



March 31, 2014

Dale Humburg
Chair
NAWMP Interim Integration Committee

Dear Dale,

Further to our brief discussion in Denver, I wanted to provide you with a summary of the views of the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture Board (PHJV) related to the Draft Interim Integration Committee Work Plan and the draft Revision of NAWMP Objectives document that was provided to the waterfowl management community last summer. The PHJV is becoming more engaged on this issue and will be continuing discussions at future Board meetings.

The PHJV feels we must continue to emphasize in future documents the importance of habitat, and the importance of ensuring we have the required habitat base for future populations. That said, the PHJV Board recognizes the increasing importance of human dimensions and we are considering opportunities for developing HD related objectives as we progress towards an updated implementation plan for the PHJV. We are seeking practical ways and alternatives for incorporating the human dimensions component into our future work as a joint venture.

As a first step, the PHJV Board needs to determine who or which sectors of the public to engage, and why. The "who" may be multiple groups based on different objectives, gaps, or needs. The draft documents that were circulated describe well the habitat-populations-humans linkages that need to be developed. However, we would recommend that more clarity be provided to outline who will develop the approaches to establish these linkages.

Within the PHJV, the challenge is to set quantitative population and human objectives (or ranges), and then determine the habitat objectives required for achievement, given the wide variability in habitat conditions due to weather, land use, etc. Might coherence be achieved by ensuring the population, human, and habitat models are explicitly integrated? Our waterfowl deficit and productivity models currently use 'hatched nests' as currency; and we need to translate hatched nests into 'population' and 'human' outcomes. Population ranges are likely more helpful than target numbers.



The PHJV Science Committee has been engaged over the last year in the development of the updated PHJV implementation plan, and has not provided comments on the draft objectives. However, the PHJV has identified the need to carefully review the potential impacts of the lowering of objectives for pintail and scaup.

As we move ahead with our Board discussions, I would like to ensure that the PHJV Board is well informed on the work of the Human Dimensions Working Group. Our next Board meeting will be held in June, in Regina, Saskatchewan, and I would like to invite an appropriate spokesperson to present current and future initiatives from that group. If you have suggestions on who might attend the June Board meeting, please forward to the PHJV Coordinator, Ms. Deanna Dixon.

On behalf of the PHJV Board, I would like to thank the NAWMP Interim Integration Committee for the considerable work undertaken thus far on our collective behalf.

Yours sincerely,

David Ingstrup
Chair, Prairie Habitat Joint Venture
Regional Director
Canadian Wildlife Service, Prairie and Northern Region

cc. PHJV Advisory Board

*Environment Canada Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Alberta NAWMP Partnership Saskatchewan Environment Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Manitoba Conservation Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation Ducks Unlimited Canada
Bird Studies Canada Nature Conservancy of Canada Wildlife Habitat Canada*