



NAWMP Science Support Team

COMMITTEES

Committees shall serve to address duties and technical assignments sanctioned by the Executive Committee in conducting NSST business. Committees shall report to all voting NSST members and the Executive Committee on appropriate schedules as prescribed by the Executive Committee. Existing and proposed committees are listed below:

Existing Committees:

Executive Committee – Officers of the Executive Committee shall consist of a NAWMP Coordinator (US National Representative) and two other National Representatives, one from each country (Canada and Mexico), Past-Chair, Chair, Vice-Chair, and an Assistant Vice-Chair. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the NSST between its business meetings, make recommendations to the NSST as necessary and shall perform such other duties as may be specified in these Bylaws. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the orders of the NSST and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the NSST. Furthermore, the Executive Committee shall seek input from all voting NSST representatives prior to acting on behalf of the NSST when the topic is deemed important enough and time allows. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the NAWMP Coordinator or Chair as necessary.

Joint Task Group (JTG) Report Review Committee – This committee shall serve to review, interpret and prioritize the recommendations proposed in the JTG report and subsequently shall develop a scoping document containing recommendations to address prioritized objectives and strategies leading to task assignments and action items for their completion.

- The *NSST Scoping Document - JTG Report* was developed in response to the PC's request for NSST recommendations to address the charges within Recommendation 20 of the NAWMP Continental Progress Assessment Report and will contribute to the development of NSST efforts to set priorities. This scoping document addresses the PC's Management Response to Recommendation 20 by developing specific, prioritized recommendations. Objectives of the scoping document were: 1.) Provide a summary review the issues. 2.) Develop NSST recommendations and strategies to address issues and to present strategies to the PC. Pertinent recommendations associated with 5 "issue areas" identified within the document were rated as to urgency.

Waterfowl Population & Habitat Monitoring Committee – This committee serves in a liaison function with the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Migratory Birds – Population and Habitat Assessment Branch and is the primary conduit for the NSST in terms of disseminating this type of information.

JV Implementation and Evaluation Plan Review Committee – This committee will focus on reviewing JV Implementation and Evaluation Plans, for emerging JVs, from a perspective of their relationships to addressing continental waterfowl population and habitat objectives and

related priorities. This committee will serve in an advisory role to the Plan Committee and to emerging JV planning teams. This committee may also review established JV Implementation and Evaluation Plans upon request by the Plan Committee.

Monitoring & Evaluation Committee – Plan progress requires a fundamental commitment to support critical monitoring and evaluation activities within and among JVs and through the NSST. This committee will develop a scoping document that states the issue(s) and lists a series of alternatives (with pros and cons) to address and prioritize the issue(s). This committee will require the identification and development of a limited range of appropriate alternative performance metrics developed by the ***Alternative Performance Metrics Working Group*** before progress can be made.

NWI Working Group – The NSST’s NWI Working Group was convened to work on designating priority areas for NWI mapping/remapping/digitizing. This work will be based on an updated, detailed map and a focus on 1) priority areas for waterfowl and 2) where the greatest landscape change (+/-) has occurred. JVs will have a role in identifying and reporting their most critical areas of need for up-to-date digital NWI data. The NSST will identify NAWMP priority areas that should be remapped and will discuss data needs in these areas with NWI staff. In terms of geographic representation on the NWI work group, these members should come from areas of greatest need for updating from among priority waterfowl regions.

The goals of a revitalized NWI should be to complete a seamless national digital data base of wetlands consistent with the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986, including remapping wetlands in ecoregions that have been subject to significant wetland losses or gains since 1980 and that are priorities for Service trust resource conservation. Existing hardcopy NWI maps should be converted to digital format in areas without digital data that are not scheduled for remapping.

Landscape Monitoring Committee – This committee was charged with developing a JV survey framework to elucidate the larger landscape variables identified in models in JV implementation plans (for breeding and wintering habitat) that need to be monitored for assessing net landscape changes and to assess JV capacity to address the needs. Currently, we deem it unlikely to be capable of addressing migration habitat. This committee will also assess data currently being used.

Recognizing that key habitat variables vary from breeding to wintering grounds, we'll need to coordinate efforts to ensure that explicit models are standardized, to the extent possible, to facilitate roll-up at the Waterfowl Conservation Region, flyway or continental scale. At a continental scale, we need to ensure that we are monitoring the most relevant habitat features and accept that these will be different between breeding, wintering and migration areas.

A next step is to craft strategies to facilitate developing properly structured habitat monitoring efforts that include information on cumulative landscape change in key habitat areas and key variables. This is also viewed as a stepwise process where steps include: 1) An initial development of protocols followed by; 2) A minimum of 2 years of validation of techniques. The NSST will need to establish a committee to scope out requirements of the design.

Regional Population Objective Working Group –

This committee was charged with convening a workshop designed to assess mechanisms to step

down NAWMP population objectives to JVs. It is necessary to estimate the proportion of continental waterfowl populations which would be expected to occupy a particular Joint Venture, and the duration and timing of that occupancy, when continental populations are at objective levels. Habitat goals must be designed, in aggregate, to attain the Plan's continental population goals. To promote efficiency, the approaches used and assumptions made to derive regional habitat goals should be reviewed and, if needed, revised.

The Waterfowl Management Policy Summit and next Plan update will require clarity and a strategic approach to this issue.

The actual workshop's goal would be to emerge with specific recommendations for how objectives among spatial scales should be linked in a coherent framework, recognizing that follow-up technical work must be conducted after the workshop

A report of the limited range of options that enhance opportunities to link & step down continental population objectives is paramount. This report may take the form of a techniques document or a white paper approaching the step-down issue more holistically – possibly looking at approaches that incorporate annual cycle models.

The logistics of the workshop were established in February 2008. The actual workshop must be completed by **August 8, 2008**.

Alternative Performance Metrics Working Group –

This committee was charged with convening a workshop designed to identify alternative performance metrics. The NAWMP-sanctioned JVs need to build consensus on metrics useful at JV scales, as well as scales larger than the JV, to show progress towards NAWMP objectives. This is a key focus for the NSST and as such the NSST serves as a medium for exchange of ideas and for achieving consensus. Identification and development of a limited number of appropriate alternative performance metrics should be followed by development and implementation of effective monitoring programs. Models and protocols need to be developed for all JVs that share a relatively discrete population of birds, linking activities and progress within the range of that group of birds.

A workshop environment would provide the appropriate setting to allow expert deliberations and for discussing a limited range of options for alternative performance metrics (including habitat conserved, net landscape change, waterfowl abundance and vital rates) must be considered since a “one-size-fits-all” metric is inappropriate across JVs.

An initial step on identifying performance metrics was to have a committee representative(s) attend the Wintering JV meeting, scheduled for 20-21 May 2008, to explore potential performance measures for wintering JVs. JV coordinators need to develop a range of alternatives, with a focus on investigating how to link waterfowl demographics with habitat changes in the principal wintering waterfowl JV regions. This effort offers the promise of considerable progress on the difficult issue of performance measures for non-breeding regions, which will provide important insights in how to approach measuring progress toward objectives using spatially linked models.

The actual workshop's goal would be to emerge with proposed white papers (or peer-reviewed

publications) that would outline alternative performance metrics and identify preferred alternative(s).

Once alternative performance metrics are identified, feasibility assessments need to be undertaken, perhaps guided under a Structured Decision Making framework to assess strategies to enhance cross-JV coordination. Subsequent workshops would be required with breeding & migration JVs to consider matters of North-South linkages and annual cycle perspectives.