**Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative (AFSI)**

**Executive Committee Meeting**

**Surfcomber Hotel, South Beach Miami, USA**

**September 26 – 29, 2016**

**“Catalyze – Facilitate – Achieve” - D. Wege**

**Participants:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Affiliation** | **Email** |
| Scott Johnston | USFWS | scott\_johnston@fws.gov |
| Shiloh Schulte | Manomet | sschulte@manomet.org  |
| Audrey DeRose-Wilson | DE Division of F&W | Audrey.DeRose-Wilson@state.de.us |
| Scott Hecker | Int. Consv. Fund CA | scott@ICFCanada.org |
| Margo Zdravkovic | Conservian | MargoZ@coastalbird.org |
| Ian Davidson | NFWF | Ian.Davidson@nfwf.org  |
| Brad Andres | USFWS | brad\_andres@fws.gov |
| Pam Loring | USFWS | pamela\_loring@fws.gov |
| Pierrick Bocher | University of LaRochelle | pierrick.bocher@univ-lr.fr |
| Jennifer Wheeler | Birds Caribbean | jennifer.wheeler@birdscaribbean.org |
| Rob Clay | WHSRN | rclay@manomet.org |
| David Mizrahi | NJ Audubon | david.mizrahi@njaudubon.org |
| Juliana B Almeida | SAVE Brasil | juliana.almeida@savebrasil.org.br |
| Danielle Paludo | CEMAVE/ICMBio | danielle.paludo@icmbio.gov.br  |
| Lindsay Tudor | ME Fish & Wildlife | lindsay.tudor@maine.gov |
| Mirta Carbajal | Inalafquen/WHSRN Argentina | diapontia@gmail.com |
| Troy Wilson | USFWS | troy\_wilson@fws.gov |
| Stephen Brown | Manomet | sbrown@manomet.org |
| Matthew Jeffery | Audubon | mjeffery@audubon.org |
| Deb Reynolds | USFWS | debra\_reynolds@fws.gov |
| Patricia Maria Gonzalez | ICFC/Inalafquen | ccanutus@gmail.com |
| Isadora Angarita | BirdLife International | Isadora.Angarita@birdlife.org |
| Walker Golder | Audubon | wgolder@audubon.org |
| David O’Neill | Audubon | doneill@audubon.org  |

**Purpose and Objectives of the meeting**:

 1) Familiarity with all the members of the Ex Comm, 2) Working Group discussion to inform priorities and actions, 3) Identifying and managing gaps in Working Groups participation/coverage, 4) Ensuring effective communication and clear messaging to audiences, 5) Resolve ongoing issues – priority austral species, more focus on climate change, etc. 6) Ensuring full participation of shorebird community

***Monday, September 26***

**1:00 - 1:15pm** **Welcome, Introductions, and Ground Rules. Scott Johnston**

**1:15 – 2:00pm Brief Review of History of AFSI and goals for the week. Scott Johnston**

* Scott J.
	+ Origins – for many years had a Northeast Region shorebird conservation plan
	+ When time to revise, decided on a flyway approach, developed into business plan
		- Gotten lots of attention across bird conservation community, used as a model for other work
		- Lots of interest from wide variety of people, NFWF recognized and funding commitments at flyway scale
		- Support coming in from other partners to help implement business plan: Arctic council, U.S. Congress – State Department Foreign Operations Committee, North American Wetlands Conservation Act

**2:00 – 3:30pm Integration of AFSI with existing plans: 1) Florida Shorebird Plan, 2) Brazilian National Shorebird Plan, and 3) Birdlife Strategic Plan for the Americas (moved to 9/28)**

