

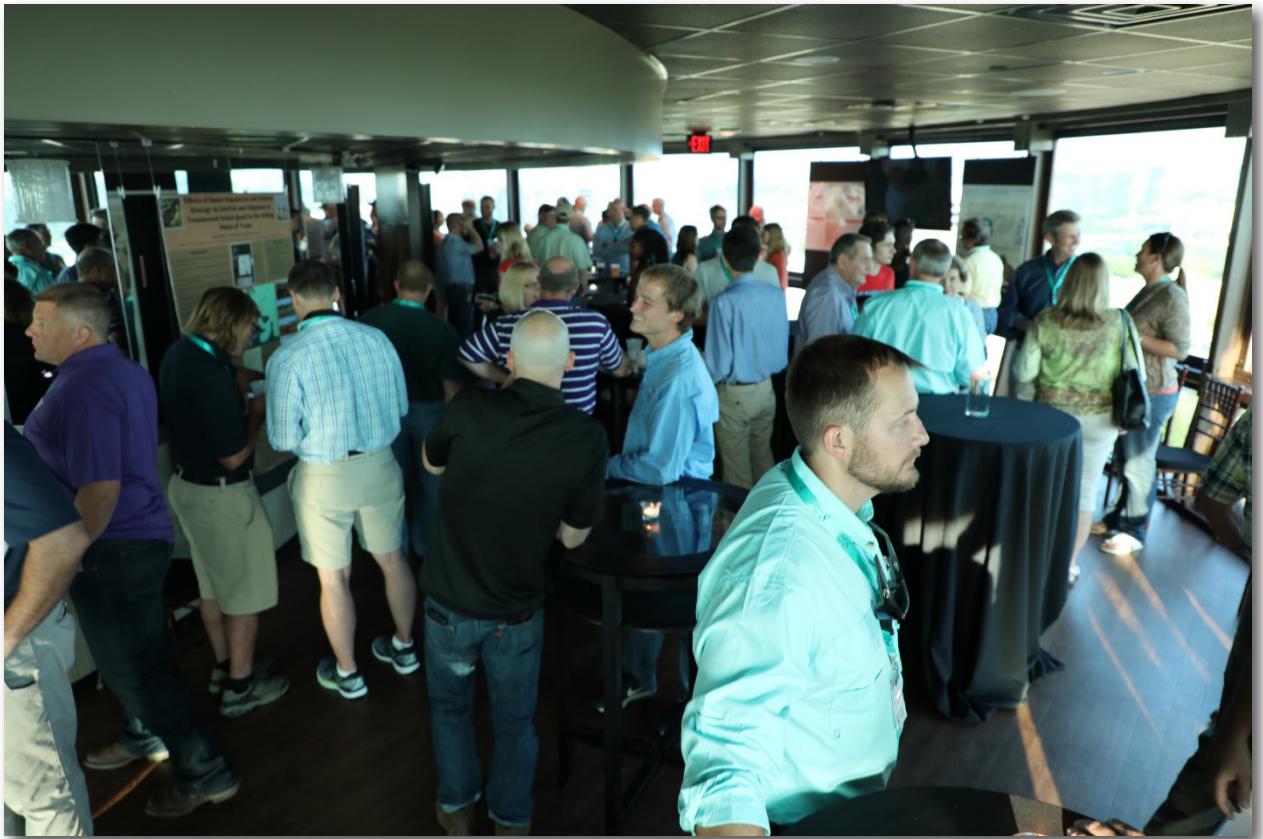


PROCEEDINGS OF THE
23RD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL BOBWHITE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE • JULY 25-26, 2017

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*The Joint NBTC/Quail 8 reception and poster session in the Knoxville Sunsphere was well attended and a great opportunity for networking while viewing 20 posters submitted for the session.
(Photo by Alyssa Merka).*

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23RD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL BOBWHITE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

JULY 25-26, 2017
HOLIDAY INN WORLD'S FAIR PARK
KNOXVILLE, TN

EDITOR: ROGER D. APPLGATE



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*(photo) Roger Applegate, opening the meeting plenary session.
(Photo by Alyssa Merka).*



Joint Quail Conference of the 23rd Annual NBTC Meeting and Eighth National Quail Symposium

July 25 - 28, 2017

Holiday Inn World's Fair Park, Knoxville, TN



Monday, July 24, 2017	
7:00pm	NBTC State Quail Coordinators Meeting
Tuesday, July 25, 2017	
8:00am - 12:00 pm	NBTC Steering Committee Meeting
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch (provided, Steering Committee members only)
1:00pm - 2:00pm	NBTC General Meeting
2:00pm - 6:00pm	NBTC Subcommittee Meetings
6:30pm - 10:00pm	NBTC Reception
Wednesday, July 26, 2017	
8:00am - 12:00 pm	NBTC Subcommittee Meetings
12:30pm - 2:30pm	Luncheon (provided) & Awards Presentation
2:30pm - 5:30pm	NBTC Subcommittee Reports & Business Meeting
6:30pm - 10:00pm	NBTC & Quail 8 Reception/Poster Session
Thursday, July 27, 2017	
8:00am - 9:00am	Quail 8 Welcome
9:00am - 10:00am	Quail 8 Plenary Session
10:00am - 10:30am	Break
10:30am - 12:00pm	Quail 8 Plenary Session
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch (provided)
1:00pm - 3:00pm	Quail 8 Plenary Session
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Break
3:30pm - 5:00pm	Quail 8 Concurrent Sessions
6:30pm - 9:30pm	Quail Eyeworm Workshop (space is limited, check registration desk for availability)
6:30pm - 10:00pm	Quail 8 Reception
Friday, July 28, 2017	
8:00am - 10:00am	Quail 8 Concurrent Sessions
10:00am - 10:30am	Break
10:30am - 11:50am	Quail 8 Concurrent Sessions
11:50am - 2:00pm	Quail 8 Luncheon (provided) & Awards Presentation
2:00pm - 3:00pm	Quail 8 Concurrent Sessions
3:00pm - 3:15pm	Break
3:15pm - 4:15pm	Quail 8 Plenary Session: Concluding Remarks
4:15pm - 4:20pm	Closing
Saturday, July 29, 2017	

FORWARD

The 23rd Annual Meeting of the National Bobwhite Technical Committee (NBTC) was held in Knoxville, Tennessee July 25-26, 2017 as a part of the Joint Quail Conference (JQC). The 23rd was unique in being held in conjunction with the 8th National Quail Symposium (Quail 8) which occupied all of July 27-28. On July 26, the NBTC meeting ended and Quail 8 started with a joint poster session which was held in the Knoxville Sunsphere. An Eyeworm Workshop was held on Thursday evening July 27 as an adjunct to NBTC and the Quail 8 symposium.

The JQC was attended by ~300 individuals from ~30 states and Mexico. There was a broad mix of state and

Federal agency personnel and university faculty and students. There was ample opportunity for quail enthusiasts from throughout North America to interact during the NBTC. A survey of registrants is planned to better measure opinions on this joint meeting but anecdotally the meetings were given complementary comments.

