

WATERFOWL WORKING GROUP AGENDA – FALL 2016

Chair: Diane Eggeman (FWC)

Vice Chair: Craig LeSchack (DU)

Marriott Philadelphia Downtown, Philadelphia, PA
Room ### – Tuesday, September 13, 2016 - 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

- 8:00 am **Welcome / Introductions / Review Agenda**
 Diane Eggeman, FWC
 Craig LeSchack, DU Inc.
- 8:10 **2016 Work Plan Review**
 Craig LeSchack, DU Inc
- 8:20 **Water Task Force**
 Scott Yaich, DU Inc.
- 8:40 **Legislative / Budget Issues**
 Jen Mock Schaefer, AFWA
 Margaret Everson, DU Inc
- 9:00 **NAWMP 2012 Implementation Update**
 Dale Humburg, IIC Chair
- 9:15 **HDWG/PET Update**
 Dave Case for Andy Raedeke, MDC
 Gray Anderson, TWRA
- 9:30 **Break (15 minutes)**
- 9:45 **2018 Update Steering Committee Report / Future of Waterfowl II - Workshop**
 Diane Eggeman, FWC
 Dean Smith, AFWA
- 10:15 **Federal Duck Stamp – Impact of Price Increase**
 Ed Penny, MDWFP
 Sarah Mott, USFWS
- 10:40 **Task Force on State Contributions to Canada**
 Ross Melinchuk, TPWD
- 10:55 **State Contributions to Canada - 2016 Report**
 Dave Kustersky, DUC
- 11:10 **Human Dimensions Integration in the National Wildlife Refuge System**
 Natalie Sexton, USFWS
- 11:40 **Action Items Review**
 Diane Eggeman, FWC
- 12:00 **Adjourn**

ALL presenters are asked to identify or recommend actions that the WWG, BCC and/or AFWA should be taking to advance waterfowl and habitat conservation.

Action items from the Spring 2016 WWG meeting

Action Items: Waterfowl Working Group Meeting March 2016

1. Jerome Ford's official response on the Federal Duck Stamp Task Group report and AFWA letter will be included in the meeting minutes and a copy will be sent to AFWA President, Dave Chanda. - **complete**
2. WWG members have the opportunity to provide feedback and ideas to the Water Task Group on the working draft proposal for a Special Symposium for the 82nd North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. - **complete**
3. We will distribute the eight question survey to WWG members to provide feedback and thoughts to the State Contributions Task Force. - **complete**
4. The Waterfowl Working Group recommends that the Bird Conservation Committee request AFWA and its member states to work with the Federal Duck Stamp Task Group to investigate how to best collect data from state agencies and/or Amplex (vendor that sells the electronic Federal Duck Stamp) to analyze who is buying the duck stamp and to develop a comprehensive marketing plan. - **see item #6**
5. In light of the importance of waterfowl and other migratory birds to Americans in all communities (urban, suburban and rural), and the apparent erosion of funding for the migratory bird conservation and management in the USFWS, the Waterfowl Working Group recommends that the Bird Conservation Committee request AFWA to identify the erosion of funding in the migratory bird program and request an increase in funding for the program (additional funding sources and/or reallocation or existing funds) for migratory bird conservation and monitoring, NAWCA and Joint Ventures. This request should be included in AFWA's comments on the President's 2017 budget. - **complete and agenda item for BCC, Fall 2016**
6. In light of the 2015 increase in the price of the Federal Duck Stamp and the AFWA recommendations on the Federal Duck Stamp, the Waterfowl Working Group recommends the Bird Conservation Committee request the Federal Duck Stamp Task Group to work with the USFWS to provide a preliminary report on the impact of the price increase on Federal Duck Stamp sales and revenue at the September 2016 AFWA meeting. - **on-going, agenda item for WWG, Fall 2016**

Waterfowl Working Group Work Plan 2016-17

Focus Areas and Goals:

1. Contribute to the implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) 2012 Revision to conserve priority landscapes for waterfowl habitat and to advance the human dimensions aspects of the Plan;
2. Advance policies, legislation, and funding initiatives (NAWCA and others) in support of wetland protection and restoration, with consideration of drought, water quality, and climate change issues;
3. Fully implement the *AFWA Action Plan for State Contributions to Waterfowl and Wetland Habitat Conservation Projects in Canada*, and
4. Initiate and support wetland and waterfowl habitat information sharing with Congress, state, federal, and NGO partners, and the public.

Expected Actions / Activities:

Goal 1 – NAWMP Implementation

- i. Facilitate discussions to identify and promote ways to better understand and incorporate user / supporter desires (human dimension elements) in planning and delivering waterfowl management actions and assist in the coordination of NAWMP human dimension efforts with other BCC bird working groups, NABCI, Flyway Councils, etc.
- ii. Identify priority actions to assist states, NGOs and others to effect waterfowl conservation at state and national levels and to achieve the new NAWMP objectives.
- iii. Continue to provide overviews of NAWMP implementation, including reports from IIC, PET, HDWG, etc. and discuss the direction and needs of the waterfowl community to advance the implementation of the 2012 NAWMP Revision and development of the 2018 NAWMP Update.
- iv. Seek ways and means to encourage increased integration of waterfowl management elements through discussions and contribute to a potential review of the efficiency of existing waterfowl management processes and structures.
- v. Encourage participation in efforts to advance NAWMP implementation.

Goal 2 – Wetland Conservation / Protection

- i. Re-engage the Federal Duck Stamp Task Force to work on two issues. First, analyze state duck stamp sales data for potential impacts of the recent price increase. Second, work with Amplex (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service e-vendor for the Federal Duck Stamp) to implement and collect data via a mail and/or web-

based survey. This task force was established to assess the impacts of Federal Duck Stamp price increase on license sales, recruitment and retention of hunters and other issues, resulting in a set of recommendations for AFWA's consideration.

- ii. The Water Task Team will continue to pursue their charge of developing a plenary session for consideration at the 2018 North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. In addition, the Team will discuss their concept with the Blue Ribbon Panel relevancy sub-committee. This team was established to examine and report on water-based issues emerging across the states that have a relationship to wetland habitat loss/conservation (e.g., increasing algae outbreaks, municipalities with increased treatment costs due to nitrogen).
- iii. Continue to share policy/legislative information and strategies to support state and NGO efforts to increase NAWCA appropriations and to ensure the legislation or companion programs (i.e. PR Interest, coastal funding) are re-authorized by Congress.
- iv. Work with the Bird Conservation and Budget and Legislative Committees on the issue of funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Program to ensure adequate allocation of resources to support critical programs. This includes, but is not limited to, more effective communication when it comes to explaining why duck populations remain at an all-time high despite the continued loss of habitat.

Goal 3 – State Contributions to Canada Action Plan Implementation

- i. The Task Force on State Contributions to Canada will develop a branding program and present it to the WWG during its meeting at the 2017 North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.
- ii. The Task Force on State Contributions to Canada will develop a draft annual work plan for implementing the revised State Contributions Action Plan.

Goal 4 – Information Sharing

- i. Engage with the NAWMP Public Engagement Team to identify opportunities to broaden support for wetland habitat conservation and wetland management by creating a greater understanding of the value and impacts of wetland conservation on human (societal) health and welfare.
- ii. Inform members about wetland conservation issues affecting waterfowl, including the Deepwater Horizon oil spill fund and its focus areas and future direction of the program.
- iii. Inform legislative leaders (state/national) about wetland and waterfowl issues and accomplishments of state and NGO actions, using normal AFWA governance procedures (e.g. committee recommendation for action or annual resolution and approval at business).