* Florida Beach Nesting Bird Recovery – S. Schulte
	+ Built off of Imperiled Beach Nesting Bird Plan and AFSI business plan
		- Focal species: AMOY, SNPL, BLSK, LETE, WIPL (added from IBNBP)
	+ Same approach and similar priorities as AFSI, some issues unique to colonial spp
	+ Pop’n goals and recovery actions specific to FL: 10% pop’n increase in each spp by 2025
	+ Funding through Gulf Coast recovery grant
	+ Included non-breeding season – habitat protection, boost survival of adults & sub-adults for focal spp wintering in FL
	+ Joint effort to create and implement the plan: Federal, state, NGO, private
	+ 2016 will be year 1 for the FL Recovery Plan
	+ Next steps
		- Extend FL/AFSI shorebird planning to other Gulf Coast states
		- Multiple planning efforts currently underway
		- Aligning AFSI goals with these efforts will be challenging – need to think about intersections so not diverging/duplicating efforts
* Brazilian National Shorebird Plan – D. Paludo
	+ National Action Plans – collaborative effort to order actions for the conservation of endangered and migratory species and threatened environments
	+ Establishes in situ and ex situ actions for species and habitats for conservation
	+ Assessment species workshop (Dec 2012) – 43 spp (Scolopacidae and Charadriidae) assessed, 28 spp included. 5 year plan.
	+ Advisory group – university researchers, managers from agencies, protected areas
		- Collaborates on plan and monitoring
		- Challenges getting funding from government to implement, but agreement in place between agencies, universities, etc.
	+ Goal: increase and ensure effective protection of critical shorebird habitat by 2018
	+ Objectives – relate to AFSI threats:
		- 1) Reduce impacts from development and exploitation (industrial/development)
		- 2 ) Reduce impacts and habitat changes by tourism
		- 3) Reduce impacts from poaching and egg collection
		- 4) Reduce impacts from domestic animals
		- 5) Develop research to support shorebird conservation

**3:30 – 5:00 pm Review Working Group priorities. Where are the biggest gaps? How can AFSI catalyze, facilitate, and achieve. Discuss geographic issues, habitats, etc..’**

* Habitat WG – Walker G.
	+ Objectives: Increased management & protection of habitat; Build capacity, promote sustainable livelihood; Facilitate & promote activities at 30 sites; BMPs to guide management or protection of shorebird habitats, coastal engineering, etc; Restore coastal function as shorebird habitat, inlets, etc
	+ Mapping
		- Initial step – where are shorebirds on landscape (site ID & prioritization)
		- Some work being done through NFWF related project
		- Pulling in data throughout flyway, various partners, plans, etc.
		- Working on data sharing agreements now, expert review
		- Product will be an interactive database – working out how much info to capture … threat assessment?
		- Issues with defining things like…what is a site? Estimating population #s?
		- Focal areas – now Atlantic flyway, Pacific flyway interested
	+ Coastal engineering
		- Broadly defined – negative and positive (e.g. restoration) aspects
		- Brad W. traveling, assembled partners, met with NE regional director to discuss coastal engineering especially at inlets. Met with CZMs in GA
		- Goals: meet with >= 5 coastal mgt entities, seek funding to develop BMPs, raise status coastal engineering with funders, fuse ACJV saltmarsh priorities with shoals and bars for habitat conservation.
		- Importance of working with ACOE
	+ Predation – Pam L. and Troy W.
		- NFWF funded – RFP late last fall
		- Coordinated Predation Management for Focal Temperate Breeding Shorebirds in the Atlantic Flyway
		- Four focal species – PIPL, SNPL, WIPL AMOY
		- 2 phases: 1) BMP development; 2) Demo projects – designed to test & implement techniques, utilize standardized metrics for success. Used to inform BMPs.
		- Supposed to begin in 2017, funding delayed, currently working on revising timeline
	+ Incompatible management – David M.
		- e.g. Peregrine restoration in coastal areas, oyster aquaculture in DE bay
		- First meeting – discussed managed wetlands, several states now considering how to set up a permit structure for WMAs to help multiple stakeholders have a voice in management decisions
		- Work with NGOs in Brazil to work with shrimp aquaculture and habitat
		- Some objectives in plan: 1) convene a working group (in early stages); 2) how to marry public interests & private partnership
	+ Climate Change – Matt J.
		- Document on Base Camp with Hector G. – where to head
		- Broader integration beyond shorebirds to get to climate resiliency within coastlines
		- Need to brainstorm what a climate project might look like. Possibly webinars outlining existing climate projects
		- Fundraising – ways to tie in to other initiatives (e.g. engineering, habitat)
		- Initial call – mostly US folks & one Canadian
		- Audubon & Birdlife International – working together on hemispheric climate change strategy using open standards – one strategy is coastal wetlands…way to start integrating in to broader initiative? Each country with BirdLife rep doing an open standards process around climate change
		- Through BirdLife International & Durham University, analysis of weather data & scenarios in relation to turnover within IBAs. Caveat – does not currently include sea-level rise data
	+ Human Disturbance
		- Lots of interest in helping, Cindy F., Deb R., Pam L.
		- Danielle & Mirta – issues with wind farms, hydroelectric dams altering shorelines, importance of having representation in WGs
		- Deb R. - Phase 1 of strategy – North America focused. Working with folks from Northeast Region USFWS to develop strategic communications plan for PIPL. Identifying audience, tactics, and tools. Good starting place.
	+ Hunting – Brad A.
		- Since 2013 – culminated in stepdown plan from business plan to address harvest
		- Gradually filling in locations – funding for Guiana, Brazil…other places like Trinidad important for hunting
		- Been trying to put lots of components into Miradi as a way to track and report
	+ Monitoring – Steven B.
		- Effectiveness of individual projects, index monitoring to help look at trends as we go. Concept build into plan, ways to propose to NFWF ways to build monitoring into proposals
		- What is ongoing role of monitoring WG? Pacific flyway group developing – same questions, lack of funding, challenges, statistical issues. PRISM committee met at WHSG, proposed that they become monitoring committee for both Atlantic & Pacific shorebird initiatives
		- Paul Smith (Env Canada), Jim Lyons (USGS), S. Brown – can provide guidance on developing monitoring components within proposals
		- Next PRISM meeting – March next year? TBD
	+ Flyway engagement – Rob C.
		- Looking at ways to stepdown business plan to smaller plans, and feed up smaller plans to national plans
		- Ex comm has representation, propose that ex comm work on flyway issues
	+ Funding committee – Scott J.
		- Also propose function of ex comm