The following pages include the reports that have been officially submitted by the NBTC Steering Committee and each of the standing NBTC subcommittees. These reports are mostly presented the way they were submitted with only some light editing. There is a separate report on Firebird Awards and on the Eyeworm Workshop.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many individuals made the 23rd NBTC and these individuals are listed in the National Quail Symposium Proceedings that was handed out at the JQC. However, several people deserve recognition for helping with production of the NBTC Proceedings. First of all, Alyssa Merka, UT/NBCI, designed the cover used here for the Proceedings as well as for the JQC program. The excellent artwork by David Besenger which was commissioned by the JQC Steering Committee is an important part of the cover layout. In addition, Raleigh Holtam, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) Publications Editor, provided layout of the proceedings and

prepared them for printing. Shukri Ghussein supervised the printing with the assistance of Brian Telford in the TWRA Information Technology Division. Stacy Saxton, TWRA Wildlife and Forestry Division handled all of the detail work, large and small, necessary to make the proceedings happen. Financial contributors to the JQC are gratefully acknowledged on the back pages and cover so will not be listed here. John Morgan and the NBTC subcommittee chairs provided timely typescript for their reports.

Roger D. Applegate, TWRA, Proceedings Editor



Big thank you to Stephanie Brown and Stacy Saxton, TWRA, for herding cats throughout the meeting. When I texted them, they came running to take care of the problem.



Likewise, a big thank you to UT/NBCI's Penny Barnhart and Alyssa Merka. They herded cats throughout the meeting making sure things were done when they were needed and keeping tabs on the NBCI staff.

STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Don McKenzie, John Morgan, Roger Applegate, Robert Perez, Stan McTaggart, Donnie Buckland, Bill White, Tim Kavan, Kelly Reyna, Ben Robinson, Pat Keyser, Nick Prough, David Bryan, Tim Caughran, Willie Simmons, Andrew Burnett, Catherine Rideout, Zak Danks, Derek Wiley, Cody Rhoden, Steve Chapman, Billy Dukes, Jef Hodges, Tom Franklin, Chris Kreh, John Doty, Victoria Simonsen, Matt Harlon, Phil Seng, Danielle Berger, Benjy Strape, Casey Cardinal, Robert Ridenour, Molly Foley, Tom Dailey, Matt Broadway.

Meeting called to order at 8:05 a.m.

Treasurer's report and meeting minutes (read aloud by Robert Perez, Chair-elect) were approved by motion, second and a vote of all in favor.

Don McKenzie – introductory remarks. PowerPoint presentation given.

- NBCI – National Park Service (NPS) relationship/partnership has grown quickly. Over 40 sites interested in working with NBCI
- First MOU was signed with Quail Forever
- FSA has renewed an old MOU that really needed to be updated
- NBCI currently re-examining and updating all existing MOUs, hoping to make them all more substantive
- NBCI gave an award to the Park Cities Quail chapter of Texas Quail Coalition. They have given a lot of support for Tom Franklin's NBCI position (a non-PR eligible position).
- The 3-year final PR report was recently completed. Each state's timing is different.
- NBCI FY17 revenue information was presented in tables and graphs
- A state bobwhite leadership workshop was held in August 2016 at Shaker Village, KY. Several state wildlife directors or their proxies were in attendance. Would like to repeat every 2 years. Lead, Leverage, Enable approach.
- Top 9 states provide ¾ of NBCI funding
- Park Cities Quail was presented with 93K proposal for FY18 for an AG liaison position. Waiting to see if it is accepted in total or in part. They really liked the progress with center pivot corners
- QUGA (Quail and Upland Game Alliance) has donated 5K a year for the past few year and there support is greatly appreciated
- Pursuing support from other NGO partners but

likely won't make up the needed funds

- NBCI budget is tight, little room for programs/projects. Need to discuss options.
- NBCI core/veteran staff have been instructed to seek operating money in FY18. We will discuss in detail and seek feedback in the business meeting.

Floor open for discussion on fundraising duties:

Catherine Rideout – Suggested to test drive the idea for a year and see how it works.

Jef Hodges – Who would we seek support from and what would they expect in return? Need sideboards, direction on what type of groups to approach.

Pat Keyser – opportunities to pursue grants like CIG (conservation innovation grants), state and multi-state grants.

Applegate – concern about NBCI staff using time for non-PR activities. Accounting, time not spent on mission, lost PR time? Suggest going back to states to ask them to raise funds at the state level for NBCI.

Morgan – is the committee in favor of NBCI fundraising? What type of sideboard does committee suggest?

Reyna – need a fundraising development plan/mission so time is not wasted or wrong direction is taken.

Robinson – is it time to hire a fundraiser?

Morgan – This will be discussed after business meeting. It does take special talent to be a full time fundraiser. Not PR eligible

Keyser – narrow down the opportunities that “team” would pursue. Corporate sponsorships? Chemical companies that want to “green up” image.

Morgan – there is interest from committee for NBCI staff to begin team approach to fundraising. Stay on grants for now and not pursue corporate until later or perhaps not at all.

Keyser – motion that committee recommend that NBCI begin team approach and actively identify all potential funding sources and develop a strategic, project-based approach to include both grant and corporate.

Second, vote, motion passed.

NBCI staff updates –

Science committee – PowerPoint presentation given by Tom Dailey

Collaboration has been important this past year. UT ITS with Robert Ridenour, NBTC science subcommittee has been very active, Quail 8 planning, Data (James Martin)

Robert Ridenour (UT) – helped with the transition when Derek left data position. Helped keeping the data mission going by continuing Derek's work for 2-3 months (no charge). Molly is new hire, working out great, jumped right in. Great partnership between NBCI and UT Information and Technology Services program.

Tom Dailey – Quail count.org 11,303 page views, 2,736 users. Really high for a technical website.

Joint quail conference, quail 8 proceedings and sponsorship, symposium proceedings e-journal.

Challenges – Lack of data sharing policy. Data ownership. CIP revision needed in 2018. Habitat database and web application needs to get done, it is a deliverable in the contract.

Ag Policy Committee – Tom Franklin

Not on the UT system, mostly non-PR, halftime position, Theodore Roosevelt foundation houses his position. Outside funding sources like Park Cities quail chapter of Texas Quail Coalition. Works on Policy issues, and with federal agencies primarily USDA to get quail friendly practices. Also works with congress, especially on the Farm Bill. Tom works closely with the Ag policy subcommittee. Actively working on “natives first” approach. Have ideas and language they would like to see incorporated in the Farm Bill. Also, working on cropland fallow practices. Lack of mid-contract management. Crop fallow approach addresses this need.

Working Lands for Wildlife program has been another area the subcommittee has been active with. Coordinated 2 of these. 13 states have identified quail as a priority species in their WLFW programs.

Completed our second congressional staff tour this summer. Chairman of house Ag committee (Conaway) was there and got pretty excited about NBCI's work.

Public lands are an important opportunity to get quail work done on the ground (Forest service, Park service, military, etc.)

Morgan – What about interactions with pollinator groups?

Franklin – Yes, interacting with them and have been for a year or so. Ensure pollinator programs incorporate quail needs.

Forestry Committee – Steve Chapman, Forestry Coordinator

Hoosier national forest meeting at end of June. Partners and Forest staff are interested in developing a plan to get quail work done there.

Southern region office asked for a proposal to do work on private lands. South Carolina was able to sub-

mit a proposal for work on private lands near national forests. This should be underway soon.

Webinar on pine forest management was completed this summer. Good participation. Can still be viewed online.

Flyer was developed for states to take advantage of FSA funds for management.

Have been active with Long Leaf Partnership and East Coast Joint Venture.

Grasslands Committee – Jef Hodges

Rangeland prescribed video recently completed, well received. Being distributed now, target audience is live-stock producers.

