID EVANS, Director, Wetlands Division, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency

The following State *Ex Officio* members were present:

- MR. DAVID K. WHITEHURST, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF WILDLIFE DIVERSITY, VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES
- MS. HOLLY MICHAEL, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PLANNER, WILDLIFE DIVISION, OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
- MR. JIM McCLESKEY, DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON, D.C., OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA
- MR. LEE WIDJESKOG, REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, NEW JERSEY
- MR. JOHN CARLSON, JR., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

MS. LATOYA BERRIEN, Secretary, Division of Realty, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

MS. ANN GREEN, Secretary, Division of Realty, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

MR. JOSHUA WINCHELL, Division of Public Affairs, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

MS. BRITTANY PETERSEN, Intern, National Wildlife Refuge System, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

MS. GEORGIA SHIRILLA, Acquisition Branch Chief, Division of Realty, Region 1, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

MR. CLINT RILEY, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

MR. STEPHEN BARTRAM, Land Trust Alliance, Washington, D.C.

MR. DAVID SMITH, Council Coordinator, North American Wetlands Conservation Council, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

MR. DAVID BAILEY, Intern, National Wildlife Refuge System, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

MR. H. DALE HALL, Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

MR. SCOTT SUTHERLAND, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Washington, D.C.

MR. KYLE CHAPMAN, Office of Congressman Dingell

MR. CARLOS A. DE LA PARRA, Minister, SEMARNAT (Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources), Embassy of Mexico, Washington, D.C.

MS. SHEILA TOOZE, Environment and Fisheries Officer, Embassy of Canada

MS. REBECCA FELDMAN, Intern, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency

MS. EMMA THOMAS, Intern, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency

MS. KATHY HURLD, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency

MS. KATHLEEN KUTSCHENREUTER, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency

MR. WEST HIGGINBOTHOM, Professional Staff Member, Office of Senator Thad Cochran

MS. KATIE MURTHA, Legislative Director, Office of Congressman Dingell

MS. HANNAH LAMBIOTTE, Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Lincoln

MS. KRISTI WATKINS, Office of External Affairs, Region 4, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

MS. PAT FISHER, Chief, Duck Stamp Office, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Secretary Kempthorne called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. once a quorum was assembled. He welcomed the Commission members, state ex officio members, and others attending the meeting. Secretary Kempthorne asked each meeting participant to introduce themselves.

Secretary Kempthorne stated that it was a pleasure to preside over his first meeting as Chairman of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (Commission). He said his role as Chairman is to recommend to the Commission areas of land or water that are worthy of preservation as wetlands and other habitat for migratory birds, including waterfowl. He welcomed Senator Blanche Lincoln, Congressman John Dingell, Congressman Curt Weldon, Mr. David Evans, Director, Wetlands Division, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Environmental Protection Agency, Mr. Mark Rey, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Mr. Carlos A. de la Parra, Minister, SEMARNAT (Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources), Mexico and Ms. Sheila Tooze, Environment and Fisheries Officer, Embassy of Canada.

Secretary Kempthorne mentioned that on June 1, the First Day of Sale Ceremony for the 2006-2007 Federal Duck Stamp and the 2006-2007 Junior Duck Stamp, took place at the Washington D.C. Convention Center. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition, a once-in-a decade international stamp show that was attended by over 226,000 people. Duck Stamp sale receipts on the First Day of Sale totaled \$300,000.

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act, popularly known as the Duck Stamp Act, was passed by Congress five years after the establishment of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. The Duck Stamp Act requires that revenues from the sale of Duck Stamps be used to buy or lease wetlands for the National Wildlife Refuge System. When Duck Stamps are sold, the funds are deposited into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) and the Commission oversees those funds. Ninety-eight cents of every dollar goes to the purchase or lease of wetland habitats that benefit hundreds of migratory bird species, fish, and wildlife, including dozens of threatened or endangered species. The MBCF contributed over \$38 million to purchase nearly 44,000 acres at Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, an important waterfowl refuge, but also where the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker was re-discovered.

Secretary Kempthorne also stated that it was a pleasure to join the Commission's continuing leadership in wetland conservation through the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council). The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) program demonstrates 17 years of successful partnership to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands and related uplands throughout North America. To date, over \$720 million in NAWCA grant funds have been awarded, joined by over \$2.1 billion in partner funds, to address almost 23 million acres. This remarkable conservation program is possible only through the combined efforts of private, state, and federal partners. Together, these funds provide for the scientific planning and project development to support the North American Waterfowl Management Plan – currently celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary – and other continental plans for shorebird, water bird, and partners-in-flight conservation efforts. Through the Commission's leadership, NAWCA provides a vital funding mechanism to turn these planning efforts into on-the-ground results. Secretary Kempthorne said he is excited to join the Commission members in support of this program.

Secretary Kempthorne then introduced the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Mr. Dale Hall. Director Hall welcomed Commission members and the Secretary. He stated that upon approval of today's slate of projects, nearly \$69 million will have been awarded in NAWCA grant funds for fiscal year 2006. Another \$216 million will have been contributed to these projects by partners, including over \$144 million in matching funds. As these dollars turn into habitat, he said it is exciting knowing that a difference is being made for wetlands and the wildlife that depend on them.

Secretary Kempthorne thanked the Director and added that today we will propose price approval for acquisitions at six refuges and address a proposed slate of wetland conservation projects (Standard Grants) in Canada, demonstrating NAWCA's recognition that migratory bird conservation requires a continental-scale effort. He further added that we will address a recommendation for continued funding for the NAWCA U.S. Small Grants program, which offers a broader array of funding opportunities for partners addressing comparatively smaller, but no less important, wetland conservation efforts.

Secretary Kempthorne also noted that a bill was introduced just last week in the House of Representatives to re-authorize NAWCA for another five years. He said we look forward to working with Congressional leadership to ensure that this program continues to serve the American public and the natural resources so important to each of us.

Then Secretary Kempthorne called for approval of the March 8, 2006, meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved. Then he moved on to Agenda Item A.

#### Agenda Item A

Secretary Kempthorne called on Mr. Alvarez to present the six Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals for consideration. With the aid of video projections, Mr. Alvarez presented the proposed acquisitions in the program. Mr. Alvarez and the respective regional representatives responded to questions about the individual proposals. Each state ex officio member provided affirmative comments about the proposals within their states. Motions were made for approval of each Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposal, and each was approved unanimously. The Commission approved the following proposals:

#### **ADDITION AND PRICE APPROVAL**

EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Northampton County, Virginia – Addition of 590 acres, in two ownerships, was approved to expand the refuge, and price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 146.7 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$779,640 or \$5,315 per acre.

WILLIAM L. FINLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Linn County, Oregon – Addition and price approval for the fee title acquisition of 36 acres, in one ownership, was approved for the appraised value and recommended price of \$126,000 or \$3,500 per acre.

#### **PRICE APPROVAL**

CEDAR ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Carteret County, North Carolina – Price approval for the fee title acquisition of 14 acres, in one ownership, was approved for the appraised value and recommended price of \$42,000 or \$3,000 per acre.

GRASSLANDS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, Merced County, California – Price approval for the acquisition of a perpetual conservation easement consisting of 78 acres, in one ownership, was approved for the appraised value and recommended price of \$148,000 or \$1,897 per acre.

NORTH CENTRAL VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Glenn, Placer, San Joaquin, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba Counties, California – Price approval for the fee title acquisition of 59 acres, in one ownership, was approved for the appraised value and recommended price of \$280,000 or \$4,750 per acre.

WALLKILL RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Sussex County, New Jersey, and Orange County, New York – Price approval for the fee title acquisition of 35.2 acres in one ownership was approved for the appraised value and recommended price of \$130,000 or \$3,693 per acre.

Secretary Kempthorne moved on to Agenda Item B.

#### Agenda Item B

#### NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Secretary Dirk Kempthorne introduced the NAWCA portion of the meeting. Ex Officio Commission member and North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) member Jeff Trandahl, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, then commented on the current slate of Canadian Standard Grant proposals and highlighted the wetland conservation activities that the combined NAWCA funding and partner funding will accomplish in Canada. Mr. Trandahl then introduced Ex Officio Commission member and Council member Ms. Mary Pope Hutson, Land Trust Alliance, who commented on the U.S. Small Grant proposals approved by the Council in March, and highlighted the high partner match for these proposals (8:3:1). Ms. Hutson also indicated that due to the high number of quality U.S. Small Grant proposals that the Council approved for funding, the total NAWCA funding exceeded the Commission's approved fiscal year 2006 spending level of \$2 million by \$7,758. She noted that approval of this additional funding would be required by the Commission to fully fund the 47-project slate. Ms. Hutson then introduced Council Coordinator Smith, who noted that this was the last NAWCA cycle for fiscal year 2006. Coordinator Smith presented a brief overview of the status of the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund (NAWCF). Coordinator Smith then presented the Council's recommended slate of seven Canadian Standard Grant proposals (NAWCA funds = \$17,851,134; partner contributions = \$24,514,910). Senator Lincoln moved the Canadian slate for funding approval, and Representative Dingell seconded her motion. The slate was approved by unanimous vote.

Coordinator Smith then presented the fiscal year 2006 U.S. Small Grants slate, as approved by the Council (47 projects; NAWCA funds = \$2,007,758; partner contributions = \$16,582,996). He noted that one motion was required to approve the additional fiscal year 2006 cost of \$7,758 and a second motion was required to approve the Council-requested fiscal year 2007 funding level of \$2 million. Coordinator Smith also informed the Commission that the Council had recently approved an increase in the grant award cap for U.S. Small Grants to \$75,000 (up from \$50,000). Representative Weldon indicated support for both and requested motions but inquired why the Council requested only \$2 million again for the U.S. Small Grants program for fiscal year 2007. Coordinator Smith explained that the Council deliberated the funding level and concluded that, given the continuing demand for both Standard and U.S. Small Grants, the U.S. Small Grants level should remain level as long as NAWCA appropriation levels remained level. Representative Weldon noted that the U.S. Small Grants program could be used to make members of Congress more aware of the program and create more Congressional support for funding. Ms. Hutson welcomed Representative Weldon's support of the U.S. Small Grants program and explained that the Council desires to maintain a high quality of approved projects and believes the \$2 million cap assists in

this effort at the present time. Both Ex Officio members Hutson and Trandahl indicated they will discuss Representative Weldon's concerns with the full Council during their next meeting. Representative Weldon agreed that the Commission should wait for the Council to bring a recommendation to them.

Representative Dingell then asked if there was a need for a statutory change within NAWCA in order to achieve a higher funding level for U.S. Small Grants. It was noted that no legislative action would be required.

Representative Weldon moved that \$7,758 be added to the fiscal year 2006 U.S. Small Grants funding level to cover the slate of 47 projects; Senator Lincoln seconded; the motion was approved by unanimous vote. Representative Dingell moved that the fiscal year 2007 funding level for U.S. Small Grants be set at \$2 million; Senator Lincoln seconded; the motion was approved by unanimous vote. Senator Lincoln also stated her support for the Council's decision to increase the maximum grant request for U.S. Small Grants from \$50,000 to \$75,000; the rest of the Commission concurred.

Secretary Kempthorne adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.





MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Minutes of Meeting

March 8, 2006

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MEMORANDUM "A"

MINUTES OF MEETING March 8, 2006

The Minutes of the meeting of the Migratory  
Bird Conservation Commission held on  
March 8, 2006, have been prepared for reading by  
the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these  
minutes be formally approved.

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**HELD IN WASHINGTON ON March 8, 2006**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, March 8, 2006, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160. The meeting was called to order at 8:44 a.m., by Secretary Gale Norton, Chairman.

**The following Commission members were present:**

- HON. GALE NORTON, Secretary, Department of the Interior
- HON. BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, Senator from Arkansas
- HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, Representative from Michigan
- MR. DAVE GAGNER, Special Assistant to the Chief, NRCS, Department of Agriculture
- MR. BENJAMIN GRUMBLES, Assistant Administrator,, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency

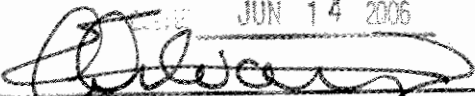
*Ex Officio* members

- MR. LEE WIDJESKOG, Regional Superintendent, Division of Fish and Wildlife, New Jersey
- MR. RONALD REGAN, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Vermont
- MR. JACK BAUER, Director, Land Conservation Programs, Texas Parks and Wildlife
- MS. KATIE WHELAN, Professional Staff Member of Governor Schwarzenegger's Washington Office, California

Secretary to the Commission:

- MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

JUN 14 2006  
  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Persons from the Congress of the United States, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies who attended the meeting are listed below.

- MS. KATHY HURLD, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency
- MR. HANNAH LAMBIOTTE, Professional Staff Member, Senator Lincoln's Office
- MR. WEST HIGGINBUTHON, Professional Staff Member, Senator Cochran's Office
- MS. KATIE MURTHA, Legislative Director, Congressman Dingell's Office
- MR. CARLOS A. de la PARRA, Minister, SEMARNAT, Embassy of Mexico
- MR. DALE HALL, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. WILLIAM F. HARTWIG, Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. ROBERT GRAVES, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission Coordinator, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Illustrator, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. LATOYA MUMTAZ, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. ANN GREEN, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. RIESLEY R. JONES, Regional Realty Chief, Division of Realty, R2, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- MR. WALT QUIST, Regional Realty Chief, Division of Realty, R5, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MS. KAREN HAND, Division of Realty, CNO, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California
- MR. DAVID SMITH, Council Coordinator, North American Wetlands Conservation Council, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Deputy Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation,

Fish and Wildlife Service

- MR. CLINT RILEY, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DAVID BUIE, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. ELLEN MURPHY, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. STEVE BEKKERUS, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. CHRIS BURROUGHS, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. NICHOLAS THROCKMORTON, Public Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. JOSHUA WINDELL, Public Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. PAT FISHER, Chief, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. SCOTT SUTHERLAND, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
- MS. ASHLIE HOUSTON, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Representatives who attended the meeting on behalf of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council portion of the program are listed below.

COUNCIL EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

- MR. DAVE NOMSEN, Conservation Programs, Pheasants Forever, St. Paul, Minnesota
- MR. MIKE DENNIS, The Nature Conservancy, Washington D. C.

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Secretary Norton called the meeting to order at 8:44 a.m. She welcomed the commission members, state ex officio members, and others attending the meeting. Secretary Norton then asked that each committee member and ex officio member and others introduce themselves.

Secretary Norton stated that the Commission was established in the 1920's and 1930's during the dustbowl day's reflecting the National Wildlife Refuge System's commitment to waterfowl protection and that many of the national wildlife refuges acquired through the Migratory Bird

Conservation Fund are located in four major waterfowl flyways, serving as vital stepping stones for birds during their migrations. She also stated that the Refuge System hosts a variety of habitats and wildlife, including many of the endangered species such as buffalo, elk, and butterflies.

There are 545 National Wildlife Refuges which covers about 96 million acres; and if they were all gathered together would equal an area twice the size of Florida and that more than 359 of the refuges containing about 9.8 million acres, have been established to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Secretary Norton mentioned that there are about 203 waterfowl production areas containing over 2.7 million acres of wetland easements added to the Refuge System under the authority of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act.

Since 1934 the Federal Duck Stamp program has purchased or leased over 5.2 million acres of wetlands and waterfowl habitat in the United States. The Federal Duck Stamp program has been called one of the most successful conservation programs ever initiated and is a highly effective way to conserve America's natural resources. These lands will be protected for all generations to come.

Secretary Norton stated that on January 10, the President signed H.R. 3179, the Junior Duck Stamp Reauthorization Amendment Act of 2005 for kids in grades Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup>, which authorizes and amends the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994. This act provides for the proceeds from the licensing and marketing of the Federal Junior Duck Stamps to be used for awards and scholarships to the competition participants.

Secretary Norton also stated that the projects before the commission today for approval reflect the continued progress of protecting and restoring wetland habitats under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund.

She stated that today's slate of 19 U.S. projects involves 142 partners in 18 states with conservation activities that will impact over 104,000 acres of wetland habitat. The partners have contributed almost 65 million dollars. These results are based on NAWCA seed money of 16.9 million dollars. I am also pleased to report that the president included \$41,646,000 for NAWCA in the FY 2007 proposed budget. This is an increase of over 2.2 million dollars compared to the FY 2006 request to show his support of the work of this program.

Secretary Norton stated that over 6 months have passed since Hurricane Katrina which caused so much damage to the gulf coast area. At the last meeting in September, we heard about the immediate contributions from the Service and other departmental staff to address the most pressing needs of the area. The President submitted a supplemental budget request for 19.8 billion to Hurricane Katrina recovery of which over 132.4 million was used to repair damage to 30 National Wildlife Refuges. Today we will address a recommendation from the Wetlands Council to award additional funding for two specific wetlands projects. This recommendation will ensure that the previously awarded partnership grants will achieve and recognizes our long-term commitment to restore the natural systems damaged by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Secretary Norton stated that there was one additional item, I have just completed an appointment with the Wetlands Council, and to the newly-created Advisory Group for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Commission Members are already familiar with the valuable contributions of the Wetlands Council in partnership with this Commission. The Advisory Group provides similar council to the Neotropical Migratory Bird grant program, although it will not be attached to this Commission, I hope Commission Members will support this program.

Secretary Norton introduced Dale Hall, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announcing this as his 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Director Hall states that he has been with the Service for a few decades. He also stated that it was a pleasure to be here, and that he looks forward to working with you.

Secretary Norton moved on to Agenda Item A.

#### Agenda Item A

Secretary Norton called for approval of the September 21, 2005, meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved. Secretary Norton called on Mr. Alvarez to present the five Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals for consideration. With the aid of maps and video projections, Mr. Alvarez presented the acquisitions proposed in the program. Mr. Alvarez responded to questions about the individual proposals, as well as the regional representatives. Each state ex officio provided affirmative comments about the proposals within their representative states. The Commission's action for each proposal is given below.

#### ADDITION AND PRICE APPROVAL

MISSISQUOI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Franklin County, Vermont-Addition and price approval was granted for 10.1 acres in one ownership for the appraised value and recommended price of \$41,000 or \$4,059 per acre.

SAN BERNARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Brazoria County, Texas-Addition and price approval was granted for 2,132 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$2,391,000 or \$1,326 per acre.

Mr. Alvarez states that there has been a modification to the program and that we will be seeking approval for tract (90) because we could not reach agreement with the landowners on tract (89).

#### PRICE APPROVAL

CAPE MAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Cape May County, New Jersey-Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 31 acres in two ownerships for the appraised value and recommended price of \$28,800 or \$929 per acre.

EDWIN B. FORSYTH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean Counties, New Jersey-Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 19.69 acres in one ownership for the appraised value and recommended price of \$48,400 or \$2,458 per acre.

Mr. Lee Widjeskog states that the state of New Jersey recommends approval of this acquisition and states that the area shows a lot of stress due to development. Rep. Blanche Lincoln asks if the tract backs to the development and Mr. Widjeskog says, yes.

Rep. John Dingell had a question about the easement shown on the map and asks the terms of the easement and where we acquired it. Mr. Quist states that the easement came from AT&T and that the easement was a non-development easement in perpetuity.

On October 13, 1983, AT&T donated to the Fish and Wildlife Service a perpetual conservation easement on 2,413 acres of salt marsh and adjacent forested wetlands at the Barnegat Division of the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge.

NORTH CENTRAL VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, Butte, Colusa, Contra, Costa, Glenn, Placer, San Joaquin, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba Counties, California-Price approval was granted for a 316 acre easement in one ownership for the appraised value of \$520,000 or \$1,646 and recommended price of \$568,800 or \$1,800 per acre.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Dingell states that he did not know if this was the appropriate place to ask but that he had some questions about the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund status sheet in the program. Mr. Dingell asks, "What are the funds in the Direct Support Costs category used for?" Mr. Alvarez responds that they are used to pay for overhead costs such as salaries and other direct costs of managing the MBCF program. Mr. Alvarez says that we will provide more information at a later date.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) is responsible for considering, and approving for acquisition, areas of migratory bird habitat (other than waterfowl production areas) as submitted by regional offices and recommended by the Secretary. The *Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act* authorizes the Secretary to approve purchases of waterfowl production areas. To carry out these approved projects, MBCC funds support a staff of realty specialists, surveyors, realty assistants, cartographers and program managers. This staff performs detailed, legally technical duties including boundary surveys, mapping, landowner negotiations, title curative work, case closures, and post-acquisition tracking resulting from land acquisition at national wildlife refuges and waterfowl production areas with MBCC funding. In Fiscal Year 2005 these direct support costs were \$8,957,000 (originally estimated at \$9,900,000). In Fiscal Year 2006 the direct support cost are estimated at \$9,941,087. The actual direct support costs for Fiscal Year 2006 through April are \$4,114,201.

#### AGENDA ITEM B

#### NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Secretary Gale Norton introduced the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) portion of the meeting. Secretary Norton then introduced Ex Officio Commission member and

North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) member Michael Dennis (The Nature Conservancy). Mr. Dennis commented on the current slate of 35 U.S. and Mexican proposals and on the total number of projects approved by the Commission to date: over 1,600 projects totaling \$2.9B have been approved with a match ratio of more than 3:1. Mr. Dennis noted that the NAWCA program has been successful due to its focus on wildlife resource values and partner leverage. Mr. Dennis thanked the Commission for its part in securing a funding increase for Fiscal Year 2007. Mr. Dennis then introduced Ex Officio Commission member and Council member Mr. David Nomsen (Pheasants Forever). Mr. Nomsen commented on the critically important role that volunteers play in the NAWCA process. Their efforts often allow partnership leverage to achieve levels 4 to 5 times the NAWCA grant amount. Mr. Nomsen then commented on the recent hurricane damage in the Gulf Coast area and the long-term wetland protection and restoration projects supported by NAWCA funds in the area. The survival of these NAWCA projects reflects proper project planning and development. Mr. Nomsen noted the continued interest NAWCA has in the Gulf Coast area with three new Gulf Coast proposals on the current slate and additional funding being requested for two additional proposals previously approved by the Commission.

Mr. Nomsen then introduced Council Coordinator Smith. Coordinator Smith presented a brief overview of the status of the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund. Coordinator Smith then presented the Council's recommended slate of 16 Mexican proposals (NAWCA funds = \$2,530,405; partner contributions = \$3,831,130) and 19 U.S. standard grant proposals (NAWCA funds = \$16,991,783; partner contributions = \$64,977,248). Senator Lincoln asked if the two Gulf Coast projects requesting additional funding were part of the U.S. standard grant proposal slate. Coordinator Smith indicated they were separate proposals. Representative Dingell then asked if these two additional funding proposals involved new, additional project objectives. Coordinator Smith indicated that the additional funds were to be used to achieve the original objectives approved by the Commission. Representative Dingell supported this focus, indicating that wetlands protection was of great value to all fish and wildlife in the Gulf area and that NAWCA funds should be used for wildlife resources and not the building of flood protection levees and buildings. Coordinator Smith presented pictures of several of the NAWCA proposal sites. Mr. Nomsen commented on a slide of the James River Lowlands II proposal showing the destruction of native prairie grassland habitat that the proposal will help prevent through habitat acquisition. Mr. Nomsen indicated that Pheasants Forever is addressing the importance of the loss of native prairie grasslands and is proposing to use increased Duck Stamp revenues for the protection of these habitats. Representative Dingell asked about the acquisition involved with the Middle Missouri River II proposal. Coordinator Smith indicated that the acquisitions are all fee title and will be held by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Representative Dingell then asked about the actual work involved with the Lafitte Terracing Project and who will own the terraced wetlands. Coordinator Smith indicated that NAWCA funds will be used to construct earthen terraces placed across open areas of shallow water. The terraces will minimize wave activity within the wetlands, allowing submerged aquatic vegetation to establish itself and minimizing the erosion impact of waves upon the existing shoreline. A mix of landowners will own the proposal tracts, each operating under a management plan. Senator Lincoln asked if the landowners will be responsible for the maintenance of the terraces. Coordinator Smith indicated that they would be responsible. The entire slate of projects presented, having sufficient non-Federal partner dollars to match the NAWCF request, was recommended for approval by Senator



Lincoln and seconded by Representative Dingell. The slate was approved by unanimous vote.

Coordinator Smith provided a handout outlining the evaluation and recommendation process Council followed to determine whether additional funding was required for on-going NAWCA projects in the Gulf Coast area impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and/or Rita. Council recommended two projects (Chenier Plain Coastal Wetlands, LA, and Pointe-aux-Chenes Hydrologic Restoration, LA) receive a total of \$367,750 in additional NAWCA funding to complete original project objectives. Secretary Norton indicated that Commission policy is to not fund cost overruns. However, the situation involving these two projects is unusual due to the magnitude of the storm damage involved. Senator Lincoln noted that both projects were approved by the Commission two to three years ago and may have been completed. Coordinator Smith indicated that both projects were still active, and not considered complete. Although, the actual levee construction had been accomplished prior to the storms, vegetative cover had not yet become sufficient to prevent substantial storm damage. Senator Lincoln questioned if other projects in the area had been given similar consideration. Coordinator Smith indicated that all open projects were offered the opportunity to request additional funds, but that only three projects responded to the Council request for information. The third project did not involve storm damage and was not recommended by Council. Commission member Benjamin Grumbles (EPA) commended Ducks Unlimited on their leadership in the storm evaluation process. The additional funding request was recommended for approval by Senator Lincoln and seconded by Commission member David Gagner (Department of Agriculture). The request was approved by unanimous vote.

Coordinator Smith provided a picture of the winning 2006 Junior Duck Stamp and reminded the Commission that the next contest will be held on April 20, 2006.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Director Hall noted that May 14, 2006 will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). In recognition of the contributions that the Commission has made in protecting and restoring wetland habitat, a framed commemorative NAWMP 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary limited edition poster will be presented to each Commission member.

Chairman Norton adjourned the meeting at 9:57 a.m.



MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2006

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MEMORANDUM "A"


MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

The Minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting held on September 13, 2006, have been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these Minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MAR 14 2007

  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2006**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, September 13, 2006, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

- HON. DIRK KEMPTHORNE, Secretary, Department of the Interior, Chairman
- HON. LYNN P. SCARLETT, Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior, Acting Chairman
- HON. BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, Senator from Arkansas
- HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, Representative from Michigan
- HON. BENJAMIN GRUMBLES, Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency
- MS. MELISSA SIMPSON, Counselor to the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Agriculture

The following State *Ex Officio* members were present:

- MR. JASON ROHLOFF, DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE
- MR. MARK L. HOFFMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION, WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE SERVICE, MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
- MR. DAN BEATTIE, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE
- MR. SHERIDAN BROWN, PROJECTS ASSISTANT, U.S. SENATOR JOHN SUNUNU'S OFFICE, MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
- DR. ROBERT D. DEBLINGER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
- MS. MEGAN DeMERS, LEGISLATIVE AIDE, SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY'S OFFICE, STATE OF VERMONT, WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE

- MS. GINNY WORREST, SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR, SENATOR OLYMPIA J. SNOWE'S OFFICE, STATE OF MAINE, WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE
- MR. JEFF RAASCH, PROGRAM LEADER, STATE WETLAND AND JOINT VENTURE, TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
- MR. RICHARD JOHNSON, WETLANDS PROGRAM COORDINATOR, ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION
- MR. LEE WIDJESKOG, REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
- MR. ERIC L. SWEDLUND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE
- DR. JOHN MAJOR, CHIEF, BUREAU OF WILDLIFE, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *Ex Officio* members were present:

- MR. MICHAEL DENNIS, Vice President for Conservation Real Estate and Private Lands, The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVID NOMSEN, Vice President of Governmental Affairs, Pheasants Forever, St. Paul, Minnesota

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

- MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Chairman was present:

- MR. DAVID A. SMITH, Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and other agencies were present:

- MR. DAVID M. VERHEY, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior
- MS. SHEILA TOOZE, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OFFICER, EMBASSY OF CANADA
- MR. DAVID EVANS, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF WETLANDS, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
- MR. TOM CASSIDY, DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

MR. SCOTT SUTHERLAND, DUCKS UNLIMITED, WASHINGTON, D.C.

MR. WEST HIGGINBOTHOM, Professional Staff Member, Senator Cochran's Office

MS. KATIE MURTHA, Legislative Director, Congressman Dingell's Office

MS. MARGARET LEMMERMAN, Legislative Assistant, Congressman Weldon's Office

MS. HANNAH SMITH, Legislative Assistant, Senator Lincoln's Office

MR. KENNETH STANSELL, Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

MR. GEOFFREY L. HASKETT, Acting Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service

MR. PAUL SCHMIDT, Assistant Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Fish and Wildlife Service

MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

MR. DOUG VANDEGRAFT, Chief Cartographer, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

MS. LATOYA BERRIEN, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

MS. ANN GREEN, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

MS. TAMAR HOGAN, Realty Specialist, Acting Migratory Bird Conservation Commission Coordinator, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

MS. MARY THERESE ONE BEAR, Senior Realty Specialist, R2, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico

MR. PATRICK CARROLL, Realty Officer, R3, Fish and Wildlife Service, Minneapolis, Minnesota

MS. LOIS LAWSON, Senior Realty Specialist, R3, Fish and Wildlife Service, Minneapolis, Minnesota

MR. DON KLEVEN, Senior Realty Specialist, R3, Fish and Wildlife Service, Minneapolis, Minnesota

MR. DAVID BENNETT, Refuge Manager, Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge, Fish and Wildlife Service, State of Minnesota

- MR. JOHN HARTIG, Refuge Manager, Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, Fish and Wildlife Service, State of Michigan
- MS. SUE OLIVEIRA, Realty Officer, R4, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MS. KIMBERLY ELDRIDGE, Lead Cartographer, Division of Realty, R4, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. WILLIAM C. PORTER, Branch Chief, Acquisition, Division of Realty, R5, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MR. STEVEN LAY, Senior Realty Specialist, Sacramento Realty Field Office, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. NICHOLAS THROCKMORTON, Public Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. JOSHUA WINCHELL, Public Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Deputy Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. CLINTON RILEY, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DAVID BUIE, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. SARAH MOTT, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. KATHLEEN KUTSCHENREUTER, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency
- MR. KYLE CHAPMAN, Congressman Dingell's Office

#### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Secretary Kempthorne called the meeting to order once a quorum was assembled. He welcomed the Commission members, State ex officio members, and others attending the meeting. Secretary Kempthorne thanked everyone for coming and asked each participant to introduce himself.

Secretary Kempthorne discussed the Migratory Bird Conservation Act portion of the program. He stated Fish and Wildlife Service staff members and officers had been actively working with willing sellers to bring us the slate of 14 Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals which will permanently conserve valuable migratory bird habitat. Waterfowl species such as the Northern pintail, American black duck, and blue- and green-winged teal will be positively impacted by the acquisition of these lands and interests in lands. We are thankful for these efforts and commend the Service and the many landowners for their dedication and commitment to our lands, waters, and migratory bird resources.