***Tuesday, September 27***

**8:30 – 10:30 am Review Communications and Outreach. Determine priorities for discussion during meeting. Deb Reynolds**

* Promoting initiative – Deb R.
	+ Communications WG: engaged with website development
	+ Executive summaries in French, Portuguese, Dutch, Spanish – could use an update
	+ Putting out another call for storymap content, adding projects by year
	+ Questions for group- What products need to be in multiple languages? Currently the website and executive summary
	+ Only communication professional on team, would be helpful to engage other communications people across flyway, as nearly every WG focused on human actions
	+ Ian D. – NFWF communications folks might be able to help
* Tracking projects
	+ Ian D. - need to track how projects contribute to increase in focal pop’ns and their habitat, important for adaptive management
	+ Brad A. – Miradi has tools that could be used for this
	+ Matt J. – New products coming out. Geoform - National Audubon uses for banding PIPL project. New ways to integrate with social media
	+ Danielle P. – can help with translation, point out no storymap projects in Brazil.
	+ Brad A. – suggests country specific communications – used to track successes in individual countries, then incorporated into broader database
* Strategic communications plan – who are the audiences, tools, products?
	+ Scott J. - has the start of a communications plan, in progress – will continue to edit, work with Deb R. and others to finish
	+ Target timeline - January 2017, need for other folks to assist especially up and down flyway. Jennifer W – Caribbean. Central and South America – Danielle, Patricia, Mirta, Juliana
	+ Action item for all - Volunteer yourself of someone else to help with communications WG, Deb R. will work with Scott on communications strategy

**Short presentation on Human Dimensions. Deb R. (slides from Ashley Dayer, VA Tech)**

* Deb R – example: how to reach dog owners. Audience challenging – pets like people. Interesting HD project to understand the audience and reach them with messages that they can hear rather than just telling them not to walk dogs on beach, fines, etc. Need to understand attitudes, values, what messages might resonate – that is HD. Ways to message to reach audience to raise appreciation for shorebirds rather than being polarizing. We can try to communicate in absence of HD research but might miss.
* Ian D. – almost all proposals have been including HD components, some entirely HD (e.g. Bahamas, Argentina)
* Brad A. – open standards brings HD components in right away. How to weave HD in better rather than stand-alone HD science.
* Matt J. – lots of examples of successful HD integration with broader projects – e.g. Miradi process in Panama Bay, etc.
* Deb R. – Will gather HD resources and post on website. Translate Identify audiences – possible database that can be searched?
* Patricia – opportunity with Piper (Pixar) to promote shorebirds among young people
* Deb R. – reached out to Disney, had meeting with some folks. Interested and asked to develop a targeted fact sheet about what AFSI is, how can they help us, etc. Developed and shared with them. Reached out to Pixar about possible Piper follow up movie that could talk about threats to shorebirds, things that people can do to help. Asked for permission to use Piper’s image on signs. HD research has shown that public has sign fatigue. Piper could be an emotional hook to get people to respect signs & change behavior. Real interest – will take time to keep fostering relationship with Disney
* David M. – Disney has conservation funding program, $25k ceiling
* Shiloh – how to get Pixar to make ecologically accurate and engaging movie without causing extra disturbance with kids wanting to find shorebirds
* Matt J. – Disney already funding $200 – 300k in projects along Atlantic flyway, more elsewhere. Important to pitch in context of what they are already doing
* !!! Scott J – WGs think about ways to integrate HD into what they are doing

