



**Executive Committee Meeting Summary
Telephone Conference Call
12:00 April 7, 2005**

The Spring 2005 Executive Committee meeting of the CW CESU took place on April 7, 2005 at 12:00 in the form of a telephone conference call. There were 12 participants on the call, including 7 technical representatives (2 federal and 5 university), 3 federal agency persons, 1 host office representative and 1 pending university partner representative. A list of participants is attached. The main objective of the meeting was to hear from a pending partner, the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and to have the final vote on their admittance into the CW CESU. In addition, other CW CESU business issues were discussed.

I. American Bird Conservancy Presentation and Vote

- a. David Pashley, Vice President for Conservation Programs at ABC, gave a short presentation that included: who ABC is, personnel, what expertise they will bring to the CW CESU, their current projects and a description of ABC's relationships with federal funding agencies.
- b. Jim Sherald (NPS) reiterated the basic premise of the CW CESU Cooperative Agreement – that projects must have substantial involvement of all parties, unlike contracts or grants.
- c. Sheryl Kunickis (NRCS), a strong advocate for ABC, stated that project planning is now underway between NRCS and ABC, and all parties understand that substantial involvement is mandatory because 1) it's required under the CESU program and CW CESU Cooperative Agreement and 2) that way NRCS can make sure that work gets done to their satisfaction!
- d. Bill Easterling (PSU) asked about student involvement at ABC. David Pashley stated that no formal relationship exists between ABC and any particular schools to involve students, however ABC has employed students while they were in school or between undergraduate and graduate degree quests.
- e. David Pashley addressed the issue of ABC and their role in public advocacy. He stated that ABC has 1) lobbied for an increase in federal appropriations in the area of conservation of the environment and it's wildlife, birds in particular, 2) worked with Congress on issues that affect threatened birds and other species, 3) has done some of the "legwork" for the EPA because, as an NGO, it was easier for ABC to get things done. In the end, the advocacy work of ABC is based on ABCs desire to conserve our earth and it's inhabitants, especially birds. Lou Pitelka referenced his earlier email to the partners stating 1) a precedence has been set in that other NGOs with advocacy departments (Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy) are members of several other CESUs, 2) in NGOs like the Audubon Society and TNC, science and advocacy roles are kept pretty separate, and we should recognize that we could do work with the science branches without being involved in any advocacy and without endorsing their advocacy positions and 3) most importantly, the way a partner becomes substantively involved in the CESU is by doing work with/for the federal agency partners. Thus, it really is up to individual federal agencies what kind of work they fund with any particular partner. Also, if a federal agency is uncomfortable with the advocacy positions of a particular CESU partner, the agency is under no obligation to do business with that partner.
- f. Final Vote: All technical representatives on the line (2 federal and 5 university) voted "Yea" to admitting ABC to the CW CESU partnership. Nancy Castro contacted the other technical representatives (4 federal and 4 university) and all voted "Yea" – making the final vote a

positive unanimous decision. Nancy Castro will work with the CESU National Program office and university partners to finish amendment four to the CW CESU Cooperative Agreement that adds ABC and James Madison University (previously voted in by a unanimous positive vote) to the partnership as quickly as possible.

II. Discussion of upcoming Federal Managers Meeting

- a. The CW CESU Federal Managers Meeting was scheduled for June 7 at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. The Host Office proposed that we postpone this meeting until a later date for the following reasons: 1) the National CESU Program meeting is 2 weeks after that on June 21-22, 2005 in Washington DC. We are hopeful that the federal Technical Representatives will urge their managers to attend to learn more about the CESU program, the science done on federal lands and to make contacts with other federal managers with similar needs, 2) the agenda for the next CW CESU Federal Managers meeting needs more prep time. Agenda items should include ideas for collaboration among federal agencies and the education needs of the federal managers, and 3) the position of NPS Research Coordinator for the CW CESU remains empty. This person is instrumental in the CW CESU and, ideally, should take part in planning and implementing the federal managers meetings. Those on the conference call were polled (and others later by email) and there were no objections to postponing the CW CESU Federal Managers Meeting for the reasons previously stated.

III. CESU National Network Meeting

- a. Lou Pitelka urges ALL of the CW CESU Technical Representatives and other interested parties at their agencies and institutions to attend the CESU National Program Meeting at AAAS in Washington DC on June 21 and 22, 2005. Please visit the CESU website to register (<http://www.cesu.org/cesu/>).

**CW CESU Executive Committee Meeting Participants
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Jim Sherald (NPS)
Sheryl Kunickis (NRCS)
Lou Pitelka (UMCES)
Ron Barry (FSU)
Joanne Favors (UDC)
Rich Lowry (W&M)
Bill Easterling (PSU)
David Pashley (ABC)
Nancy Castro (UMCES)
Diane Pavek (NPS)
Dan Sealy (NPS)
Randy Gray (NRCS)

CW CESU Technical Representatives Polled Outside the April 7, 2005 Conference Call Regarding the
Admittance of ABC to the CW CESU

Will Bullard (DOD)
Geoff Walsh (BLM)
John B. French (USGS)
Rich Pouyat (USFS)
Glenn Page (NAB)
Bob Tjaden (UMCP)
Sheryl Beach (GMU)
Andy Miller (UMBC)