Working Lands for Wildlife model influencing development of WHAGs focused on Eastern states. Wildlife habitat appraisal guides (WHAG)

Working on a habitat ranking tool for eastern states also.

Native veg phone app tool is completed. It is based on an NRCS database. Helps planners and also a support tool for the Natives First model.

Recently held aniIn-service training with help from Pat Keyser for states where bobwhites and grazing are both issues.

Working with American Seed Corporation as an additional partner in Natives First Coalition. Still able to tweak language in the Natives First White paper. Many partners onboard.

Grazing strategy for bobwhites is a future product. Small booklet that explores the different grazing strategies to include featured rancher profiles and research profiles.

Outreach Committee –

Presentation by DJ Case and associates (Phil Seng and Matt Harlow). NBCI Communications Project

Getting NBTC steering committee and guests up to speed with what's been done so far. Focus group is scheduled tonight to test the marketing/messaging approach they are potentially moving forward with.

- Big complex problem (bobwhite recovery)
- Landowner motivations
- Many target audiences
- Audience Review - Workshop held where audiences provided their goals and concerns.
- Creative Approaches
- Modular Messaging – appeals to broader audiences, scalable, multiple species
- Message development – 6 concepts, 3 focus on money and 3 focus on wildlife
- Completed online testing with differing audiences
- Focus Group Testing takes place tonight

- Next steps- landowner focus groups (regionalized)
- Final phase – message development – advertising, public relations, events/sales support

Tom Dailey – CIP Update (PowerPoint presentation)

Progress update – CIP databases and report tools
 CIP participation status – different states at different stages of participation and of data entry/shape file entry, and focus area site selection. 21 states at one stage or the other. Great participation.

Participation requires a 10 year timeline, so states committed to years of data collection (habitat surveys, monitoring, initial 6 states entering year 5)

FY18 needs include CIP habitat database development, contracts with partner universities to begin habitat/population modeling and analysis.

Partner Meeting Overview- Morgan

MOU with NWTF is closing this year, discussing revising and making new agreement more targeted. Will try to opportunistically meet with additional partners at this meeting.

Funding Facilitation – to take place Wednesday afternoon, small group facilitated by committee chairs. 1.5hr exercise including a survey. Results will be shared with this committee and later with the Management Board. Invitation only meeting to get open and honest feedback.

Coordinators Meeting – last night, good meeting, good participation, translocation was a major topic of discussion. Also, discussed BRI and updating this map. Seen as important but maybe not as important as other more pressing issues the NBTC needs to address. Likely not ready to pursue this at this time.

Future NBTC meeting (Morgan/Grimes) – 2018 is Georgia. Illinois has volunteered to host the 2019 meeting. Arkansas will host 2020.

Paul Grimes (GA) – venue is reserved in southwest Georgia (Albany, August 5-9th). Field trips are planned, details still need to be worked out. Work with Morgan/Perez to get seed money check.

Quail IX – managing the workload for the next one. Meeting is scheduled every 5 years or so. Lot of work for the science committee for quail 8. Planning starts 3 years ahead of the meeting.

Applegate – Combining the meeting needs to be considered for state staff that may not have the travel budget for both meetings if separated. Handling the

proceedings. Goal should be to have available at the meeting or very soon thereafter (not years later). Working with the publisher/editing/proofing is time consuming involves a lot of folks. Maybe paying someone to proof the galley may be well worth it.

Dailey – Proceedings (past and present) have all been moving to an e-journal platform. (Quail 8 will be there in a few months). Designed to meet the needs of state agencies. Will be indexed on Google Scholar. Much improved. In 2020, CIP outcomes, lessons learned will likely be a big part.

Management Board Preparation (Morgan) –

Issues: Future funding [results of small group survey maybe also a survey monkey to entire membership (get broader perspective)], Quail 8, DJ Case progress updates, partner agreement updates (NWTF, QF, QUGA, etc.)

Planned MOU signing with an FSA representative at the meeting. Try to also do one with NWTF if possible.

Other business – perhaps form an ad-hoc committee to address fundraising issues and partnership MOUs/ contributions. Tim Caughran with QF has volunteered to assist on this ad-hoc group/committee if it forms.

FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Action Items

- Continue to explore opportunities to involve more participation in the Forestry Subcommittee meetings, especially members interested in hardwood management beneficial to quail.
 - Have State Coordinators seek out and invite professionals with forest management experience to participate in NBTC annual meetings.
 - Invite state and federal forestry agencies to attend NBTC meetings within or near their states.
 - Schedule a presentation to the collective NBTC membership on open hardwood/woodland management that benefits quail to encourage emphasis on managing forested habitats.
- Provide input to the NBCI Ag Policy Coordinator on forestry programs and practices we want included in the 2018 Farm Bill
- Explore strategies to encourage smaller burns in the SE region to facilitate better habitat conditions in southern forest

Minutes from last year

- Update on KY RxFire Law
- Report on SC Indian Creek Focal Area
- Update on NBCI Forestry Coordinator Activities
- Report on VA Department of Forestry Collaborative Efforts
- Shortleaf Pine Initiative report from Mike Black
- WLFW Pine Savanna Proposal
- Report from Tom Franklin on Wildfire Disaster Funding Act and Farm Bill items

TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2017

Presentation on the USFS Good Neighbor Authority and Stewardship Contracts, Maelee Hafer, USFS Stewardship Coordinator

- We were joined by the Ag Policy Sub Committee for the presentation
- Maelee gave a thorough explanation of the two programs which prompted numerous questions, especially about how adjoining agencies and landownerships could use USFS funding to expand landscape management opportunities near Forest Service ownerships.

Update on South Carolina's Indian Creek Focal Area Project, Jordan Nanney, QF

- Project consist of completing thinning and burning in several units
- Continue to see increases in quail numbers
- Concerned about hunting influence on increasing

quail population

- Also working to get partners to reduce the overall size of the burns to create more of a mosaic within the units

Discussion on the FSA CRP Pine Burning and Thinning program, Steve Chapman

- Not many states offering the program, if they have there has been low participation
- Mississippi is the exception with over 300 contracts in the state
- Committee recommends the NBTC support continuing the availability of the program in the 2018 Farm Bill

Discussion on the need to Burn Smaller Blocks in SE Forest Landscapes, (All)

- The committee acknowledged that large scale, landscape burning in southern pine forest was limiting quail response to habitat improvements
- Several strategies were discussed but overall the culture of how landowners and agencies conduct burns will dictate whether smaller blocks of burns will be accepted.

Marc Puckett (VA) reported on their continued effort to work more closely with the VA Division of Forestry

- \$150,000 available thru a Quail and Forest DOT Program

Update on Pine Savanna WLFW Program, John Thrift, GA

- Program was approved last year and covers 5 SE states (GA, AL, FL, SC, NC)
- No new funding was available
- GA redirected \$200,000 in EQIP funds to the program in their state and had good participation from landowners.
- Over 4000 acres were enrolled in GA program

Greg Hagan, Florida Wildlife Commission was elected Vice Chair of the NBTC Forestry Sub Committee

WEDNESDAY JULY 26, 2017

Update on Tall Timbers Projects from Reggie and Theron Terhune

- Reggie gave a quick History of Tall Timbers and their fire management program and their new initiative with the Carolina Regional Quail Project (MOU was signed during NBTC general session)

- Theron discussed the recent finding on the Quail Chick Ecology and Insect Study and Tall Timbers efforts on assisting states with translocation projects

Brian Chandler, TWRA Forester, presented on TN efforts to increase early successional management on heavily forested WMAs in the state.