**10:30 – 12:00 Discussion and Action of individual Working Groups. Each group will go into more detail about current actions and future priorities.**

* Brad A. – Hunting WG
	+ Vision: Shorebird hunting is sustainable in Western Atlantic Flyway
	+ Biological goal: Remove direct threat harvest as factor limiting shorebird pop’n growth. By 2025 – reduce harvest pressure by 30%
	+ Focal areas: Guadeloupe, Martinique, Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago, French Guiana, Brazil. Expanded into eastern Canada: WHIM hazing at blueberry fields. Possible subsistence hunting (?)
	+ Hunting working group – includes reps from Canada, US, Caribbean, South America
	+ Periodic teleconferences, including those held in French
	+ Basecamp – papers, notes from teleconferences, Miradi model, plan, NFWF proposals and budget tables. Try to operate group in most transparent way possible. Also materials on hunting from Lisa S., audience = kids.
	+ WG worked cooperatively to develop 2 proposals that were successfully funded by NFWF. Additional funding coming into USFWS for work in Guyanas and Brazil
	+ Current progress:
		- Developed estimates of mortality limits for AF shorebirds; Completed prelim assessment on Barbados; Hunter attitude survey completed and analyzed for French Guyana; Hunter survey completed for Suriname and being analyzed
		- Planned assessments: WHIM hazing and take in eastern Canada in 2016, eastern Maine in 2016; North coast of Brazil in 2017, Guyana in 2017, Trinidad in ??
		- Develop policies & regulations: Restrictions on spp, seasons, bag limits on Barbados, Guadeloupe, French Guiana, and Martinique; Strengthen law enforcement and compliance; Supported enforcement activities in Suriname
		- Changes in annual shorebird harvest in Barbados (# shorebirds being hunted, yellowlegs account for 67%): 1998-2009, 30,000 to 19,000; 2010+ 12,000
		- Improve outreach & communication: Brochures (Guadeloupe and Martinique), Workshops (Barbados and French Guiana in 2016); agreement among French Canadian and USA hunting agencies
		- Establish and maintain no-shooting reserves: Barbados, French Guiana
	+ Future:
		- Continue to develop cooperative proposals to address major strategies
		- Finish building Miradi model, especially for evaluation & tracking
		- Continue stakeholder workshops and working group communications
	+ Pierrick B. – Guadeloupe
		- Surveyed sites where mangroves are cut to attract shorebirds, water levels fluctuate w/ rainfall, hunting allowed on certain days
		- Data in Aug & Sept for 2014-2016
			* High variation in # hunters, # birds shot
			* Peaks correspond with storm events that result in birds stopping over in large #s. Nice weather, fewer hunters
			* By species: LEYE (43-70%), also GRYE, SBDO, PESA, WHIM, GRPL, WILL, RUTU, WISN
			* # of birds killed/hunter typically between 1-10 per day
		- Current progress
			* Collaboration multiple partners habitat restoration.
			* Divided site into hunting vs non-hunting zones
			* Mapping shorebird habitat along coast
	+ Scott J – lessons learned from Hunting WG
		- Dedicated leadership – mobilize, develop materials, keep basecamp active
		- Transparency
		- Importance of funding
		- Effective communication – e.g. HD in projects, regular calls, recognize language barrier and holding successive calls in multiple languages

**12:00 – 1:00pm LUNCH**

**1:00 – 3:00pm Support for AFSI – support and funding from agencies, partners, etc.. Call in from FWS Regional Director Wendi Weber**