He mentioned a very exciting project on the slate was the proposal to add Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge as a new Migratory Bird Conservation Commission Refuge. The Refuge is located in the prairie pothole region of Minnesota and was created in 2004 to preserve and restore prairie wetland and grassland

habitats to benefit migratory waterfowl and other migratory birds. He also mentioned that today's proposal would include price approval to acquire two tracts at Glacial Ridge NWR, totaling 402 acres.

Secretary Kempthorne then discussed the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) portion of the program. He stated the slate of 4 Canadian grants and 26 U.S. Standard grants reflect the continued progress in protecting and restoring wetland habitats across North America. The U.S. Standard grant projects involve a total of 166 partners working together on activities that will impact over 200,000 acres of wetland and wetland-associated habitat. The partners will contribute almost \$130 million to these efforts, including over \$55 million in obligated matching funds. All of these results are based on the NAWCA "seed money" of \$23.6 million, typifying the outstanding return on investment of Federal funds.

Secretary Kempthorne mentioned as we take action on these habitat projects today, that 2006 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of two important conservation landmarks: The Conservation Reserve Program and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Both initiatives created new and unique avenues for long-term cooperative conservation. They are important conservation counterparts to the work of the Commission through the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, and we join in celebrating their anniversary.

Secretary Kempthorne then introduced the Acting Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Mr. Kenneth Stansell. Acting Director Stansell welcomed Commission members and the Secretary, and said today's program demonstrates the importance of partnerships and cooperative conservation with both the Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant proposals. He said we are very excited to see the depth of the program today. As Secretary Kempthorne mentioned in his remarks, the Fish and Wildlife Service staff members and officers have been actively working with willing landowners to bring the Commission the slate of 14 Migratory Bird Conservation Act land acquisition proposals. Since the Commission's creation in 1929, the Fish and Wildlife Service has acquired over 4 million acres by fee purchase, easement, or lease with monies from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund.

Acting Director Stansell said that NAWCA continues to be popular because it is voluntary, partner-oriented, and extremely efficient. By acting on today's slate of recommendations, the Commission will already be approving the first cycle of NAWCA grants to be funded for Fiscal Year 2007. Through the support of the Wetlands Council and the Commission, the program continues to make sure that grant funds are fully approved and available to grant recipients during the same fiscal year they are made available to the program. The migratory bird and wetland resources that have been protected through the work of the Commission are exemplary and the Fish and Wildlife Service is indebted to you for your role in our accomplishments.

Secretary Kempthorne thanked the Director and called for approval of the March 8, 2006, meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved. Then he moved on to Agenda Item A.

#### Agenda Item A

#### MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT PROPOSALS

Secretary Kempthorne called on Mr. Alvarez to present the fourteen Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals for consideration. With the aid of video projections, Mr. Alvarez presented the proposed acquisitions in the program. Mr. Alvarez and the respective regional representatives responded to questions about the individual proposals. Each State ex officio member provided affirmative comments about the proposals within their states. Motions were made for approval of each Migratory Bird



Conservation Act proposal, and each was approved unanimously. The Commission approved the following proposals:

**NEW MBCC REFUGE AND PRICE APPROVAL**

GLACIAL RIDGE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Polk County, Minnesota – Boundary approval was granted for the 35,756-acre Refuge boundary, in fee and easement, and price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 402 acres, in two ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$312,500, or \$777 per acre.

**ADDITION AND PRICE APPROVALS**

BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Dorchester County, Maryland – Addition and price approval were granted for the fee title acquisition of 295 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,180,000 or \$4,000 per acre.

DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Wayne and Monroe Counties, Michigan – Addition and price approval were granted for the fee title acquisition of 63 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$505,700 or \$8,027 per acre. The Commission contribution to the purchase price was also approved as \$149,068, or \$2,366 per acre.

LAKE UMBAGOG NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Coos County, New Hampshire; Oxford County, Maine – Addition and price approval were granted for the fee title acquisition of 392 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$382,000 or \$974 per acre.

SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE, Mill River Division, Hampshire County, Massachusetts – Boundary approval was granted for the 2,000-acre Mill River Division addition to the Refuge, in fee and easement, and price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 107 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$235,400 or \$2,200 per acre.

SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE, Nulhegan Basin Division, Essex County, Vermont – Boundary approval was granted for the 120-acre addition to the Refuge and price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 76 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$59,000 or \$776 per acre.

SUNKHAZE MEADOWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Penobscot County, Maine – Boundary approval was granted for the 184-acre addition to the Refuge and price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 219 acres, in one ownership, for the recommended price of \$109,500 or \$500 per acre.

TRINITY RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Liberty County, Texas – Addition and price approval were granted for the fee title acquisition of 470 acres, in two ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$279,300 or \$594 per acre.

WHITE RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Arkansas, Desha, Monroe, and Phillips Counties, Arkansas – Boundary approval was granted for the 172,924-acre Refuge boundary, and price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 226 acres, in two ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$459,500 or \$2,033 per acre.

## PRICE APPROVALS

EDWIN B. FORSYTHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Atlantic, Burlington, and Ocean Counties, New Jersey – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 98 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$420,000 or \$4,286 per acre.

GRASSLANDS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, Merced County, California – Price approval was granted for the acquisition of a perpetual conservation easement consisting of 248.27 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$474,940 or \$1,913 per acre.

MONTEZUMA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Cayuga, Seneca, and Wayne Counties, New York – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 476 acres, in two ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$617,808 or \$1,298 per acre.

NORTH CENTRAL VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Glenn, Placer, San Joaquin, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba Counties, California – Price approval was granted for the acquisition of a perpetual conservation easement consisting of 798.80 acres, in one ownership, for the recommended price of \$1,405,888 or \$1,760 per acre.

OVERFLOW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Ashley County, Arkansas – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 382 acres, in two ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$536,000 or \$1,403 per acre.

Secretary Kempthorne introduced Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett who served as Acting Chairman for the remainder of the meeting. Deputy Secretary Scarlett moved on to Agenda Item B.

### Agenda Item B

#### NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT PROPOSALS

Deputy Secretary Scarlett introduced the NAWCA portion of the meeting. Deputy Secretary Scarlett then introduced ex officio Commission member and North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) member Michael Dennis (The Nature Conservancy). Mr. Dennis commented on the current slate of 30 U.S. and Canadian proposals and on the high match that partners have historically maintained in NAWCA proposals. He also noted the various types of partners who participate, including corporations, private landowners, Native American tribes, government agencies and non-government conservation organizations. He acknowledged Representative Dingell's longstanding support for NAWCA. He also commented on the constant desire by Council to assure that NAWCA program goals are being accomplished, highlighted by a Canadian presentation during the July 2006 Council meeting that outlined the scientific basis for the Canadian program and their accomplishments to date. Mr. Dennis then introduced ex officio Commission member and Council member Mr. David Nomsen (Pheasants Forever). Mr. Nomsen commented on the variety of conservation activities involved in the NAWCA slate. He also noted the importance of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program, currently celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and how these efforts support and complement NAWCA efforts. Finally, Mr. Nomsen noted the recent passage of the 5-year reauthorization of NAWCA by the House of Representatives, along with the hope that the Senate will take similar action in the near future.

Mr. Nomsen then introduced Council Coordinator Smith. Coordinator Smith noted that during the June 2006 meeting, Representative Weldon had expressed interest in the outreach effort to Congress on behalf of the NAWCA Small Grant program. Coordinator Smith noted that Council had discussed the

importance of effective outreach during their July 2006 meeting, in response to Representative Weldon's comment, and he summarized some of the current outreach steps as well as planned improvements.

Coordinator Smith, noting that the current slate was the first cycle in FY 2007, presented a brief overview of the status of the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund (NAWCF). Coordinator Smith then presented the Council's recommended slate of four Canadian proposals (NAWCA funds \$5,400,000; partner contributions \$7,514,745, including \$5,400,000 in matching funds and \$2,114,745 in non-matching funds) and 26 U.S. standard grant proposals (NAWCA funds \$23,589,380; partner contributions \$129,605,695, including \$56,052,066 in matching funds and \$73,553,629 in non-matching funds). The entire slate of projects presented, having sufficient non-Federal partner dollars to match the NAWCF request, was recommended for approval by Commission member Benjamin Grumbles, Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and seconded by Senator Lincoln. The slate was approved by unanimous vote.

Deputy Secretary Scarlett then asked if there were any comments from the attendees. Assistant Administrator Grumbles noted the success of these programs and that EPA was pleased to be a part of these voluntary conservation actions. Scott Sutherland, Ducks Unlimited, Inc. noted a new Congressional caucus – the National Wildlife Refuge Caucus – was scheduled to have its initial meeting on September 14. He noted the caucus was supported by 90 members of Congress as well as over 20 non-government conservation organizations and would serve as an advocate of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Deputy Secretary Scarlett adjourned the meeting.



MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2007

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MEMORANDUM "A"

MEETING MINUTES JUNE 13, 2007

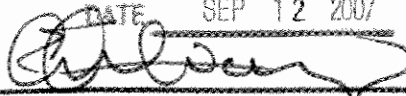
The Minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting held on June 13, 2007, have been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these

Minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DATE SEP 12 2007



SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON JUNE 13, 2007**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, June 13, 2007, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

HON. DAVID VERHEY, Acting Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks,  
Department of the Interior, Chairman

HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi

HON. BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, Senator from Arkansas

HON. JOHN DINGELL, Representative from Michigan

MR. MARK REY, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment,  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

MR. DAVID EVANS, Director, Wetlands Division, Office of Water,  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The following State *Ex Officio* members were present:

MR. BILL CRENSHAW, Wildlife Biologist, Vermont Department of Fish and Game

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *Ex Officio* members were present:

MR. MICHAEL DENNIS, Vice President for Conservation Real Estate and Private  
Lands,  
The Nature Conservancy

MR. JEFFERY TRANDAHL, Executive Director, National Fish and Wildlife  
Foundation

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Chairman was present:

MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Acting Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation,  
Fish and Wildlife Service

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and partner agencies were present:

MR. H. DALE HALL, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

MR. GEOFFREY L. HASKETT, Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System,  
Fish and Wildlife Service

MR. PAUL SCHMIDT, Assistant Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Fish  
and Wildlife Service

MS. HANNAH SMITH, Legislative Assistant, Senator Lincoln's Office

MS. KATHLEEN KUTSCHENREUTER, Wetlands Division, Office of Wetlands,  
Oceans and Watersheds, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

MR. SCOTT SUTHERLAND, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.

MS. RODECIA MCKNIGHT-GRIFFIN, Grant Administrator, Division of Bird  
Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service

MS. AMBER HERMAN, Duck Stamp Office, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation,  
Fish and Wildlife Service

MS. SARAH MOTT, Grant Administrator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation,  
Fish and Wildlife Service

MR. JOSHUA WINCHELL, Division of Public Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service

MR. WEST HIGGINBOTHOM, Professional Staff Member, Senator Cochran's Office

MS. KATIE MURTHA, Legislative Director, Congressman Dingell's Office

MR. WALTER J. QUIST, Realty Officer, R5, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley,  
Massachusetts

MR. CLINTON RILEY, Branch Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish  
and Wildlife Service

- MS. BONNIE GAUKLER, Grant Proposal Development, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. LAURIE M. SHAFFER, Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DAVID BUIE, NAWCA Council Staff, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. STEVEN BEKKERUS, Senior Legislative Specialist, Division of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DOUG VANDEGRAFT, Chief Cartographer, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. ANN GREEN, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. TAMAR TOLLIVER HOGAN, Realty Specialist, Acting Migratory Bird Conservation Commission Coordinator, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DONOVAN SHERFIELD, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

#### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Acting Chairman Verhey called the meeting to order once a quorum was assembled. He welcomed the permanent Commission members by introducing them individually, and then asked the State ex officio member from Vermont and North American Wetlands Conservation Council (NAWCC) ex officio members to each introduce themselves. Chairman Verhey mentioned that Ms. Sheila Tooze, Environment and Fisheries Officer, Embassy of Canada, and Mr. Alejandro Posada, Director for the Office of North America, Embassy of Mexico, were not able to attend the meeting. He then thanked everyone for coming and gave general remarks.

The Chairman remarked that the Department of the Interior and the Fish and Wildlife Service partnered with the National Zoo to host the National Junior Duck Stamp Contest this past April in conjunction with the Zoo's International Migratory Bird Day educational activities. He mentioned that he attended the Contest and appreciated having the opportunity to call the winner, Paul Willy, to tell him he had won the Contest. Paul's beautiful depiction of a pair of American widgeons he calls "An Elegant Pair," will grace the new National Junior Duck Stamp. Chairman Verhey also mentioned that Paul had won the art contest but also took first place honors for his



conservation message, "Conservation is the key to a better environment for all." He finished his remarks by saying that the Junior Duck Stamp Contest was a great success and it enable us to reach many people who may not otherwise be aware of this outstanding educational program.

Chairman Verhey then introduced the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Mr. H. Dale Hall. Director Hall welcomed Commission members and thanked everyone for being here. The Director mentioned that last year he participated in his first Federal and Junior Duck Stamp First Day of Sale celebrations as Director and that this year, the Federal Duck Stamp First Day of Sale will be held at Bass Pro Shops headquarters in Springfield, Missouri on June 22. He said that Bass Pro Shops will hold simultaneous First Day of Sale events at each and every Bass Pro Shops Retail sore – at some forty different locations throughout the country, and encouraged every one to attend one of these local celebrations.

Director Hall also mentioned that the Secretary to the Commission will present land acquisition proposals at four refuges and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council will present today's slate of NAWCA grant proposals which reflect the continued variety of wetlands conservation activities funded under NAWCA. Today we are recommending 59 high-quality wetland conservation projects, including 51 Small Grants projects in the U.S., and 8 Canadian wetland conservation projects. These projects include fee-title acquisition; perpetual conservation easements; wetlands restoration, enhancement and establishment; and the protection and management of wetlands-associated uplands.

Chairman Verhey thanked the Director and called for approval of the March 14, 2007, meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved. Then he moved on to Agenda Item A.

#### Agenda Item A

#### MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT PROPOSALS

Chairman Verhey called on Commission Secretary Alvarez to present the four Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals for consideration. With the aid of video projections, Mr. Alvarez presented the proposed acquisitions in the program. Mr. Alvarez and the respective regional representative responded to questions about the individual proposals. Motions were made for approval of each Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposal, and each was approved unanimously. The Commission approved the following proposals:

#### ADDITION AND PRICE APPROVALS

MISSISQUOI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Franklin County, Vermont – Addition and price approval were granted for the fee title acquisition of 156 acres in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$250,000 or \$1,602 per acre.

## PRICE RE-APPROVALS

HALFBREED LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REGUGE, Stillwater County, Montana – Price re-approval was granted for the renewal of a state lease for 640 acres, for a 10-year term, for the recommended annual rent of \$1,512 or \$2 per acre.

OURAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REGUGE, Uintah County, Utah – Price re-approval was granted for the renewal of a state lease for 1,141 acres, for a 20-year term, for the recommended annual rent of \$6,000 or \$5 per acre.

PANTHER SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REGUGE, Yazoo County, Mississippi – Price re-approval was granted for the renewal of a state lease for 640 acres, for a 5-year term, for the recommended annual rent of \$16,320 or \$26 per acre.

### Agenda Item B

#### NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Verhey introduced the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) portion of the meeting, commencing with introduction of Ex Officio member and North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) member Mike Dennis, The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Mr. Dennis commented on the current slate of Canadian proposals and highlighted the wetland conservation activities the combined NAWCA funding and partner funding will accomplish in Canada. Mr. Dennis then introduced Ex Officio member and Council member Mr. Jeff Trandahl, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Mr. Trandahl commented on the U.S. Small Grant proposals on the current slate and highlighted the importance of the U.S. Small Grant program in developing new conservation partners and initiatives. Mr. Trandahl noted that due to the high number of quality U.S. Small Grant proposals, the total grants designated for approval by the Council would exceed the Commission's approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 spending level of \$2 million. He noted that the Commission would have to approve \$1,280,933 in additional funding to fully fund the 51-project slate.

Mr. Trandahl then introduced Council Coordinator Mike Johnson, who noted that this was the last NAWCA cycle for FY 2007. Coordinator Johnson described three actions requested of the Commission: approval of the Canadian slate, approval of additional funding to fully fund the FY 2007 Small Grant slate, and approval of the FY 2008 Small Grant funding level. Coordinator Johnson presented a brief overview of the status of the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund (NAWCF). He then presented the Council's recommended slate of eight Canadian standard grant proposals (NAWCA funds = \$17,957,337; partner contributions = \$25,509,337). Coordinator Johnson then presented the FY 2007 Small Grant slate as approved by Council under the approved funding allocation of \$2,000,000 (31 projects; NAWCA funds = \$1,976,980; total partner contributions = \$14,575,605). He noted that Commission approval would be necessary in order to provide an additional \$1,280,933 to fund 20 more Small Grant proposals approved by Council (total partner funding = \$5,975,367).

Coordinator Johnson then indicated a second motion would be needed to approve the Council requested FY 2008 Small Grant funding level of \$2,500,000.

Senator Lincoln asked about the percentage of acquisition activity involved in the Canadian proposals. Coordinator Johnson indicated the amount varies by project and referenced the Canadian summary table in the meeting book. Senator Lincoln then asked if the additional funding for small grants will come from the FY 2007 NAWCF. Coordinator Johnson affirmed this. Mr. Dingell asked who owned the land purchased in Canada using NAWCA funding. Coordinator Johnson indicated that only the Canadian partners involved in the proposals own/manage the acquired land and that provisions in the grant agreements protect NAWCA interests. Additionally, the NAWCC Canada reviews the agreement details prior to purchase. Mr. Dingell then asked about the duration of the easement acquisitions involved in the Canadian slate. Coordinator Johnson indicated that these vary, ranging from perpetual easements, to some 15- and 30-year easements. Senator Lincoln asked if the perpetual easements are maintained by non-government organizations (NGO), such as TNC Canada. Coordinator Johnson affirmed this was the case. Mr. Dingell asked if there was an affiliation with TNC and TNC Canada. Ex Officio member Dennis indicated there was no direct affiliation but that the organizations worked closely together. Environmental Protection Agency Commission member Evans noted his appreciation for the important conservation work accomplished by NGOs. The Commission voted an unanimously approved the NAWCA slate.

Secretary Alvarez provided the initial details for a Commission trip outside of Washington, DC. The tentative schedule is for the Commission to visit the Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge in Fall 2007. Senator Lincoln indicated the visit should be a Monday or Friday. Secretary Alvarez indicated that planning would continue and updated information would be provided to the Commission members in the near future.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:25.



MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2007

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MEMORANDUM "A"

MEETING MINUTES MARCH 14, 2007

The Minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting held on March 14, 2007, have been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these

Minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DATE 6/15/07

  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON MARCH 14, 2007**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, March 14, 2007, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

- HON. DAVID VERHEY, Acting Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks,  
Department of the Interior, Acting Chairman
- HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi
- HON. BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, Senator from Arkansas
- HON. MARK REY, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment,  
Department of Agriculture
- HON. BENJAMIN GRUMBLES, Assistant Administrator, Office of Water,  
Environmental Protection Agency

The following State *Ex Officio* members were present:

- MR. KURT ALT, Regional Wildlife Manager, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife  
& Parks
- DR. MICHAEL BERGER, Director of Wildlife Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife  
Department
- MR. RICHARD JOHNSON, Wetlands Program Coordinator, Arkansas Game and Fish  
Commission
- MR. LARRY REYNOLDS, North American Waterfowl Management Plan  
Coordinator, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- MR. WEST HIGGINBOTHOM, Professional Staff Member, Senator Cochran's Office
- MR. LEE WIDJESKOG, Regional Superintendent, Bureau of Land Management, New  
Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
- MR. WAYNE F. MACCALLUM, Director, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and  
Wildlife

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *Ex Officio* members were present:

- MR. WAYNE F. MACCALLUM, Director, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
- MR. JEFFERY TRANDAHL, Executive Director, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

- MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator was present:

- MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Acting Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Canada, Mexico, and partner agencies were present:

- MS. SHEILA TOOZE, Environmental Affairs Officer, Embassy of Canada
- DR. MARTIN VARGAS PRIETO, Director General of Wildlife, SEMARNAT, Embassy of Mexico
- MR. RICHARD CLIFTON, Federal Duck Stamp Winner, Milton, Delaware
- MS. HANNAH SMITH, Legislative Assistant, Senator Lincoln's Office
- MS. KIMBERLEE TRZECIAK, Legislative Assistant, Congressman Dingell's Office
- MR. LEN UGARENKO, North American Waterfowl Management Plan Coordinator, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- MR. RICHARD PRATT, Chief, NABCI – NAWMP Coordination Division, Canadian Wildlife Service
- DR. ROBERT D. DEBLINGER, Deputy Director, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
- MS. KATHLEEN KUTSCHENREUTER, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency

MS. CHRISTY PLUMER, Senior Policy Advisor, The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, Virginia

MR. SCOTT SUTHERLAND, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.

DR. J. JASPER LAMENT, Manager of Conservation Programs, Ducks Unlimited, Memphis, Tennessee

MR. JOE BREIDENBACK, Ducks Unlimited, Minnesota

MS. NORMA FERRIZ, Pronatura Veracruz, Mexico

MR. ALFONSO BANDA, Pronatura Noreste, A.C., Mexico

MS. JANET NAUGHTON, Special Assistant to the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior

MR. H. DALE HALL, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

MR. RANDALL LUTHI, Deputy Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

MR. JEROME FORD, Special Assistant, Fish and Wildlife Service

MR. GEOFFREY L. HASKETT, Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service

MR. PAUL SCHMIDT, Assistant Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Fish and Wildlife Service

MR. RIESLEY "RICK" JONES, Realty Officer, R2, Albuquerque, New Mexico

MS. SUE OLIVEIRA, Realty Officer, R4, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia

MS. SHEILA FORD, Realty Specialist, R4, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia

MR. WALTER J. QUIST, Realty Officer, R5, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts

MS. MIRIAM J. MAZEL, Realty Operations Manager, R6, Division of Realty, Lakewood, Colorado

MR. GARY SULLIVAN, Supervisory Realty Specialist, R6, Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Falls, Montana



- MR. RANDY GAZDA, Realty Specialist, R6, Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Falls, Montana
- MR. ROBERT SEVERSON, Aberdeen Wetlands Acquisition Office, Aberdeen, South Dakota
- MR. ROBERT FLORES, Acting Deputy Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. CLINTON RILEY, Branch Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. BONNIE GAUKLER, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. PAT FISHER, Chief, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. LAURIE M. SHAFFER, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DAVID BUIE, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. ELLEN MURPHY, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DAVID A. SMITH, Contractor, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. CHRISTINE EUSTIS, Chief, Division of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. STEVEN BEKKERUS, Senior Legislative Specialist, Division of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DOUG VANDEGRAFT, Chief Cartographer, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. JAMES EAGLESOME, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

- MS. ANN GREEN, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. TAMAR HOGAN, Realty Specialist, Acting Migratory Bird Conservation Commission Coordinator, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DONOVAN SHERFIELD, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. LaVONDA WALTON, Photographer, Fish and Wildlife Service

### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Acting Chairman Verhey called the meeting to order once a quorum was assembled. He welcomed the permanent Commission members by introducing them individually, and then asked the State ex officio members, North American Wetlands Conservation Council (NAWCC) ex officio members, and representatives from Mexico and Canada to each introduce themselves. Chairman Verhey then introduced the winner of the Federal Duck Stamp contest, Mr. Richard Clifton of Milton, Delaware. He thanked everyone for coming and gave general remarks.

The Federal Duck Stamp Program celebrates the **art** of conservation. Federal Duck Stamps are a visual depiction of our precious natural resources. Not only are Duck Stamps a required purchase for every waterfowl hunter 16 years or older in the United States, but they are also miniature works of art that raise millions of dollars for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund for purchasing wetlands and waterfowl habitat. In October, 2006, Richard Clifton won the Federal Duck Stamp competition. His depiction of a pair of ring-necked ducks was chosen from nearly 300 paintings and will grace the 2007-2008 Federal Duck Stamp. Chairman Verhey pointed to a framed print of Richard's winning art that was displayed in the meeting room. Richard is a terrific ambassador for the Federal Duck Stamp program. On Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, he will serve as the head judge for the National Junior Duck Stamp competition, which will be held at the National Zoo in conjunction with the Zoo's International Migratory Bird Day educational activities. Partnering with the National Zoo is enabling the Department of the Interior and the Fish and Wildlife Service to reach many people who may not otherwise be aware of this outstanding educational program. The Junior Duck Stamp program is modeled on the Federal Duck Stamp program and is a great way to get children connected with their natural world, engaging them with a science-based curriculum that teaches conservation principles. Students reinforce these important lessons by submitting a drawing or painting of a duck or goose to a state art contest. The best art in each state is judged in a national contest, and the winning artwork is made into the Junior Duck Stamp, which sells for \$5 and supports environmental education. The Junior Duck Stamp program is helping to shape future conservationists by instilling in children an appreciation for the natural world.

Chairman Verhey then introduced the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Mr. H. Dale Hall. Director Hall welcomed Commission members and thanked everyone for being here. He then gave remarks. In our last meeting, I mentioned how important our partnerships are and

today's program demonstrates the importance of them, with both the Migratory Bird Conservation Act land acquisition proposals and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant proposals. In Fiscal Year 2006, the Department obligated over \$9 million Migratory Bird Conservation Funds to the tune of almost 15,000 acres in major migratory bird conservation areas, all approved by the Commission.

This morning, Commission Secretary Alvarez will present land acquisition proposals at eight refuges within the four migratory bird flyways. Several waterfowl species will benefit, including Northern Pintail, Gadwall, Canvasback, Scaup, Green- and Blue-winged Teal, and the American Black Duck. The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator will present today's slate of NAWCA grant proposals which reflect the continued variety of wetlands conservation activities funded under NAWCA. Today we are recommending 21 projects in the U.S. and 13 projects in Mexico. These projects include fee title acquisition; perpetual conservation easements; wetlands restoration, enhancement and establishment; and the protection and management of wetlands-associated uplands.

The NAWCA projects are the result of partnerships – the basis of the NAWCA program – which continues to be very popular because it is voluntary, partner-oriented and efficient. The migratory bird and wetland resources that have been protected through the work of the Commission are exemplary and the Fish and Wildlife Service is indebted to you for your role in our accomplishments.

Chairman Verhey thanked the Director and called for approval of the September 13, 2006, meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved. Then he moved on to Agenda Item A.

#### Agenda Item A

#### **MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT PROPOSALS**

Chairman Verhey called on Mr. Alvarez to present the eight Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals for consideration. With the aid of video projections, Mr. Alvarez presented the program proposals. Mr. Alvarez and the respective regional representatives responded to questions about the individual proposals. Each State ex officio member provided affirmative comments about the proposals within their states. Motions were made for approval of each Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposal, and each was approved unanimously. The Commission approved the following proposals:

#### **ADDITION AND PRICE APPROVALS**

RED ROCK LAKES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Beaverhead County, Montana – Boundary approval was granted for 320 acres and price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 3,784 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$6,210,000 or \$1,641 per acre. Price approval was also granted for a 10-year State lease of 3,266 acres, for the recommended price of \$12,505 per year for the remaining nine years on the lease.

SAN BERNARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Brazoria and Fort Bend Counties, Texas – Addition and price approval were granted for the fee title acquisition of 46 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$357,000 or \$7,761 per acre.

### **PRICE APPROVALS**

BALD KNOB NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, White County, Arkansas – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 212 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$425,000 or \$2,005 per acre.

CAT ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 850 acres, in one ownership, for the recommended price of \$1,755,000 or \$2,065 per acre.

COLDWATER RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Quitman and Tallahatchie Counties, Mississippi – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 320 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$768,000 or \$2,400 per acre.

EDWIN B. FORSYTHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Atlantic, Burlington, and Ocean Counties, New Jersey – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 85 acres, in two ownerships, for the recommended price of \$966,667 or \$11,373 per acre. The Commission's contribution to the purchase price is \$250,000, or \$2,941 per acre.

PANTHER SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Yazoo County, Mississippi – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 800 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$2,200,000 or \$2,750 per acre.

### **PRICE RE-APPROVAL**

SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE, Mill River Division, Hampshire County, Massachusetts – Price re-approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 149 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$327,360 or \$2,200 per acre.

The Chairman asked if there was any other business regarding the MBCA proposals. Then he moved on to Agenda Item B, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act proposals.

### **Agenda Item B**

#### **NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

Chairman Verhey introduced the North American Wetlands Conservation Act portion of the meeting, commencing with introductions of ex officio Commission member and North American Wetlands Conservation Council member Wayne MacCallum, Director, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Mr. MacCallum commented on the current slate of 21 U.S. proposals

and on the total number of projects approved by the Commission to date: over 1,800 projects totaling over \$3.1 billion with a match ratio of more than 3:1. Mr. MacCallum noted that the NAWCA program has been successful due to its focus on wildlife resource values and partner leverage. Mr. MacCallum then introduced Ex Officio Commission member and Council member Mr. Jeff Trandahl, Executive Director, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Mr. Trandahl commented on the 13 Mexican proposals on the current slate and observed that the number of landscape level projects impacting multiple states is increasing in Mexico along with the amount of partner funding. These trends highlight the progress being made in Mexico in providing increasingly high-quality wetlands conservation projects.

Mr. Trandahl then introduced Acting Council Coordinator Mike Johnson. Coordinator Johnson presented a brief overview of the status of the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund. Coordinator Johnson then presented the Council's recommended slate of 13 Mexican proposals (NAWCA funds = \$2,610,736; partner contributions = \$3,988,927) and 21 U.S. standard grant proposals (NAWCA funds = \$20,002,415; partner contributions = \$74,105,108). Coordinator Johnson presented pictures of several of the NAWCA proposal sites. Commission member Benjamin Grumbles, Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, commented that the NAWCA program exemplifies the **art** of leveraging different sources of funding for conservation, and, on the same day that the Presidents of the U.S. and Mexico were meeting to highlight political cooperation, the Commission was meeting to approve a slate that highlights the cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico to protect important wetland resources. Commission member Mark Rey, Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, recommended the entire slate of projects presented for approval, having sufficient non-Federal partner dollars to match the NAWCF request, and Commission member Grumbles seconded the motion. The slate was approved by unanimous vote.

The Chairman asked if there was any other business regarding the NAWCA proposals. He then asked the Commission members if they were interested in participating on a field trip to a local migratory bird project. Several Commission members expressed an interest in participating on a field trip.