Tom Franklin – Update on 2018 Farm Bill efforts

- Tom cited that continued funding of thinning and burning practices will be one of the major concerns that NBCI will pursue in the 2018 Farm Bill
- Discussed his concerns with the present lack of staffers in the USDA to facilitate work on issues
- Also shared that some mid - level staffers have a lack of knowledge of RxFire use which may be a hindrance to continuing fire programs and practices. He stated that the NBCI was considering developing a white paper or letter to address the issue. The committee encouraged him to look broader than just the NBCI and include other conservation groups that also rely on RxFire to manage habitat.
- Tom also asked the committee to continue providing input on programs and practices they want to see in the next Farm Bill

Submitted by:

Larry Heggemann, Central Hardwoods Joint Venture
Delivery Coordinator, Chairman

AGRICULTURE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Chair: Lisa Potter (MO)

Vice Chair: Paul Grimes (GA)

Attendees: Lisa Potter (MO), Paul Grimes (GA), Tom Franklin (NBCI), Jesse Thomas (GA), John Laux (NE), Robin Mayberry (TN), Charles Kitts (TN), Stan McTaggart (IL), Benjy Strobe (NC), Susan Sullivan (SC), Penny Barnhart (NBCI), Breck Carmichael (SC), David Howell, Casey Bergthold (QF), Ted Zawislak (AR), Alex Lyon (KS), Jeff Thurmond (AL), Don McKenzie (NBCI), Jef Hodges (NBCI)

AG POLICY LIAISON UPDATE

Top 3 NBTC Farm Bill Reauthorization Priorities:

1. Natives First
2. Cropland/fallow CRP practice
3. Greater incentives for Prescribed Burning and Tree thinning (at least \$10 M)
(Tree thinning and Prescribed Burning is also included in the Forest in the Farm Bill Coalition Farm Bill Priorities)

NBTC Farm Bill recommendations are included within the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) and Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) priorities.

Quail Forever now has full-time representative in Washington DC

The USFWS and Department of Defense: Ongoing discussions to encourage quail management on their lands

National Park Service (NPS) has identified approximately 40 parks for native vegetation restoration and quail management. NBCI is training NPS staff in the Coordinated Implementation Program.

Tom Franklin is focused on holding multiple meetings in Washington DC to spread NBTC Farm Bill priorities and messaging.

CP33 Update: 250,000 acres are authorized for pivot corners however only approximately 50,000 acres have been enrolled. About half of the enrolled acres are located in TX. We need to continue to promote CP33 and CP33 pivot corner opportunities to landowners. We also need to continue to promote the availability of the \$10 million CRP tree thinning incentive to fully allocate these funds if possible. This is needed to show the continued demand for the incentive for the farm bill reauthorization. NBTC staff has developed a flyer to assist in the promotion of this practice.

There is a large infrastructure bill being considered in Congress. Conservation organizations in DC are having ongoing discussions about need for conservation considerations to be included as part of this bill. If this is successful, the infrastructure bill could be another

possible avenue for additional funding.

Working Lands For Wildlife (WLFW) – NRCS reached out to NBCI to request one of the NBCI staff serve as WLFW-Quail project coordinator. However, currently there are no funds available to support a salary for a coordinator position. NBCI staff is looking for grant opportunities to hire a coordinator.

The Coordinator position goals: Working with state NRCS offices and USFWS offices to help coordinate state WLFW programs. Provide technical assistance/expertise for program implementation (e.g. ranking, practice specifications, seeding mixes, and grazing recommendations).

Since the NBTC Annual Meeting, NBCI has organized a multi-state Advisory Group to provide coordination and information sharing among WLFW quail states. An internet-based 'DropBox' site has been developed for states to upload WLFW documents to provide assistance and/or working examples of state WLFW programs.

The Grassland Subcommittee has created a video, produced by Jef Hodges, on benefits of prescribed grazing on quail habitat.

CONGRESSIONAL STAFF TOURS AND UPDATES – TOM FRANKLIN

NBCI led a field tour for Congressional staff on June 30, 2017 in Maryland. It showed agricultural staffers what conservation practices like native warm season grass restoration looks like on the ground, and how to manage them to benefit quail, pollinators, other wildlife and water quality. A possible additional tour may be scheduled this fall in Texas to host House Chairman Conway's staff and others.

STATE DISCUSSIONS

SC and GA have pilot projects with the Forest Service (USFS) set up through MOAs and MOUs that will hopefully progress into Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) agreements for added longevity and additional resources for quail focused work to be conducted on USFS property and surrounding private lands. GA received approximately \$25,000 under an agreement with USFS to develop a strategic quail management plan for a potential Quail Focal Area (CIP). The idea is for this plan to be molded into a Good Neighbor Supplemental Agreement under a Master Agreement with USFS. These agreements require a 1:1 match. Cost-share funding is available to landowners for projects such as pine thinning and prescribed burning, and is administered through the Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

AL – To address continued use of introduced species in

grazing, a market strategy for cattle producers needs to be developed to encourage production of native grass fed beef. USDA needs to recognize a label for premium retail beef.

MO – This idea is similar to the new Audubon Conservation Ranching program being piloted in several states. The Conservation Ranching program, using an independent third party, certifies beef is produced using bird-friendly grazing practices. The beef is then sold at a higher retail price thereby providing potentially higher profit to producers.

TN – 5% wildlife allocation in EQIP – Non-wildlife scenarios are being counted towards the 5% funding allocation dedicated for wildlife practices. Wildlife funds need to be tracked by scenario, not by practice. For example, under 327 – Conservation Cover, both native and introduced grass planting scenarios exist. If the entire 327 practice is counted as a wildlife practice, acres planted to introduced grasses will be counted towards the 5% wildlife funds. States need to provide the opportunity for 5% of the funds to be allocated straight off the top of the states' EQIP allocations. Suggestion was made that policy/program language needs to match Beginning Farmer and Limited Resource farmers. Also recommend a re-evaluation of wildlife practices is needed as some practices with limited wildlife value are 'eating up the funds.' (e.g. streambank restoration and cover crops).

MO – Recommend states request NRCS offices create a Wildlife Funding Pool. This way a certain amount of funds are allocated to each funding pool. Only wildlife practices and/or scenarios can be funded under the wildlife funding pool. This creates an easy way to track funding spent on wildlife scenarios each year in the state.

NRCS needs to develop a better way to measure success (i.e. ability to separate introduced/native veg scenarios from practice codes such as 512 – Forage and Biomass and 327-Conservation Cover). Recommendation is to request NRCS develop separate practice codes for introduced species and native grass species.

CRP: Mid-Contract Management language needs to be amended to allow for application only AFTER establishment of vegetation is successful. This would address scenarios, often seen in arid environments, where it takes at least 3 years for a native grass stand to be considered fully established.

GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY

The Ag Policy Subcommittee joined the Forestry Subcommittee for a presentation on the Good Neighbor Authority and Regional Stewardship programs by Mae Lee Hafer with the USFS. Ms. Hafer provided a thorough presentation on the Regional Stewardship and

Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) programs describing the multiple types of agreements/contracts administered through these programs. These programs have the potential of providing funding for timber management, prescribed burning, and quail-friendly management practices on FS lands and adjacent private land.