**On phone: Pam Toschik (USFWS), Gary Donaldson (CWS), Wendi Weber (USFWS)**

* Wendi W.
	+ Shorebirds high priority, hope to continue with new administration.
	+ Hopeful that USAID will help support aid outside of US. Help lead outreach to other ministries, Congress, etc. to help implement AFSI.
* Wendi W. – hurricane sandy supplemental funding to help do monitoring, continue through 2023..hoping to build in additional effort and funding on top of that
* David O.N. – change in admin, need to keep on front burner. Suggestions?
* Wendi W – demonstrate successes to date, highlight those to Congress, etc. Link shorebirds with habitat and ecosystem services provided by them (e.g. coastal resiliency, climate change, recreational opportunities)
* David O.N. –
	+ Audubon investing ~1 mil, Walker lead on coastal birds in Atlantic flyway
	+ Recently hired policy person – big emphasis on coastal policy
	+ Fundraising – recently hired someone focused on foundations and corporations (61 total identified, assets in billions, all have coastal issues as #1 or #2 funding priority)
	+ Audubon committed to help bringing resources, science, funding to help initiative move forward
	+ Committed to help build out international aspects, coordinate with Bird Life, in process of developing International business plan. In process of setting up regional office in coastal Columbia
* Gary D. Environment & Climate Change Canada
	+ Proposal for project geared toward implementing Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative, shared priorities with AFSI & WHSRN. $460k next 2 years
	+ Focus on habitat in North America (Canada, US, Mexico) due to nature of funding
	+ Nov – new round of AMBI funding, will be a notice within Canadian government. Happy to champion proposal going into EEC for flyway.
* Ian D. NFWF
	+ Part of science change within NFWF, taking forward 6 science based programs at moment, one of which is flyways
	+ Best way to safeguard funds that NFWF has that is dedicated to flyway is to partner with other entities to bring funding to this effort
	+ Scott J - organize smaller funding committee of the executive
		- Members: Scott Hecker, Stephen Brown, Ian Davidson, Brad Andres, Walker Golder, David O’Neill, and Scott Johnston
	+ Ian D – US AID potential for this to continue, needs follow up
	+ David ON – identified 53 government programs that could be supportive of shorebird work
	+ Danielle – activities in Brazil supported that could include shorebirds, e.g. GEF – mangrove restoration. No direct funding of AFSI but funding for coastal habitat protection
* Scott H.
	+ ICFC role in funding shorebirds
	+ Small organization – expending $4-5 mil per year
	+ Funds for different programs
		- Land Acquisition - targeting linking of corridors in tropics
		- Funding for marine reserves & building capacity for protection
		- Funding for shorebirds relatively new – focus increasing partly due to quality of science behind program. WHSRN sites
		- Projects range from $10 - $100K – contract with NGOs (“field partners”)
		- Also assist folks in Latin America, Caribbean, etc. apply for folks through NMBCA. Will provide matching funds. Charge no overhead.
		- Mechanisms for paying partial expenses of other projects (e.g. signage, wardens, etc)
		- More info on website: http://icfcanada.org/
		- Big focus on passing funding to projects in Caribbean, Central & South America, charge no overhead.
* David M – recognize amount of $$ neotrop program has put into shorebirds in US. Direct & match
* Deb R – opportunities for JV weaving shorebird components into grants

**3:00 – 5:00pm Continue Working Group discussions**

**Predation**

* Pam L – funded NFWF proposal focused on coordinated predation management for temperate breeding shorebirds (WIPL, SNPL, PIPL, AMOY). BMPs and on-the-ground demonstration projects. Example of coordinated approach, many partners, large geographic region
* Scott J – suggest sending updates from WGs to broader shorebird communities periodically, invite people to join

**Human Disturbance**

* Pam L - R5 Refuge project – VA Tech, focused on BMP development for managing disturbance to shorebirds during fall migration on federal land in Northeast
* Walker G. – Aububon thinking about a broader scale proposal that spans the flyway and includes breeding and non-breeding
* Deb R. – strategic communications plan for PIPL human disturbance communications, interested in rolling up strategy to AFSI – different partners reach and identify aspects for different audiences

**Incompatible Management**

* David M. - Working with Larry N. variety of projects, e.g. Brazil – shrimp aquaculture, DE Bay – oyster aquaculture, interested in broadening scope
* Brad A. – shrimp aquaculture big issue on Pacific coast – opportunity to tackle from a hemispheric/multi-flyway approach
* Jennifer W – similarities to rice farming & waterfowl, shade-grown coffee, etc. Improving industry practices & standards
* Danielle – best practices important for Brazil, in some places thriving wild shrimp industry, challenge with bringing shrimp to market.
* David M – Larry’s project, mapping places where shrimp farming is likely to expand, e.g. where developers don’t have to remove mangrove (but shorebirds likely to roost)
* David M – both projects in South America USFWS funded by neotrop, some funding available through GEF, looking for ways to find incentive to market shrimp that is shorebird friendly
* ! Brad – will reach out to folks in Pacific to try to address at hemispheric scale
* Ian D – suggests starting with salt ponds, because shrimp farming is a massive undertaking. Good examples with salt ponds at existing WHSRN sites. Pivot off positive relationship that has already been formed.