Director Hall noted the recent retirement of Mr. David Smith, former Council Coordinator. Mr. Hall and Mr. Trandahl acknowledged the many contributions Mr. Smith made to the Council and the Commission. Assistant Secretary Verhey then invited the Commission members to join artist Richard Clifton of Delaware, winner of the 2006 Federal Duck Stamp Contest, for a group photo.

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting.



MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2007

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MEMORANDUM "A"

MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 12, 2007

The Minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting held on September 12, 2007, have been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these

Minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DATE MAR 12 2008

  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2007**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, September 12, 2007, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

- HON. DIRK KEMPTHORNE, Secretary of the Interior, Chairman
- HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi
- HON. BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, Senator from Arkansas
- HON. JOHN DINGELL, Representative from Michigan
- MS. YENIE TRAN, Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- MS. SUZANNE SCHWARTZ, Deputy Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The following State *Ex Officio* members were present:

- MR. THOMAS O'SHEA, Assistant Director for Wildlife, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
- MR. JON K. FISCHER, Deputy Executive Director, California Fish and Game Commission
- MR. GRANT BOSSE, Legislative Assistant, Senator John Sununu's Office, Washington, D.C. (Representing State of New Hampshire)
- MR. PHIL WEST, Land Management Biologist, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- MR. JEFF RAASCH, Wetlands and Joint Ventures Program Leader, Texas Parks and Wildlife
- MR. DAVID GOAD, Deputy Director, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission



MR. WEST HIGGINBOTHOM, Agriculture Legislative Assistant, Senator Thad Cochran's Office, Washington, D.C. (Representing State of Mississippi)

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *Ex Officio* members were present:

MR. MICHAEL DENNIS, Vice President for Conservation Real Estate and Private Lands, The Nature Conservancy

MS. MARY POPE HUTSON, Vice President, Land Trust Alliance

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator was present:

MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and partner agencies/organizations were present:

MS. SHEILA TOOZE, Environment and Fisheries Officer, Embassy of Canada

MR. SCOTT SUTHERLAND, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C. Office

MS. ASHLIE STRACKBEIN, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

MR. H. DALE HALL, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

MR. GEOFFREY L. HASKETT, Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service

MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

MR. PAUL SCHMIDT, Assistant Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Fish and Wildlife Service

MS. PAM MATTHES, Deputy Assistant Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Fish and Wildlife Service

MR. CLINTON RILEY, Branch Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service

- MR. JOSEPH MCCAULEY, Refuge Manager, Rappahannock River Valley NWR, Warsaw, Virginia
- MR. ROBERT HOLIFIELD, Senior Policy Advisor, Senator Blanche L. Lincoln's Office
- MR. HUGHES SMITH, Intern, Senator Blanche L. Lincoln's Office
- MS. KATIE MURTHA, Legislative Director, Congressman John Dingell's Office
- MS. KATHLEEN KUTSCHENREUTER, Wetlands Division, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- MR. RIESLEY R. JONES, Realty Officer, R2, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- MR. JOHN W. BEASLEY, Realty Officer, R4, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. WALTER J. QUIST, Realty Officer, R5, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MR. STEVEN D. LAY, Senior Realty Specialist, California/Nevada Operations Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California
- MR. KEN CLOUGH, Senior Realty Specialist, R4, Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson, Mississippi
- MR. DAVID BUIE, NAWCA Council Staff, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. BONNIE GAUKLER, Grant Proposal Development, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. SARAH MOTT, Grant Administrator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. LEAKHENA AU, Grant Administrator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. ANDREA GROSSE, Grant Administrator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. LAURIE M. SHAFFER, Duck Stamp Office, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service

- MS. ELIZABETH JACKSON, Duck Stamp Office, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. STEVEN BEKKERUS, Senior Legislative Specialist, Division of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. KATIE UMEKUBO, Division of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. JOSHUA WINCHELL, Division of Public Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. TAMAR TOLLIVER HOGAN, Realty Specialist, Acting Migratory Bird Conservation Commission Coordinator, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. ANN GREEN, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DONOVAN SHERFIELD, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

#### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Kempthorne called the meeting to order once a quorum was assembled. He welcomed the permanent Commission members by introducing them individually, and then asked all other attendees to introduce themselves. He then thanked everyone for coming and gave remarks.

The Chairman said he wanted to share exciting news from the Duck Stamp Program. For the first time ever, on June 22, we held the 2007 Duck Stamp first day of sale in Springfield, Missouri, at the home of Bass Pro Shops, and at Bass Pro Shops stores across the country. Johnny Morris and his staff went all out and we had outstanding events— well received and well attended. To date 30 stores have reported Blockbuster first day events.

We've also heard from our loyal stamp collectors who thanked us for holding local first day events. Many said local events made it possible for them to attend a first day of sale event – for the first time ever – because, as we know all too well, travel is daunting and expensive. Our happy problem now is...what to do for an encore next year! People are so enthusiastic about the program.

The next item concerns another first for the Duck Stamp Program...the implementation of the Electronic Duck Stamp Pilot Program. As of September 1 – meeting the Legislative Deadline – nine states will start selling E-Duck Stamps. Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Maryland,

Minnesota, New York, Texas, and Wisconsin. This is a new avenue for people to acquire Duck Stamps.

This Pilot Program explores one way to improve customer service for Duck Stamp purchasers, especially those living in rural or remote areas.

Finally – a reminder – if you can, please come to Sanibel, Florida on October 11 and 12, for the 2007 Federal Duck Stamp Contest. Judges will select the art to grace the 75<sup>th</sup> Duck Stamp.

Chairman Kempthorne then introduced the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Mr. H. Dale Hall. Director Hall welcomed Commission members and thanked everyone for being here.

Today's program demonstrates the importance of partnerships and cooperative conservation with both the Migratory Bird Conservation Act land acquisition proposals and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant proposals.

The Secretary to the Commission will present land acquisition proposals at eight refuges and one wildlife management area. Several waterfowl species will benefit, including the American black duck, northern pintail, gadwall, canvasback, green- and blue-winged teal, and the American widgeon.

Several pieces of legislation have been introduced in both houses of Congress, with language included to increase the price of the Duck Stamp. The last increase to the price of the Duck Stamp was included in the 1986 Emergency Wetlands Resources Act, which incrementally over several years brought the price to its current \$15 in 1991.

The slate of North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants you will hear about today reflect the continued variety of wetlands conservation activities funded under NAWCA, including fee-title acquisition; perpetual conservation easements; wetlands restoration, enhancement and establishment; and the protection and management of wetlands-associated uplands.

Today's projects, both in Canada and the U.S., are the result of partnerships – the basis of the NAWCA program and the cornerstone of cooperative conservation. For example, the U.S. Standard Grants alone in today's slate involve 208 partners, including private landowners, local and State government agencies, conservation organizations, corporations, Native American tribes, schools, foundations, and federal agencies.

Chairman Kempthorne thanked the Director and called for approval of the June 13, 2007, meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved. Then he moved on to Agenda Item A.

#### Agenda Item A

Chairman Kempthorne called on Commission Secretary Alvarez to show a video and highlight Commission success stories from the last ten years. He said he felt it was important for us to get a perspective of what we've accomplished. Commission Secretary Alvarez showed a ten minute

video highlighting the Missiquoi National Wildlife Refuge in Vermont, and then presented three examples of success stories, 1) Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge; 2) Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge; and 3) St. Catherine's Creek National Wildlife Refuge. Commission Secretary Alvarez also showed a map showing all areas in the continental United States acquired under authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. He pointed out that the areas strategically coincide with the four migratory bird flyways.

The Chairman then asked Commission Secretary Alvarez to present the nine Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals for consideration. With the aid of video projections, Mr. Alvarez presented the proposed acquisitions in the program. Mr. Alvarez and the respective regional representative responded to questions about the individual proposals.

The Commission voted en-block and approved the following Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals:

**New MBCC Refuge Boundary and Price Approval**

ASSABET RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Middlesex County, Massachusetts – Boundary Approval was granted for the 2,367-acre refuge boundary, and price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 72 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$125,000, or \$1,736 per acre.

**Addition and Price Approval**

GRASSLANDS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, Merced County, California – Boundary approval was granted to expand the boundary by 46,850 acres, and price approval was granted for the acquisition of a permanent conservation easement covering 255 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$710,000, or \$2,784 per acre.

LAKE UMBAGOG NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Coos County, New Hampshire – Addition and price approval were granted for the fee title acquisition of 727 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$555,000, or \$763 per acre. The Service plans to acquire a portion of the tract with \$390,000 from an exchange. Therefore, the Commission approved of contributing \$165,000 to the purchase price, or \$763 per acre (for 216 acres).

RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Richmond County, Virginia – Addition and price approval were granted for the fee title acquisition of 174 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$745,000, or \$4,282 per acre.

TRINITY RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Liberty County, Texas – Addition and price approval were granted for the fee title acquisition of 1,598 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$2,994,000, or \$1,874 per acre.

### Price Approval

CACHE RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Woodruff County, Arkansas – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 1,140 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$3,648,000, or \$3,200 per acre.

PANTHER SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Yazoo County, Mississippi – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 404 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,020,000, or \$2,525 per acre.

SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE, Mill River Division, Hampshire County, Massachusetts – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 31 acres, in one ownership, for the recommended price of \$44,000, or \$1,419 per acre.

### Price Re-approval

WAPANOCCA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REGUGE, Crittenden County, Arkansas – Price re-approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 141 acres, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$177,000, or \$1,255 per acre.

### Agenda Item B

#### NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Kempthorne then commenced the NAWCA portion of the meeting by introducing Ex Officio Commission and North American Wetlands Conservation Council member Mike Dennis of The Nature Conservancy. Mr. Dennis commented on the current slate of three Canadian and 21 U.S. proposals and focused on the three Canadian proposals on the slate. Mr. Dennis noted that the landscape-level protection, enhancement, and management activities associated with these three proposals will take place in parts of 12 provinces, and combine \$6.8 million in NAWCA funding, \$6.8 million non-Federal U.S. partner funds, and \$1.9 million Canadian partner funds for a total of \$15.5 million. This allows the opportunity to protect and enhance over 16,000 and 19,000 acres, respectively, of wetlands and associated upland habitat. Mr. Dennis then thanked Congress, the Department of the Interior and the Division of Bird Habitat Conservation for their support and efforts on behalf of NAWCA.

Mr. Dennis then introduced Ex Officio Commission and Council member Mary Pope Hutson of the Land Trust Alliance. Ms. Hutson commented on the 21 U.S. proposals on the current slate, noting that the proposals include almost 175,000 acres of wetland habitat in 16 states and involve \$18.1 million in NAWCA funding, \$36.9 million in partner matching funds, and an additional \$13.5 million in partner non-matching funds. Ms. Hutson noted that NAWCA funding continues to encourage local conservation partnerships and results. Ms. Hutson introduced Council Coordinator Mike Johnson.

Mr. Johnson provided a brief overview of the NAWCA program to date, focusing on the total number of approved projects (1,673), the total amount of NAWCA funds expended (\$507 million), and the total amount of partner match funding (\$1.3 billion). He also noted the total acres impacted (23.5 million) and the status of the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2008.

Mr. Johnson then presented the Council's recommended slate of three Canadian proposals consisting of \$6,804,000 in NAWCA funds and \$8,755,400 in partner contributions. He also presented the recommended slate of 21 U.S. standard grant proposals consisting of \$18,081,043 in NAWCA funds and \$50,429,582 in partner contributions. He presented photographs of several of the NAWCA proposal sites. One U.S. proposal, Imperial Valley Wetlands, California, did not have full National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation and was presented for conditional approval until all NEPA requirements were met.

The entire slate of projects presented, having sufficient non-Federal partner dollars to match the NAWCF request, was recommended for approval, including Imperial Valley Wetlands under conditional approval, by Representative Dingell and seconded by Ms. Schwartz. The slate was approved by unanimous vote.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.





MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2008

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MEMORANDUM "A"

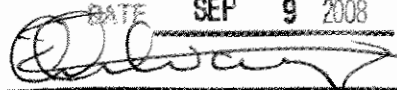
MEETING MINUTES JUNE 12, 2008

The Minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting held on June 12, 2008, have been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these Minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DATE SEP 9 2008



SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Held in Washington, D.C., on June 12, 2008**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Thursday, June 12, 2008, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

- HON. JAMES MOSHER, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks,  
Department of the Interior, Chairman
- HON. BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, Senator from Arkansas
- HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, Representative from Michigan
- HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST, Representative from Maryland
- HON. MARK REY, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment,  
U.S. Department of Agriculture
- HON. BENJAMIN GRUMBLES, Assistant Administrator, Office of Water,  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The following *State Ex Officio* members were present:

- MS. HOLLY MICHAEL, Conservation Strategy Leader, Oregon Department of  
Fish and Wildlife
- DR. DAVID COBB, Chief, Division of Wildlife Management, North Carolina  
Wildlife Resources Commission
- MS. GINNY WORREST, Senior Legislative Advisor, Office of Senator  
Olympia J. Snowe, Washington, D.C. Office
- MR. JASON ROHLOFF, Director of Federal Affairs, Office of Minnesota Governor  
Tim Pawlenty, Washington, D.C. Office

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *Ex Officio* members were present:

- MR. DAVID GAGNER, Director, Government Relations and External Affairs, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- MS. MARY POPE HUTSON, Executive Vice President, Land Trust Alliance

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

- MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator was present:

- MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and partner agencies/organizations were present:

- MR. H. DALE HALL, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. ELIZABETH STEVENS, Assistant Director, External Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service
- DR. ALEJANDRO POSADAS, Minister for Environment, SEMARNAT, Embassy of Mexico
- MS. SHEILA TOOZE, Environment and Fisheries Officer, Embassy of Canada
- MR. ROBERT L. WILLIAMS, JR., Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior
- MS. YENIE TRAN, Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- MS. KATHLEEN KUTSCHENREUTER, Wetlands Division, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- MR. WEST HIGGINBOTHOM, Legislative Assistant, Senator Cochran's Office, Washington D.C.

- MR. DREW HALL, Senator Cochran's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. TED SERAFINI, Legislative Assistant, Senator Lincoln's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MS. KATIE MURTHA, Legislative Director, Congressman Dingell's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MS. EDITH THOMPSON, Legislative Assistant, Congressman Gilchrest's Office, Washington D.C.
- MS. PAT WOODCOCK, Office of Senator Olympia J. Snowe, Washington, D.C.
- MS. KELLY M. NILAND, Federal Grants Manager, The Trust for Public Land
- MS. MIRIAM MAZEL, Chief, Division of Realty, R1, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon
- MS. GEORGIA SHIRILLA, Acquisition Branch Chief, Division of Realty, R1, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon
- MS. CARMELLA MARES, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, R1, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon
- MR. CHARLES J. HOUGHTON, Chief, Division of Planning and Visitor Services, R1, Portland, Oregon, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. PATRICK CARROLL, Realty Officer, Division of Realty, R3, Fish and Wildlife Service, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota
- MR. DONALD V. KLEVEN, Senior Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, R3, Fish and Wildlife Service, Fergus Falls, Minnesota
- MR. WALTER J. QUIST, Realty Officer, Division of Realty, R5, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MRS. JOAN MARCHI, Senior Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, R5, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. MICHAEL KREGER, Deputy Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service

- MR. DOUGLAS L. VANDEGRAFT, Chief Cartographer, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. ANN GREEN, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DONOVAN SHERFIELD, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. TAMAR HOGAN, Realty Specialist/Acting Coordinator, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. MATTHEW HUGGLER, Senior Legislative Affairs Specialist, Division of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, External Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. JOSHUA WINCHELL, Office of Public Affairs, External Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. LAURIE M. SHAFFER, Director of Marketing, Development and Licensing, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. KERRISSA NELSON, Intern, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DAVID BUIE, NAWCA Council Staff, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. BONNIE GAULKLER, Grant Proposal Development, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. SARAH MOTT, Grant Administrator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. ELLEN C. MURPHY, Grant Administrator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. KEN KRIESE, Grant Administrator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. RODECIA MCKNIGHT, Grant Administrator Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service

- MS. RACHEL F. LEVIN, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. SYLVIA R. PELIZZA, Refuge Manager, R1, Oahu National Wildlife Refuge, Hawaii
- MR. JOE PIEHUTA, National Conservation Training Center Liaison, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. RON TULL, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior

### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Mosher called the meeting to order once a quorum was assembled. He welcomed the permanent Commission members by introducing them individually. He then introduced Dr. Alejandro Posadas, representative from the Embassy of Mexico, and Ms. Sheila Tooze, representative from the Embassy of Canada. He recognized that Ms. Tooze had attended Commission meetings since passage of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act in 1989, almost two decades, and that this will be her last meeting. Ms. Tooze thanked the Chairman and the Commission for its role in wetlands conservation and migratory waterfowl conservation, and for the opportunity to be a part of such an excellent program. After Ms. Tooze gave remarks, Chairman Mosher asked all meeting attendees to introduce themselves, beginning with those at the table.

After introductions, Chairman Mosher gave prepared remarks about the Service's Small Wetlands Program. This August will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program, which began in 1958 as an amendment to the Duck Stamp Act of 1934. In the past fifty years, the program has become one of the most successful landscape-level conservation programs in the nation, complementing the success of the Federal Duck Stamp program.

The Service uses Federal Duck Stamp revenues to acquire important waterfowl breeding habitat in the United States portion of the Prairie Pothole Region. The areas are designated Waterfowl Production Areas and are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The Prairie Pothole Region, a 300,000-square mile area in the upper Midwest and northern Great Plains and adjacent Canadian provinces, contains some of the most important waterfowl habitat on the continent. But the wetlands and virgin grasslands in this glacially-created landscape are among the most endangered habitats in the country.

While the region accounts for just 10 percent of North American waterfowl breeding habitat, it produces nearly 50 percent of the continent's ducks. To date, the Small Wetlands Program has conserved nearly three million acres of wetland and grassland habitats. And nearly 30 percent of the ducks produced in the U.S. portion of the Prairie Pothole Region depend on these lands.

Raising awareness of this vitally important conservation program is as important today as it was 50 years ago when it was created. The Service is celebrating the Small Wetlands Program by highlighting its successful past and the need to continue conserving this resource for future generations. We hope that by telling this great conservation story, the passion and commitment of the program's pioneers will be re-ignited, and the program can continue to succeed into the next fifty years.

Chairman Mosher then introduced the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Mr. H. Dale Hall. Director Hall welcomed the Commission members and thanked them for being here.

He also added his thanks to Sheila Tooze on behalf of the Fish and Wildlife Service for her many years of support and enthusiasm for the NAWCA program. He mentioned that the Service is going to give her a commemorative 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary Duck Stamp certificate and collage after the First Day of Sale event on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Director Hall also shared news about the National Junior Duck Stamp Program and the Federal Duck Stamp Program. In April, the Fish and Wildlife Service held this year's Junior Duck Stamp contest at the San Diego Zoo in southern California.

About 30,000 students participated in the contest, and the winner of the contest, Seokkyn "See" Hong of Dallas, Texas, painted a pair of Nene, a native Hawaiian goose. The National Junior Duck Stamp Program is a valuable mechanism for the Service to reach out to and connect children with nature, which is vitally important to our conservation mission. Director Hall said proceeds from the sale of Junior Duck Stamps are used to support environmental education efforts and awards for contest winners.

He continued to mention that this year's First Day of Sale for the 2008-2009 Federal Duck Stamp and the 2008 Junior Duck Stamp takes place on June 27<sup>th</sup>, and once again, Bass Pro Shops is hosting this much-anticipated event. This is a good move to set the first day of the sale in conjunction with those constituents who seek the stamp. The main event will take place at Bass Pro Shops' Outdoor World retail outlet in Hanover, Maryland, and Bass Pro Shops around the nation will hold their own events.

This year, to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Duck Stamp, we are offering a special commemorative product...I'm sure you and all of your friends will want to buy this unique keepsake. This is what the Service plans to give to Sheila. Please join us for what promises to be a most exciting day for waterfowl conservation.

Chairman Mosher thanked the Director and then called for approval of the March 12, 2008, meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved. Then he moved on to Agenda Item A.

## Agenda Item A

Chairman Mosher called on Commission Secretary Alvarez to present the four Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals for consideration. Mr. Alvarez presented the program using slide projections. The Ex Officio members for each state affirmed their support for each project, and Mr. Alvarez and the respective Service regional representative responded to questions about the individual proposals.

The Commission individually approved the following Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals:

### **New MBCC Refuge Unit and Price Approval**

TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, WAPATO LAKE UNIT, Washington and Yamhill Counties, Oregon – Boundary approval was granted for the 4,310-acre Wapato Lake Unit, and price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 180 acres, in three ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$631,000, or \$3,500 per acre.

### **Addition and Price Approval**

GREAT DISMAL SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Cities of Suffolk and Chesapeake, Virginia; Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank Counties, North Carolina – Boundary approval was granted in Virginia to align the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission boundary with the Service's approved acquisition boundary. Addition and price approval was granted in North Carolina for the fee title acquisition of 1,481 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$2,000,000, or \$1,350 per acre.

LAKE UMBAGOG NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Coos County, New Hampshire; Oxford County, Maine – Boundary approval was granted in New Hampshire and Maine to align the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission boundary with the Service's approved acquisition boundary. Addition and price approval was granted in Maine for the fee title acquisition of 1,129 acres, in one ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$725,000, or \$642 per acre.

### **Price Approval**

GLACIAL RIDGE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Polk County, Minnesota – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 18,118 acres, in one ownership, for the recommended price of \$4,000,000, or \$221 per acre.

Chairman Mosher then moved on to Agenda Item B, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act portion of the meeting.



## Agenda Item B

Chairman Mosher introduced Commission Ex Officio member Mr. David Gagner, representing North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) member Mr. Jeff Trandahl (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation). Mr. Gagner commented on the current slate of Canadian proposals and highlighted the wetland conservation activities that the combined North American Wetlands Conservation Act (Act) funding and partner funding will accomplish in Canada. Mr. Gagner also commented on the two Mexican proposals on the current slate and the importance of the wetland conservation efforts being accomplished in Mexico. Mr. Gagner then introduced Commission Ex Officio member and Council member Ms. Mary Pope Hutson (Land Trust Alliance). Ms. Hutson expressed appreciation for the Commission's support for the Act and commented on the U.S. Small Grant proposals on the current slate. She highlighted the importance of the Small Grants program in developing new conservation partners and initiatives during the program's 12 years of existence. To date, 417 Small Grants have been approved with more than \$18,485,000 in Act funds, and Ms. Hutson further noted that the Act continues to act as a catalyst for wetland conservation programs on the ground. These results can be seen in the high number of quality Small Grant proposals that Council approved/recommended for funding in Fiscal Year 2008, with the total Act funding exceeding the Commission's previously approved spending level of \$2.5 million.

Ms. Hutson then introduced Council Coordinator Mr. Mike Johnson. Coordinator Johnson presented the Council's recommended slate of projects for approval. This slate included four Canadian standard grant proposals (NAWCA funds = \$19,703,179; partner contributions = \$32,606,337), and two Mexican standard grant proposals (NAWCA funds = \$639,560; partner contributions = \$1,507,763). Coordinator Johnson reported that the Council had received 94 U.S. Small Grant proposals for the FY 2008 cycle and had approved 35 of these (NAWCA funds = \$2,482,996; partner contributions = \$20,231,850) under the FY 2008 U.S. Small Grant funding level authorized by the Commission in June 2007. The Council was further recommending 27 additional small grant projects for funding in FY 2008 (NAWCA funds = \$1,693,442; partner contributions = \$8,663,694). These additional proposals reflect the increased interest generated by the Small Grants program and fulfilling its objective to generate new partnerships.

Representative Dingell asked if Act funding to applicants is a one-time payment and if the affected land is set aside permanently. Coordinator Johnson responded that Act awards are approved once and are spent on a reimbursable basis as costs are incurred. Fundable activities include fee title acquisition, easements, leases, restoration, enhancement, and establishment. Representative Dingell asked how we know the land is improved after a proposal is agreed upon. Coordinator Johnson replied that the proposal documents detail acres involved, conservation activities involved, the costs of these activities, tract information, appraisal and easement information as required, and work planning. Council staff evaluates and scores the proposals and Council determines a recommended slate. Representative Dingell asked how long the grant period lasts and the length of a typical project. Coordinator Johnson replied that the Act grants are based on two year accomplishment periods with extension years possible if justified. Length of project life is variable depending on the action; for instance, acquisition proposals are typically perpetual. In the United States, the mechanism for enforcement is a notification recorded as part

of the land deed. In Mexico, we require that the grantee get written approval for land acquisition, and have a management agreement in place with an obligation to monitor and or manage the land for as long as the agreement is in effect. The Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation (DBHC) monitors grants and grantees, including periodic visits to projects in each country. In Canada, the proposals have been developed by the Canadian Joint Ventures and vetted by the Canadian North American Wetlands Conservation Council. DBHC also monitors Canadian results. Director Hall (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) added that the Federal governments of both Canada and Mexico have approved the project activities proposed in their countries.

Senator Lincoln asked how often additional funding is required in order to fully fund the Small Grants slate. Coordinator Johnson noted that this is the second consecutive year this has occurred.

Chairman Mosher stated if there was no more discussion he would entertain a motion. The entire slate of projects presented, having sufficient non-Federal partner dollars to match the Act requests, was recommended for approval by Representative Dingell and seconded by Commission member Benjamin Grumbles (Environmental Protection Agency). The slate was approved by unanimous vote.

Coordinator Johnson then presented a brief summary of the request and project funding history for the U.S. Small Grants program and the Council's request for authorization to approve up to \$5 million in U.S. Small Grant proposals in FY 2009. Senator Lincoln asked what percent of total Act funding the \$5 million would represent. Coordinator Johnson replied that \$5 million based on total FY 2008 funding would represent approximately six percent. The percent of FY 2009 funding that \$5 million would represent cannot be easily predicted due to current budget uncertainties. Coordinator Johnson then showed a summary of FY 2008 NAWCA funding indicating that \$2,449,195 remains after today's actions, with the majority of these funds tied to oil spill fines that must be used in Massachusetts. Senator Lincoln asked what the average total budget has been for the past several years. Coordinator Johnson indicated the average was approximately \$72 million. Ms. Hutson noted that many of the Small Grant applicants eventually apply for Standard Grants. Senator Lincoln asked whether this authorization is a permanent decision or revisited annually. Coordinator Johnson stated that the Council requests a Small Grants program authorization every year and would do so again next June. Senator Lincoln recommended that the \$5 million funding level for the Small Grants program be approved. Commission member Rey (U.S. Department of Agriculture) seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. This concluded the NAWCA portion of the Commission meeting.

Chairman Mosher adjourned the meeting.



MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2008

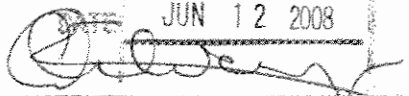
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MEMORANDUM "A"

MEETING MINUTES MARCH 12, 2008

The Minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting held on March 12, 2008, have been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these Minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
JUN 12 2008  
  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Held in Washington, D.C., on March 12, 2008**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

- HON. DIRK KEMPTHORNE, Secretary of the Interior, Chairman
- HON. BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, Senator from Arkansas
- HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, Representative from Michigan
- HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST, Representative from Maryland
- HON. MARK REY, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- HON. BENJAMIN GRUMBLES, Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The following State *Ex Officio* members were present:

- MR. JEFF RAASCH, Wetlands and Joint Ventures Program Leader, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- MR. LEE WIDJESKOG, Regional Superintendent, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
- MS. ADRIANNA SHEA, Deputy Executive Director, California Fish and Game Commission
- DR. DAVID COBB, Chief, Division of Wildlife Management, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *Ex Officio* members were present:

- MR. DAVID NOMSEN, Vice President of Governmental Affairs, Pheasants Forever

MS. MARY POPE HUTSON, Vice President, Land Trust Alliance

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator was present:

MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and partner agencies/organizations were present:

DR. ALEJANDRO POSADAS, Minister for Environment, SEMARNAT, Embassy of Mexico

MR. H. DALE HALL, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

MR. PAUL SCHMIDT, Assistant Director, Migratory Bird Program, Fish and Wildlife Service

MR. TED SERAFINI, Legislative Assistant, Senator Blanche L. Lincoln's Office, Washington, D.C.

MR. P. J. WALDROP, Legislative Assistant, Senator Thad Cochran's Office, Washington, D.C.

MS. KATIE MURTHA, Legislative Director, Congressman John D. Dingell's Office, Washington, D.C.

MS. EDITH THOMPSON, Legislative Assistant, Congressman Wayne T. Gilchrest's Office, Washington, D.C.

MS. KATHLEEN KUTSCHENREUTER, Wetlands Division, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

MR. DOUGLAS VANDEGRAFT, Chief Cartographer, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

MR. RIESLEY R. JONES, Realty Officer, R2, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico

- MS. BETTY JAROUS, Realty Branch Chief, R4, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. WALTER J. QUIST, Realty Officer, R5, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MR. WILL WALDRON, Senior Realty Specialist, R5, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MR. STEVEN D. LAY, Senior Realty Specialist, R8, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California
- MR. STEVEN SHUCK, Realty Operations Branch Chief, R7, Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. TAMAR HOGAN, Realty Specialist, Acting Migratory Bird Conservation Commission Coordinator, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. ANN GREEN, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DONOVAN SHERFIELD, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. MICHAEL KREGGER, Deputy Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVID BUIE, NAWCA Council Staff, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. BONNIE GAUKLER, Grant Proposal Development, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. SARAH MOTT, Grant Administrator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. ELLEN MURPHY, Grant Administrator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. KEN KRIESE, Grant Administrator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

- MS. LAURIE M. SHAFFER, Duck Stamp Office, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. JOHN STRICKLAN, Project Manager, Division of Engineering, R7, Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska
- MS. KRISTI WATKINS, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, R4, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MS. KELLY NILAND, Federal Grants Manager, The Trust For Public Land, Washington, D.C.
- MR. VAUGHN COLLINS, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.
- MR. BERNIE MARCZYK, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.
- MR. SCOTT OPIS, Budget Analyst, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DOUG VANDEGRAFT, Chief Cartographer, Fish and Wildlife Service

#### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Kempthorne called the meeting to order once a quorum was assembled. He welcomed the permanent Commission members by introducing them individually, and then asked all other attendees to introduce themselves. He then welcomed Representative Wayne T. Gilchrest to the Commission. Chairman Kempthorne thanked everyone for coming and then gave remarks.

The Chairman said he wanted to share exciting news about the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. This past January, we received our one billionth dollar into the account, and we expect the Commission to approve expenditure of it at the June or September meeting this year. That's quite a milestone for the Commission and has helped us accomplish great things.

Over the decades, this Commission has funded the acquisition of over 5 million acres at National Wildlife Refuges across the nation, as well as at Waterfowl Production Areas in the Prairie Pothole Region of the United States.