EARLY SUCCESSIONAL CRP PRACTICE

The National Pheasant Plan Coordinator provided NBTC the opportunity to provide input and comment on a new proposed CRP practice designed to create early successional (ES) habitat for upland birds. The proposed practice has not yet been approved or finalized by the pheasant groups. The Ag Policy Subcommittee spent significant time discussing the proposed practice. The group was supportive of the idea of the national practice and felt the practice should function similarly to the CP12-food plot. Specifically, the pheasant plan suggests that the new national practice should not be a stand-alone practice, but rather be incorporated into other practices. It may be desirable to make the ES practices a stand-alone practice for purposes of getting it incorporated in the Farm Bill.

The group recommended the new practice be eligible on both General and Continuous CRP practices. The group strongly recommended Mid-Contract Management should be applied to the remaining 75% of the acres, not just the 25% ES habitat plots outlined in the practice guidance. It was suggested to allow the 25% ES habitat to be applied in strips or blocks throughout the field. This would help better distribute the ES habitat within the nesting habitat. A copy of the practice, with included comments, is included at the end of this document.

The new Iowa SAFE practice - Early Successional Quail Habitat CP38E was also discussed. Recommendations were to create a national practice similar to the Iowa SAFE practice that provided nesting and brood-rearing habitat. This would be a stand-alone CP practice versus the ES habitat plot concept outlined in the practice proposed by the National Pheasant group.

CP33 MANAGEMENT BROCHURE

A significant time period was spent editing and finalizing the CP33 management brochure. The final draft will be distributed for one more final review by the states.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)

Fish and wildlife are often the resource concerns (RC) that are not addressed on applicants' farms. To meet new CSP requirements all RCs must be addressed, therefore many CSP applicants must apply enhancements/practices that address fish and wildlife. Unfortunately, there are few enhancements that provide

significant, quality habitat. There are very few existing quail-friendly enhancements included in CSP. Existing enhancements that can provide some quail benefits, and are popular in some states, are the pollinator and monarch enhancements.

New Enhancement suggestions: Fallow/rotation practice, Cover crops (standing crops). Ag subcommittee/NBTC should work to develop quail-friendly enhancements and provide these suggestions to NRCS national headquarters staff.

NATIVES FIRST UPDATE

The Natives First proposal is available on the NBTC website. It is still possible to provide comments on the proposal to Jef Hodges. Jeff continues to seek new partners to further develop the coalition behind Natives First. Jef is also working to draft Natives First language to be proposed for the Farm Bill reauthorization. A question remains whether this language would be more appropriate in the Farm Bill law or included in the Managers' report language.

DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR A NATIONAL EARLY SUCCESSIONAL CRP CONSERVATION PRACTICE

CPxx Early Successional Wildlife Habitat Plot

A: Purpose

This practice is to establish new or modify existing wildlife cover suitable as upland game bird brood-rearing habitat and as habitat for other wildlife species dependent upon or benefitting from early successional plant communities. It is intended for areas that require frequent (<5 year) disturbance intervals to maintain structurally appropriate early successional herbaceous plant communities.

B: Program Policy

Apply this practice to eligible cropland or existing CRP land that is suitably located and adapted to the establishment of early successional habitat for the purpose described above. Stand establishment (new or following required disturbance) should be timed such that suitable brood-rearing habitats are produced by early summer under normal growing conditions.

C: Objectives

This practice shall:

- enhance wildlife, wildlife habitat, or both
- define a subset of acres enrolled in a CRP-1 that is managed differently than the remaining portion
- create and maintain habitats with complete or nearly complete canopy cover while maintaining mostly bare ground at ground level through soil disturbance and replanting every 2-5 years
- not be used where soil integrity is especially critical, such as on steep slopes, highly erodible soil, saturated soils, within 120 feet of a water body, and/or where problems with noxious weeds are anticipated
- keep seeding costs reasonably low and minimize

management costs between replantings

- improve environmental benefits below the soil loss tolerance
- prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring
- be included in the approved conservation plan
- be carried out as specified in the approved conservation plan

D: C/S Policy

The chart below shows C/S policies for this practice.

IF the component is...	AND the justification is...	THEN C/S is...
Minerals	Substantiated as needed by COC	Authorized using technical practice codes 314, 315, 327, 338, 340, 342, 394, 644, 645, and 647.
Eligible seed		
Seedbed preparation		
Seeding/planting		
Herbicides	Specified as necessary in the approved conservation plan	Not authorized
Insecticides	- required in the practice specifications, or - needed until required seeds or plant stock is available, or - needed because normal planting period for the species has passed, or - that a soil condition, such as chemical residue, will not allow establishment of cover immediately	
Temporary cover		
*--Tree thinning (pre-commercial)		
Herbicides	To maintain vegetative cover	
Insecticides		
Clearing rocks or other obstructions from the area to be seeded		
Seeding or otherwise establishing trees or shrubs		
Roads		
Fencing		
Minerals	To enhance production	

E: Requirements

The following are requirements for Early Successional Wildlife Habitat Plots (hereafter, "habitat plots") established under this practice.

- Use the NRCS standards and specifications for early

successional habitat development/management (conservation practice 647) for the desired wildlife species to:

- establish suitable plant species for habitat plots
- determine habitat plot location(s) to maximize wildlife benefits and accessibility
- determine total acres to be devoted to habitat plots
- Habitat plot plantings shall consist of a mixture of at least two annual or biennial grasses and at least two annual or biennial forbs or legumes ; multi-species mixtures beyond the minimum are encouraged.
- Initial seedings and reseedings shall be preceded by soil disturbance to prepare the seedbed and reduce dead plant material at the soil surface. Excessive dead plant material can render habitats structurally unsuitable for upland game bird broods.
- Habitat plots shall not exceed 25% of the acres enrolled in a CRP-1, and no more than 35% of a CRP-1 may be enrolled in this practice and CP12 (Wildlife Food Plot) in combination.
- This practice may be used in conjunction with the following practices only:
 - CP1
 - CP2
 - CP3
 - CP3A
 - CP4D
 - *--CP10 before March 14, 2011
 - CP11 before March 14, 2011--*
 - CP25
 - CP38E (if allowed by the state wildlife agency)
Note: The practice used in conjunction with CPxx determines the length of CRP-1. CPxx's must be the same length of the practice used in conjunction with CPxx.
- Habitat plots may be at 1 location throughout the life of CRP-1 or may be relocated. If relocated, the previous habitat plot must be seeded to an approved permanent vegetative cover at the producer's expense.
- Minerals necessary to ensure establishment of a successful habitat plot shall be applied.
- During installation, degradation of environmental benefits shall be kept to an acceptable level, but seedbed preparation that creates abundant bare ground is desirable.
- If habitat plots equal 25% of the acres enrolled in a CRP-1, disturbance and replanting required under this practice fulfills the mid-contract management requirement for the entire CRP-1. If habitat plots are less than 25% of the acres enrolled in a CRP-1, the disturbance and replanting required under this practice fulfills the mid-contract management requirement for the habitat plot acres, but not the additional acres within a CRP-1 .

- Habitat plots shall be planted in the areas of CRP acreage that:
 - minimize adversity to environmental benefits
 - maximize wildlife benefits and accessibility, while not unduly complicating or restricting planned management actions on the rest of the CRP-1
- Chemicals used in performing this practice must be:
 - federally, State, and locally registered
 - applied according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other Federal or State policies and requirements.