**Monitoring**

* Ian D – pitch for monitoring. Would like to see pitch from collective to see how we are going to think about monitoring. E.g. AMOY initiative – planning one time survey of entire Atlantic coast to see what population looks like. WG has done previous surveys for comparison
* Stephen B – pitch for involvement with PRISM committee, don’t need to be quantitative. Index monitoring done through migration counts, gives a sense of the trend.
* Ian D. – strategic investments to help us understand how impacts of investments effect full lifecycle population planning. What are the strategies? Index monitoring? How can we set this up?

**END Day 2.**

***Wednesday, September 28***

**8:30 – 9:00am Plan for the day – based on previous day’s discussion. Consider breaking into small groups for a short time to facilitate priorities in each Working Group?**

**9:00 – 11:00am Finalize discussion/actions on Working Group operations and filling gaps.**

**Monitoring**

* Brad A – suggests Miradi share program – templates for SWAPs, etc. could be modified
* Matt J – NFWF, Audubon, USFWS all thinking about scorecards, need to coordinate
* Walker G – One of biggest challenges is defining metrics. How do you get at the metrics? E.g. GIS mapping for spatial data. Designers need info from shorebird experts, has access to quantitative ecologists, database people at Audubon
* Matt J – suggests folks who are working on monitoring do short presentations so we can see what is going on, and adopt elements of monitoring programs that would be a good fit for us
* Committee: Brad A., Walker G., Matt J., Pam L., Deb R., suggest Stephen Brown. Action: Report back from group

**Climate**

* Matt J – co-leading with Hector G., Mitch H., Deb R., Cindy F., Dave M., P. Davidson, others
* Rob C – will join, huge interest from WHSRN perspective
* Matt J – Project with MacArthur – climate change, Argentina, Brazil, Columbia, Panama, possible DR & Bahamas. Coastal wetlands emerged as high priority among all groups. Proposing to offer webinars to explore solutions, e.g. David M and impoundments, resiliency. Another project with University of Durham in UK, with support from BirdLife and Audubon – modeling for site prioritization/climate change. Also effort that modeled distribution of birds relative to climate change scenarios, next phase will incorporate sea level rise data.
* Jennifer W – suggests reaching out to Caribbean LCC. Brent Murray is science coordinator.
* Deb R – suggests connecting with North Atlantic LCC & South Atlantic LCC, also Climate Science Centers
* Scott J – inter-American development bank, conventions, etc. Opportunity to translate everything in business plan to refocus on human and economic benefits
* Brad A – suggests that each working group look at strategies and connect with ecosystem services/human wellbeing goal ‘
* ! Action – get another call together soon

**Coastal Engineering – Walker G. (power point)**

* Importance of inlets, sandbar/shoal habitat inside of inlet. Effects of stabilization projects
* Same techniques can be used in a beneficial way – e.g. dredging & sand depositing to restore or even create nesting islands
* Goal: accomplish desired outcomes that people want, but not impact shorebirds
* ! Send out another call for people who want to participate in WGs, update list of all participants in all WGs on basecamp
* ! Will send out message to email list following meeting with specific asks