Of these lands, approximately 56 percent are owned in fee title, with the remaining 44 percent protected with conservation easements. 100 percent of these easements are in perpetuity. If we try to visualize the acreage we have acquired, it would look just about the size of the State of Maryland.

This morning, I am also pleased to report that in the President's FY 2009 budget request, we have highlighted the importance of migratory birds through the Birds Forever Initiative.



Under this Initiative, the President is requesting an additional \$8 million for the Fish and Wildlife Service's migratory bird program.

These funds will allow the Service to

- expand critical monitoring efforts,
- support additional partnerships focused on bird habitat conservation, and
- implement new conservation and management plans for migratory birds.

In addition, the President's FY 2009 budget request includes an increase in the price of the Federal Duck Stamp from \$15 to \$25, which I support. Duck Stamps provide much of the funds this Commission approves for the Service to acquire migratory bird habitat, and the price has not increased since 1991, a 17-year period.

Since the last increase of the price of the Duck Stamp, increasing land prices have led to a decrease in the number of acres we have been able to conserve each year.

In some areas of the country, we have seen a 100-200 percent increase in the land value of waterfowl habitat, such as in Placer County, California. In 1991, the land value was \$3,000 per acre. By 2004, the land value increased to \$9,000 per acre. This is an increase of 200 percent.

If our request to increase the price of the Duck Stamp is approved, it will positively impact our ability to acquire important waterfowl habitat.

So today, as we celebrate reaching \$1 billion dollars in the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, I thought it would be a good time to reflect on the Commission's accomplishments and what it has done to protect our valuable migratory bird resources, even as we look forward to additional conservation efforts in the years to come.

Chairman Kempthorne then introduced the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Mr. H. Dale Hall.

Director Hall welcomed the Commission members and thanked them for being here. He mentioned that today's program demonstrates the importance of partnerships and cooperative conservation with both the Migratory Bird Conservation Act land acquisition proposals and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant proposals.

The Cape May project, in particular, brings in multiple partners and funding from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, NAWCA, the State of New Jersey, The Conservation Fund, and others to accomplish this important habitat protection project.

This year, we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Service's Small Wetlands Acquisition Program. For 50 years, we have used this program to acquire permanent conservation easements and fee lands on nearly three million acres of waterfowl breeding habitat in the Prairie Pothole Region of the United States.

The 2008 Federal Duck Stamp Contest is going to take place in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on October 17. The Service plans to celebrate not only the Federal Duck Stamp, but also the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Director Hall invited the members of the Commission to attend the Contest.

Today's NAWCA slate of projects reflects the continued variety of wetlands conservation activities funded under NAWCA, including fee-title acquisition, perpetual conservation easements, wetlands restoration, enhancement, and establishment, and the protection and management of wetland-associated uplands.

These projects are the result of partnerships – the foundation of the NAWCA program. Today's U.S. Standard slate involves 223 matching partners, including private landowners, local and state government agencies, conservation organizations, corporations, Native American tribes, schools, and foundations.

Chairman Kempthorne thanked the Director and provided additional remarks about the 2007 Duck Stamp contest. Chairman Kempthorne was in attendance for the final round of judging as the community demonstrated its great support for the Duck Stamp program. The house was packed, and the audience watched the voting as each entry was displayed to the judges. As the slate of entries narrowed, and as the audience realized Joe Hautman, who was in attendance, had won, great cheers and applause filled the auditorium.

Chairman Kempthorne then called for approval of the September 12, 2007, meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved. Then he moved on to Agenda Item A.

#### Agenda Item A

Chairman Kempthorne called on Commission Secretary Alvarez to show a ten-minute video entitled: *The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission: A Legacy of Conserving Habitat for Migratory Waterfowl*. Commission Secretary Alvarez showed the video highlighting the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission's accomplishments, which was well received. He also stated that each Commission member was given a personal copy of the video.

The Chairman then asked Commission Secretary Alvarez to present the five Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals for consideration. With the aid of slide projections, Mr. Alvarez presented the program. The Ex Officio members for each state affirmed their support for each project. Mr. Alvarez and the respective regional representative responded to questions about the individual proposals.

The Commission voted en bloc and approved the following Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals:

**Addition and Price Approval**

SAN BERNARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Brazoria County, Texas – Boundary approval was granted to expand the boundary of the refuge by 142 acres, and price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 142 acres, in two ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$296,200, or \$2,086 per acre.

**Price Approval**

CAPE MAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Cape May County, New Jersey – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 280 acres, in one ownership, for the recommended value of \$904,000, or \$3,229 per acre.

GRASSLANDS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, Merced County, California – Price approval was granted for the acquisition of permanent conservation easements covering 1,035 acres, in three ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$2,827,000, or \$2,731 per acre.

MACKAY ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Currituck County, North Carolina – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 26 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$219,300, or \$8,435 per acre.

**Price Re-approval**

LACASSINE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Cameron Parish, Louisiana – Price re-approval was granted for the renewal of a five-year lease of 640 acres, from the Cameron Parish School Board, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$14,900, or \$23 per acre.

**Agenda Item B**

**NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

Chairman Kempthorne introduced the NAWCA portion of the meeting. He introduced Ex Officio Commission member and North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) member David Nomsen of Pheasants Forever. Mr. Nomsen acknowledged the support the Congressional members of the Commission have given to the new Farm Bill, particularly the support given for reauthorization of the Conservation Reserve Program and the Wetland Reserve Program, two programs that compliment the wetland conservation effect of NAWCA.

Mr. Nomsen noted the current slate of 46 Mexican and U.S. proposals and focused on the 15 Mexican proposals on the slate. Mr. Nomsen emphasized the large number of proposals recommended for funding and the \$2.9 million in grant funds and almost \$4 million in partner

matching funds involved. He also noted that the slate of proposals impacted eight Mexican priority wetland areas, another example of the international cooperation forged by NAWCA funding for the conservation of migratory birds. Mr. Nomsen then introduced Ex Officio Commission member and Council member Mary Pope Hutson of the Land Trust Alliance. Ms. Hutson also thanked the Congressional members for their support of the Farm Bill, particularly for their support of a provision making conservation easements permanent. Ms. Hutson then commented on the 31 U.S. proposals on the current slate, noting that the proposals will impact almost 191,000 acres of wetland habitat in 21 states and involve \$29.6 million in NAWCA funding along with \$86.2 million in partner match. Ms. Hutson noted that NAWCA funding continues to encourage local conservation partnerships and results.

Ms. Hutson then introduced Council Coordinator Mike Johnson. Coordinator Johnson presented an overview of the status of the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund (NAWCF). Coordinator Johnson then presented the Council's recommended slate of 15 Mexican proposals (NAWCA funds = \$2,921,123; partner match = \$3,998,064). During the discussion of the proposal "Protection and Management of Laguna Babilcora," Chairman Kempthorne asked for more details concerning the expectation of compliance with the management plans outlined in the proposal. Ellen Murphy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, indicated that the management plans were well defined and past compliance was good. She also stated that previous stages have resulted in a high level of landowner support for management planning. Chairman Kempthorne requested that Coordinator Johnson report back to the Commission in two years, highlighting the results of the compliance with the stated management plans and the level of partnership cooperation.

Coordinator Johnson then presented the slate of 31 U.S. standard grant proposals (NAWCA funds = \$29,658,064; partner match = \$86,218,524). The entire slate of projects presented, having more than sufficient non-Federal partner dollars to match the NAWCF request, was recommended for approval by Commission member Representative John Dingell from Michigan, and seconded by Commission member Representative Wayne Gilchrest from Maryland. Commission member Benjamin Grumbles from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), then commented that the EPA was highly supportive of the NAWCA proposals funded in the state of Washington. The slate was approved by unanimous vote.

Director Hall then announced that the Arundel Mills, Maryland, Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World near Baltimore, Maryland, will host this year's First Day of Sale ceremony for the 2008-2009 Federal Duck Stamp on June 27, 2008. Bass Pro Shops, Inc. will also sponsor First Day of Sale events in all of its other forty-four retail stores throughout the country. Director Hall commented on the success of last year's First Day of Sale held at Bass Pro Shops headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, and highlighted the importance of this year's ceremony at the Arundel Mills facility, the country's number one store for duck hunters. Traditionally, each year the Service Director buys the new Federal Duck Stamp from a U.S. Postmaster. In June, Service Director Hall will purchase the first 2008-2009 Federal Duck Stamp from the Baltimore, Maryland, Postmaster.

Chairman Kempthorne adjourned the meeting.



MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2008

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MEMORANDUM "A"

MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

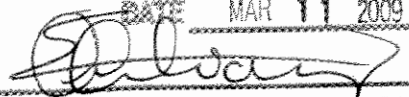
The Minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting held on September 9, 2008, have been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these

Minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DATE MAR 11 2009

  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Held in Washington, D.C., on September 9, 2008**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Tuesday, September 9, 2008, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

- HON. DIRK KEMPTHORNE, Secretary, Department of the Interior, Chairman
- HON. LYLE LAVERTY, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks,  
Department of the Interior, Acting Chairman
- HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi
- HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, Representative from Michigan
- HON. MARK REY, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment,  
U.S. Department of Agriculture
- HON. BENJAMIN GRUMBLES, Assistant Administrator, Office of Water,  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The following State *Ex Officio* members were present:

- MR. TIMOTHY IVEY, Chief of Wildlife, South Carolina Department of Natural  
Resources
- MS. NAVIS BERMUDEZ, Senior Federal Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor of  
the State of New York, Washington, D.C. Office
- MR. RICHARD A. COOK, Land Agent, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
- MR. NATHAN GARNER, East Texas Regional Director, Wildlife Division, Texas  
Parks and Wildlife Department
- MR. DAVID GOAD, Deputy Director, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- MS. HOLLY MICHAEL, Conservation Strategy Leader, Oregon Department of Fish  
and Wildlife

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *Ex Officio* members were present:

- MR. DAVID GAGNER, Director, Government Relations and External Affairs, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- MS. MARY POPE HUTSON, Executive Vice President, Land Trust Alliance

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

- MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator was present:

- MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and partner agencies/organizations were present:

- DR. ALEJANDRO POSADAS, Minister for Environment, SEMARNAT, Embassy of Mexico
- MR. WEST HIGGINBOTHOM, Legislative Director, Senator Cochran's Office, Washington D.C. Office
- MR. TED SERAFINI, Legislative Assistant, Senator Lincoln's Office, Washington, D.C. Office
- MS. ERICA FEIN, Legislative Assistant, Congressman Dingell's Office, Washington, D.C. Office
- MS. YENIE TRAN, Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- MS. KATHLEEN KUTSCHENREUTER, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency
- MS. KELLY M. NILAND, Federal Grants Manager, The Trust for Public Land
- MR. ROBERT L. WILLIAMS, JR., Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior
- MR. KENNETH STANSELL, Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service



- MR. MARK MUSAU, Acting Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. MIRIAM MAZEL, Chief, Division of Realty and Refuge Information, R1, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon
- MR. RIESLEY "RICK" JONES, Realty Officer, R2, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- MS. MARYTHERESE ONE BEAR, Realty Specialist, R2, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- MS. BETTY JAROUS, Branch Chief, Division of Realty, R4, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. WALTER J. QUIST, Realty Officer, R5, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MR. MICHAEL HAYDEN, Branch Chief, Division of Realty, R5, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. TAMAR HOGAN, Coordinator, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission/Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. SUSAN E. WELLS, Assistant Coordinator, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission Detail, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. ANN C. GREEN, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DONOVAN SHERFIELD, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. JAMES EAGLESOME, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. ROBERT MACCALL, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Coordinator, North American Wetlands Conservation Council/Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service

- MR. MICHAEL KREGER, Deputy Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. PATRICIA FISHER, Chief, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. SARAH MOTT, Branch Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DAVID BUIE, NAWCA Council Staff, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. BONNIE GAULKLER, Grant Proposal Development/Program Analyst, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. RACHEL F. LEVIN, Communications Coordinator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. MARK CHASE, Chief, Division of Law Enforcement, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. EDITH THOMPSON, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. DEBRA DANIELS, Acting Deputy Chief, Office of the National Wildlife Refuge System Budget, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. DEBORAH SUMERSKI, Program Analyst, Office of the National Wildlife Refuge System Budget, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MR. DAVID BERGENDORF, Budget Analyst, Division of Budget, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. SHIRITA TURNER, Secretary, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service
- MS. LAUREL WILKERSON, Refuge Ranger, R5, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Chincoteague, Virginia

#### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Kempthorne called the meeting to order once a quorum was assembled. He welcomed the permanent Commission members by introducing them individually.

After introductions, Chairman Kempthorne presented each of the permanent members with a Certificate of Appreciation, in recognition of the lasting contributions that they have made to the conservation of migratory waterfowl habitat through their service on the Commission. Since the inception of the Commission, the Fish and Wildlife Service has permanently protected over five million acres of migratory waterfowl habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Chairman Kempthorne then excused himself from the meeting and introduced the Assistant Secretary of Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Lyle Laverty as the Acting Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Acting Chairman Laverty was pleased to announce a tremendous accomplishment for the Commission that occurred this year. The Fish and Wildlife Service confirmed that the one billionth dollar from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund was used to purchase a permanent grassland easement in Campbell County in north-central South Dakota. This expenditure marked a major milestone in the ongoing effort by the Commission and the Service to permanently protect important migratory waterfowl habitat across the nation.

The 133-acre grassland easement will be part of the Campbell County Waterfowl Production Area. Under the terms of the easement, the property will remain in grass forever. The Service acquired this easement through the Small Wetlands Program, which this year celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To recognize this tremendous accomplishment, the permanent Commission members were asked to sign a framed Duck Stamp print.

Since the inception of the Small Wetlands Program in 1958, the Service has used Migratory Bird Conservation Fund dollars to permanently protect nearly three million acres of migratory waterfowl habitat primarily in the Prairie Pothole Region of the upper Midwestern United States.

Acting Chairman Laverty then introduced the Acting Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Mr. Kenneth Stansell. Acting Director Stansell welcomed the Commission members and thanked them for being here and made introductory comments.

Acting Director Stansell reported a successful First Day of Sale for the 75<sup>th</sup> Federal Duck Stamp. Hundreds of stamp collectors, outdoor enthusiasts, and conservationists crowded into the Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World in Hanover, MD and witnessed Duck Stamp history as the season officially opened for the 2008-2009 Federal Duck Stamp --- the 75<sup>th</sup> Duck Stamp.

The Maryland event, hosted again by our terrific conservation partner, Johnny Morris and his colleagues at Bass Pro Shops, was only one of many other First Day ceremonies at various other Bass Pro shops throughout the country.

He also highlighted the North American Wetlands Conservation Act slate of 27 U.S. Grant proposals. The match funding of \$86 million is an indication of the continuing commitment of NAWCA partners in the United States and results in a total of over \$112 million will provide funding for high quality wetland conservation projects impacting over 135,000 acres.

Today's slate reflects the variety of conservation activities funded through NAWCA, including:

fee-title acquisition, acquisition of permanent conservation easements, wetlands restoration, enhancement and establishment, and protection and management of wetlands-associated uplands.

Acting Chairman Laverty thanked Acting Director Stansell and then called for approval of the June 12, 2008, meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved. Then he moved on to Agenda Item A.

Agenda Item A

MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT PROCEEDINGS

Acting Chairman Laverty called on Commission Secretary Alvarez to present the eight Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals for consideration. Mr. Alvarez presented the program. The Commission *Ex Officio* members for each state affirmed their support for each project, and Mr. Alvarez and the respective Service regional representative responded to questions about the individual proposals.

The Commission individually approved the following Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals:

**New MBCC Refuge Boundary and Price Approval**

BAYOU SAUVAGE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, St. Bernard and Orleans Parishes, Louisiana – Boundary approval was granted for the 34,536-acre refuge acquisition boundary. Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 2,027 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,112,500, or \$549 per acre.

WACCAMAW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Georgetown, Marion, and Horry Counties, South Carolina – Boundary approval was granted for the 54,572-acre refuge acquisition boundary. Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 1,292 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,400,000, or \$1,084 per acre.

**Boundary Addition and Price Approval**

MONTEZUMA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Seneca County, New York – Boundary approval was granted for 220 acres to align the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission boundary with the Service's approved acquisition boundary. Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 64 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$224,000, or \$3,500 per acre.

SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE, MOHAWK RIVER DIVISION, Coos County, New Hampshire – Boundary approval was granted for the 2,000-acre Mohawk River Division. Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 108 acres, in two ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$54,000, or \$500 per acre.

SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE, PONDICHERRY DIVISION, Coos County, New Hampshire – Boundary approval was granted for 492 acres to align the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission boundary with the Service’s approved acquisition boundary. Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 105 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$175,000, or \$1,667 per acre.

TRINITY RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Liberty County, Texas – Boundary and price approval were granted for the fee title acquisition of 924 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,017,000, or \$1,100 per acre.

**Price Approval**

CACHE RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Jackson, Prairie, Woodruff, and Monroe Counties, Arkansas – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 24 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$70,500, or \$2,938 per acre.

TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, WAPUTO LAKE UNIT, Washington and Yamhill Counties, Oregon – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 15 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$54,000, or \$3,600 per acre.

Acting Chairman Laverty then moved on to Agenda Item B, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act portion of the meeting.

**Agenda Item B**

**NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT PROCEEDINGS**

Acting Director Stansell began the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) portion of the meeting by introducing Mr. David Gagner, representative for Commission *Ex Officio* member and North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) member Mr. Jeffrey Trandahl, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Mr. Gagner noted the slate of 27 U.S. Standard Grant proposals was the initial slate for Fiscal Year 2009. Mr. Gagner emphasized the large number and diversity of partners and the protection and restoration/enhancement activities associated with the U.S. proposals, highlighting proposals from Montana and Maine as examples of partner and activity diversity. Mr. Gagner then introduced Commission *Ex Officio* member and Council member Ms. Mary Pope Hutson, Land Trust Alliance. Ms. Hutson commented on the public recreation potential provided as by-products of NAWCA proposals, noting proposals in Mississippi and South Carolina that will provide hunting, fishing, canoeing, hiking, and bird watching opportunities for the public. Ms. Hutson also noted that 2009 will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NAWCA. An event is being planned to recognize this anniversary and to highlight the conservation activities on over 23 million acres of habitat by partners in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

Ms. Hutson then introduced Council Coordinator Michael Johnson. Coordinator Johnson noted that one proposal (Drummond Flats Phase II) listed in the meeting book was removed from the

slate due to an incomplete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. He said that it is anticipated that this proposal will be placed on the March 2009 slate. Coordinator Johnson then presented the Council's recommended slate of 27 U.S. Standard Grant proposals (NAWCA funds = \$26,091,956; partner match = \$86,017,819). Commission member, Representative John Dingell from Michigan, commented on the value of the NAWCA program in promoting cooperative initiatives among partners and the innovative conservation actions that these partners develop to protect wetland habitats. Representative Dingell recommended the entire slate of projects, having sufficient non-Federal partner dollars to match the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund (NAWCF) request, for approval, and Senator Thad Cochran from Mississippi seconded it. The entire slate was approved by unanimous vote.

Coordinator Johnson presented an update of the NAWCA program to date. A total of 1,811 proposals in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico have been funded with \$590 million in grant funds. This has been matched by \$1.48 billion in partner match. A total of 23.9 million acres have been affected. Coordinator Johnson then provided an overview of the status of the NAWCF for Fiscal Year 2009.

Acting Chairman asked for other business in front of the Commission and then adjourned the meeting.



MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2009

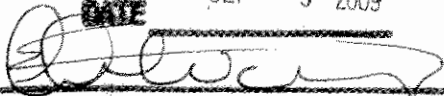
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MEMORANDUM "A"

MEETING MINUTES JUNE 10, 2009

The Minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting held on June 10, 2009, have been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
DATE SEP 9 2009  
  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION



**MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Held in Washington, D.C., on June 10, 2009**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (Commission) met on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

- HON. TOM STRICKLAND, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, Chairman
- HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi
- HON. BLANCHE LINCOLN, Senator from Arkansas
- HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, U.S. Representative from Michigan
- HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN, U.S. Representative from Virginia
- HON. ANN BARTUSKA, Acting Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- HON. ROBERT WOOD, Acting Deputy Office Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

A representative from Canada was present:

- MS. CHRISTINA JUTZI, Program Officer, Environment and Energy, Embassy of Canada

The following State *Ex Officio* members were present:

- MR. STEVE FRIEDMAN, Chief of Real Estate, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. ROBERT MOLLER, Legislative Director for Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter of New Hampshire, Washington, D.C., Office
- MS. BEBE TERRELL, Legislative Assistant for Congressman Rodney Alexander of Louisiana, Washington, D.C., Office

- MR. GREGG SERENBETZ, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency
- MR. JEFF BARBER, Director of Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy, Helena, Montana
- MS. CHRISTY PLUMER, Director of Government Relations, The Conservation Fund, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. KELLY M. NILAND, Federal Grants Manager, The Trust for Public Lands
- MR. SCOTT SUTHERLAND, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.
- MS. TAMAR TOLLIVER HOGAN, Realty Officer, Division of Realty, Region 4, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta Georgia (on detail to Washington Office)
- MS. BETTY JAROUS, Branch Chief, Division of Realty, Region 4, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. WALTER J. QUIST, Realty Officer, Division of Realty, Region 5, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. REBECCA HALBE, National Coordinator, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DOUGLAS VANDEGRAFT, Chief Cartographer, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. ANN GREEN, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DONOVAN SHERFIELD, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. MICHAEL KREGER, Deputy Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. SARAH MOTT, Branch Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

- MS. MARQUITA DOUGLAS, Secretary, Office of Information Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. CHARNYCE BUNDY, Secretary, National Wildlife Refuge System, Office of Budget, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

## MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Strickland called the meeting to order once a quorum was assembled. He commenced introductions of the Commission members and others seated at the table.

Chairman Strickland also introduced Joshua Spies, the 2009 – 2010 Federal Duck Stamp artist from South Dakota, and mentioned the First Day of Sale event on June 26 in Nashville, TN. He announced the 2009 – 2010 Junior Duck Stamp winner, Lily Spang, of Toledo, OH. Lily painted a wood duck drake.

Chairman Strickland recognized Congressman Dingell, and thanked him for his 40 years of service to the Commission. He listed some of the Commission's accomplishments during the Congressman's tenure, including the establishment of 65 new national wildlife refuges, the protection of nearly two million wetland acres, and the conservation of almost 25 million acres in the United States, Canada, and Mexico through the NAWCA program. Chairman Strickland led the room in a standing ovation for Congressman Dingell and presented him with an award: a framed 2008-2009 Federal Duck Stamp print of northern pintails, painted and signed by Joseph Hautman, together with a mint stamp and a stamp signed by the author. He mentioned that a congratulatory letter from the President was also forthcoming for the Congressman. Congressman Dingell expressed his appreciation and credited the entire Commission for the program's success.

Chairman Strickland introduced Acting Fish and Wildlife Service Director Gould, who offered his own remarks. Acting Director Gould added his congratulations to Congressman Dingell for his 40 years of service to the Commission and to Joshua Spies for winning the Federal Duck Stamp Contest. As both a hunter and Federal Duck Stamp collector, the Acting Director said he looks forward to buying the first stamp at the June 26<sup>th</sup> First Day of Sale event.

Acting Director Gould highlighted the importance of partnerships in the success of the Commission's program. He stated that over 4,000 partners were part of the NAWCA grant programs over the past 20 years. These partners more than doubled the money available to protect nearly 25 million acres of wetlands and associated uplands in North America.

Acting Director Gould introduced Paul Schmidt, Assistant Director for Migratory Birds and State Programs, to present the International Canvasback Award to Congressman Dingell. This award was presented on behalf of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee. Assistant Director Schmidt concluded by thanking the Congressman on behalf of the Fish and

Chairman Strickland then moved on to Agenda Item B, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) portion of the meeting.

Agenda Item B

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT PROCEEDINGS

Assistant Secretary Tom Strickland introduced *Ex Officio* Commission member and North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) member Mr. Jeff Trandahl from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Mr. Trandahl commented on the current slate of Canadian, Mexican and U.S. proposals and highlighted the wetland conservation results that will be achieved in North America with the combination of North American Wetlands Conservation Act (Act) and partner funding. Mr. Trandahl also commented on the critical migratory bird habitat that will be protected, highlighting the resource values associated with the U.S. standard grant proposal (Lower Minnesota Valley Wetland Conservation Initiative II). Mr. Trandahl then introduced *Ex Officio* Commission member and Council member Ms. Mary Pope Hutson from the Land Trust Alliance. Ms. Hutson expressed her appreciation for the Commission's support for the Act. Ms. Hutson commented on the U.S. Small Grant proposals on the current slate and highlighted the importance of the Small Grant program in developing new conservation partners and initiatives during the program's 13 years of existence. To date, over 400 small grants have been approved, a third of all Act grants, involving over 1,000 partners and accounting for over \$20,000,000 in Act funds expended. Ms. Hutson noted that since its inception in 1996, the Act has been an important catalyst in the creation of many of the over 1,100 new land trusts created within the U.S.

Ms. Hutson then introduced Council Coordinator Mike Johnson. Coordinator Johnson reported that the two U.S. standard proposals conditionally approved during the March 2009 meeting (Platte River Wetlands Partnership II and San Luis Valley Wetland Project IV) have met their National Environmental Policy Act requirements and their grant agreements are being finalized. Coordinator Johnson then presented the Council's recommended slate of five Canadian standard grant proposals (Act funds = \$25,537,814; partner match contributions = \$25,537,814), two Mexican standard grant proposals (Act funds = \$844,020; partner match contributions = \$2,669,020) and one U.S. standard grant proposal (Act funds = \$1,000,000; partner match contributions = \$2,172,880). Senator Lincoln inquired about the Mexican training proposal, the 2010 Veracruz Model, and if the work was related to an earlier proposal with landowners, with the same partner. Ellen Murphy, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, confirmed that this partner had been awarded previous grants for this training course, and that another grantee has been active in environmental education projects and has developed legal mechanisms for use by private landowners to conserve wetland habitat. Senator Lincoln also asked if the Mexican match fund amounts were from Mexican partners. Ellen Murphy confirmed this, with the exception of the World Bank funds which are U.S. partner dollars. The entire slate of projects presented, having sufficient non-Federal partner dollars to match the Act requests, was recommended for approval by Representative Dingell and seconded by Senator Lincoln. The slate was approved by unanimous vote.



MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2009

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MEMORANDUM "A"

MEETING MINUTES MARCH 11, 2009

The Minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting held on March 11, 2009, have been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these Minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

JUN 10 2009  
  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Held in Washington, D.C., on March 11, 2009**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, March 11, 2009, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

HON. KENNETH L. SALAZAR, Secretary, Department of the Interior, Chairman

HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, U.S. Representative from Michigan

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN, U.S. Representative from Virginia

HON. ANN BARTUSKA, Acting Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture

HON. ROBERT WOOD, Acting Deputy Office Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

A representative from Mexico was present:

DR. ALEJANDRO POSADAS, Minister for Environment, SEMARNAT, Embassy of Mexico

A representative from Canada was present:

MS. CHRISTINA JUTZI, Program Officer, Environment and Energy, Embassy of Canada

The following State *Ex Officio* members were present:

MR. ERIC SWEDLUND, Deputy Director, California Governor's Washington, DC, Office

MR. JOHN AGAN, Legislative Assistant to Congressman Paul Hodes of New Hampshire

MR. JEFF RAASCH, State Wetland and Joint Venture Program Leader, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

- MS. HOLLY MICHAEL, Conservation Strategy Leader, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- DR. DAVID COBB, Chief, Division of Wildlife Management, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- MS. BEBE TERRELL, Legislative Assistant for Congressman Rodney Alexander of Louisiana

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *Ex Officio* members were present:

- MR. JEFFREY TRANDAHL, Executive Director, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- MR. MICHAEL DENNIS, Vice President for Conservation Real Estate and Private Lands, The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, Virginia

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

- MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator was present:

- MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and partner agencies/organizations were present:

- HON. WILL SHAFROTH, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior
- MR. BRENT ROBINSON, Senior Legislative Assistant for Congressman Robert J. Wittman, Washington, D.C. Office
- MR. ROWAN GOULD, Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- MR. PAUL SCHMIDT, Acting Deputy Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- MS. KATHLEEN KUTSCHENREUTER, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency



- MR. GREGG SERENBETZ, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency
- MR. HUNTER MOORHEAD, Legislative Director for Senator Thad Cochran, Washington D.C. Office
- MS. KATIE MURTHA, Legislative Director for Congressman John D. Dingell, Washington D.C. Office
- MS. KELLY M. NILAND, Federal Grants Manager, The Trust for Public Land
- MR. SCOTT SUTHERLAND, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.
- MR. STEVE MUYSKENS, Senior Realty Specialist, R3, Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, Minnesota
- MR. SHAWN MILAR, Easement Program Manager, San Luis NWR Complex, Fish and Wildlife Service, Los Banos, California
- MS. MIRIAM MAZEL, Chief, Division of Realty and Refuge Information, R1, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon
- MS. KAREN HAND, Senior Realty Specialist, R8, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California
- MS. NANCY UNBEHAUN, Senior Realty Specialist, R2, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- MS. MARYTHERESE ONE BEAR, Senior Realty Specialist, R2, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- MS. BETTY JAROUS, Branch Chief, Division of Realty, R4, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. WALTER J. QUIST, Realty Officer, R5, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MR. WILLIAM PORTER, Branch Chief, Division of Realty, R5, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DOUG VANDEGRAFT, Chief Cartographer, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. ANN GREEN, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. TAMAR TOLLIVER HOGAN, National Coordinator, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DONOVAN SHERFIELD, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. SARAH MOTT, Branch Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVID BUIE, NAWCA Council Staff, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. RACHEL LEVIN, Communications Coordinator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. PATRICIA FISHER, Chief, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. LAURIE M. SHAFFER, Director of Marketing, Development and Licensing, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. SHIRITA TURNER, Executive Assistant, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. JOSHUA WINCHELL, Office of Public Affairs, External Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. VANESSA KAUFFMAN, Public Affairs Specialist, External Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. EDITH THOMPSON, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVID BERGENDORF, Program Analyst, Division of Budget, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. ELLEN MURPHY, NAWCA Mexico Grant Administrator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

- MR. DON KEARNEY, Prescribed Fire Specialist and WUI Coordinator, R2, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- MR. FRED WETZEL, National Fire Program Advisor, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVID GAGNER, Director, Government Affairs, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- MS. SHERRY BARNETT, Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs, Department of the Interior
- MR. NATE HUNDT, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior

#### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Salazar called the meeting to order once a quorum was assembled. He thanked everyone for attending and mentioned it was a pleasure to chair his first Commission meeting. He welcomed the permanent Commission members by introducing them individually.

