



NAWMP Committee Roles, Responsibilities, and Functions

An Addendum to the 2018 Update to
the North American Waterfowl
Management Plan



Plan nord-américain de
gestion de la sauvagine

North American Waterfowl
Management Plan

Plan de Manejo de Aves
Acuáticas de Norteamérica

Plan Committee Roles, Responsibilities and Functions: An Addendum to the 2018 North Waterfowl Management Plan Update

Background

The recommendation in the 2018 Update to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP or Plan) to “Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the Plan Committee (PC) and how it strategically structures itself and its functions...” provided direction to review and update the 2004 statement of Plan Committee roles, responsibilities and functions.

To accomplish this, the Plan Committee initiated a strategic planning effort at the Summer 2018 meeting in Ottawa, Canada focused on identifying actions to help achieve the goals and objectives of the 2018 Update. The results of this effort are summarized in a document entitled “NAWMP Committee Strategic Priorities and Actions.” A number of ranked, primary responsibilities for the Plan Committee were identified as well as some adjustments to its structure. Supporting discussion in the report provides additional detail and clarity around key roles and responsibilities of the PC, its functions, strategic priorities and actions.

This Addendum to the 2018 NAWMP Update replaces Appendix C: Institutional, Legal, and Administrative Authorities, Functions, and Arrangements in the Implementation Framework of the 2004 NAWMP Update.

Plan Committee

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee is an international body that provides leadership and oversight for the activities undertaken in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Plan Committee Roles and Responsibilities:¹

The mandate of the PC can be described in two broad categories: **Plan Leadership** and **Plan Management**.

¹ Reference Materials: 1) *2004 NAWMP Implementation Framework* (pp. 84-85); 2) *Report on Review of the Plan Committee – Achieving NAWMP Objectives*. Submitted to the NAWMP Committee by the Institutions Subcommittee January 15, 2018; and 3) *TOR for DUC and SFI boards*

Plan Leadership

Taking advice from Plan partners, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Science Support Team (NSST), the Human Dimensions Working Group (HDWG-PET) and the newly formed Communications Committee, the Plan Committee provides leadership and promotes synergies within the North American waterfowl community, across relevant sectors, and internationally by:

1. Championing and leading NAWMP through strategic planning and stakeholder engagement.
2. Promoting the development and assessment of continental waterfowl population, habitat and human dimension objectives through updates and distribution of the Plan document.
3. Enhancing communications on waterfowl conservation and coordination within North America and with other nations that share North American waterfowl.
4. Continually scanning the institutional network influencing waterfowl conservation and seeking ways to foster greater synergy among them, in particular connecting with the broader scientific community and ensuring that the Plan partners, including Joint Venture (JV or JVs) technical committees; Flyway Councils and technical committees; NGOs; and federal, state, and provincial agencies, link effectively and operationally with relevant scientific and decision authorities.
5. Serving as a forum for discussion of major, long-term, international waterfowl issues and developing those discussions into recommendations for consideration by the Canadian Wildlife Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Mexican General Directorate of Wildlife, and returning information from those agencies to the Plan community.

Plan Management

The Plan Committee has oversight responsibility for updating the Plan and ensuring effective implementation of Plan objectives. To meet these obligations, the committee undertakes the following activities:

1. Review and monitor progress toward achieving the Plan's population objectives, related habitat objectives, human dimension objectives and the integration of the three fundamental goals.
2. Annually solicit Joint Ventures and other Plan partners for input on the status of Plan implementation and issues to be addressed by the Plan Committee; and update the Plan approximately every 5 years in response to new or changing circumstances, policy developments, and opportunities.
3. Review the waterfowl conservation components of Joint Venture plans, including their implementation and evaluation strategies and how those may achieve integrated NAWMP goals, including approaches to engage other regional partners. The PC should encourage coordination among Joint Ventures and other relevant bodies concerning waterfowl conservation needs, biological planning, monitoring, and integration
4. Maintain and strengthen the vital and evolving relationships between the PC and the JVs, adapting to new challenges and opportunities and maintain strong relationships with Flyway Councils, and other bird initiatives.
5. Ensure (and expand) communication with upper levels of federal agencies to provide international coordination and to inform and educate leaders about NAWMP to facilitate additional resources and policies to achieve success in plan implementation through partner actions. Represent interests of NAWMP partners and other waterfowl constituencies, through committee membership, advocacy, and broader leadership, to ensure the waterfowl enterprise stays active in other institutions such as JVs, Flyway Councils and state agencies.

6. Periodically review the Plan Committee's own effectiveness and consider structural, relational, and management adjustments to enhance committee impact.

Membership

The Plan Committee consists of 18 members, 6 each from Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Members are selected from agencies responsible for waterfowl management in their respective countries and appointments are made by each country's Director of Wildlife. In the U.S., each Flyway Council nominates a representative, and the FWS Director makes a formal appointment to the PC along with two federal representatives (one as the US Co-chair). In Canada, the membership consists of a Canadian Wildlife Service senior executive, (Canadian Co-chair), two federal representatives from the Habitat Joint Ventures, and three non-federal representatives. The Mexican representatives are appointed by the Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources.

Committee members are limited to two consecutive three-year terms unless re-nominated by the respective Wildlife Director or Secretary. The PC shall strive to represent a diversity of waterfowl and wetland stakeholder groups. It is desirable that PC members are an active stakeholder in waterfowl management and hold senior roles in their institution.

Meetings

Meetings of the PC are called by the co-chairs. The committee shall meet at least two times per year. Notice of a meeting of the PC shall be made at least 3 months in advance, and business to be conducted shall be provided to the committee members at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Committee members may participate in meetings via conference call or other means of electronic communication by which all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear one another, and such participation shall constitute presence in-person at the meeting. If a committee member is unable to attend at least one meeting in person in a twelve-month period, the co-chairs may request that the committee member resign from the PC.