

U.S. NATIONAL RAMSAR COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2005

Meeting Location: IAFWA Headquarters, Hall of States Room 385, Washington, DC

Attendees: Vaughn Collins, Ducks Unlimited – Marina Ratchford, FWS – Kathy Hurl, EPA – Dwight Shellman, Caddo Lake – Roy Darville, Caddo Lake (on phone) – Joyce Namde, US State Dept – Royal Gardner, Stetson University College of Law (on phone) – Don McLaughlin, IAFWA—Lawrence Mason, CTSF—Mike Caron (on phone), - Greg Smith, NWRC - Samara Trusso, IAFWA – Gilberto Cintron, USFWS – Yara Schaeffer Novelli, guest from Brazil – Zack Donohew, guest from Ducks Unlimited – George Furness, CTST

Proxies: Samara Trusso for Don McLaughlin

Meeting Started: 12:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

May 11, 2004

Joyce suggests a few changes to the minutes, changes were so noted and the amended version was approved.

Larry moves to adopt amendments; Vaughn seconds, motion passes.

October 18, 2004

Joyce suggests changes and amended version was approved. Larry moves to accept, Vaughn seconds, motion passes.

Treasurer's Report: George delivers report orally; report is attached. Vaughn moves to approve, Don seconds motion passes.

Old Business:

- A. 2004 Dues Billing and Transmittals – George and Dwight reported on the status of which members have paid dues for 2004, list is below:

USNRC MEMBERS

First	Last	Company	Email	Dues Paid
Philip	Cicconi	Friends of Eastern Neck	pcicconi@friend.ly.net	Yes

George	Furness	Conservation Treaty Support Fnd	ctsf@conservationtreaty.org	No
Vaughn	Collins	Ducks Unlimited	vcollins@ducks.org	Yes
Royal	Gardner	Stetson University College of Law	gardner@law.stetson.edu	Yes
Bill	Howard	Wildlife Habitate Council	bhoward@wildlifehc.org	No
Don	MacLauchlan	Int'l Assoc of Fish & Wildlife Agencies	donmac@sso.org	Yes
Larry	Mason	Conservation Treaty Support Fund	lawrmason@cs.com	No
Ronald	Miska	Marin County Open Space District	rmiska@co.marin.ca.us	Yes
Bruce	Monroe	Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge	bandcmonroe@earthlink.net	No
David	Pashley	American Bird Conservacny	dpashley@abcbirds.org	Yes
Dwight	Shellman	Caddo Lake Institute	dks@sopris.net	Yes

USNRC OBSERVERS

Gil	Cintron	US Fish & Wildlife Office of Int'l Affairs	gil_cintron@fws.gov
Herb	Raffaele	US Fish & Wildlife Office of Int'l Affairs	Herb_Raffaele@fws.gov
Joyce	Winchel Namde	Bureau of Oceans & Intl' & Env. Science Affairs	namdejw@state.gov
Kathy	Hurld	EPA Wetlands Division	hurld.kathy@epamail.epa.gov

- B. Email Newsletter Update - by Namde or Gardner, Royal is working on a proper grant proposal to fund the letter, which is currently funded by the Association of State Wetland Managers. Heidi Luquer currently edits it. Benefit: opportunity to link up and emphasize various RAMSAR sites across the US. Marina suggests next newsletter mention National Wetlands Day (2/2). Announcements should be turned by two week prior to publication.

- C. Report on Caddo Lake Flows Prescription Process Co-Sponsored by USNRC – Dwight gave a brief report on the December workshop that was held at Caddo Lake.
- D. New US Site Approval Status - Two CA sites and one in HI designated RAMSAR. The two CAs are officially listed by RAMSAR, HI not yet listed. State and FWS produced press releases (check link on website) for the three new designates. Working on HI site to produce better map. Tijuana group is planning a 22 April celebration—high state officials will be invited including national authorities in Mexico. HI is also interested in coordinating a celebration, in lieu of Tijuana proximity.
- E. Marina noted that FWS recently had an inquiry for designation at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge site in MN. Inquirers did not know that all landowners (public and private) must willingly comply with letters, therefore incorporated only public lands into proposal.