Chairman Salazar then introduced the Acting Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Mr. Rowan Gould. He also welcomed another new member of the Commission, Congressman Robert J. "Rob" Wittman, who was just named to the Commission on Friday by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Chairman Salazar recognized three significant milestones. The first was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of legislation that Congress passed on March 16, 1934, the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act, also known as the Duck Stamp Act. The second milestone was the upcoming 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Chairman Salazar also recognized a very special milestone for Congressman Dingell, his 40<sup>th</sup> year on the Commission. Congressman Dingell was appointed to serve on the Commission in 1969.

Chairman Salazar introduced Acting Director Gould who offered his own remarks. Acting Director Gould highlighted the importance of the Federal Duck Stamp and this Commission, which continues to fund and approve acquisitions of key habitat for waterfowl such as the 1,481 acres of forested wetlands at Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the 1,292 acres of excellent wintering habitat for ducks at Waccamaw NWR.

Acting Director Gould also mentioned that today's slate reflects the variety of conservation activities funded through NAWCA, including: fee-title acquisition, acquisition of permanent conservation easements, wetlands restoration, enhancement and establishment, and protection and management of wetlands-associated uplands.

Chairman Salazar thanked Acting Director Gould and then called for approval of the September 9, 2009, meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved. Then he moved on to Agenda Item A.

Agenda Item A

MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Salazar called on Commission Secretary Alvarez to present the seven Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals for consideration. Mr. Alvarez presented the program. The Commission State *Ex Officio* members affirmed their support for each project, and Mr. Alvarez and the respective Service regional representative responded to questions about the individual proposals.

The Commission individually approved the following Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals:

**Boundary Addition and Price Approval**

GREAT DISMAL SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, CITIES OF SUFFOLK AND CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA, AND CAMDEN, GATES, AND PASQUOTANK COUNTIES, NORTH CAROLINA – Boundary approval was granted to add 36 acres, including Tract (215), consisting of 21 acres, and a 15-acre portion of Tract (216). Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 51 acres, in two ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$143,250, or \$2,809 per acre.

SAN BERNARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, BRAZORIA AND MATAGORDA COUNTIES, TEXAS – Boundary addition and price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 1,454 acres, in two ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$4,481,000, or \$3,082 per acre.

SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE, PONDICHERRY DIVISION, COOS COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE – Boundary approval was granted to add 14 acres and price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 80 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$63,000, or \$788 per acre.

**Price Approval**

GRAND COTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, AVOYELLES AND RAPIDES PARISHES, LOUISIANA – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 265 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$397,000, or \$1,501 per acre.

GRASSLANDS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, MERCED COUNTY, CALIFORNIA – Price approval was granted for the acquisition of permanent conservation easements on two tracts of land, totaling 1,077 acres, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$2,470,000, or \$2,293 per acre.

NORTH CENTRAL VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, COLUSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 388 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$2,600,000, or \$6,701 per acre.

TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, WAPATO LAKE UNIT, WASHINGTON AND YAMHILL COUNTIES, OREGON – Price approval was granted for the fee title acquisition of 225 acres, in four ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,586,675, or \$7,052 per acre.

Chairman Salazar then moved on to Agenda Item B, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) portion of the meeting.

### Agenda Item B

#### NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Salazar introduced Ex Officio Commission member and North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) member Jeff Trandahl from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Mr. Trandahl noted that 2009 is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NAWCA with 25 million acres affected by NAWCA funding and over 4,000 partners and 2,000 grants involved to date. Mr. Trandahl then introduced Ex Officio Commission member and Council member Mr. Mike Dennis from The Nature Conservancy, who highlighted the NAWCA slate. This slate included seven Mexican proposals requesting \$1.99 million in grant funds with a partner match of \$3.5 million, and 25 U.S. standard proposals requesting \$24.2 million in grant funds with a partner match of \$60.6 million.

Mr. Dennis then introduced Council Coordinator Mike Johnson. Coordinator Johnson presented the Council's recommended slate. Coordinator Johnson noted that two proposals, the Platte River Wetlands Partnership II and the San Luis Valley Wetland Project IV, have incomplete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews. Coordinator Johnson asked the Commission to conditionally approve both proposals in order to release NAWCA funds once the NEPA review was complete. Congressman Dingell asked if there were environmental problems associated with either proposal. Coordinator Johnson assured the Commission members that there were no problems involved, only a lack of time to complete the NEPA process by the Commission meeting date. Congressman Dingell asked what conditional approval meant. Coordinator Johnson said that with conditional approval, the grant process would begin, and NAWCA funds would become available to the applicant upon receipt of the completed NEPA documentation. Congressman Dingell asked if there was a better procedure to follow until the NEPA process was finished. Coordinator Johnson explained that if they held off approval until the June 2009 Commission meeting, the earliest proposal start date would be in July. With conditional approval, the proposals could begin as early as April. The three month difference could have a significant impact on the successful start of the proposals. Chairman Salazar said the best solution was to separate the two proposals from the approved slate with a conditional approval that would expire by the next Commission meeting. Congressman Wittman did so by recommending the Commission conditionally approve the two standard proposals, the Platte River Wetlands Partnership II and the San Luis Valley Wetland Project IV, through June 10,

2009. Congressman John Dingell seconded the recommendation, and the Commission conditionally approved the two proposals by unanimous vote. Coordinator Johnson noted that the Council would report on the status of the two conditionally approved proposals during the June 10, 2009, Commission meeting. Congressman Wittman recommended approval for the remaining slate of seven Mexican and 23 U.S. standard proposals, which all had sufficient non-Federal partner dollars to match the North American Wetland Conservation Fund's request. Representative Dingell seconded the recommendation. The Commission approved the slate by unanimous vote.

Acting Director Gould informed the Commission members that they should each find at their seat an autographed card from the winner of the 2009 Federal Duck Stamp art competition. The card depicted a long-tailed duck and decoy painted by South Dakota artist Joshua Spies. The Service will unveil the 2009-2010 Federal Duck Stamp at its First Day of Sale event in Nashville, Tennessee, on June 26.

Chairman Salazar asked for other business in front of the Commission and then adjourned the meeting at 9:45 A.M.



MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2009

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MEMORANDUM "A"

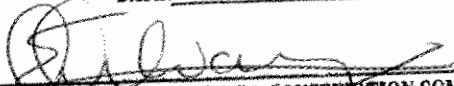
MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

The Minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting held on September 9, 2009, have been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DATE: MAR 10 2010

  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION



**MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Held in Washington, D.C., on September 9, 2009**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, September 9, 2009, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

- HON. KEN SALAZAR, Secretary, Department of the Interior
- HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi
- HON. BLANCHE LINCOLN, Senator from Arkansas
- HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, U.S. Representative from Michigan
- HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN, U.S. Representative from Virginia
- HON. ANN BARTUSKA, Acting Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- HON. ROBERT WOOD, Acting Deputy Office Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The following *ex officio* members were present:

- MR. PATRICK EMORY, Director, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Delaware
- MR. PATRICK WOODCOCK, Legislative Assistant Office of Senator Olympia Snowe, Washington, D.C.
- MR. DARIN BIRD, Deputy Director, Department of Natural Resources, Utah
- MR. ERIC SWEDLUND, Deputy Director, California Governor's Washington, D.C., Office
- MS. MEREDITH LATHBURY, Director, Land Acquisition and Planning, Department of Natural Resources, Maryland
- MS. SARA DEWEY, Legislative Correspondent for Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter of New Hampshire, Washington, D.C., Office

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *ex officio* members were present:

MR. JEFFREY TRANDAHL, Executive Director, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, D.C.

MR. MICHAEL DENNIS, The Nature Conservancy, Round Hill, Virginia

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator was present:

MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and partner agencies and organizations were present:

HON. TOM STRICKLAND, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior

HON. WILL SHAFROTH, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior

HON. JANE LYDER, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior

MR. TED SERAFINI, Legislative Assistant to Senator Blanche Lincoln, Washington, D.C., Office

MR. BRENT ROBINSON, Senior Assistant to Congressman Robert J. Wittman, Washington, D.C., Office

MR. SAM HAMILTON, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

MR. GREGORY SIEKANIEC, Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

MR. PAUL SCHMIDT, Assistant Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

MS. CHRISTINA JUTZI, Program Officer, Environment and Energy, Embassy of Canada

- MR. GREG MOORE, Environmental Program Administrator, Wildlife, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Delaware
- MR. GREGG SERENBETZ, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.
- MR. HUNTER MOORHEAD, Legislative Director, Senator Cochran's Office, Washington, D.C., Office
- MS. KATIE MURTHA, Legislative Director, Congressman John D. Dingell's Office, Washington, D.C., Office
- MS. CHRISTY PLUMER, Director of Government Relations, The Conservation Fund, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. WILLIAM CROUCH, Maryland Real Estate Director, The Conservation Fund, Annapolis, Maryland
- MS. KELLY M. NILAND, Federal Grants Manager, The Trust for Public Land, Washington, D.C.
- MR. SCOTT SUTHERLAND, Director of the Governmental Affairs Office, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.
- MS. SUE OLIVEIRA, Realty Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Realty Office, Lakewood, Colorado
- MS. SANDRA HUTCHCROFT, Information Technology Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Realty Office, Lakewood, Colorado
- MR. STEVEN LAY, Senior Realty Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Realty Office, Sacramento, California
- MR. WALTER J. QUIST, Realty Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Realty Office, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MR. WILLIAM C. PORTER, Realty Branch Chief, Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Realty Office, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. RONALD FOWLER, Program Analyst, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. ANN GREEN, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. TRENESCIA BRIGGMAN, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. REBECCA HALBE, National Coordinator, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. JEANETTE HARRISON, Senior Realty Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. JON ANDREW, Refuge Chief, Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. MICHAEL KREGER, Deputy Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. JEROME FORD, Deputy Assistant Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. SARAH MOTT, Branch Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVID BUIE, NAWCA Council Staff, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. RACHEL LEVIN, Communications Coordinator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. PATRICIA FISHER, Chief, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. LAURIE M. SHAFFER, Director of Marketing, Development and Licensing, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. ELIZABETH JACKSON, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. JOSHUA WINCHELL, Office of Public Affairs, External Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

- MR. PAUL BAICICH, Birding Consultant, Division of Visitor Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. JOSEPH McCAULEY, Project Leader, Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Warsaw, Virginia
- MS. ROSALIND WU, Student, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia
- MS. MARQUITA DOUGLAS, Office of Information Technology and Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. CHARNYCE BUNDY, Division of Budget, Performance, and Workforce, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. DEBORAH SUMERSKI, Program Analyst, Division of Budget, Performance, and Workforce, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. LIZ BELLANTONI, Chief, Branch of Conservation Land Management, National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, West Virginia
- MR. RICK JORGENSEN, Course Leader, Branch of Conservation Land Management, National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, West Virginia
- MR. DAVE LEMARIE, Refuge Curriculum Manager, Branch of Conservation Land Management, National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, West Virginia
- MR. NOAH KAHN, Performance Manager, Division of Budget, Performance, and Workforce, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. TOM CASSIDY, Director of Federal Programs, The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, Virginia

#### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Salazar asked the Commission members and other attendees to introduce themselves. He then called the meeting to order. In his opening remarks, Chairman Salazar pointed out that today's slate of North American Waterfowl Conservation Act (NAWCA) proposals included the one-billionth dollar spent on NAWCA projects. That is a true milestone!

Chairman Salazar introduced newly appointed and confirmed Fish and Wildlife Service Director Sam Hamilton, who offered his own remarks. Director Hamilton also mentioned the NAWCA program's one-billionth dollar milestone. He also highlighted the importance of partnerships in the success of the Commission's program.

Chairman Salazar called for approval of the June 10, 2009, meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved. Then he moved on to Agenda Item A.

### Agenda Item A

#### MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Salazar called on Commission Secretary Alvarez to present the eight Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals for consideration. Mr. Alvarez and the respective Service regional representatives responded to questions about the individual proposals, and the Commission State *ex officio* members affirmed their support for each project.

The Commission approved the following Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals individually:

#### Boundary Addition and Price Approval

TULARE BASIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, KERN AND TULARE COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA. The Commission granted boundary approval to add 22,000 acres and price approval for the easement acquisition of 1,042 acres, in three ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,509,585 or \$1,449 per acre. The Commission's action authorized a new refuge for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND. The Commission granted boundary approval to add 15,545 acres and price approval for the fee title acquisition of 823 acres in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$2,300,000 or \$2,795 per acre. Only a portion of this tract, approximately 340 acres, will require MBCC funding of \$950,000. The remaining balance of \$1,350,000 will come from 2009 LWCF appropriated funds.

BOMBAY HOOK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, KENT COUNTY, DELAWARE. The Commission granted boundary approval to add 542 acres (previously transferred to the Service from the Corps of Engineers), and price approval for the fee title acquisition of 273 acres in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$470,000 or \$1,722 per acre.

SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE, PONDICHERRY DIVISION, COOS COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE. The Commission granted boundary approval to add 188 acres and price approval for the fee title acquisition of 61 acres in two ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$80,000 or \$1,311 per acre.

#### Price Approval

BEAR RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE, BOX ELDER COUNTY, UTAH. The Commission granted price approval for the fee title acquisition of 700 acres in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$2,100,000 or \$3,000 per acre.

LAKE UMBAGOG NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, COOS COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE, AND OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE. The Commission granted price approval for the fee title acquisition of 438 acres in four ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$334,000 or \$763 per acre.

SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE, MOHAWK RIVER DIVISION, COOS COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE. The Commission granted price approval for the fee title acquisition of 700 acres in four ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,191,000 or \$1,701 per acre.

LOST TRAIL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, FLATHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA. The Commission granted price re-approval of a 10-year state lease for 240 acres, in one ownership, for the recommended price of \$174 per year, or \$0.73 per acre.

Chairman Salazar then moved on to Agenda Item B, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) portion of the meeting.

#### Agenda Item B

#### NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Salazar recognized *ex officio* Commission member and North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) member Mr. Jeffrey Trandahl, from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Mr. Trandahl noted that the slate of NAWCA proposals awarded more than \$33 million in grant funds to 34 projects that will protect and restore wetland habitat in 24 states. Mr. Trandahl also noted that partners matched the grant funds with an additional \$89 million in contributions, resulting in a 2.7:1 partner to grant funding ratio. Mr. Trandahl highlighted the \$1 billion milestone in grant funding and noted that more than 11,000 partners had matched this mark with contributions of over \$2 billion to the program. Mr. Trandahl then introduced *ex officio* Commission member and Council member Mr. Michael Dennis, from The Nature Conservancy. Mr. Dennis noted that during his 20 years of association with the Commission, it had approved over 1,900 projects and conserved over 25 million acres of wetland habitat. Mr. Dennis noted that the current slate adds an additional 190,000 acres of habitat to the total number of acres conserved. Mr. Dennis commented on the thousands of partnerships developed through NAWCA and the leverage these partnerships create. He highlighted the fact that because the Commission operates in a non-partisan manner, the Council can focus on conservation goals.

Mr. Dennis then introduced Council Coordinator Michael Johnson, of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Coordinator Johnson presented the Council's recommended slate of 34 U. S. standard proposals (NAWCA funds = \$33,391,383; partner match = \$89,285,890). Congressman Wittman expressed support for the resource and recreational values of one of these proposals - Lower Rappahannock River IV. Congressman Wittman appreciated the effort to preserve the site and thanked Joseph McCauley, Project Leader, Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and the Council for their work. Congressman Dingell noted the value of partnerships in the NAWCA process and the success he has witnessed in using NAWCA funds

to protect wetland habitat on the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Congressman Dingell said that the Monroe County Commission was currently offering 246 acres as a donation to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge with widespread local support. Chairman Salazar was pleased to report that the donation was progressing. Mr. Trandahl commented on the current state of NAWCA appropriations. The House has approved a \$10 million increase in funding while the Senate mark is a \$2.5 million increase. Mr. Trandahl urged the Commission members to support the highest level possible. Chairman Salazar noted that partners make NAWCA work and cited examples of the diverse number of partners involved with the current slate. Chairman Salazar asked if the NAWCA partnership process was growing. Coordinator Johnson noted that the Council has a fundamental interest in developing new partners and addresses this issue within the scoring system. As an example, Coordinator Johnson referenced the North Dakota Great Plains VI proposal on the current slate. Seventeen new partners are involved with this proposal, an indication that new partners are still coming into the NAWCA program and that interest in NAWCA remains strong nationwide. Mr. Trandahl noted that since its inception, NAWCA has placed great importance on the creation of partnerships and has targeted the creation of partner networks with the common goal of protecting wetland habitat. Chairman Salazar requested a summary of NAWCA accomplishments to date, including funding, acreage and partnership achievements.

Congressman Dingell recommended approval of the slate of 34 U.S. standard proposals presented, as the proposals all had sufficient non-Federal partner dollars to match the Council's request. Congressman Wittman seconded the recommendation. The Commission approved the slate by unanimous vote.

Chairman Salazar asked for other business before the Commission. He then adjourned the meeting at 9:50 A.M.





MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2010

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MEMORANDUM "A"

MEETING MINUTES JUNE 9, 2010

The Minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting held on June 9, 2010, have been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DATE: SEP 15 2010

  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Held in Washington, D.C., on June 9, 2010**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, June 9, 2010, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

HON. KENNETH L. SALAZAR, Secretary, Department of the Interior (Opened the meeting)

HON. TOM STRICKLAND, Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior (Chaired the meeting)

HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, U.S. Representative from Michigan

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN, U.S. Representative from Virginia

HON. ANN MILLS, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture

HON. DAVID EVANS, Wetlands Division Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The following *ex officio* members were present:

MR. ERIC SWEDLUND, Deputy Director, Office of California Governor Schwarzenegger, Washington, D.C.

MR. ROSS MELINCHUK, Deputy Executive Director, Natural Resources, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

MR. MICHAEL ARMSTRONG, Assistant Director, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

MR. LEE WIDJESKOG, Regional Superintendent, New Jersey Bureau of Land Management, Division of Fish and Wildlife

MR. WILLIAM REEVES, Chief of Biodiversity, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

MR. JOHN AGAN, Legislative Assistant to Congressman Paul Hodes, New Hampshire

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *ex officio* members were present:

MR. JEFFREY TRANDAHL, Executive Director, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, D.C.

MS. MARY POPE HUTSON, Vice President, Land Trust Alliance, Washington, D.C.

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator was present:

MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and partner agencies and organizations were present:

- MR. DAN ASHE, Deputy Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- MR. PAUL SCHMIDT, Assistant Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. P. J. WALDROP, Legislative Director, Senator Cochran's Office, Washington D.C.
- MS. KATIE MURTHA, Legislative Director, Congressman Dingell's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. BRENT ROBINSON, Senior Assistant, Congressman Wittman's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. GREGG SERENBETZ, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.
- MR. ROBERT BEALLE, Winning Federal Duck Stamp Artist for 2010-2011, Waldorf, Maryland
- MRS. BERNICE BEALLE, spouse of winning Federal Duck Stamp Artist for 2010 – 2011, Waldorf, Maryland
- MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. TRENESCIA BRIGGMAN, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. SIMI BATRA, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. KENNETH FOWLER, Volunteer, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. REBECCA HALBE, National Coordinator, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. STEVEN LAY, Realty Specialist, Region 8 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California

- MS. BARBARA ROSE, Deputy Chief of Realty, Region 2 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- MS. NANCY UNBEHAUN, Supervisory Realty Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Marble Falls, Texas
- MS. TAMAR HOGAN, Realty Chief, Region 4 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. BILL PORTER, Deputy Chief of Realty, Region 5 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MR. DAVID BERGENDORF, Program Analyst, Division of Budget, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. ELIZABETH RYAN, Program Analyst, Division of Budget, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. SARAH MOTT, Branch Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVID BUIE, NAWCA Council Staff, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. RACHEL F. LEVIN, Communications Coordinator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. PATRICIA FISHER, Chief, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. ELIZABETH JACKSON, Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. EDITH THOMPSON, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. CHRISTINA JUTZI, Program Officer, Environment and Energy, Embassy of Canada
- MR. SCOTT SUTHERLAND, Director of the Governmental Affairs Office, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.
- MR. SHAW SPRAGUE, Senior Legislative Representative, The Trust for Public Land, Washington, D.C.
- MR. DAVID HOY, Acting Chief Cartographer, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. MICHELE LAUR, National Atmospheric Resources Specialist, USDA

## MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Secretary Salazar welcomed everyone and mentioned the continuing oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico. He had to leave for a Hearing on the oil spill, so turned over the Chair position to Tom Strickland, Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks who called the meeting to order. The Chairman introduced the Commission members. He also talked about the tragedy in the Gulf of Mexico. On a happier note, he welcomed and congratulated this year's Federal Duck Stamp winner, Robert Bealle and his wife, Bernice, who live nearby in Waldorf, Maryland.

Chairman Strickland introduced the Fish and Wildlife Service's Deputy Director Dan Ashe, who offered his own remarks.

Chairman Strickland called for approval of the March 10, 2010, meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved. Then he moved on to Agenda Item A.

### Agenda Item A

#### MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Strickland called on Commission Secretary Alvarez who presented the six proposals. He presented each proposal separately, and the Commission State *ex officio* members affirmed their support for all of the projects.

The Commission approved the following Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals individually:

#### New Refuge Boundary and Price Approval

STONE LAKES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, SACRAMENTO COUNTY, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA. The Commission approved this new MBCC Refuge and refuge boundary. The Commission also granted price approval for the fee title acquisition of 110 acres, in one ownership, for the recommended price of \$840,000 or \$7,623 per acre. This was five percent above the appraised value.

#### Boundary Addition and Price Approval

SAN BERNARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS. The Commission approved the boundary request to add 288 acres to the Refuge and granted price approval for the fee title acquisition of 288 acres in one ownership, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,322,992 or \$4,600 per acre.

#### Price Approval

CACHE RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, JACKSON, PRAIRIE, WOODRUFF, and MONROE COUNTIES, ARKANSAS. The Commission granted price approval for the fee title acquisition of 180 acres in one ownership, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$469,000 or \$2,606 per acre.

EDWIN B. FORSYTHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, BARNEGAT DIVISION, OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY. The Commission granted price approval for the fee title acquisition of 243 acres in one ownership, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$500,500 or \$2,060 per acre.

LOWER HATCHIE WILDLIFE REFUGE, LAUDERDALE AND TIPTON COUNTIES, TENNESSEE. The Commission granted price approval for the fee title acquisition of 866 acres in one ownership, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,970,000 or \$2,275 per acre.

SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE, MOHAWK RIVER DIVISION, COOS COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE. The Commission granted price approval for the fee title acquisition of 162 acres in two ownerships, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$250,000 or \$1,543 per acre.

Chairman Strickland then moved on to Agenda Item B, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) portion of the meeting.

### Agenda Item B

#### NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Strickland introduced *ex officio* Commission member and North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) member, Jeffrey Trandahl. Mr. Trandahl commented on the ongoing oil spill, government efforts to protect and restore wetland habitats, and the extensive investment the Commission has made in the oil spill area through approved North American Wetlands Conservation Act (Act) proposals. Mr. Trandahl introduced *ex officio* Commission member and Council member, Mary Pope Hutson. She expressed her appreciation for the Commission's Congressional leadership during the oil spill crisis and commented on the role the Council has played in four prior oil spills in the U.S. She reiterated the ability to generate large numbers of partners and matching funds under Act funding and stated the Council's readiness to work with all partners to mitigate the oil spill damage.

Ms. Hutson introduced Council Coordinator Mike Johnson. Coordinator Johnson presented the Council's recommended slate of five Canadian standard grant proposals, and two U.S. standard grant proposals. Coordinator Johnson noted that one of the proposals (Redwood Coast Wetlands) had been held from the March slate due to an incomplete National Environmental Policy Act review, which is now complete. The second proposal (Glacial Habitat Restoration Area V) is the first Act proposal that the Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is funding. Chairman Strickland introduced Christina Jutzi from the Canadian Embassy who thanked the Commission for their continued support of wetland conservation efforts in Canada. Congressman Dingell commented on ongoing collaboration efforts with Canada in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge area and how these efforts may tie in with future Act proposals. Congressman Dingell noted the high cost involved with protection and restoration activities and said the Commission may have to consider new sources of funding to merge U.S. and Canadian efforts. Chairman Strickland commented on the necessity of creating strategies with landowners and outdoor recreationists to generate more funding. Commission member Ann Mills noted that conservation easements are a significant tool to protect critical habitats on private lands. Ms. Hutson noted that a bill temporarily extending tax incentive deductions for conservation purposes was pending in the Senate and that it would have a significant impact on land protection. The Commission approved the slate by unanimous vote.

Coordinator Johnson reported on the FY 2010 U.S. small grant proposals approved by Council. The 43 proposals totalled \$3,041,464 in Act funds that the Commission authorized in June 2009. Partner match contributions were \$7,769,478. Coordinator Johnson also presented the Council's Recommended Action for an annual standing authority of small grant funding up to \$5,000,000. Congressman Dingell asked for clarification that this request was for a funding level up to \$5,000,000 for 2011 onward. Commission Member Trandahl responded that the Council's request was meant to streamline the process and arose from the situation in 2008 when the Council needed two separate approvals to fund the U.S. small grant slate which had exceeded the \$3,000,000 level. Commission Secretary Alvarez noted that the Council would still report its actions to the Commission on an annual basis. Congressman Dingell stated that he was not hostile to the Recommended Action but wanted assurance that the Council would properly monitor the new procedure. Congressman

Dingell asked if the small grant match funding totals were accurate. Coordinator Johnson assured him that grant administration monitoring and documentation procedures were currently in place to ensure that the match totals were secure. Congressman Dingell reiterated the need for careful auditing. Congressman Wittman offered a friendly amendment to the Council's Recommended Action: a temporary \$5 million annual authority for two-to-three years. After this trial run, the Commission would review how it went before granting a final standing authority. Ms. Hutson commented that a trial period might be prudent given the expansion of potential partner organizations over the last decade. Commission Secretary Alvarez offered this wording for the friendly amendment: "the Commission authorizes annual funding up to \$5,000,000 for the U.S. Small Grants Program in 2011, 2012, and 2013." The Commission approved the amended Recommended Action by unanimous vote. It will revisit the funding authority in 2013.

Coordinator Johnson provided copies of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act's Biennial Report recognizing the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program to all Commission and *ex officio* members.

Chairman Strickland reminded everyone that the next MBCC meeting would be September 15, 2010 and adjourned the meeting.





MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2010

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MEMORANDUM "A"

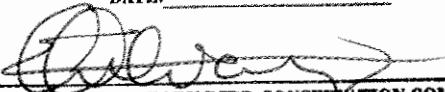
MEETING MINUTES MARCH 10, 2010

The Minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting held on March 10, 2010, have been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DATE: JUN 9 2010

  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Held in Washington, D.C., on March 10, 2010**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, March 10, 2010, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

- HON. KENNETH L. SALAZAR, Secretary, Department of the Interior
- HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi
- HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, U.S. Representative from Michigan
- HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN, U.S. Representative from Virginia
- HON. ANN MILLS, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- HON. DAVID EVANS, Office Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The following *ex officio* members were present:

- MR. JEFF RAASCH, State Wetland and Joint Venture Program Leader, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- MR. ERIC SWEDLUND, Deputy Director, California Governor's Washington, D.C., Office

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *ex officio* members were present:

- MR. JEFFREY TRANDAHL, Executive Director, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, D.C.
- MS. MARY POPE HUTSON, Vice President, Land Trust Alliance, Washington, D.C.

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

- MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator was present:

MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and partner agencies and organizations were present:

- MS. JANE LYDER, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior
- MR. ROWAN GOULD, Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- MR. DAN ASHE, Deputy Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- MR. GREGORY SIEKANIEC, Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- MR. PAUL SCHMIDT, Assistant Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. P. J. WALDROP, Legislative Director, Senator Cochran's Office, Washington D.C.
- MS. KATIE MURTHA, Legislative Director, Congressman Dingell's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. BRENT ROBINSON, Senior Assistant, Congressman Wittman's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. GREGG SERENBETZ, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.
- MS. KELLY M. NILAND, Federal Grants Manager, The Trust for Public Land, Washington, D.C.
- MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. TRENESCIA BRIGGMAN, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

- MS. REBECCA HALBE, National Coordinator, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MRS. PATRICIA ARNOLD, Realty Specialist, Region 8 Realty Office, Sacramento, California
- MR. DOUGLAS VANDEGRAFT, Chief Cartographer, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. SARAH MOTT, Branch Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVID BUIE, NAWCA Council Staff, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. ELLEN C. MURPHY, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. RACHEL F. LEVIN, Communications Coordinator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. KEN KRIESE, Wildlife Biologist, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. JOSHUA WINCHELL, Office of Public Affairs, External Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. PAUL J. BAICICH, Birding Consultant, Division of Visitor Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAN FRISK, Acting Coordinator for the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. PAUL HEIMOWITZ, Acting Chief, Division of Visitor Services and Communications, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. MARQUITA DOUGLAS, Secretary, Office of Information Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. TIMOTHY G. CONNOLLY, Chairman, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture Management Board, Wichita Falls, Texas
- MR. GREGORY YARRIS, California Joint Venture, California Waterfowl Association

- MR. SCOTT SUTHERLAND, Director of the Governmental Affairs Office, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.
- MR. RICHARD WARHURST, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.
- MS. CAROLE K. COMBS, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners, Three Rivers, California
- MR. KARI COHEN, Assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- MR. ROBERT SHAFFER, Joint Venture Coordinator, Region 8 Regional Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California
- MS. YOLANDA JAMISON, Management Analyst, Appraisal Services Directorate, National Business Center, Department of the Interior
- MS. DEBRA L. CURRAN, Management Analyst, Appraisal Services Directorate, National Business Center, Department of the Interior

#### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Salazar began the meeting with some personal reflections about Fish and Wildlife Service Director, Sam Hamilton, who died just weeks earlier, and asked for a moment of silence. The Chairman asked the Commission members and other attendees to introduce themselves. He then called the meeting to order. The Chairman mentioned the previous night's reception in honor of the 107<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and some of the awards that he and others presented.

Chairman Salazar introduced the Fish and Wildlife Service's Acting Director Rowan Gould, who offered his own remarks. Acting Director Gould highlighted the Commission's accomplishments of the previous fiscal year. He mentioned this year's winning Federal Duck Stamp artist, Robert Bealle, who lives nearby in Waldorf, Maryland.

Chairman Salazar called for approval of the September 9, 2009, meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved. Then he moved on to Agenda Item A.

#### Agenda Item A

#### MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Salazar called on Commission Secretary Alvarez. First, Mr. Alvarez showed a few slides about the Fiscal Year 2009 collections to and disbursements from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. Mr. Alvarez responded to questions about the slides and then presented the two proposals. He presented each proposal separately, and the Commission State *ex officio* members affirmed their support for both projects.