F CRP-1 Revisions

Existing CRP-1's may be revised to include planting early successional wildlife habitat plots if:

- determined necessary and feasible by TSP
- included in the approved conservation plan.

Note: Adding an early successional habitat plot to an existing CRP-1 does not extend the length of CRP-1.

G Program Development

The state FSA office, in consultation with the State Technical Committee, shall identify species eligible for planting and provide any requirements, such as:

- seeding rates
- minimum planting area
- site preparation
- cultivation
- frequency of the disturbance/replanting cycle to best achieve the practice's purpose and objectives

Approved planting methods may be included or incorporated by reference to published technical standards.

H Technical Responsibility

Technical responsibility for this practice shall be assigned to NRCS or TSP.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Pine CRP – This practice would only work if enrolled on NEW acres/contract (e.g. leave out 25 acres out of new 100 ac pine contract). Landowner will not take out trees for this practice.

Some FSA offices already are reluctant to promote permanent food plots.

There is uncertainty that FSA would have the ability to check for replanting compliance

Make sure this practice doesn't conflict/impact funding or continuation of the separate pine thinning incentive

Some states don't currently cost-share for food plots and therefore are doubtful this practice would provide cost-share either.

How would this impact EBI ranking?

GRASSLAND/GRAZING LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

We had 22 representatives at our Grasslands/Grazing Lands Subcommittee meetings from over 12 states the past couple days of NBTC Grasslands Subcommittee Meetings.

1. We held a discussion on the overview of the past year of the Grasslands Subcommittee and Grassland NBCI Coordinators activities and accomplishments over the past year which has been a great deal of activity and efforts ongoing throughout the year.
2. Our Subcommittee definitely notices the great help having a dedicated NBCI Grasslands staff person for grasslands arena to help move priorities and efforts down the road further on a timely basis. As well as having someone “there when the time is right” to respond to issues and opportunities that arise at a short notice.
3. We discussed and overviewed the NatiVeg mobile website release or as it is called by most the NatiVeg Tool that was launched this past November 2016. It is at www.Quailcount.org/Nativeg. So, if you haven't yet checked that out we encourage you to do so and share that with your appropriate staff in your states.
4. WLFW 2.0 Bobwhite in Grasslands was discussed at length as it was submitted and accepted in 8 states, as the Grasslands subcommittee worked on that last year extensively at last year's meeting in Lincoln NE. NBCI Staff continued working on the project after the meeting over several months. WLFW program continues to be very popular and successful in several states and several other states are at varying levels of full implementation. We had each of the states present tell us what was working best and what needed to be tweaked in the future to maximize the benefits of the program. Arkansas was one of the most highlighted states with many successes with the WLFW program already ongoing. There is currently a 4 Person Coordination Team which NBTC grasslands subcommittee has the grassland coordinator on to work on standardizing where possible some of the program information.
5. Fire Up Your Beef Production-A Ranchers Perspective 22 minute video was produced and is now being distributed amongst range and producer groups as well as amongst states. This was a task from the subcommittee last year and was just recently completed and launched this month. We viewed the video and we have been getting very positive reviews and comments back so far from Range groups. Thanks to all the host states, ranchers and staff who worked on it this past year. It is available on flash drive, dvd as well as on the NBCI You-tube channel. So once again be sure to go check that out. There is a short 6 min video version of clips as well as the longer 22 min version.
6. Grazing Strategies for Bobwhites discussion was held to further develop guidance for the type of publications being developed for both eastern and western needs. It was decided that both a shorter 2 page version and a longer 6 to 8 page more detailed version will be completed for both western areas which will be rancher audience based and a eastern more agency staff audience based publications. Both of these publications are planned to be developed and reviewed and completed this coming year prior to next year's meeting for distribution amongst the states and partners.
7. We discussed the Botany Bill that is currently being worked on in congress. It is being produced to show a preference on federal publicly owned lands for using native vegetation where at all possible as guidance to those federal agencies. We have been asked by the Plant conservation alliance to support the Bill and after discussion it is our recommendation that we do so and be a cooperator of the Plant conservation alliance.
8. We held a discussion on the Ongoing Natives First topic and the Natives First Coalition. The subcommittee continues to tweak language in Natives first as we see fit after getting input from stakeholders and coalition members. Planning now to grow coalition this coming year wherever possible from the current coalition members that exist and therefore expand the size of the coalition.
9. Held discussion on continuing to engage Grazing and Livestock groups wherever and whenever possible as that has a large and increasing potential impact in this arena for the group.
10. Discussed information regarding Dr. Dale Rollins testifying at an upcoming listening session in Tx for the upcoming Farm Bill. Several bullet points from the subcommittee were discussed to pass along to Dale for his short 2 min testimony coming up in the next few weeks.
11. Finally, since we got no requests or any interest in a subcommittee chair or vice chair positions both myself and Jeff Prendergast of KS have agreed to stay on as our current duties of chair and vice chair for the coming year as the subcommittee was supportive of that motion and it was commented by several members that they liked seeing the continuity we have had ongoing as a Grasslands/Grazing Lands subcommittee.

COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

MEETING NOTES

Members present – Tim Kavan; Chair, David Bryan; Vice Chair, Ben Robinson, Andrew Burnett, Justin Folks, Chris Kreh, Logan Martin, Andrew White, Erin Holmes, Elsa Gallagher, Don McKenzie and John Doty

Day 1: 11 participants/7states; 1 NGO

Day 1 was spent covering old and new business. Topics included: 2017 Communications plan, PBS update, Website critical review, SOTB, camera equipment, Manassas Battlefield National Park habitat evaluation filming and habitat softball evaluation tool, firebird awards.

Day 2: 11 participants

Day 2 was spent listening to the presentation from Phil Seng and Matt Harlow with DJ Case and Associates. This presentation led to many follow-up discussions topics highlighted below.

DAY ONE ITEMS:

2017 Communications plan – Grazing component needs updated. Set a completed date of 10/1/2017 for final draft.

PBS Documentary – Any indication what type of service we provided? John reported that over 600 flash drives were sent out to the state quail coordinators, but what the numbers are after that, are untraceable. There was a request to tally up the number of views on the YouTube site.

Website review – John Doty reported that he is soliciting bids from a contractor to conduct a critical review of the website for ease of use in finding what people are looking for.

Quail Tracks/SOTB – All state quail coordinators submitted their reports on time. There was a suggestion that John utilize each states success story as an individual blog or event in addition to its inclusion in the SOTB.

SOTB – There was a question brought to John and the committee as to whether the total workload involved in the compilation of the SOTB is worth it rather than spending time creating video for habitat evaluation projects or other messages.

Firebird Awards – 13 this year. That is a new record for nominations. 6 are present this year to personally receive the award.

Focus Group:

DJ Case met with a selected focus group panel of 9 individuals to present 6 messaging concepts. The focus group meeting was geared at getting direct feedback on thoughts as they were introduced to the individual concepts. They were then ranked individually and then presented with those results.

DAY TWO ITEMS:

DJ Case Focus Group – Phil and Matt presented a short but similar presentation to what was given to the focus group the previous evening. The committee was asked their thoughts on each marketing message and then was asked to rank them for appeal. The results from the focus group, committee, and marketing exercise were presented and the results shared many similarities.