Marina suggested creating information about including private lands in RAMSAR sites. Joyce suggested looking at successful RAMSAR sites that incorporate private lands as a model to proceed by---perhaps a project for Royal and his students.

Kathy: the committee could be a technical resource on how to incorporate private land. Consensus on further exploring this idea; Royal taking charge and will provide a proposal.

Gilberto: an opportunity to incorporate RAMSAR into Farm Bill process because it highlights the value of the land—needs exploring.

Royal: We need an observer to the committee who handles Farm Bill.

Kathy: We also need a Corps observer.

- F. Joyce's Status Questions –
- Speeding designation process - Reviving the process to make the guidelines clearer so inquirers can have a better understanding of where to begin and clearing up other gaps of understanding. Website posting: 3 approved sites, copies of landowners letter, and Marina will provide additional information.
 - USNRC as Ramsar CEPA NGO focal point. Posting on Ramsar website
Tell RAMSAR that USNRC

G. CLI accounting to Wildlife Habitat Council for balance of outreach funds. Dwight distributed copies of his March 12, 2004 letter and attached accounting to Bill Howard, of the Wildlife Habitat Council, showing the application of the \$10,067.42 balance transmitted by Howard to reimburse CLI disbursements for outreach, regional training workshops, coordination and newsletter expenses. A copy is attached.

New Business:

- A. Appointment of Nominating Committee - Don, Larry, Vaughn (Chair) will work to develop a slate of candidates to put forward at the annual meeting. This slate will be sent out along with the notice of the meeting. Notice will also include a note for members to forward nominations to committee.
- B. Set Date and Location for annual meeting. - Group discussed various options and settled on holding the meeting in conjunction with a Wetlands Conference that is being held in April in Charlotte, NC. The USNRC will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, April 20 at 2:00pm in Charlotte, NC. Roy will coordinate venue, details will follow.
- C. Agreed Agenda additions - Marina has FWS US National Ramsar report. Will email draft to committee for review and input. Deadline for RAMSAR comments is 20 February.
- D. Nomination of Roy Darville as a replacement for George. - Deferred to Nominating Committee and will be addressed at the annual meeting.
- E. Dues Use - Dwight: largest single shortcoming of committee is clarity of what is it that USNRC does. Joyce: World Wetlands Day is gaining notoriety. The State Dept. promotes joint WWD activities with countries. RAMSAR is getting more requests for posters and stickers than what supplies we have available. RAMSAR now has logos on CD for local committees. Therefore, next WWD RAMSAR US can create posters for education. Vaughn: \$5,000 is a necessary threshold of reserves and should be maintained as a safety net for contingencies. Perhaps posters, conference calls, etc. can be donated in kind by supporting groups.
- F. Fundraising: Marina suggests soliciting membership and funds from list of supporters and RAMSAR members and RAMSAR sites could be members of the committee. This can be achieved through a letter emphasizing the accomplishments and goals of the committee. Dwight will produce a letter with the help of Marina, Joyce and George. Vaughn moves that the committee absorb the cost of the conference call and food for the meeting out of the treasury budget. Samara (Don's proxy) moves and Larry seconds, motion passes.
- G. Vaughn proposes discussing the need for a minimum reserve in treasury at Annual Meeting.
- H. Joyce announces that the RAMSAR Conference will be held this year in Kampala, Uganda on November 7-18.
- I. Elanore Fox will assume Joyce's position at the State Department in June.

- J. Yara announces that Brazil now has a National Wetlands Committee within the Ministry of Environment. Marina and Yara discuss the opportunity of creating sister RAMSAR sites between Brazil/US.

Adjourned: 2:30 PM

Submitted by Vaughn Collins, Secretary (notes taken by Zach Donohew, Ducks Unlimited)