The Commission approved the following Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals individually:

**Boundary Addition and Price Approval**

SAN BERNARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, MATAGORDA COUNTY, TEXAS. The Commission granted boundary approval to add 1,315 acres and price approval for the fee title acquisition of the same 1,315 acres in two ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$657,667, or \$500 per acre. This transaction is an example of leveraging money; the National Resources Conservation Service will place a Wetlands Reserve Program easement on the land prior to our acquisition.

**Price Approval**

NORTH CENTRAL VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. The Commission granted price approval for the permanent conservation easement acquisition of 38 acres in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$140,000 or \$3,684 per acre.

Chairman Salazar then moved on to Agenda Item B, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) portion of the meeting.

**Agenda Item B**

**NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

Chairman Salazar introduced the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) portion of the meeting, introducing *ex officio* Commission member and North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) member Mr. Jeffrey Trandahl. Mr. Trandahl stated that the Mexican slate consisted of 11 proposals with a NAWCA and partner total of \$11,030,393 and noted the strong partnerships in Mexico. Mr. Trandahl then introduced *ex officio* Commission member and Council member Ms. Mary Pope Hutson. She highlighted the U. S. Standard Grant slate, which had 20 proposals requesting \$19.5 million in grant funds matched by \$63.6 million in partner funds. Ms. Hutson thanked the Congressional members of the Commission for their continued support of legislation extending tax incentives for conservation easement donations.

Ms. Hutson then introduced Council Coordinator Michael Johnson. Coordinator Johnson described the NAWCA Standard and Small Grant program requirements and objectives. He presented the Council's recommended slate of 11 Mexican proposals (NAWCA funds = \$2,889,050; partner match = \$8,141,343) and 20 U. S. standard proposals (NAWCA funds = \$19,537,024; partner match = \$63,581,914). Coordinator Johnson emphasized the importance of these projects to migratory bird conservation as well as the impressive match from our partners. Coordinator Johnson noted that the Redwood Coast Wetlands proposal listed in the meeting book had an incomplete National Environmental Policy Act review and withdrew it

from the final slate. Coordinator Johnson then presented an aerial view of a portion of the South Dakota Prairie Coteau II proposal, highlighting the variety of partner types and the 150 private landowners involved. Congressman Dingell asked if there was a mechanism in place that generated the private landowner support found in the South Dakota example. Coordinator Johnson explained that state and local government conservation agencies and non-governmental conservation organizations invested significant amounts of time meeting personally with landowners to provide information on NAWCA-funded conservation opportunities such as livestock fencing, rotational grazing planning, and grass rotation planning. The landowners obtained short-term economic benefits, and NAWCA obtained long-term environmental benefits. Congressman Dingell asked how this type of partnership policy could be expanded to other programs and places. Acting Director Gould noted that NAWCA partnerships were often developed through collaboration, as landowners discussed the benefits of NAWCA to neighbors. Congressman Dingell asked if a more formal, statutory program was needed. Chairman Salazar stated that the missing elements were an inventory of the partnerships and sufficient funding to support them. Chairman Salazar noted that a White House conference on conservation strategy was proposed for April 2010 and that this conference would provide a platform to develop the best ideas on, and inventory of, the partnership component of conservation. The Commission approved the slate of 11 Mexican and 20 U.S. Standard Grant proposals by unanimous vote.

Chairman Salazar assured the members of Congress that the \$300 million allocated to the Fish and Wildlife Service through the Stimulus Package was being well-spent on visitor centers and other facilities and resources at national wildlife refuges across the country. He praised the Fish and Wildlife Service for setting the "Gold Standard" among the Department's bureaus for its on-the-ground efforts to put this money to wise use. He adjourned the meeting at 9:40 A.M.





MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2010

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MEMORANDUM "A"

MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

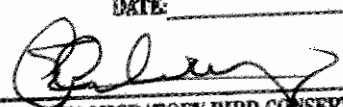
The Minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting held on September 15, 2010, have been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MAR 9 2011

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Held in Washington, D.C., on September 15, 2010**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, September 15, 2010, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

- HON. KENNETH L. SALAZAR, Secretary, Department of the Interior (Opened the meeting)
- HON. THOMAS L. STRICKLAND, Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior (Chaired the meeting)
- HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi
- HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN, U.S. Representative from Virginia
- HON. JASON WELLER, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- HON. DAVID EVANS, Wetlands Division Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The following *ex officio* members were present:

- MR. BOB ELLIS, Director of Wildlife, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- MR. ERIC SWEDLUND, Deputy Director, Office of California Governor Schwarzenegger, Washington, D.C.
- MR. ROSS MELINCHUK, Deputy Executive Director, Natural Resources, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- MS. SARA DEWEY, Legislative Aide to Senator Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire
- MR. LEE WIDJESKOG, Regional Superintendent, New Jersey Bureau of Land Management, Division of Fish and Wildlife
- MR. CLARK McCARLEY, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- MR. PAUL LINK, North American Waterfowl Management Plan Coordinator, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *ex officio* members were present:

- MR. DAVID NOMSEN, Vice-President of Government Affairs, Pheasants Forever, Garfield, Minnesota
- MR. GLENN OLSON, Donal O'Brien Chair in Bird Conservation and Public Policy, National Audubon Society, Sacramento, California

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator was present:

MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the Department of the Interior, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and partner agencies and organizations were present:

- MR. ROWAN GOULD, Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- MR. GREGORY SIEKANIEC, Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- MR. PAUL SCHMIDT, Assistant Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. P. J. WALDROP, Legislative Director, Senator Cochran's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. DANIEL ULMER, Legislative Aide, Senator Cochran's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. ROSS NOLAND, Legislative Counsel, Senator Lincoln's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. DAMON WELLS, Professional Staff, Senator Lincoln's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. BRENT ROBINSON, Senior Assistant, Congressman Wittman's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MS. LYNDA HALL, Chief, Wetland Strategies and State Programs Branch, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.
- MR. GREGG SERENBETZ, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.
- MR. KARI COHEN, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.
- MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. DIANA RAMIREZ, Secretary, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. SIMI BATRA, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. KENNETH FOWLER, Volunteer, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

- MS. CHRIS LETT, Acting Chief Cartographer, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. REBECCA HALBE, National Coordinator, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. KAREN BIERLEY-HAND, Senior Realty Specialist, Region 8 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California
- MR. RIESLEY JONES, Chief of Realty, Region 2 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- MR. ANDY JONES, Director of the Texas Office, The Conservation Fund, Texas
- MS. BETTY JAROUS, Branch Chief, Region 4 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. JOSEPH McCAULEY, Chief of Realty, Region 5 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MR. BILL PORTER, Deputy Chief of Realty, Region 5 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MS. LESLIE MARLER, Management Analyst, Division of Natural Resources and Planning, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. PAUL BAICICH, Birding Consultant, Division of Visitor Services and Communications, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. HELEN MACCALL, Budget Analyst, Division of Budget, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVID BERGENDORF, Program Analyst, Office of Budget, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. ELIZABETH RYAN, Program Analyst, Office of Budget, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. MICHAEL KREGER, Deputy Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. SARAH MOTT, Branch Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVID BUIE, NAWCA Council Staff, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. CHRISTINA RYDER, NAWCA Grant Administrator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. PATRICIA FISHER, Chief, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

- MS. LAURIE M. SHAFFER, Federal Duck Stamp Coordinator, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. EDITH THOMPSON, Congressional and Legislative Affairs Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. KIM BETTON, Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Public Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. MICHAEL DAULTON, Senior Director of Government Relations, National Audubon Society, Washington, D.C.
- MR. SCOTT SUTHERLAND, Director of the Governmental Affairs Office, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.
- MR. SHAW SPRAGUE, Senior Legislative Representative, The Trust for Public Land, Washington, D.C.
- MR. DAVID GAGNER, Director, Government Relations, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, D.C.
- MS. DANIELLE L. DZIDZIENYO, Staff Assistant, Office of Valuation Services, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

#### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Secretary Salazar welcomed everyone. The Secretary introduced the Commission members, and had those attending introduce themselves. Secretary Salazar expressed his gratitude for and pride in the work of the Commission. He was confident that we were within a few days of "killing" the Macondo well in the Gulf of Mexico, an area he called "the crown jewel for wildlife habitat and recreation." He noted the Gulf area contains 45 national wildlife refuges and national parks and that we would need to identify projects to use the money of those responsible for the oil spill disaster. The Secretary introduced the Fish and Wildlife Service's Acting Director Rowan Gould, who displayed one of the new Federal Duck Stamp silk cachets. Sales of these cachets will go into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, specifically for land acquisition at refuges along the Gulf of Mexico. The Acting Director sold the first cachet to Secretary Salazar. Other Commission members purchased cachets, (more of which were sold after the meeting). The Secretary turned over the Chair position to Tom Strickland, Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, who noted that 1000 Interior employees had been deployed along the Gulf Coast. He was hopeful that we had escaped apocalyptic impact there. Chairman Strickland called the meeting to order and called for approval of the June 9, 2010, meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved. He moved to Agenda Item A.

#### Agenda Item A

#### MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Strickland called on Commission Secretary Alvarez who presented the twelve proposals. He presented each proposal separately, and the Commission State *ex officio* members affirmed their support for all of the projects.

The Commission approved the following Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals individually:

### **Boundary Addition and Price Approval**

GREAT DISMAL SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, CITIES OF SUFFOLK AND CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA; CAMDEN, GATES, AND PASQUOTANK COUNTIES, NORTH CAROLINA. The Commission approved the boundary addition and price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 233 acres, in one ownership, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,409,000 or \$6,059 per acre.

HUMBOLDT BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. The Commission approved the boundary addition of 227 acres and the price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 167 acres in two ownerships, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,238,240 or \$7,415 per acre.

SAN BERNARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS. The Commission approved the boundary addition and price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 4,472 acres, in one ownership, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$3,532,450 or \$790 per acre.

SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE, PONDICHERRY DIVISION, COOS COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE. The Commission approved the boundary addition and price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 510 acres in one ownership, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$385,000 or \$755 per acre.

TRINITY RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, LIBERTY COUNTY, TEXAS. The Commission approved the boundary addition and price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 161 acres in two ownerships, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$160,500 or \$1,000 per acre.

WALLKILL RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY; ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK. The Commission approved the boundary addition of 9,550 acres and the price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 43 acres in one ownership, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$123,000 or \$2,852 per acre.

### **Price Approval**

CACHE RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, JACKSON, PRAIRIE, WOODRUFF, and MONROE COUNTIES, ARKANSAS. The Commission granted price approval for the fee title acquisition of 242 acres in two ownerships, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$871,500 or \$3,601 per acre.

STONE LAKES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. The Commission granted price approval for the fee title acquisition of 104 acres in one ownership, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$400,000 or \$3,846 per acre.

TULARE BASIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, KERN AND TULARE COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA. The Commission granted price approval for the easement acquisition of 1,250 acres in two ownerships, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$2,505,000 or \$2,004 per acre.

UMBAGOG NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, COOS COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE. The Commission granted price approval for the fee title acquisition of 914 acres in one ownership, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,000,000 or \$1,094 per acre.

UPPER OUACHITA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, UNION AND MOREHOUSE PARISHES, LOUISIANA. The Commission granted price approval for the fee title acquisition of 3,875 acres in one ownership, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$9,690,000 or \$2,501 per acre.

## Price Re-Approval

ST. CATHERINE CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI. The Commission granted price re-approval of a five-year School Section lease on 502 acres, in one ownership, for the recommended price of \$15,565 per year or \$31 per acre.

Chairman Strickland then moved on to Agenda Item B, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) portion of the meeting.

## Agenda Item B

### NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Strickland introduced the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) portion of the meeting, introducing *ex officio* Commission member and North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) member David Nomsen (Pheasants Forever). Mr. Nomsen thanked the Fish and Wildlife Service and other Federal and State agencies and conservation organizations for their dedicated response to the recent Gulf of Mexico oil spill. He noted that in December, the Council would meet in Alabama with Service personnel and other oil spill experts to discuss the spill and its environmental ramifications within the Gulf. The Council hoped to assist in the oil spill restoration effort within NAWCA funding parameters.

Mr. Nomsen introduced *ex officio* Commission member and Council member Glenn Olson (National Audubon Society). Mr. Olson noted the U.S. slate of 24 proposals, located in 19 states and affecting 148,502 acres, with a total grant request of \$23,172,692 and a partnership match of \$71,337,815, a grant to match ratio of 1:3.1. He highlighted two proposals on the slate: Austin's Woods IV (TX), which complements a proposed acquisition under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act proceedings, and Deadwater-Neches River NWR (TX), which will fund an addition to the Neches River NWR. Mr. Olson added that NAWCA conserves a variety of wetland habitats on national wildlife refuges, state wildlife management areas, and private lands.

Mr. Olson introduced Council Coordinator Michael Johnson, who presented the Council's recommended slate of 24 U.S. standard proposals (NAWCA funds = \$23,172,692; partner match = \$71,337,815). The slate had sufficient non-Federal partner dollars to match the NAWCF request, and the Commission approved the slate by unanimous vote. Coordinator Johnson added that the entire Council plans to attend the March 2011 Commission meeting. Scott Sutherland (Ducks Unlimited) requested Commission support for maintaining the current FY 2011 NAWCA funding level.

Jason Weller (USDA Commission member) thanked the Service and other Interior agencies for their cooperation in responding to the Gulf oil spill. Mr. Weller noted that over 1.2 million acres of private lands had been enrolled in USDA's effort to secure suitable habitat for the upcoming fall migration. Chairman Strickland spoke of this Administration's commitment to restoring the Gulf of Mexico through the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process. Chairman Strickland thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting.





MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2011

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MEMORANDUM "A"

MEETING MINUTES JUNE 15, 2011

The minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting

held on June 15, 2011, have been prepared for reading by

the Commission.

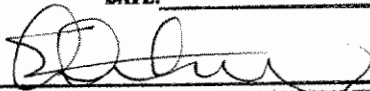
It is respectfully recommended that these

minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SEP 14 2011

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF THE

### MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held in Washington, D.C., on June 15, 2011

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, June 15, 2011, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

- HON. KEN SALAZAR, Secretary, Department of the Interior (Opened the meeting)
- HON. RACHEL JACOBSON, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior (Chaired the meeting)
- HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi
- HON. MARK PRYOR, Senator from Arkansas
- HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, U.S. Representative from Michigan
- HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN, U.S. Representative from Virginia
- HON. ROBERT BONNIE, Senior Advisor for Environment and Climate, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- HON. ROBERT PERCIASEPE, Deputy Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The following *ex officio* members were present:

- MS. HOLLY MICHAEL, Strategy Coordinator, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Salem, Oregon
- MR. DAN WILMOT, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of Homeland Security, Office of Texas Governor Rick Perry, Washington, D.C.

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *ex officio* members were present:

- MR. GREG KNADLE, Director, Congressional, Government, and External Relations, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, D.C.
- MS. MARY POPE HUTSON, Executive Vice President, Land Trust Alliance, Washington, D.C.

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

- MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator was present:

- MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the Department of the Interior, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and partner agencies and organizations were present:

- MR. DAN ASHE, Deputy Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- MR. GREGORY SIEKANIEC, Acting Deputy Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- MR. JEROME FORD, Acting Assistant Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- MR. GREGG SERENBETZ, Wetland Strategies and State Programs Branch, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.
- MR. JACOB LYONFIELDS, Intern, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.
- MR. KARI COHEN, Senior Advisor, Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- MR. CARLISLE CLARKE, Legislative Assistant, Senator Cochran's Office, Washington D.C.
- MR. ERIC MAY, Executive Assistant, Senator Pryor's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. KELVIN STROUD, Legislative Assistant, Senator Pryor's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MS. KATIE MURTHA, Legislative Director, Congressman Dingell's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. BRENT ROBINSON, Senior Assistant, Congressman Robert J. Wittman's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. REBECCA HALBE, National Coordinator, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. SIMI BATRA, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. HALLISON PUTNAM, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. KENNETH FOWLER, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. DONNA ZANGER, Administrative Officer, Region 3 Division of Refuge Budget, Fish and Wildlife Service, Twin Cities, Minnesota

- MS. CATHERINE JANASIE, Intern, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DARREN NICHOLS, Legal Intern, Branch of Wildlife Resources, Division of Natural Resources and Conservation Planning, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. WAYNE HILL, Branch Chief, Region 1 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon
- MR. RIESLEY JONES, Chief, Region 2 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- MR. JOSEPH McCAULEY, Chief, Region 5 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MR. WILLIAM PORTER, Deputy Chief, Region 5 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MR. MICHAEL KREGER, Deputy Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. SARAH MOTT, Branch Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVID BUIE, NAWCA Council Staff, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. RACHEL LEVIN, Communications Coordinator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. PATRICIA FISHER, Chief, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. LAURIE M. SHAFFER, Director of Marketing, Development and Licensing, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. SCOTT SUTHERLAND, Director of the Governmental Affairs Office, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.
- MS. KIM BETTON, Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Public Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. CHRISTINA JUTZI, Program Officer, Environment and Energy, Embassy of Canada
- MR. JIM KURTH, Acting Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. RYAN HATHAWAY, Management Assistant, Division of Visitor Services and Communications, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. DORIS WILLIAMS, Management Assistant, Division of Refuge Law Enforcement, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

- MR. JOHN KNOX, Intern, Division of Visitor Services and Communications, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVE NOMSEN, Vice President of Government Affairs, Pheasants Forever, Garfield, Minnesota
- MS. EDITH THOMPSON, Congressional and Legislative Affairs Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. SHAW SPRAGUE, Senior Legislative Representative, The Trust for Public Land, Washington, D.C.
- MS. SHIRLEY MILLI, Fish and Wildlife Service Team Lead, Office of Valuation Services, Arlington, Virginia

### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Secretary Salazar welcomed everyone, introduced the Commission members, and had all of those attending introduce themselves. He complimented the Federal Duck Stamp artwork – White-fronted Geese by Jim Hautman. The Secretary thanked Christina Jutzi, from the Embassy of Canada, for attending (her last meeting). He said that since the last Commission meeting, he had visited many federal lands, including the area proposed as Dakota Grassland Conservation Area, and one of the last remaining tallgrass prairie areas in the Flint Hills of Kansas. He described the breadth of support this area had, including the Governor, the Kansas Farm Bureau, and five generations of ranchers. The Secretary introduced Deputy Director Ashe who offered his remarks. Mr. Ashe highlighted the First Day of Sale for the 2011-2012 Federal Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp on June 24<sup>th</sup> in Katy, Texas. He emphasized the need to increase the price of the Federal Duck Stamp, which has not seen a price increase in 21 years. He mentioned Ducks Unlimited and other partners who support this increase, and what important habitat that additional money could buy, including Dakota Grasslands. Mr. Ashe mentioned the three proposals before the Commission, today, as well as the NAWCA proposals.

The Secretary called for approval of the March 9, 2011, meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved. He then turned over the Chair position to Rachel Jacobson, Acting Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks. Chairman Jacobson moved to Agenda Item A.

#### Agenda Item A

#### MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Jacobson called on Commission Secretary Alvarez who presented the three proposals. He presented each proposal separately, and the Commission State *ex officio* members affirmed their support for all of the projects.

The Commission approved the following Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals individually:

NESTUCCA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON. This was the first time this Refuge has come to the Commission. *Ex officio* Commission member, Holly Michael, spoke to the importance of this Refuge, especially as critical habitat for “duskies” and “cacklers”. The Commission approved the new Refuge boundary request for 3,435 fee and easement acres, and price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 21 acres, in one ownership, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$105,000 or \$5,000 per acre.

SAN BERNARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, BRAZORIA, FORT BEND, MATAGORDA, AND WHARTON COUNTIES, TEXAS. *Ex officio* Commission member, Dan Wilmot, supported the acquisitions and encouraged everyone to come to the First Day Duck Stamp sale at Katy, Texas. Secretary Salazar asked Commission Secretary Alvarez or Deputy Director Ashe to speak to the importance of Gulf Coast refuges. Mr. Ashe stated that our Texas Gulf Coast refuges represent the very best of our migratory bird refuges, such as Aransas NWR, the wintering destination for endangered whooping cranes. The Commission approved the boundary addition and price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 1,544 acres in two ownerships, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$2,816,350 or \$1,824 per acre.

CANAAN VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, TUCKER AND GRANT COUNTIES, WEST VIRGINIA. *Ex officio* Commission member, Curtis Taylor, was not in attendance, but he was reached by phone and expressed his support for the acquisition. The Commission granted price approval for the fee title acquisition of 73 acres in one ownership, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$492,000 or \$6,740 per acre.

Chairman Jacobson proceeded to Agenda Item B, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act portion of the meeting.

#### Agenda Item B

#### NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Jacobson introduced *ex officio* Commission member, Greg Knadle, from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Mr. Knadle addressed the current Federal budget situation and its impact on NAWCA funding. Mr. Knadle thanked the Commission members for their support of NAWCA funding during the ongoing budget discussions. Congressman Dingell requested more information concerning the ongoing budget discussions. Mr. Knadle noted that FY 2011 funding levels are significantly lower than FY 2010 levels, with FY 2012 levels projected to be even lower. This situation will have a severe impact on NAWCA funding. He then commented on the Canadian slate of proposals before the Commission, highlighting the 10 million acres protected and 12 million acres restored and enhanced over the past 20 years with NAWCA funding. Mr. Knadle noted that the FY 2011 funding for Canada was reduced by \$2 million due to reduced NAWCA funding levels.

Mr. Knadle then introduced *ex officio* Commission member and Council member, Mary Pope Hutson, from the Land Trust Alliance, who expressed her appreciation for the Commission's Congressional leadership during the ongoing budget discussions. Ms. Hutson noted that Congressman Dingell had cosponsored the Conservation Easement Incentive Act, a critical conservation tool that is up for reauthorization in 2011. Ms. Hutson commented on the U.S. Small Grant slate of 45 proposals in 24 states and the high partner match ratio of \$4 for every \$1 of Act funds invested. Ms. Hutson thanked the Commission for its continued support for the Small Grant program and then introduced Council member Mr. David Nomsen (Pheasants Forever), who was attending the meeting in support of the Dakota Grasslands Conservation Area. Mr. Nomsen indicated that Pheasants Forever and many other conservation organizations support increases in the price of Duck Stamps to aid in protecting wildlife habitat. Mr. Nomsen also thanked the Department of Agriculture for fully implementing the Conservation Reserve Program in 2011.

Ms. Hutson introduced Council Coordinator Mike Johnson, who presented the Council's recommended slate of six Canadian Standard Grant proposals (NAWCA funds = \$23,559,250; total partner contributions = \$33,893,685). With sufficient non-Federal partner dollars to match the NAWCA requests, Congressman Wittman recommended the slate for approval and Congressman Dingell seconded the recommendation. The Commission unanimously approved the slate. Mr. Johnson reported on the FY 2011 U.S. Small Grant proposals that the Council approved under a three-year Commission-approved standing authority. The 45 proposals total \$3,167,794 in Act funds (partner match contributions = \$12,781,185).

Mr. Johnson then reported on the FY 2011 NAWCA funding situation: the program had spent a total of \$78.7 million to date. Budget reductions reduced the FY 2011 Canadian funding by \$2 million; eliminated the lowest ranked U.S. Standard Grant that the Commission approved at the March 2011 meeting; eliminated the lowest ranked Mexican proposal approved during the March 2011 meeting; and reduced the second lowest proposal by 50 percent. The program will carry over approximately \$100,000 in NAWCA funds to FY 2012. Congressman Wittman requested more information concerning the Small Grant selection process. Mr. Johnson outlined the process, noting that the Council decided to cap the FY 2011 Small Grants at \$3 million. The Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation reviewed the submitted proposals and Council staff reviewed and ranked all eligible proposals. The Council then combined those ranks with Joint Venture ranks to create the recommended slate, which they reviewed and finalized. Congressman Dingell noted the high four-to-one partner-to-Act funding match ratio and asked how such a ratio was possible. Mr. Johnson noted that the Small Grants tend to have higher ratios because the proposals tend to be focused locally and involve smaller, grass-root conservation organizations. Congressman Dingell asked if the partner contributions were primarily non-cash donations. Johnson indicated that partner match historically has consisted of approximately equal cash and in-kind contributions. Council member Ms. Hutson added that local entities leverage Small Grant match with all types of contributions to meet community-based conservation goals.

Chairman Jacobson adjourned the meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2011.





MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2011

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MEMORANDUM "A"

MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

The minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting held on September 14, 2011, have been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MAR 7 2012

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Held in Washington, D.C., on September 14, 2011**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, September 14, 2011, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

HON. KEN SALAZAR, Secretary, Department of the Interior

HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi

HON. MARK PRYOR, Senator from Arkansas

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, U.S. Representative from Michigan

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN, U.S. Representative from Virginia

HON. JASON WELLER, Chief of Staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

HON. BOB PERCIASEPE, Deputy Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The following *ex officio* members were present:

MR. JEFFREY VONK, Secretary, Department of Fish, Game, and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota

MR. JOHN TANNER, Legislative Aide, Senator Orrin Hatch's Office, Washington, D.C.

MR. STEVE FRIEDMAN, Chief of Real Estate, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

MS. HOLLY MICHAEL, Strategy Coordinator, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Salem, Oregon

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *ex officio* members were present:

MR. JEFFREY TRANDAHL, Executive Director, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, D.C.

MS. MARY POPE HUTSON, Executive Vice President, Land Trust Alliance, Washington, D.C.

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator was present:

DR. MICHAEL KREGGER, Acting Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the Department of the Interior, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and partner agencies and organizations were present:

- MR. ROWAN GOULD, Deputy Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- MS. LYNDA HALL, Chief, Wetland Strategies and State Programs Branch, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.
- MR. KARI COHEN, Senior Advisor, Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- MR. CARLISLE CLARKE, Legislative Assistant, Senator Cochran's Office, Washington D.C.
- MR. ERIC MAY, Executive Assistant, Senator Pryor's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MS. NEAL ULLMAN, Legislative Director, Congressman Dingell's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. BRENT ROBINSON, Senior Assistant, Congressman Robert J. Wittman's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. REBECCA HALBE, National Coordinator, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. SIMI BATRA, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. HALLISON PUTNAM, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. KENNETH FOWLER, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. RENI TEJAN-COLE, Management Assistant, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. WAYNE HILL, Branch Chief, Region 1 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon
- MR. DAVE ALLEN, Realty Specialist, Region 1 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon
- MR. RIESLEY JONES, Chief, Region 2 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- MR. CARL SCHWOPE, Fire Management Officer, Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge, Marble Falls, Texas

- MS. TAMAR HOGAN, Chief, Region 4 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MS. SUE OLIVEIRA, Chief, Region 6 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Lakewood, Colorado
- MR. NOEL MATSON, Realty Specialist, Huron Wetland Acquisition Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Huron, South Dakota
- MS. CINDY LOBAN, Realty Specialist, Huron Wetland Acquisition Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Huron, South Dakota
- MR. JEFF RUPERT, Acting Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. DIANA RAMIREZ, Executive Management Assistant, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. CELISA RILEY, Intern, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. SARAH MOTT, Branch Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVID BUIE, NAWCA Council Staff, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. LAURIE M. SHAFFER, Director of Marketing, Development and Licensing, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- DR. DAVID GORDON, Chief, Branch of Science and Planning, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. CLAIRE CASSEL, Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Communications, External Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. MARTIN KODIS, Deputy Chief, Congressional and Legislative Affairs Office, External Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. JOHN W. ROSS, Director, Office of Valuation Services, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.
- MS. CAROLINE GARRETT, Governmental Affairs Representative, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.
- MS. SABRINA DADRIAN-KASSABIAN, Program Officer, Environment and Energy, Embassy of Canada
- MS. CATHERINE GODIN, Counselor, Program Manager, Environment and Energy, Embassy of Canada
- MR. SHAW SPRAGUE, Senior Legislative Representative, The Trust for Public Land, Washington, D.C.

## MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Secretary Salazar (Chairman) started the meeting, welcomed everyone, introduced the Commission members, and had all of those attending introduce themselves. For the first order of business, Chairman Salazar, the rest of the Commission, and all of those attending recognized Senator Cochran for his 30 years of service to the Commission with a round of applause. Chairman Salazar complimented Senator Cochran as a problem-solver; someone for whom he has the utmost respect. He talked about the "unsung Commission," for few people know what happens here. He presented Senator Cochran with a framed Duck Stamp print, memorialized with an engraved plaque. Chairman Salazar introduced Deputy Director Rowan Gould, who offered his remarks. Mr. Gould highlighted the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, which had collected more than \$51 million this fiscal year. He talked about today's slate of projects, including the 21 North American Wetland Conservation Act grants and the remarkable leveraging – about 2.5 partner dollars for every NAWCA dollar – that this grant program produces. He invited everyone to the 2011 Federal Duck Stamp Contest on October 28-29 at the Service's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

Chairman Salazar called for approval of the June 15, 2011, meeting minutes, which the Commission approved. Chairman Salazar moved to Agenda Item A.

### Agenda Item A

#### MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Salazar called on Commission Secretary Alvarez, who presented the six proposals separately. The Commission State *ex officio* members spoke about their projects, in turn. The Commission acted on the following Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals individually:

DAKOTA GRASSLAND CONSERVATION AREA, AURORA, DOUGLAS, EDMUNDS, McPHERSON, AND WALWORTH COUNTIES, SOUTH DAKOTA. This is a new refuge, and the Commission's approval will help establish it. *Ex officio* Commission member Jeffrey Vonk supported the acquisitions. The Commission approved the new refuge boundary of 448,975 acres and the price approval request for the easement acquisitions of 2,794 acres, in nine ownerships, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,445,125, or \$517 per acre.

NECHES RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, ANDERSON AND CHEROKEE COUNTIES, TEXAS. Commission Secretary Alvarez pulled this project, explaining that the Service was not able to get State support in time for this meeting. The project may come back in March 2012 for Commission action.

BEAR RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE, BOX ELDER COUNTY, UTAH. *Ex officio* Commission member John Tanner gave the State's conditional support to this project. The State wants the Service to continue working with the State to settle inholding and mitigation issues. Mr. Wittman asked if the Commission could approve the project conditionally. Commission Secretary Alvarez said that yes, it had happened before, but he assured the Commission that resolution of this issue has the support and attention of the Service. The Commission approved (without conditions) the price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 1,841 acres in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$5,500,000, or \$3,000 per acre.

SAVANNAH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, CHATHAM AND EFFINGHAM COUNTIES, GEORGIA. *Ex officio* Commission member Steve Friedman voiced his support for this acquisition. The Commission approved the price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 627 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$2,035,000, or \$3,246 per acre.

TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE – WAPATO LAKE UNIT, WASHINGTON AND YAMHILL COUNTIES, OREGON. *Ex officio* Commission member Holly Michael supported the acquisition. The Commission approved the price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 27 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$130,000, or \$4,727 per acre.