The committee asked DJ Case to leave the room for a thirty minute closed door session to discuss the justification for prioritizing the landowner over other targeted audiences. The committee agreed that the message that DJ Case presented was a great message. There was a motion from David Bryan and a second from Ben Robinson to go with the current path/campaign seeking the landowner as the primary targeted audience and if funding becomes available to develop/modify the campaign to target the administrative/legislative leads. Motion carried 9-0.

There was a unanimous decision to lock onto the “Worth Your Wild” slogan and URL to build off of in the future.

Funding:

There is a need for money to continue with this project. There was a very discussion on support for seeking funding. Sources such as Corporate Sponsorships, grants, donations, state funding were all discussed.

The committee and DJ Case thought it was a good idea to develop a “Pitch Project” in case we need to have them highlight what the end product is to solicit to donors.

The committee’s overall decision is we have to do something to seek funding or it will not get down. We need Steering Committee support and thoughts to continue with the project.

Phase 2 completion which includes a landowner focus group workshop and finalization of the message would be somewhere in the \$55,000 range. It is Worth Your Wild to continue on this path.

SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

ATTENDEES

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Ralph Dimmick		
Tom Dailey	573-881-1782	tdailey7@utk.edu

SUMMARY

1. Intros and sign in by Beth Emmerich and attendees
2. Will nominate and vote for vice chair next meeting (GA 2018)
3. Molly and Tom:
 - a. Purpose of Science Subcommittee
 - b. Progress:
 - i. SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE
 - ii. Data analyst position filled: Molly Foley
 - iii. Science Subcommittee very involved in planning Q8 (58 conference calls since January). Sure to be a successful event.
 - iv. Proceedings were a big product of the Science Subcommittee; 94 manuscripts; all available before the meeting and online soon.
 - v. Proceedings now available as e-journal (searchable, indexed)
 - vi. Voted to sell current surplus proceedings.
 - vii. QuailCount.org the data interface, used for Q8 and others, good visitation
 - viii. CIP
 - ix. CIP growing to 21 projects/state partners by 2018
 - x. Habitat data will be entered in 2019; thus, expecting manuscripts for Quail 9
 - xi. Discussion-Who owns the CIP data?
Action Item: Formed ad hoc committee to develop data management/sharing guidelines between states/groups and the NBCI Data Management Guidelines ad hoc Committee: Chair Jay Howell, Diana McGrath, Matt Broadway, Beth Emmerich, Todd Bogenschutz, and Jim Giocomo
 - xii. **Action Item:** Formed ad hoc committee to determine minimum population goals for CIP. We are starting with an 800 bird minimum and working to generate a valid minimum density requirement
Population goals ad hoc committee: Chair Jay Howell, Steve DeMaso, Michael Small, Tom Dailey, Bill Vermillion, Beth Emmerich, Jason Martin, Nathan Stricker, T. J. Fontaine, and Jim Giocomo
 - xiii. **Product:** Translocation white paper requested by the steering committee in 2014; paper published in Quail 8.
 - xiv. QUAIL 9 – Formed an ad-hoc committee to write a letter of intent to attract a host for Quail 9
Action Item: Formed ad hoc committee for Quail 9. Call for members will follow, Tom Dailey and Kelly Reyna will be involved.

SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE DETAILED NOTES

1. CIP Challenges
 - a. Implementation of CIP Habitat Database
 - i. Refining CIP tools (they are all Beta versions)
 - ii. Capacity to train and provide
 - iii. Lack online technical user communication (need blog; FAQ for common questions)
 - iv. Lack data sharing/ownership policy
 - v. Proposes revision of CIP population goals (ad-hoc committee came up with 800 birds or a bird/5 acres as a biological minimum and hunting demarcation point.
 - vi. Need new training/science videos
 - b. CIP data issues
 - i. A lot of missing or uncollected data. Need states to input past years
Action Item: Molly will review what data is still needed and email state/CIP coordinators
 - ii. Spring calls can be heard more, or are recorded more, within 250 meters
 - iii. 180 meters the probability of detection drops.
 - iv. Density estimates given for each participating states. Need more data but near 5-year end
 - v. What is CIP: a long term demonstration that habitat management can produce a desire number of quail.
 - vi. Uses Microsoft power BI
 - vii. Online training modules
 - c. Making a data plan
 - i. Habitat data coming soon
 - ii. Data input is a major bottleneck, thus we need a better plan
 - iii. Would love to have a tablet and app but that is not a current priority with current needs, demands, etc.
 - d. What data can we release to the public
 - i. No verbiage in contract of data ownership
 - ii. State and CIP ownership in CP-33
 - iii. State ownership since tax dollars collected it
 - iv. Ad hoc committee data management guideline/plans between states and NBCI– Jay Howell (chair), Diana McGrath, Matt Broadway, Beth Emmerich, Todd Bogenschutz, Jim Giocomo
 - e. Kristine Evans (Mississippi State University)-presented information on development of a regional calling rate
 - i. Impetus to combine calling rate data with Seiler's call count data; are calling rates a good metric for measurements of abundance? However, calling rates are known to vary with weather and is incorporated with the Wellendorf model of call counts. Further, Wellendorf

- covariate was generated in moderate to high densities; thus, may not be applicable in low densities
- ii. Something is driving the differences in calling rate. Goal: to determine what is the driver.
 - iii. Is this something the science subcommittee feels like we should investigate and require to be record?
 - iv. Yes, we could incorporate CIP data to compare to Evans, especially for MO which has both Evan's and CIP data. Further, showing there is regional variation in calling and recommending more precise call collection methods could be useful from a "post Evans" paper.
- f. Jay Howell -Fall Quail Population Goals
- i. Action Item: Ad hoc committee set population goals of 800 birds or a bird per 5 acres as a biological minimum and hunting demarcation point. Thus, we request that states set goals higher than this minimum to ensure populations do not fluctuate below minimum.
 - ii. James Martin and Steve DeMaso: Suggests ad-hoc committee to develop a model to determine a minimum viable population for CIP focal areas.
 - iii. Agree to add language of 800 birds to CIP ad-hoc committee to determine density.
2. Translocation
- a. New manuscript out Martin et al. – product of science subcommittee
 - b. A call for more work, especially with MVP and number of birds to be translocated.
 - c. Successful: Terhune 200 birds (150 at a time)
 - d. Questions from steering committee
 - i. How many birds: will incorporate into MVP simulation; request dollars for study. (Terhune avg: 257 birds but don't know prior density)
 - ii. Success depends on conspecifics in NJ. From zero birds to more, translocation has produced good survival (45%) but no population growth
 - iii. Acclimation-current studies show not effective
 - iv. Latitude-We don't know. Suspect local adaptation may not be beneficial in new areas; thus we recommend moving as short of distance as possible until further work is done (example: Red hills v. Maryland area, 30-40g difference in body weight).
 - v. Difference between private and public translocation: Policy for habitat and harvest (i.e., management) should be standardized. GA: No hunting during translocation period.
 - vi. Ultimately, we need to determine a minimum viable population density at which hunting can occur.
 - vii. Could provide source info on % loss in source population (harvest rate) to ensure viable population on source location.
 - viii. Product: In 2014 the NBTC asked for our input on translocation and we have success to report that James Martin and 10 other offers produced a review of previous research, and recommendations on translocations that other states can now use to prepare their state-wide plan.
3. Quail 9
- a. 2022
 - i. All symposium proceedings are now in digital form and available as an e-journal on the UT trace library site. This was a huge task and complete.
 - ii. 94 papers in quail 8 and available at the conference; HUGE TASK!
 - iii. Quail 9 call for papers June 1, 2020 (4 months earlier than Aug 2015 for Quail 8)
 1. CIP data will be available for Quail 9; hope for manuscript on CIP
 2. Quail population at that time? Extinction of masked? More extirpation in bobwhite range?
 3. More retrospective analysis of NBTC, NBTC, NGO's, research...are they effective?
 4. Will Quail 9 be a joint meeting?
 - iv. Should we hold online publication of Q8 until the proceedings are sold? Action: Motion to sell current hard copies and immediately publish Q8 proceedings online (Martin, 2nd Howell)
 - v. Where will Quail 9 be held?
 1. Do we need a Letter of Intent Process, or a Process?
 - a. Recommendation of letter of intent
 - b. Host needs co-chair for local arrangements and additional person for editor or chair, etc. (local arrangements, program, proceedings)
 - c. \$120,000 costs, 400 attendees, etc.
 - d. Need standards to rank LOI
 2. Will there be a selection process?
 3. Will there be a joint meeting with NBTC and Q9?
 - a. Need to consider out of state travel of agencies
 4. Kelly, Beth, and Tom will e-mail science subcommittee on requests for suggestions on LOI with hard deadline.