**Flyway Engagement – Rob C.**

* How to show success? Rolling up work at different levels
* Raising funds, coordinating work, pulling together results at flyway scale
* Need for high level gov engagement, have from US and Canada, don’t have other national government representation except for Brazil
* Focus to date: raise awareness of AFSI, looking at overlap between AFSI and other national plans (e.g. Brazilian), where do national priorities fit in?
* National level discussions – to engage stakeholders in meaningful way, how to deal with species that have not been considered part of Atlantic flyway by AFSI (e.g. HUGO, breeding spp in South America, etc)
* Scott J – 2 priorities from workshop in Argentina with government and NGOs, commitment to developing shorebird national plan and census of shorebirds in Argentina. Funding an issue for everyone, everywhere. Particularly in South America and Caribbean. As we develop priorities, try to develop funding sources. E.g. Neotrop grant, ICF/capacity building, NFWF, etc.
* Juliana - Beginning of year, SAVE Brasil worked with Brad W. on habitat workshop, went to Ministry of Environment to discuss AFSI. MOU draft in progress, open format so different organizations could sign on. Pedro is SAVE director, suggest USFWS, Manomet, Ministry of Environment sign MOU, and then have others join in. Ministry signed similar MOU for Spix's Macaw. Would be helpful to have targeted materials to present to government – different for each country or all see the same thing?
* Matt J – Letters of Support, e.g. in Bahamas, signed by Dan Ashe and Deputy, saying that the USFWS recognizes and supports efforts
* Scott J – great example of instrument that helps link countries, MOU and press
* Rob C – working through conventions like CMS and Ramsar might be more effective, builds off obligations that countries already have. Eg. REKN in south, already flagged by CMS, already mechanisms in place to help move a project forward
* Scott J - US and Canada observe CMS, but not signatories. But non-signatories can still be active participants in helping to develop agreements that are signed by other countries, NOAA has some examples of this
* Scott J – look for opportunities to get in front of a lot of countries. Joint ornithological meeting in Brazil/Argentina. List of events and who might be going, all of us on Ex Comm need to be ambassadors for AFSI
* Isadora – BirdLife – can help promote initiative through her partners. Also official party to Ramsar, CMS
* Brad A – these things part of strategic communications strategy – target for Jan

**12:00 – 1:00pm LUNCH**

**1:00 – 5:00pm Report out from Working Groups (includes action plans for each group)**

**Birdlife International Flyway Program - Isadora**

* Coordinated, full life-cycle conservation of Atlantic Flyway shorebirds is part of the BirdLife Americas Flyways Program. Commitment to deliver AFSI.
* Rob C –Important to have flyways working group – reach out to other governments. IWEA created by convention of migratory species – possible model for what AFSI might want to be in the future
* Flyways working group – focused on engaging with governments, NGOs working on national level, etc. Provide feedback to Ex Comm on best approaches.

**Communications – Deb R.**

* Scott J – generic questions related to communications
	+ What people are using currently? Glossy strategy published in June 2013 – still a valid document?
	+ Business plan – went through copy editing, will be revised and recirculated. Thick & technical document – not appropriate for outreach?
	+ New – products that include endemic spp? Part of strategic communications plan?
* Brad – everyone get factsheets together for WGs so ready to submit if funding opportunities, etc arise
* Deb – Executive summaries need to be updated, draft in English first and share. Need mechanism in place to get things translated.

**Database and Scorecards**

* For accomps tracking – what counts as an AFSI project?
* Jennifer W – suggest developing a database of projects, do best to collect info that is quantifiable such as # of people reached, # acres protected. When time to evaluate, use information from sites where there is information like an index
* Brad A – can have a compound objective, e.g. for a managed impoundment, want a 10% increase in bird use days. Repeat at other sites.
* Walker – identifying gaps and where to adaptively manage initiative. Use mapping process?
* Need a smaller group to work on this with experts who do these things on daily basis – bring in Audubon folks, understand whole range of options (e.g. geoforms, what else?) important that everyone has access and can participate

**Including other species – Brad A**

* Do we add species from south that are either resident or austral migrants?
* If we did add species, suggest Wilsons Plover (all sub spp) and American Oystercatcher (all sub spp), also SBDO, HUGO, Magellanic Plover, Two-banded Plover
* Danielle & Juliana – another meeting in Nov, discuss SBDO to see if there is an issue regarding initiative, if initiative lists it does that help advance shorebird conservation in Brazil?
* Write something up to give Danielle & Juliana as background to take to meeting in Nov

**Executive Committee Calls and Meetings**

* Recommendation quarterly ExComm conference call, next one shortly after RFP comes out. 1) follow up of this meeting; 2) discussion of proposals
* Suggests that ExComm meet in person once a year. Next face to face meeting? WHSG Peru next fall or joint meeting Argentina/Brazil in mid-August
* Deb can help send materials out to shorebird community, list being managed through mail chimp. Currently 311 subscribers. Bumped 25-30 people when announced available in Spanish.

**New issues or topics?**

* J. Wheeler: Birds Caribbean International meeting July 13-17, 2017 in Cuba. Last 2 meetings shorebird focused sessions, info gathering. Opportunity for info sharing, tools, BMPs, etc.?

**END Day 3/ End of meeting.**