DAHOMY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, BOLLIVAR COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI. Commission Secretary Alvarez explained that the State may vote by proxy on lease re-approvals. He reported that he had received the affirmative proxy vote from Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. The Commission approved the price re-approval request for the lease of 260 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$9,100, or \$35 per acre per year.

Chairman Salazar proceeded to Agenda Item B, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act portion of the meeting.

#### Agenda Item B

#### NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Salazar introduced *ex officio* Commission member and North American Wetlands Conservation Council member Jeffrey Trandahl. Mr. Trandahl thanked Mr. Dingell and Mr. Wittman for their support in the reauthorization of NAWCA through 2017. Mr. Trandahl thanked all of the Congressional Commission members for their assistance with NAWCA funding for FY 2011 and their support for NAWCA in the ongoing FY 2012 and FY 2013 budget discussions. Mr. Trandahl then introduced *ex officio* Commission member and Council member Mary Pope Hutson. Ms. Hutson reiterated Council's appreciation for the support the Commission members have given to NAWCA. Ms. Hutson pointed out that NAWCA proposals are significant not only for the amount of habitat affected, but also for the quality of the habitat and the leverage provided through the NAWCA partners. Ms. Hutson noted that the current slate of 21 proposals involves 16 states and protects and restores more than 100,000 acres. This activity is leveraged by 162 diverse partners contributing more than \$51 million, a 2.5:1 partner to grant ratio generated in the current weak economic environment.

Ms. Hutson introduced Acting Council Coordinator Michael Kreger. Dr. Kreger presented the Council's recommended slate of 21 U. S. standard proposals (NAWCA funds = \$20,771,561; partner match = \$51,798,191). Chairman Salazar asked if the total partner match was \$51 million (Dr. Kreger confirmed); if another round of FY 2012 U.S. standard grant proposals would come before the Commission (Dr. Kreger confirmed); and when this next round would come (Mr. Trandahl confirmed the March 2012 Commission meeting). Mr. Dingell asked if there was any firm information pertaining to the current NAWCA budget and the budgetary levels over the next few years. Dr. Kreger noted a FY 2011 appropriated funding level of \$37.4 million and a FY 2012 House of Representatives appropriation report amount of \$23 million. Mr. Dingell noted that the Congressional Commission members were willing to facilitate the budget discussions and appreciated any guidance that could help NAWCA. Chairman Salazar concluded the discussion by noting that the economics of conservation, including the 6.5 million jobs per year that are impacted by various conservation-related activities, should be highlighted. The Commission approved the slate of 21 U.S. standard proposals.

Before closing the meeting, Chairman Salazar again remarked on Senator Cochran's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the Commission. He said what we do here is extremely important and serves as a template for conservation. The meeting was adjourned.





MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2011

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MEMORANDUM "A"


MEETING MINUTES MARCH 9, 2011

The Minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting held on March 9, 2011, have been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DATE: JUN 15 2011

  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Held in Washington, D.C., on March 9, 2011**

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

- HON. KEN SALAZAR, Secretary, Department of the Interior (Opened the meeting)
- HON. WILL SHAFROTH, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior (Chaired the meeting)
- HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi
- HON. MARK PRYOR, Senator from Arkansas
- HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN, U.S. Representative from Virginia
- HON. ANN MILLS, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- HON. DAVID EVANS, Director, Wetlands Division, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The following *ex officio* members were present:

- MR. STEVE PATRICK, Assistant Director, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Nashville, Tennessee
- MS. HOLLY MICHAEL, Strategy Coordinator, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Salem, Oregon
- MR. JOHN MCCAMMAN, Director, California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *ex officio* members were present:

- MR. WAYNE MACCALLUM, Director, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Westborough, Massachusetts
- MR. TERRY STEINWAND, Director, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, Bismarck, North Dakota

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

- MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator was present:

MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the Department of the Interior, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and partner agencies and organizations were present:

MR. DAN ASHE, Deputy Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

MR. GREGORY SIEKANIEC, Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

MR. PAUL SCHMIDT, Assistant Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

MR. GREGG SERENBETZ, Wetland Strategies and State Programs Branch, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.

MR. CARLISLE CLARKE, Legislative Assistant, Senator Cochran's Office, Washington D.C.

MR. ANDREW GROBMYER, Legislative Counsel, Senator Pryor's Office, Washington, D.C.

MR. ERIC MAY, Executive Assistant, Senator Pryor's Office, Washington, D.C.

MR. BRENT ROBINSON, Senior Assistant, Congressman Robert J. Wittman's Office, Washington, D.C.

MS. MARY POPE HUTSON, Vice President, Land Trust Alliance, Washington, D.C.

MR. JEFF TRANDAHL, Executive Director, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, D.C.

MR. MICHAEL DENNIS, Representing The Nature Conservancy, Round Hill, Virginia

MR. MARK W. ELSBREE, Vice President, Northwest Region, The Conservation Fund, Sun Valley, Idaho

MR. JOHN BEALL, Government Affairs Representative, Pheasants Forever, Findlay, Ohio

DR. ROB DEBLINGER, Deputy Director of Field Operations, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Westborough, Massachusetts

MS. KAREN KREIL, NAWMP State Coordinator, North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, Bismarck, North Dakota

MR. DAVID BRAKHAGE, Director, of Conservation Programs, Ducks Unlimited, Great Lakes/Atlantic Regional Office, Ann Arbor, Michigan

DR. DAVID MEHLMAN, Director, Migratory Bird Program, The Nature Conservancy, Santa Fe, New Mexico

- MR. DEAN SMITH, North American Waterfowl Management Plan Coordinator, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Washington, D.C.
- DR. SCOTT YAICH, Director of Conservation Operations, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Memphis, Tennessee
- MR. DAVE NOMSEN, Vice President of Government Affairs, Pheasants Forever, Garfield, Minnesota
- MR. GLENN OLSON, Donal O'Brien Chair in Bird Conservation and Public Policy, National Audubon Society, Sacramento, California
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. REBECCA HALBE, National Coordinator, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DIANA RAMIREZ, Management Assistant, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. SIMI BATRA, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. HALLISON PUTNAM, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. STEVEN LAY, Senior Realty Specialist, Region 8 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California
- MR. MICHAEL BORKOSKI, Supervisory Realty Specialist, Region 8 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California
- MR. WAYNE HILL, Branch Chief, Region 1 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon
- MS. TAMAR HOGAN, Realty Chief, Region 4 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. MICHAEL KREGER, Deputy Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. SARAH MOTT, Branch Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVID BUIE, NAWCA Council Staff, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. ELLEN MURPHY, NAWCA Mexico Grant Administrator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

- MS. RACHEL LEVIN, Communications Coordinator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. KARI COHEN, Senior Advisor, Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- MR. SCOTT SUTHERLAND, Director of the Governmental Affairs Office, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.
- MS. KIM BETTON, Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Public Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. CHRISTINA JUTZI, Program Officer, Environment and Energy, Embassy of Canada
- MR. JIM KURTH, Acting Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. LYNN YAFFE, Management Assistant, Refuge Budget Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. RYAN HATHAWAY, Management Assistant, Division of Visitor Services and Communications, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. EDITH THOMPSON, Congressional and Legislative Affairs Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. GREG KNADLE, Director, Congressional, Government, and External Relations, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, D.C.
- MR. PAT KEHOE, Manager of Provincial Operations, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Alberta, Canada
- MS. ALLISON VOGT, Migratory Bird and North American Bird Conservation Initiative Coordinator, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Washington, D.C.

#### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Secretary Salazar welcomed everyone and began the meeting. The Secretary introduced the Commission members, and gave a special welcome to Senator Mark Pryor, the Commission's newest member. Senator Pryor is a second-generation Commission member, as his father served on the Commission for 17 years. The Secretary recognized the full North American Wetlands Conservation Act Council in attendance and had all of those attending introduce themselves. As the Secretary introduced the Fish and Wildlife Service's Deputy Director Dan Ashe, he recalled Sam Hamilton and expressed confidence that, once confirmed, Deputy Director Ashe would carry forward his work. Deputy Director Ashe offered his remarks. All Commission members received a copy of the *2010 Annual Report of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission*, and the Deputy Director highlighted the 20 projects that the Commission approved, last year, for a total of \$27.5 million. He also mentioned the three proposals before the Commission, today, and recognized the NAWCA Council. The Secretary then introduced Commission member Ann Mills from the Department of Agriculture, who presented a slide show on some wetland conservation projects her agency is pursuing. The projects, including a Sage Grouse initiative and a Longleaf Pine initiative, involved other Federal agencies and non-government organizations.

The Secretary called for approval of the September 15, 2010, meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved. He then turned over the Chair position to Will Shafroth, Acting Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks. Chairman Shafroth introduced Commission member David Evans, from the Environmental Protection Agency, who gave a short presentation on its intensive National Wetland Condition Assessment that is underway. Chairman Shafroth thanked both Commission members for their presentations and gave his own remarks about the Department of the Interior's America's Great Outdoors initiative. He noted that the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act fit right in with the values of the AGO: partnerships, and preserving places to connect the American people with the outdoors. Chairman Shafroth moved to Agenda Item A.

#### Agenda Item A

#### MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Shafroth called on Commission Secretary Alvarez who presented the three proposals. He presented each proposal separately, and the Commission State *ex officio* members affirmed their support for all of the projects.

The Commission approved the following Migratory Bird Conservation Act proposals individually:

LOWER HATCHIE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, LAUDERDALE AND TIPTON COUNTIES, TENNESSEE. The Commission approved the price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 625 acres, in one ownership, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,880,000 or \$3,008 per acre.

TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, WAPATO LAKE UNIT, WASHINGTON AND YAMHILL COUNTIES, OREGON. Chairman Shafroth asked about four acres listed under Refuge Status in the proposal write-up (acquired with other funding) for which we had paid \$102,459/acre. The Regional representative promised to look into this. He did, and the reason for the high dollar amount was that the four-acre tract had improvements on it. The Commission approved the price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 32 acres in one ownership, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$275,000 or \$8,594 per acre.

TULARE BASIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, KERN AND TULARE COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA. Congressman Wittman asked why the easement values had increased since the last acquisition here, two years ago. He reasoned that land values are trending down, nationwide. Chairman Shafroth recognized Glenn Olson, of the National Audubon Society in California, and a NAWCA Council member. Mr. Olson knew that area and explained that many owners are developing their properties into orchards for cash crops, which raises the economic value. The Commission granted price approval for the permanent easement acquisition of 656 acres in three ownerships, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,425,700 or \$2,173 per acre.

Chairman Shafroth proceeded to Agenda Item B, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act portion of the meeting.

#### Agenda Item B

#### NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Shafroth opened the North American Wetlands Conservation Act portion of the meeting and introduced *ex officio* Commission member and North American Wetlands Conservation Council member, Mr. Wayne MacCallum, with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Mr. MacCallum noted that Council's responsibility is to evaluate NAWCA proposals from across the continent to determine their overall benefit to wetland ecosystems and migratory birds. He highlighted the composition and expertise of the

Council and the NAWCA partnership model that the Council supports and sustains. Mr. MacCallum welcomed the President's support for NAWCA in the FY 2011 President's budget and looked forward to Congressional budgetary support for NAWCA in the coming weeks. He introduced *ex officio* Commission member and Council member Mr. Terry Steinwand, with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Mr. Steinwand noted that the international coverage of NAWCA is designed to address all lifecycle needs of waterfowl by protecting, restoring, and enhancing waterfowl breeding, migration, and wintering habitats.

Mr. Steinwand introduced Council Coordinator Michael Johnson. Coordinator Johnson presented the Council's recommended slate of nine Mexican proposals (NAWCA funds = \$3,022,140; partner match = \$19,450,726) and 26 U. S. standard proposals (NAWCA funds = \$26,133,414; partner match = \$70,593,559). Coordinator Johnson noted that both the Mexican and U.S. slate were ranked in priority order. He explained the funding strategy for the current slate of proposals, in the FY 2011 funding environment. They have already obligated the money for the U.S. grant proposals that the Commission approved at its September 15, 2010 meeting. As for the current slate, several existing funds, including coastal (eight proposals), Migratory Bird Treaty Act fine, and EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (five proposals) funding could fund specific proposals. However, the remaining 13 U.S. proposals are dependent on the final NAWCA appropriation amount, since neither they nor the nine Mexican proposals are eligible for coastal, fine, or EPA funding. They will be funded in priority rank order when the appropriated funding level is established. Coordinator Johnson noted that each Commission member had hard copies of the ranked proposals.

Commission member Evans asked how the current slate tallied against the expected appropriated funding level and if the entire slate could be funded. Coordinator Johnson explained that the FY 2011 President's budget mark could fund the entire slate. Chairman Shafroth asked what the NAWCA appropriated funding levels were for FY 2010 and 2011 and which cycle the current slate was under. Coordinator Johnson noted the FY 2010 total was \$47.6 million and the FY 2011 total is \$42.6 million and that the current slate represented the second FY 2011 cycle. Senator Cochran asked how NAWCA appropriated funding levels have tracked over time. Coordinator Johnson indicated the levels have been consistent for the past few years.

Chairman Shafroth noted that the funding situation was new territory for the Commission and recommended conditional approval for the current slate. Coordinator Johnson indicated this could be done due to the priority rank order in place. Chairman Shafroth asked how much of the FY 2011 \$42.6 million appropriated amount had already been allocated. Coordinator Johnson explained that \$23.2 million had been obligated for the September 15, 2010, Commission-approved proposals, and the current slate totaled \$26.1 million. He added that the Council would meet later in the morning to evaluate Canadian and U.S. small grant proposals for the June 15, 2011, Commission slate. Chairman Shafroth asked for a motion to conditionally approve the current slate totaling \$26.1 million with the actual funded slate being dependent on the final NAWCA appropriated funding level. Senator Cochran made this motion and Congressman Wittman seconded the motion. The Commission conditionally approved the slate by unanimous vote.

Chairman Shafroth asked whether there was any other business. Council member Jeff Trandahl, with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, expressed his appreciation for the support and leadership Congress has maintained for NAWCA. He also thanked Senator Cochran for his support of legislation recently passed by the Senate to rename Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge as the Sam Hamilton National Wildlife Refuge. Scott Sutherland, with Ducks Unlimited, noted the critical need to maintain NAWCA funding levels for FY 2011 and 2012 and stated that NAWCA needs the support of the Commission's Congressional members to ensure its successful reauthorization by 2012.

Chairman Shafroth adjourned the meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2011.





MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2012

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MEMORANDUM "A"

MEETING MINUTES JUNE 6, 2012

The minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting

held on June 6, 2012, have been prepared for reading by

the Commission.

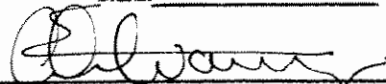
It is respectfully recommended that these

minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SEP 12 2012

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF THE

### MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held in Washington, D.C., on June 6, 2012

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, June 6, 2012, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

HON. KEN SALAZAR, Secretary, Department of the Interior

HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi

HON. MARK PRYOR, Senator from Arkansas

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, U.S. Representative from Michigan

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN, U.S. Representative from Virginia

HON. ROBERT BONNIE, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

MS. ELLEN GILINSKY, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.

The following *ex officio* member was present:

MR. DAN WILMOT, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of Homeland Security, Office of Texas Governor Rick Perry, Washington, D.C.

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *ex officio* members were present:

MR. GREG KNADLE, Director, Congressional, Government, and External Affairs, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, D.C.

MR. JONATHAN GASSETT, Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Kentucky

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The Acting North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator was present:

DR. MICHAEL KREGER, Deputy Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

Two guests from the Embassy of Canada were present:

MS. DEBORAH LYONS, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Canada

MS. SABRINA DADRIAN-KASSABIAN, Program Officer, Environment and Energy, Embassy of Canada

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the Department of the Interior, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and partner agencies and organizations were present:

- MR. KELVIN STROUD, Legislative Assistant, Senator Pryor's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MS. EILEEN SOBECK, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior
- MR. DAN ASHE, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- MR. JIM KURTH, Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DANIEL ULMER, Legislative Assistant, Senator Cochran's Office, Washington D.C.
- MR. ERIC MAY, Executive Assistant, Senator Pryor's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. NEAL ULLMAN, Legislative Assistant, Congressman Dingell's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. BRENT ROBINSON, Senior Assistant, Congressman Wittman's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. REBECCA HALBE, National Coordinator, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California
- MR. SEAN KILLEN, Chief Cartographer, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. RENI TEJAN-COLE, Management Assistant, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. SIMI BATRA, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. MARYTHERESE ONE BEAR, Realty Specialist, Region 2 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- MS. SUE OLIVEIRA, Chief, Region 6 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, Colorado
- MS. CYNDI PERRY, Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. LAURIE M. SHAFFER, Chief, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

- MR. JAVIER CARDENAS, Intern, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. LEAKHENA AU, NAWCA Canadian Grant Administrator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. LACY ALISON, Wildlife Biologist, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. RACHEL LEVIN, Communications Coordinator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. RODECIA MCKNIGHT, Program Analyst, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. CHERYL HART, Administrative Assistant, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. LYNN YAFFE, Management Assistant, Division of Budget, Performance, and Workforce, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVID WAGNER, Management Assistant, Division of Visitor Services and Communications, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. GREGG SERENBETZ, Wetland Strategies and State Programs Branch, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.
- MS. KATY HOPPER, Budget Analyst, Division of Budget, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DOUG DAMBERG, Acting Deputy Chief, Division of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. SUSAN MORSE, Writer/Editor, Division of Visitor Services and Communications, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. ELLA WAGENER, Conservation Policy Analyst, Division of Natural Resources and Conservation Planning, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. BEN BLOM, Conservation Planner, Division of Natural Resources and Conservation Planning, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. TAMARA McCANDLESS, America's Great Outdoors Coordinator, Division of Natural Resources and Conservation Planning, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. PAUL BAICICH, President, Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp, Columbia, Maryland
- MS. ANNEMARIE LA ROSA, Detailee, Office of the Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.
- MS. LOUISE GALIHER, Realty Specialist, Region 6 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Lakewood, Colorado

- MR. JEROME FORD, Assistant Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- MR. SCOTT SUTHERLAND, Director of the Governmental Affairs Office, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.
- MR. NATHAN, Service Dog in Training, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

## MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Secretary Salazar (Chairman) called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, introduced the Commission members, and asked all attendees to introduce themselves. The Chairman offered his remarks and highlighted his involvement with many significant conservation efforts, including landscape conservation, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ducks Unlimited, urban refuges, a new agenda for rivers (not regulatory, but celebratory), and the June 29<sup>th</sup> first day of sale for the 2012-2013 Federal Duck Stamp. The Chairman introduced Fish and Wildlife Service Director, Dan Ashe, who offered his remarks. Mr. Ashe mentioned the availability of the 2011 MBCC Annual Reports. He summarized the positive land protection progress in the Prairie Pothole Area, this year: 100 tracts protected, totaling 15,000 acres; Realty offices have \$18 million dollars' worth of offers outstanding.

Chairman Salazar called for approval of the March 7, 2012, meeting minutes, which the Commission approved. Chairman Salazar moved to Agenda Item A.

### Agenda Item A

#### MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Salazar called on Commission Secretary Alvarez to present the four MBCA project proposals. He presented each one separately, as follows:

TRINITY RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, LIBERTY COUNTY, TEXAS— *Ex officio* Commission member Dan Wilmot spoke in favor of the acquisition. The Service had not yet received the Governor's approval letter, so Mr. Alvarez requested the Commission conditionally approve the project. The Commission conditionally approved the boundary addition and fee title acquisition of 87.5 acres, in six ownerships, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$88,200 or \$1,008 per acre. (The Governor's signed approval letter arrived later in the day, on June 6. Project is approved by the Commission.)

PANTHER SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, YAZOO COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI - *Ex officio* by Proxy, Dr. Sam Polles, voted (by proxy) in favor of the lease price re-approval for this five-year lease. The Commission approved the price re-approval request for the lease of 640 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$19,200 annually, or \$30 per acre per year.

LACASSINE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, CAMERON PARISH, LOUISIANA – *Ex officio* by Proxy, Mr. Robert Barham, voted (by proxy) in favor of the acquisition. This lease increased in value by 72% since 2008. The School Board has agreed to exchange the leased property, so Mr. Alvarez asked the Commission for one more five-year extension of the lease. The Commission approved one final price re-approval request for the lease of 640 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$25,600 annually or \$40 per acre per year.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, ADAMS COUNTY AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, COLORADO – This project was a request for the disposal of an easement on an abandoned water canal that previously served the Refuge. Since abandonment, the Refuge has secured another source for water. Mention of this Refuge sparked a question from Mr. Dingell about how the Service is dealing with contaminants on land it acquires, or is looking to acquire. Mr. Ashe conceded that the Service had made some mistakes but also warned against being overly cautious. Mr. Dingell asked if a change in the law would help, and Mr. Ashe said it may. They agreed to talk later. The Commission approved the disposal of the easement.

Chairman Salazar proceeded to Agenda Item B, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act portion of the meeting.

#### Agenda Item B

#### NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

*Ex officio* Commission member Greg Knadle, from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, introduced the NAWCA Canadian and U.S. Small Grants. Mr. Knadle highlighted The Nature Conservancy of Canada's project with the Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture and Pacific Coast Joint Venture to protect and enhance wetland-associated migratory bird habitat. He also mentioned Ducks Unlimited Canada's Pacific Coast and Canadian Intermountain Conservation Program. Canada's Deputy Ambassador Deborah Lyon spoke briefly and thanked the Commission for its support. She summarized habitat accomplishments in the Canadian program. Ms. Lyon also thanked Chairman Salazar for signing the North American Wetlands Management Plan revision and noted that the Honorable Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment, would sign it soon.

Acting Council Coordinator Michael Kreger then introduced *ex officio* Commission member and Council member Jonathan Gasset, from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife. Dr. Gasset reported that the FY 2012 U.S. Small Grant proposals approved by the Council are under a three-year standing authority authorized by the Commission in June 2010 for a maximum of \$5 million. Dr. Gasset noted 58 U.S. Small Grant proposals were received, totaling \$3.8 million. He also noted the Council selected 44 projects, totaling \$2.8 million and \$7.4 million in partner match. In addition, Dr. Gasset noted that the U.S. Small Grant slate of proposals is located in 23 states and Puerto Rico, affecting more than 10,500 acres with new partnerships. He thanked the Commission for its continued support for the Small Grant program.

Dr. Kreger summarized the Canadian slate – 8 proposals covering 12 provinces with a NAWCA funding request of \$22.3 million. He highlighted the ongoing Potholes Plus Program grant run by the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation. Dr. Kreger said that the overall grant to match contributions ratio of the Canadian proposals are 1:1 and requested approval for the Canadian slate. The Commission approved the slate by unanimous vote.

Chairman Salazar asked for any other business, and Mr. Dingell asked how today's significant budgetary problems are impacting both the MBCA and NAWCA programs. He noted the small amount of MBCF projects, both in number and dollar amount and asked if this was a funding problem or indicative of something else. Mr. Ashe said the funding issue was the cost of the Duck Stamp and stated that the purchasing power of the Stamp is at an all-time low, in terms of absolute value. As to the number and dollar amounts of projects, Mr. Ashe said the Waterfowl Production Areas in the Prairie Pothole Region are now getting 70% of the MBCF money, and that WPA acquisitions received blanket approval from the Commission many years ago.

Chairman Salazar thanked the Commission and attendees for their participation. He adjourned the meeting.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2012.



MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2012

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MEMORANDUM "A"

MEETING MINUTES MARCH 7, 2012

The minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting held on March 7, 2012, have been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DATE: JUN 6 2012

  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION



## MINUTES OF THE

### MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held in Washington, D.C., on March 7, 2012

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, March 7, 2012, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

- HON. KEN SALAZAR, Secretary, Department of the Interior
- HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi
- HON. MARK PRYOR, Senator from Arkansas
- HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, U.S. Representative from Michigan
- HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN, U.S. Representative from Virginia
- HON. ROBERT BONNIE, Senior Advisor for Environment and Climate, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.
- HON. DAVID EVANS, Director, Wetlands Division, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The following *ex officio* members were present:

- MR. TIM BROWER, Eastern Region Lead for Land Acquisition and Planning, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Annapolis, Maryland
- MR. KELVIN STROUD, Legislative Assistant, Senator Pryor's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. STEVE PATRICK, Assistant Director, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Nashville, Tennessee
- MS. KATIE WHEELER-MATHEWS, Deputy Director, Governor Brown's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. ANDREW ZABEL, Grants Coordinator, Office of Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Washington, D.C.

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *ex officio* members were present:

- MR. WAYNE McCALLUM, Director, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Westborough, Massachusetts
- MR. TERRY STEINWAND, Director, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, Bismarck, North Dakota

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator was present:

DR. MICHAEL KREGER, Acting Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the Department of the Interior, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and partner agencies and organizations were present:

MS. EILEEN SOBECK, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior

MR. DAN ASHE, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

MR. JIM KURTH, Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Deputy Assistant Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

MR. DANIEL ULMER, Legislative Assistant, Senator Cochran's Office, Washington D.C.

MR. ERIC MAY, Executive Assistant, Senator Pryor's Office, Washington, D.C.

MS. LAUREN HENRY COWLES, Legislative Assistant, Senator Pryor's Office, Washington, D.C.

MR. NEAL ULLMAN, Legislative Director, Congressman Dingell's Office, Washington, D.C.

MR. CHRIS HOLINSKI, Special Assistant, Congressman Dingell's Office, Washington, D.C.

MR. BRENT ROBINSON, Senior Assistant, Congressman Robert J. Wittman's Office, Washington, D.C.

MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

MS. REBECCA HALBE, National Coordinator, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

MS. VIOLA TAYLOR, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California

MS. RENI TEJAN-COLE, Management Assistant, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

MS. LYNN YAFFE, Management Assistant, Refuge Division of Budget, Performance and Workforce, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

- MR. DAVID WAGNER, Management Assistant, Division of Visitor Services and Communication, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. MICHAEL BORKOSKI, Supervisory Realty Specialist, Region 8 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California
- MS. BETTY JAROUS, Branch Chief, Region 4 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. JOSEPH McCAULEY, Chief, Region 5 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MR. WILLIAM PORTER, Deputy Chief, Region 5 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MS. SARAH MOTT, Branch Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. LAURIE M. SHAFFER, Acting Chief, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVID BUIE, NAWCA Council Staff, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. ELLEN MURPHY, NAWCA Mexico Grant Administrator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. RACHEL LEVIN, Communications Coordinator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. ROYA MOGADAM, Congressional and Legislative Affairs Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. KURT FORMAN, Private Lands Coordinator, Wildlife Habitat Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Brookings, South Dakota
- MR. GREGG SERENBETZ, Wetland Strategies and State Programs Branch, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.
- MR. SHAW SPRAGUE, Senior Legislative Representative, The Trust for Public Land, Washington, D.C.
- MS. MARY POPE HUTSON, Vice President, Land Trust Alliance, Washington, D.C.
- MR. JEFF TRANDAHL, Executive Director, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, D.C.
- MR. MARK W. ELSBREE, Vice President, Northwest Region, The Conservation Fund, Sun Valley, Idaho
- MR. JOHN BEALL, Government Affairs Representative, Pheasants Forever, Inc., Findlay, Ohio

- MS. KAREN KREIL, NAWMP State Coordinator, North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, Bismarck, North Dakota
- MR. DAVID BRAKHAGE, Director, of Conservation Programs, Ducks Unlimited, Great Lakes/Atlantic Regional Office, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- DR. DAVID MEHLMAN, Director, Migratory Bird Program, The Nature Conservancy, Santa Fe, New Mexico
- DR. SCOTT YAICH, Director of Conservation Operations, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Memphis, Tennessee
- MR. DAVID NOMSEN, Vice President of Government Affairs, Pheasants Forever, Garfield, Minnesota
- MR. GLENN OLSON, Donal O'Brien Chair in Bird Conservation and Public Policy, National Audubon Society, Sacramento, California
- DR. JONATHAN GASSETT, Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Frankfort, Kentucky
- DR. KEITH OUCHLEY, Executive Director, The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- MR. PAT KEHOE, Director, International Partnerships, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Edmonton, Alberta
- MR. SCOTT SUTHERLAND, Director of the Governmental Affairs Office, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.
- MR. JONATHAN ADLER, Trip Director for the Secretary, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.
- MS. JENNIFER GREINER, Acting Chief, Division of Visitor Services and Communications, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. ERIC DAVIS, Acting Chief, Refuge Division of Budget, Performance and Workforce, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. MARCIA PRADINES, Deputy Chief, Division of Migratory Bird Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. TOM MELIUS, Regional Director, Region 3, Fish and Wildlife Service, Twin Cities, Minnesota

#### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Secretary Salazar (Chairman) called the meeting to order, welcomed the NAWCA Council and other attendees, introduced the Commission members, and asked all attendees to introduce themselves. The Chairman highlighted the recent White House Conference on Conservation and the importance of our public lands, not only for wildlife, but also for economic reasons. Hunting, fishing, boating, and general tourism promote job growth in nearby communities. He also stressed the continuing need to connect children and youth with the outdoors. He mentioned several high-profile projects in major cities that are encouraging families to enjoy urban parks and other outdoor areas. The Chairman introduced Fish and Wildlife Service Director, Dan Ashe,

who offered his remarks. Mr. Ashe spoke of the need for legislation to increase the price of the Federal Duck Stamp and pointed out the framed print of the winning Duck Stamp for 2012 – 2013 (a drake wood duck, painted by Joseph Hautman). He talked about the great challenge in the prairies with farmers plowing under historic prairie to grow corn and other cash crops. He introduced Kurt Forman, Private Lands Coordinator in the Service's Wildlife Habitat Office in Brookings, South Dakota. Mr. Forman gave a brief presentation about this widespread transition from habitat to cropland that is sweeping through the Prairie Pothole area. David Nomsen, a NAWCA Council member, also shared some thoughts on the subject. Robert Bonnie, a Commission member, talked about the extreme pressures that the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service faces as more landowners are letting their conservation plans expire. He highlighted a land protection initiative that the Department of Agriculture is rolling out to help preserve important habitat.

Chairman Salazar called for approval of the September 14, 2011, meeting minutes, which the Commission approved. Chairman Salazar moved to Agenda Item A.

#### Agenda Item A

#### MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Salazar called on Commission Secretary Alvarez, who first gave a quick synopsis of total Migratory Bird Conservation Fund collections and disbursements during FY 2011. Mr. Alvarez talked about this year's change in MBCF allocations – moving from a model of 50% for the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program and 50% for refuge acquisitions to 70% for SWAP and 30% to refuges. He then turned to today's seven proposals, which he presented separately, as follows:

**CHICKASAW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, LAUDERDALE COUNTY, TENNESSEE**– *Ex officio* Commission member Steve Patrick spoke in favor of the acquisition. Mr. Dingell asked about the lease land in this Refuge. They are Tennessee Valley Authority leases. He encouraged the Service to pursue no cost leases and donations from utility companies (rights-of ways) and others. The Commission approved the boundary addition of 2,552 acres and the fee acquisition request for 357 acres, in one ownership, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$616,000 or \$1,726 per acre.

**BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND** - *Ex officio* Commission member Tim Brower spoke of the long history of State support the Refuge has had, and he spoke in favor of this acquisition. The Commission approved the fee title acquisition of 112 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$505,000 or \$4,509 per acre.

**CACHE RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, JACKSON, PRAIRIE, WOODRUFF, AND MONROE COUNTIES, ARKANSAS** – *Ex officio* Commission member Kelvin Stroud spoke fondly of the times he had hunted on this Refuge and voiced his support for the acquisition. The Commission approved the fee title acquisition of 165 acres, in two ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$420,100 or \$2,546 per acre.

**GRASSLANDS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, MERCED COUNTY, CALIFORNIA** - This was a two-part proposal: an easement acquisition and an increase in this Refuge's blanket price approval limit (the value amount at/under which the Service may acquire interests without bringing the proposals to the Commission). *Ex officio* Commission member Katie Wheeler-Mathews supported the proposal. The Commission approved the easement acquisition of 275 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$570,000 or \$2,073 per acre. The Commission also approved an increase in the blanket price approval limit for the Refuge. The blanket price approval for easement acquisitions is now \$2,700 per acre.

TULARE BASIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, KERN AND TULARE COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA – *Ex officio* Commission member Katie Wheeler-Mathews thanked the Commission for its support of the California proposals. The Commission approved the easement acquisition of 508 acres, in two ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$971,233 or \$1,912 per acre.

UMBAGOG NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, COOS COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE – *Ex officio* Commission member Andrew Zabel expressed his support for this acquisition. The Commission approved the fee title acquisition of 4,532 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$3,625,000 or \$800 per acre.

DAHOMY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, BOLIVAR COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI. This lease came to the Commission in September 2011, but, since that approval, the State received a competing bid. Commission Secretary Alvarez explained that the State may vote by proxy on lease re-approvals. He reported that he had received the affirmative proxy vote from Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. The Commission approved the price re-approval request for the lease of 260 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$10,790 annually or \$42 per acre per year.

Chairman Salazar proceeded to Agenda Item B, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act portion of the meeting.

#### Agenda Item B

#### NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Salazar opened the North American Wetlands Conservation Act portion of the meeting and introduced *ex officio* Commission member and North American Wetlands Conservation Council member, Wayne MacCallum, of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Mr. MacCallum noted that he was one of four state Department of Natural Resources wildlife department heads on the Council, representing the four migratory bird flyways. He commented that in his 44 years as a professional biologist, NAWCA is the most efficient and effective conservation program with which he has been associated. NAWCA has protected, restored, and enhanced more than 27 million acres of wetland systems to date and has been the catalyst for partnerships among widely divergent organizations. Mr. MacCallum then introduced *ex officio* Commission member and Council member, Terry Steinwand, of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Mr. Steinwand reiterated the wetland protection and partnership values of NAWCA and noted the importance of NAWCA in the Prairie Pothole Region of North Dakota. Mr. Steinwand mentioned the nine proposals from Mexico, representing the international coverage of NAWCA.

Mr. Steinwand introduced Acting Council Coordinator Mike Kreger. Dr. Kreger presented the Council's recommended slate of nine Mexican proposals (NAWCA funds = \$2,872,139; partner match = \$9,004,831) and 23 U.S. standard proposals (NAWCA funds = \$21,669,502; partner match = \$50,080,542). Chairman Salazar noted that the combined Mexican and U.S. match was over \$59 million and asked what the basis of this large match was. Dr. Kreger stated that the match was based on appraised land value, cash, and/or in-kind services. Chairman Salazar reviewed the map of U.S. proposal locations and asked if Ducks Unlimited prairie habitat funds were part of the match in the three Prairie Pothole proposals on the slate. Mr. Scott Sutherland of Ducks Unlimited stated that they were. Chairman Salazar asked the Commission for a motion to approve the current slate totaling \$24,541,641. Mr. Wittman made the motion, and Mr. Dingell seconded the motion. The Commission approved the slate by unanimous vote.

Chairman Salazar thanked the Commission and attendees for their participation. He adjourned the meeting.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 6.



MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2012

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MEMORANDUM "A"

MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

The minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting held on September 12, 2012, have been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DATE: MAR 22 2013

  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION



## MINUTES OF THE

### MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held in Washington, D.C., on September 12, 2012

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, September 12, 2012, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

HON. KEN SALAZAR, Secretary, Department of the Interior

HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi

HON. MARK PRYOR, Senator from Arkansas

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, U.S. Representative from Michigan

HON. ROBERT BONNIE, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

HON. DAVID EVANS, Director, Wetlands Division, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency

The following *ex officio* members were present:

MR. SPENCER GRAY, Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Max Baucus, Washington, D.C.

MS. EMILY DOMENECH, Federal Liaison, Texas Office of State-Federal Relations, Washington, D.C.

MR. RYAN DALTON, New York Governor Cuomo's Office, Washington, D.C.

MS. HOLLY MICHAEL, Conservation Policy Coordinator, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Salem, Oregon

MS. KATIE WHEELER MATHEWS, Deputy Director, Office of Governor Edmund Brown, Washington, D.C.

MR. ROBERT BOYLES, Deputy Director, Marine Resources Division, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *ex officio* members were present:

MR. JEFFREY TRANDAHL, Executive Director, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington D.C.

MR. GLENN OLSON, Donal O'Brien Chair in Bird Conservation and Public Policy, National Audubon Society, Sacramento, California

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator was present:

MS. CYNDI PERRY, Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the Department of the Interior, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and partner agencies and organizations were present:

- MR. MICHAEL BEAN, Acting Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.
- MR. GARRET BONOSKY, New York Governor Cuomo's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON, Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- MR. MICHAEL MCDAVIT, Chief, Wetland Strategies and State Programs Branch, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.
- MR. WAYNE HILL, Acting Chief, Region 1 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon
- MR. DANIEL ULMER, Legislative Assistant, Senator Cochran's Office, Washington D.C.
- MR. NEAL ULLMAN, Legislative Assistant, Congressman John D. Dingell's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. JONATHAN BLOOMFIELD, Realty Specialist, Region 1 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon
- MR. RIESLEY JONES, Chief, Region 2 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- MS. NANCY UNBEHAUN, Supervisory Realty Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Marble Falls, Texas
- MR. BRETT HUNTER, Chief, Region 4 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. REBECCA HALBE, National Coordinator, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

- MS. RENI TEJAN-COLE, Management Assistant, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. LYNN YAFFE, Management Assistant, Division of Budget, Performance, and Workforce, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVID WAGNER, Management Assistant, Division of Visitor Services and Communication, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. SIMI BATRA, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. BETTY JAROUS, Branch Chief, Region 4 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. JOSEPH MCCAULEY, Chief, Region 5 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MR. BILL PORTER, Deputy Chief, Region 5 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
- MR. DAVID BUIE, NAWCA Council Staff, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- DR. MICHAEL KREGER, Deputy Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. LAURIE M. SHAFFER, Chief, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. GARY SULLIVAN, Supervisory Realty Specialist, Montana Acquisition Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Falls, Montana
- MR. BILL WEST, Refuge Manager, Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, Lima, Montana
- MS. EDITH THOMPSON, Congressional and Legislative Affairs Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. RODECIA MCKNIGHT, Program Analyst, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. WILLIAM HARTWIG, Board Member, Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp, Washington, D.C.
- MR. VAUGHN COLLINS, Vice President, Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp, Washington, D.C.
- MR. EVAN HIRSCHE, President, National Wildlife Refuge Association, Washington, D.C.
- MR. JOHN KLAVITTER, Deputy Project Leader, Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, Honolulu, Hawaii

- MS. KIM SUTTON, Budget Analyst, Office of Budget, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. TRENTON WHITE, Graduate Student, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
- MR. STEVE KETTLER, Land Protection Planner, Region 2 Regional Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- MR. MICHAEL BORKOSKI, Supervisory Realty Specialist, Region 8 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California
- MR. PAUL BAICICH, President, Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp, Columbia, Maryland
- MS. CAROLINE GARRETT, Governmental Affairs Representative, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.
- MR. GREG KNADLE, Director, Congressional, Government, and External Affairs, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, D.C.
- MR. KELLIS MOSS, Office Manager, Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.
- MR. NATHAN, Service Dog in Training, Migratory Bird Program, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

#### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Secretary Salazar (Chairman) called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, introduced the Commission members, and asked all attendees to introduce themselves. The Chairman opened by stating that this is one of the most important meetings for him. It brings together Executive and Legislative branches of government, bipartisan Congressional members representing various states, and members from three federal agencies. The Chairman recognized several Commission members for their actions outside this Commission, such as supporting Gulf Coast recovery efforts, and supporting the infusion of money into the North American Wetlands Conservation Act program from the BP oil spill court settlement.

The Chairman introduced Fish and Wildlife Service Acting Director, Michael Johnson, who offered his remarks. Mr. Johnson shared the increased dollar amount in the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (over \$55 million), largely due to additional import duties from the sales of arms and ammunition. He mentioned the increased conservation efforts in the Prairie Pothole Region and also the upcoming Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest in Ogden, UT, before turning the meeting back over to Chairman Salazar.

Chairman Salazar called for approval of the June 6, 2012, meeting minutes, which the Commission approved. Chairman Salazar moved to Agenda Item A.

#### Agenda Item A

#### MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Salazar called on Commission Secretary Alvarez, who presented the seven proposals, which he presented separately, as follows:

RED ROCK LAKES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, BEAVERHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA – *Ex officio* Commission member, Spencer Gray, expressed his support for this project. The Commission approved the boundary addition of 12,352 acres, and the price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 810 acres, in

one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$3,604,500 or \$4,450 per acre. Further, the Commission gave price approval for the lease of 5,834 acres, in one ownership, for the lease price of \$11,085 or \$1.90 per acre.

SAN BERNARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS -- *Ex officio* Commission member, Emily Domenech, expressed strong support for this project. The Commission approved the boundary addition and price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 1,441 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$2,589,700 or \$1,797 per acre.

TRINITY RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, LIBERTY COUNTY, TEXAS-- *Ex officio* Commission member Emily Domenech also spoke in favor of this acquisition. The Commission approved the boundary addition and price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 200 acres, in nine ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$176,200 or \$881 per acre.

MONTEZUMA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, WAYNE COUNTY, NEW YORK -- *Ex officio* Commission member, Ryan Dalton, spoke in support of the acquisition. The Commission approved the price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 625.39 acres, in two ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$2,377,000 or \$3,800 per acre.

TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE -- WAPATO LAKE UNIT, WASHINGTON COUNTY, OREGON -- *Ex officio* Commission member, Holly Michael, expressed her support for this acquisition. The Commission approved the price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 23.59 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$82,500 or \$3,500 per acre.

TULARE BASIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA -- This request is for both price approval and for blanket price approval for perpetual easement acquisitions up to \$3,000 per acre. *Ex officio* Commission member, Katie Wheeler Mathews, supported the request. After some discussion, the Commission approved the price approval request for the easement acquisition of 164 acres, in three ownerships, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$309,000 or \$1,884 per acre. The Commission tabled the Blanket Price Approval and requested more information. The blanket price approval request with additional supporting information will be presented back to the Commission at the June 2013 meeting.

WACCAMAW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, GEORGETOWN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA -- *Ex officio* Commission member, Robert Boyles, expressed his strong support for this acquisition. The Commission approved the price approval request for the fee title acquisition of 1,542.83 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,850,000 or \$1,199 per acre.

The Chairman proceeded to Agenda Item B, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act portion of the meeting.

#### Agenda Item B

Chairman Salazar opened the North American Wetlands Conservation Act portion of the meeting and introduced *ex officio* Commission member and North American Wetlands Conservation Council member Mr. Jeffrey Trandahl of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Mr. Trandahl commented on three updates concerning NAWCA. The first update concerned the ongoing Prairie Pothole initiative. The Council was considering the appropriate action in support of this initiative and appreciated the leadership provided by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and the Interior. Mr. Trandahl noted there were Prairie Pothole proposals on the current program. The second update concerned the status of the NAWCA reauthorization. Mr. Trandahl thanked the Commission members for their support but noted that much work remained to be done. Mr. Trandahl added that the NFWF reauthorization was also ongoing, and he stressed the importance of a bipartisan effort to pass both reauthorizations. Secretary Salazar commented that the reauthorizations should, hopefully, be

approved soon. The third update concerned the low funding level for the NAWCA program in the FY 2013 House of Representatives' appropriations bill. The current level was approximately a 20 % reduction from the FY 2012 level. Mr. Trandahl urged the meeting attendees to continue to educate lawmakers and the public on the importance of the NAWCA program and its value to both conservation and local economies. Mr. Trandahl then introduced *ex officio* Commission member and Council member Mr. Glenn Olson of the National Audubon Society.

Mr. Olson reiterated the importance of the Prairie Pothole initiative and the bipartisanship effort required for its success. Mr. Olson referenced the August 1 – 2, 2012, Council meeting in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, and the Council site visit, and he mentioned numerous examples of good ranching practices where cattle grazing and productive wetlands were compatible. Mr. Olson noted that the Council had established a task force to develop and implement an action plan using NAWCA funds in support of the Prairie Pothole initiative.

Mr. Olson then introduced Council Coordinator Cyndi Perry. Ms. Perry presented the Council's recommended proposals (19 standard proposals presented in priority rank order; NAWCA funds = \$18,471,646; partner match = \$49,417,480). Ms. Perry added that the Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation would initiate a program to increase outreach among Congressional members and constituents in the states where NAWCA grants were awarded.

Chairman Salazar asked for a motion to approve the current set of proposals. Mr. Dingell made the motion and Mr. Cochran seconded the motion. The slate was approved by unanimous vote.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2013.



MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2013

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MEMORANDUM "A"

MEETING MINUTES JUNE 5, 2013

The minutes of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting held on June 5, 2013, have been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that these minutes be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DATE: SEP 12 2013

  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION



MINUTES OF THE

MEETING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held in Washington, D.C., on June 5, 2013

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, June 5, 2013, in the Main Interior Building, Secretary's Conference Room 5160.

The following Commission members were present:

HON. SALLY JEWELL, Secretary, Department of the Interior

HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi

HON. MARK PRYOR, Senator from Arkansas

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, U.S. Representative from Michigan

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN, U.S. Representative from Virginia

MS. ANN MILLS, Acting Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

HON. BOB PERCLASEPE, Acting Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.

The following *ex officio* members were present:

MS. EMILY DOMENECH, Federal Liaison, Health, Energy, and Environmental Policy, Texas Office of State-Federal Relations, Washington, D.C.

MR. SPENCER GRAY, Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Max Baucus, Washington, D.C.

MR. TOMMY TUMA, Director, Habitat Stewardship, Wildlife Division, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *ex officio* members were present:

MR. JEFFREY TRANDAHL, Executive Director, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, D.C.

The Secretary to the Commission was present:

MR. A. ERIC ALVAREZ, Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator was present:

MS. CYNDI PERRY, Chief, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

One guest from the Embassy of Canada was present:

MS. SABRINA DADRIAN-KASSABIAN, Program Officer, Environment and Energy, Embassy of Canada

The following persons from the U.S. Congress, the Department of the Interior, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and partner agencies and organizations were present:

- MR. DANIEL ULMER, Legislative Assistant, Senator Cochran's Office, Washington D.C.
- MR. KELVIN STROUD, Legislative Assistant, Senator Pryor's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MS. LUCY SPEED, Press Secretary, Senator Pryor's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. NEAL ULLMAN, Legislative Assistant, Congressman Dingell's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. BRENT ROBINSON, Senior Assistant, Congressman Robert J. Wittman's Office, Washington, D.C.
- MR. MICHAEL SCOZZAFAVA, Special Assistant, Office of the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.
- MR. ROWAN GOULD, Deputy Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- MS. CYNTHIA MARTINEZ, Deputy Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. JEROME FORD, Assistant Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- MS. JANET BRUNER, Deputy Chief, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. REBECCA HALBE, National Coordinator, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. CARLTON CHEATHAM, Visual Information Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. CHARLES PARROTT, Realty Specialist, Region 1 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon
- MR. DAVID CLARK, Chief Surveyor, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. RONALD SALZ, Acting Chief Cartographer, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. SIMI BATRA, Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. RENI TEJAN-COLE, Management Assistant, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

- MS. NANCY UNTERHAUN, Supervisory Realty Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Marble Falls, Texas
- MR. BRETT HUNTER, Chief, Region 4 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. STEVEN SEIBERT, Deputy Chief, Region 4 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia
- MR. GREG LANGER, Acting Chief, Region 6 Realty Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Lakewood, Colorado
- MR. HARRIS HOISTAD, Project Leader, Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Columbia, South Dakota
- MR. GARY SULLIVAN, Supervisory Realty Specialist, Division of Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Falls, Montana
- MS. LAURIE M. SHAFFER, Chief, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. LEAKHENA AU, NAWCA Canadian Grant Administrator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVID BUIE, NAWCA Council Staff, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. RACHEL PENROD, Outreach and Education Coordinator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. SUZANNE FELLOWS, Federal Duck Stamp Program Coordinator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. KIT HERSHEY, Congressional and Legislative Affairs Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. REAH REEDY, Management Assistant, Division of Information Technology and Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. DAVID WAGNER, Management Assistant, Division of Visitor Services and Communications, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. JULIE MCCANDLESS, Budget Analyst, Division of Budget, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. GREG KNADLE, Director, Congressional, Government, and External Affairs, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, D.C.
- MR. PAUL BAICICH, President, Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp, Columbia, Maryland
- MS. STACY TATMAN, Permits Biologist, Division of Management Authority, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia

- MS. SARENA M. SELBO, Chief, Branch of Conservation Planning, Division of Natural Resources and Conservation Planning, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. MENDEL STEWART, Chief, Division of Budget, Performance and Workforce, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. JARED BRANDWEIN, Deputy Chief, Division of Natural Resources and Conservation Planning, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MR. TOM MIEWALD, Landscape Ecologist, Division of Realty and Refuge Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon
- MR. BRIAN CZECH, Interdisciplinary Biologist, Division of Natural Resources and Conservation Planning, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia
- MS. MICHELE ZWARTJES, Endangered Species Biologist, Listing and Critical Habitat Division, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon
- MS. MIRIAM MAZEL, Realty Officer, Washington Support Office - Lands, National Parks Service, Fort Collins, Colorado

#### MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Secretary Jewell (Chair) called the meeting to order. She remarked that she is looking forward to working with the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, a group that works regardless of borders. She commented that from Canada to Mexico, the Commission knows what matters is where the waterfowl are. She welcomed the members and thanked them for their service. She greeted other attendees, and asked all attendees to introduce themselves. She introduced Fish and Wildlife Service Deputy Director, Rowan Gould, who offered his remarks. Mr. Gould mentioned today's slate of Migratory Bird Conservation Fund and North American Wetlands Conservation Act proposals, and highlighted the framed print of the winning Duck Stamp for 2013 – 2014 (a Common Goldeneye drake, painted by Robert Steiner). He introduced Harris Hoistad, Refuge Manager at Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge Complex, South Dakota. Mr. Hoistad gave a brief presentation about the widespread conversion from habitat to cropland that is sweeping through the Prairie Pothole area and the Service's response to it. *Ex officio* Jeffrey Trandahl complimented the Service for its quick action to put more MBCF dollars into the Prairie Pothole Region. Mr. Dingell pointed out that the Federal Duck Stamp has cost \$15 for over 20 years. With land prices doubling in that time span, Duck Stamp money is now buying just 25% of what it used to. He said we have to increase the price of the Duck Stamp. Chair Jewell committed to work on this. She expressed appreciation for all the efforts of the Commission members to raise the Duck Stamp price.

Chair Jewell called for approval of the March 22, 2013, summary write-up, which the Commission approved. Chair Jewell moved to Agenda Item A.

#### Agenda Item A

#### MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT PROCEEDINGS

Chair Jewell called on Commission Secretary Alvarez, who first gave a quick synopsis of total MBCF collections, disbursements, and acquired acres during FY 2012. Mr. Alvarez talked about the continuing shift in MBCF allocations – moving from a model of 50% for the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program and 50% for refuge acquisitions to 70% for SWAP and 30% to refuges. He then turned to today's three proposals, which he presented separately, as follows:

TRINITY RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, LIBERTY COUNTY, TEXAS— *Ex officio* Commission member Emily Domenech spoke in favor of the acquisition. The Commission approved the boundary addition and fee acquisition request for 81 acres, in one ownership, at the appraised value and recommended price of \$44,700 or \$549 per acre.

RED ROCK LAKES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, BEAVERHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA- *Ex officio* Commission member Spencer Gray supported this acquisition and pointed out that hunting is allowed on Montana School Section leases (which is what the proposed lands are). The Commission approved the boundary addition and price approval of 489 lease acres for the appraised value and recommended price of \$1,750 or \$3.58 per acre. The Commission also approved the price re-approval of 5,834 lease acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$22,350 or \$3.83 per acre.

UPPER OUACHITA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, UNION AND MOREHOUSE PARISHES, LOUISIANA – *Ex officio* Commission member Tommy Tuma opposed the acquisition, at this time, due to differences between the State of Louisiana and the Service with regard to the Service's Hunt Plan for this Refuge, and due to extreme budgetary concerns. He said the State does not support more Service land acquisition when the Service does not have enough operating and maintenance dollars to manage what it already has. Mr. Dingell led the discussion with Mr. Tuma, and eventually Mr. Wittman made a motion that the Commission approve the fee title acquisition of 3,219 acres, in one ownership, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$3,763,515 or \$1,169 per acre, on the condition that the State and the Service work out their differences on the Hunt Plan. Mr. Dingell seconded the motion and the Commission conditionally approved the acquisition. The Commission Secretary agreed to report out on the issue at the MBCC's September 12, 2013, meeting. (UPDATE: On July 25, 2013, Secretary Robert Barham of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries signed a statement approving the Hunt Plan at Upper Ouachita National Wildlife Refuge. A copy of this statement is in the September 12, 2013, MBCC Program Book).

Chair Jewell proceeded to Agenda Item B, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act portion of the meeting.

#### Agenda Item B

#### NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

*Ex officio* Commission member Jeffrey Trandahl introduced NAWCA Canadian and U.S. Small Grants. Mr. Trandahl presented the Canadian slate of nine proposals and noted that the Canadian NAWCA strategy is driven by science, opportunity, and budget levels, and the Canadian Prairie Pothole Region is a priority area within this strategy. Mr. Trandahl presented the Council request that the Commission approve an annual \$5 million spending limit for Small Grants, beginning in FY 2014. The Council would like the stability and funding flexibility of an annual \$5 million limit. Mr. Trandahl then presented the Small Grants slate, approved by the Council during their March 2013 meeting: 46 proposals in 29 states, with just over \$3 million in NAWCA funding and almost \$7.6 million in partner funding. Mr. Trandahl reminded the Commission that the original goal of the Small Grants Program was to diversify the number and types of NAWCA partners. He noted that this goal has been successfully met to date.

Council Coordinator Cyndi Perry summarized the Canadian slate – nine proposals covering 12 provinces with a NAWCA funding request of \$20.7 million, partner funding of over \$31 million, and more than 36,000 acres affected. Ms. Perry then presented the FY 2013 NAWCA funding summary, noting that approximately \$5.5 million would be carried over to FY 2014. Mr. Trandahl explained that the Council goal is to zero out the funding each year and that the majority of the carryover is due to U.S. coastal funding. The coastal funds have specific geographic requirements and a sufficient number of eligible, high-quality coastal proposals were not submitted in FY 2013.

The Commission voted to approve the Canadian slate as presented. A separate Commission vote approved the annual funding limit of \$5 million for Small Grants.

Chair Jewell led the Commission and attendees in recognizing an historic event, this week. On Friday, June 7, 2013, John Dingell will pass Senator Byrd's record and will become the longest serving member of Congress in history, with 57 years and over 5 months. She noted that he has served in Congress about a month longer than she has been alive. She led the room in a standing ovation for Mr. Dingell. On behalf of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Executive Director Jeffrey Trandahl presented Mr. Dingell with a beautiful antique duck decoy. Mr. Dingell expressed his appreciation and noted that his service on this Commission is "selfish" because it is something he does for himself. He said the Commission's work may not seem that important in comparison with other happenings. However, the Commission's work ensures there is something left for his children and grandchildren. Future generations will know we did something, and what we did today makes a difference.

Chair Jewell thanked the Commission members and attendees for their participation. She noted the cooperation "across the aisle" in the service of conservation and how rare it is to see true bipartisanship, today. Chair Jewell adjourned the meeting.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2013.



## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1875 Century Boulevard  
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/R4/RF/RE

JUL 25 2013

Mr. Robert Barham  
Secretary  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
200 Quail Drive  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

Dear Secretary Barham:

As you know from previous correspondence, at its June 5, 2013, meeting in Washington, D.C., the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission approved a land acquisition project at the Upper Ouachita National Wildlife Refuge with the condition that the Refuge's Hunt Plan is agreed to between the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the State of Louisiana. We need to report back to the Commission at the September meeting on this subject, and want to make sure we are all in agreement on this matter. We want to confirm the enclosed letter from you dated November 10, 2011, approving the Hunt Plan at Upper Ouachita NWR satisfies the Commission's condition. If you are in agreement, please sign below and fax to Brett Hunter, Chief, Division of Realty, at (404) 679-7273 or send a scanned copy to [brett\\_hunter@fws.gov](mailto:brett_hunter@fws.gov) by July 29, 2013.

We sincerely appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to continuing to work closely with you and your staff to address any concerns regarding Hunt Plans as appropriate and consistent with Service regulations. If you need additional information, please contact me at (404) 679-4000.

Sincerely yours,

Cynthia K. Dohner  
Regional Director

Enclosure

"The State of Louisiana has approved the Hunt Plan at Upper Ouachita National Wildlife Refuge."

Agree:   
Robert Barham, Secretary  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife  
and Fisheries

Date: 7-25-2013





MEMORANDUM

A. Approval of Meeting Summary

March 22, 2013

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MEMORANDUM "A"

MEETING SUMMARY MARCH 22, 2013

This summary of the votes cast by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission members and received March 22, 2013, has been prepared for reading by the Commission.

It is respectfully recommended that this summary be formally approved.

APPROVED BY THE  
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DATE: JUN 5 2013

  
SECRETARY, MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**SUMMARY OF THE VOTES CAST AND PROJECT OUTCOME FROM  
THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING BY MAIL**

**Washington, D.C., as of March 22, 2013**

Since the Office of Personnel Management closed Federal offices on March 6, 2013, the day scheduled for a Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) meeting, we conducted the meeting by mail, as we have done with past meetings during extreme situations. The Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Realty received all signed ballots by March 22, 2013, which is the approval date for projects.

The following Commission members submitted votes:

HON. KEN SALAZAR, Secretary, Department of the Interior

HON. THAD COCHRAN, Senator from Mississippi

HON. MARK PRYOR, Senator from Arkansas

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, U.S. Representative from Michigan

HON. ROBERT WITTMAN, U.S. Representative from Virginia

HON. ANN MILLS, Deputy Under-Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

HON. DAVID EVANS, Director, Wetlands Division, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency

The following *ex officio* members submitted votes:

MS. KATIE WHEELER MATHEWS, Deputy Director, Office of Governor Edmund Brown, Washington, D.C.

MR. JEFF RAASCH, State Wetland and Joint Venture Program Leader, Texas Parks and Wildlife

The following North American Wetlands Conservation Council *ex officio* members received ballots:

MR. JEFFREY TRANDAHL, Executive Director, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington D.C.

MS. MARY POPE HUTSON, Executive Vice President, Land Trust Alliance, Washington, D.C.

Here is the vote tally (at least 5 votes needed for approval):

**Meeting Minutes from the September 12, 2012 MBCC Meeting**

Approval of the September 12, 2012, meeting minutes Yes 6 No 0

**Outcome: Meeting Minutes APPROVED**

**Migratory Bird Conservation Act Refuge Proposals For Consideration**

<b>Refuges</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
1. San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge, Texas	Yes=7 No=0	<b>APPROVED</b>
2. Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge, Texas	Yes=7 No=0	<b>APPROVED</b>
3. San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge, California	Yes=6 No=1	<b>APPROVED</b>
4. Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge, South Carolina	Yes=7 No=0	<b>APPROVED</b>

**Outcome: MBCA Refuge Proposals APPROVED**

**North American Wetlands Conservation Fund Proposals  
Mexican Grants For Consideration in Rank Order**

1. Land Protection for Migratory Waterfowl, Laguna Madre, Phase III
2. Restoration of Freshwater Wetlands as Habitat for Migratory Waterfowl in Tamaulipas
3. Multi-Institutional Initiative for the Conservation and Integrated Management of Cuitzeo Lake, Michoacan, Phase III
4. Conservation of the Pacific Brant Wintering Habitat in the Vizcaino Wetlands, Baja California, Phase II
5. Habitat Protection for Migratory Birds in the Bahia Magdalena-Almejas Wetland Complex, Phase III
6. Restoring Habitat for Migratory Waterbirds in the Colorado River Delta Through Wetland Restoration and Allocation of Environmental Flows
7. Protection, Ecological Enhancement and Management of Laguna Santiaguillos, Phase II
8. Protection and Sustainable Use of Critical Habitat for Pacific Brant and Other Migratory Birds in Northwest Mexico

**North American Wetlands Conservation Fund Proposals  
U.S. Standard Projects for Consideration in Rank Order**

1. Glaciated Wetlands and Prairies of ND and MN -III, (MN,ND)
2. South Carolina Wetlands Landscape Initiative I, (SC)
3. North Dakota Northern Prairie Project - II, (ND)
4. James River Lowlands/Missouri Coteau Project - V, (SD)
5. Southern San Joaquin Valley Wetland Habitat Project, Phase II, (CA)

6. Southwest Wetland Initiative of Minnesota (SWIM), (MN)
7. Gum Cove, (LA)
8. Indianola WMA Wetland Habitat Enhancements, (MS)
9. San Luis Valley Rio Grande Initiative IV, (CO)
10. Green Bay – Marquette Coastal, (WI)
11. Upper Green River, (WY)
12. Delaware Bayshore Land Conservation Initiative – Phase I, (DE)
13. Willamette Valley Partnership, I, (OR)
14. Southeastern North Carolina Wetlands Initiative III, (NC)
15. New Hampshire Great Bay Estuary, Phase VII, (NH)
16. Boyles Island, (GA)
17. Liner’s Canal, (LA)
18. Wisconsin Northwest Pothole Habitat Initiative Phase VI, (WI)

Approval of NAWCA Projects En Bloc Yes 7 No 0

Outcome: NAWCA Projects APPROVED