NBTC BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

DJ Case and associates gave a brief summary of web-based results of 6 messages and also the results of mini-focus group of 6 state coordinators and 1 NGO. Results varied between web and focus group. Focus group thought the emphasis on money and generating revenue was too strong on 5 of the six messages. Work will continue.

Committee reports (will be submitted in electronic format at a later date):

Tim Kavan – presented report from Outreach and Communications subcommittee.

Lisa Potter – Ag Policy report given.

Larry Hegeman – Forestry report given

Nick Prough – Grazing/grassland report given

Beth Emmerich – Science report given

Treasurer's report – Robert Perez gave report of deposits and expenditures. Current balance \$26,723.39.

Elsa Gallagher made motion to accept Treasurers report, Tim Kavan second

Andrew Burnett – Election results

Chris Kreh (SEAFWA) and Jay Howell (NEAFWA) were elected by majority vote to the NBTC Steering committee.

John Morgan – Proposed By-Laws Change presented to the floor and was previously sent to group by email

Kelly Reyna made a motion to accept, Steve DeMaso second to accept proposed By-Laws change.

Paul Grimes – Announced that the 2018 NBTC meeting will be held in Albany Georgia

NBTC 2019 in Illinois and Arkansas will host 2020.

Don McKenzie – Funding Discussion (PowerPoint presentation)

FY17 budget and revenue from states both federal and non-federal.

5-year budget projection FY18-22. Average annual budget is \$1,027,000 at current capacity.

25 states – when divided it comes to \$41,000

from each state needed to keep moving forward.

Appeal from NBCI and Management board to get commitments from the member states. Did not change disparity of funding across states. 9 states fund ¾ of the budget.

Proposal submitted to Parks Cities Quail for 93K, if it comes through this will greatly help Tom Franklin's position (non-PR eligible).

Overall about at 77K deficit moving forward.

(Park Cities grant could make a real difference, if not received may need to cut areas or rearrange priorities). Not enough funding available for projects in the budget as is today.

Need to explore all funding options for NBCI.

NBCI Programmatic staff have been assigned fund raising duties to make up shortfall.

Breck Carmichael – MOU signing between QF, SCDNR and Tall Timbers

Meeting adjourned.

FIRE BIRD AWARDS

The NBTC conferred the NBCI Fire Bird Conservation Award to 13 entities nominated by 13 member states. The awards, listed below, were created as an opportunity for State Quail Coordinators to recognize individuals, groups, or other entities that have made significant contributions to a state's bobwhite restoration.

2017 NBCI FIREBIRD AWARD NOMINEES

State	Name
Kansas	Scott Thomasson KDPWT Public Land Manager
Delaware	Eric Ludwig DFW Regional Manager
Missouri	Tim Kavan and Brad Pobst, Private Land Conservationist
South Carolina	Michael Hook, Carolina Sandhills Staff member
Alabama	Phillip Crow, Conecuh Forest Chapter of Quail Forever Founder
Kentucky	Roundstone Native Seed, John Seymour
New Jersey	William S. Haines, Jr; President, Pine Island Cranberry Co.
North Carolina	John Isenhour; North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Technical Assistance Biologist
Oklahoma	Laura McIver and 5 QF Chapters; Regional Representative – Quail Forever
Arkansas	Rob Willey; AG&F Habitat Biologist
Virginia	Jay E Howell; VDGIF Small Game Project Leader
Pennsylvania	Letterkenny Army Depot; Department of Defense – U.S. Army
Tennessee	TWRA Forest Management Work Unit

NBTC LEADERSHIP AWARD

Bill White was given the Leadership Award “in recognition of ... outstanding leadership and contribution to the conservation and management of bobwhite quail and ... dedication and service to the National Bobwhite Technical Committee.”



Brian Chandler, TWRA, receiving the Fire Bird Award on behalf of the TWRA Forest Management Work Unit.



Jay Howell receiving the Fire Bird Award for Virginia.



Bill White with his NBTC Leadership Award flanked by Missouri Fire Bird awardees Brad Pobst and Tim Kavan.

EYEWORM WORKSHOP

A workshop was convened on July 27 at the Joint Quail Conference to provide an opportunity for state quail biologists and other interested attendees to learn how to locate eyeworms. The workshop was made at the request of Marc Puckett (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries) who enlisted Dr. Dale Rollins (Texas A&M University) to provide instruction assisted by his two graduate students, Rebekah Ruzicka and Bradley Kubecka. Arrangements to have the workshop held at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee—Knoxville (UTCVM) were made by Dr. Debra Miller of the UTCVM and University of Tennessee Center for Wildlife Health. Dr. Alison Watson, UTCVM Veterinary Resident, set up a teaching lab and supervised the session assisted by CVM Resident Dr. Franziska Sebastian. There were 11 attendees, Aka students, that each received a certificate to document their participation.

The workshop group examined quail heads from Virginia and Texas. Eyeworms were found in several of the Texas quail.



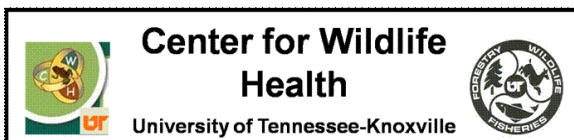
Oxyspirura petrowi from Texas bobwhite under the microscope at the Eyeworm Workshop, Joint Quail Conference, July 27, 2017. Photo by Dr. Alison Watson, UTCVM.



Texas bobwhite with eyeworm (Oxyspirura petrowi) in the eye. Photo by Dr. Alison Watson, UTCVM.



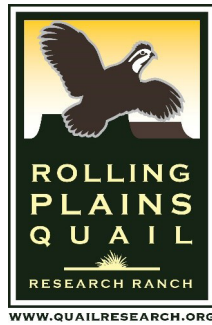
Attendees and instructors of the Eyeworm Workshop held at the Joint Quail Conference, July 27, 2017 in Knoxville, Tennessee. Photo by Dr. Alison Watson, UTCVM.



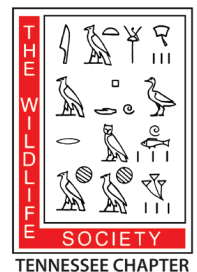
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