



## Prairie Habitat Joint Venture Partnership Charter

September, 2005

### The Prairie Habitat Joint Venture

The Prairie Habitat Joint Venture (PHJV) is the largest Canadian program under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, signed in 1986 by Canada and the United States. Participating Canadian public and private agencies make up the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture Advisory Board, which coordinates the regional activities of the PHJV partners. (*Prairie Habitat Joint Venture, Prairie Habitat: A Prospectus 1989*)

### Vision, Mission

**PHJV Vision:** Healthy prairie, parkland and boreal landscapes that support sustainable bird populations and provide ecological and economic benefits for society. (*PHJV Strategic Plan, 2005-2009*)

**PHJV Mission:** The mission of the PHJV is to provide leadership to achieve healthy and diverse waterfowl and other bird populations through conservation partnerships. These partnerships strive for sustainable and responsible management of the landscape taking into account social, economic and environmental factors. (*PHJV Strategic Plan, 2005-2009*)

### PHJV Mandate

The mandate of the PHJV is to:

- Provide strategic direction and set policy in all aspects of NAWMP in the Canadian prairie, parkland, and the western boreal forest;
- Establish and coordinate the regional program, strategic priorities and evaluations;
- Facilitate and promote the integration of NAWMP and other bird habitat conservation initiatives.
- Coordinate programs delivered by partners under the NAWMP umbrella;
- Facilitate sharing of information between partners;
- Determine provincial funding allocations (e.g. for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) funding);
- Review and endorse PHJV/Boreal NAWCA proposal submissions;
- Ensure that requirements of the International NAWMP Plan Committee, North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) and North American Wetlands Conservation Council (NAWCC) Canada Councils, and the United States NAWCC Council are met.

## **Values and Guiding Principles**

1. An effective Prairie Habitat Joint Venture partnership is fundamental to achieving the PHJV Vision and Mission.
2. All partners recognize that the “whole” of the PHJV partnership is greater than the “sum of its parts” in achieving the PHJV Vision and Mission.
3. All partners bring value to the PHJV. Each partner’s role in the PHJV is defined (*PHJV Strategic Plan, 2005-2009, Draft and PHJV Organizational Structure, below*) and those roles are respected by the whole partnership.
4. All partners have a responsibility to represent the common interests of the partnership and collectively support the PHJV approach to achieving the Vision, Mission and common goals.
5. All partners agree to work towards the common goals of the PHJV, and take ownership of these common goals. (*PHJV Strategic Plan, 2005-2009*)
6. The PHJV represents a wide variety of organizations, some of whom are in competition. It finds and advances the common points of view, but it does not seek to homogenize an organization’s operations or limit their activities outside of the areas of common cause.
7. As a member of this partnership, each member is expected to behave, at all times, with professionalism and respect towards all partners and the NAWMP program.
8. All partners recognize and respect that individual partners also conduct activities outside the geographic and programmatic boundaries of the PHJV partnership and which may not align with the vision or mission of the PHJV. A clear distinction and understanding of these activities occurs within the partnership and in communication with others.
9. All partner arrangements are transparent and partners are treated equally with regard to decision-making within the PHJV.
10. PHJV partner communications, messages and reports concerning PHJV initiatives, research projects and other PHJV activities, should be consistent with the positions of the PHJV as agreed to and respected by all partners.
11. All partners are respectful of each other when soliciting and competing for funding in support of PHJV programs.

## **Operational Protocols**

Open and effective communication and collaboration amongst partners regarding all PHJV programs (such as PHJV strategic direction, program delivery, policy, evaluations, studies, results, etc.) is key to the success of the PHJV. Communications and collaboration are conducted on an ongoing basis, through a variety of means including: PHJV Advisory Board meetings, Working Group meetings, Committee meetings, science and policy forums, strategic planning sessions, etc.

The PHJV encourages debate and discussion of different approaches, recognizing that these approaches will not necessarily be resolved into common points of view. The PHJV recognizes that we all improve by trying different approaches, debating and learning, which cannot always be molded into a common approach. Some partners have statutory mandates that define their mission; others bring a range of constituencies with different values to the table.

PHJV processes and results are open, however sensitive issues should be addressed internally to develop a common approach/solution before communications occur outside the partnership.

New initiatives, programs and activities will be reviewed and endorsed by the PHJV (through the appropriate committees) prior to launching. Reviews are conducted as appropriate through the PHJV Waterfowl, Shorebird, Landbird and Waterbird Working Groups, PHJV Policy Committee, PHJV Communications Committee, and endorsed by the PHJV Advisory Board.

## **Governance**

Members are added to the PHJV Advisory Board by consensus of the existing PHJV Advisory Board partners and identified in the *PHJV Agreement 2005-2019*.

Decisions of the PHJV Advisory Board are made through discussion and consensus, or where necessary, by majority vote. Voting members are identified in the *PHJV Agreement 2005-2019*.

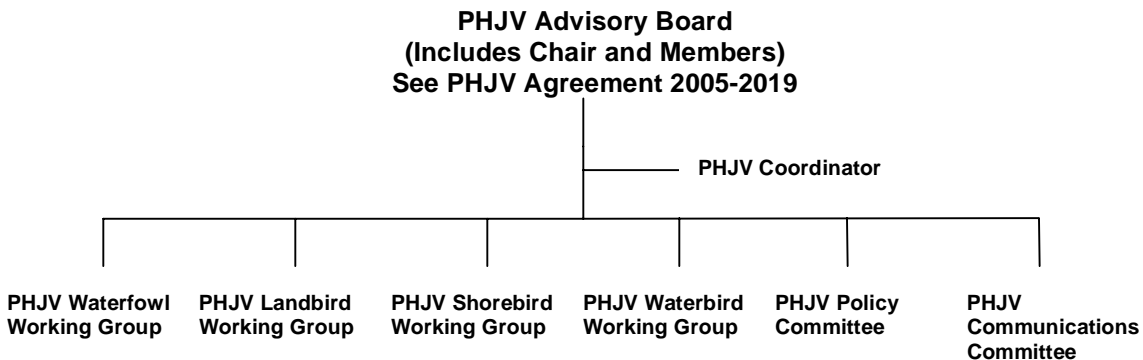
It is recognized that some of the PHJV Advisory Board partners are affiliated to varying degrees with international partners and they are expected to make 'best efforts' to have those partners respect the principles of this Charter relative to PHJV activities.

Disagreements amongst partners are addressed in a variety of ways, including through: communications via the PHJV Chair and/or Coordinator; informal discussions amongst relevant partners; discussions at the PHJV Advisory Board, Working Groups or Committees. It is the obligation of the PHJV to render a decision and recommendation respecting all disagreements or grievances between members.

In the event of a breach of the PHJV Charter, resolution will occur at the PHJV Advisory Board. Unresolved issues and/or appeal of decisions may be raised at (NAWCC) Canada Council or (NABCI) Canada Council.

The PHJV Charter will be reviewed and amended as necessary concurrent with the updates to the PHJV Strategic Plan (generally every five years), or earlier as directed by the PHJV Advisory Board.

## **PHJV Organizational Structure**



### ***NAWMP-PHJV Provincial Steering Committees***

**Alberta NAWMP  
Partnership**

**Saskatchewan Watershed Authority  
(Saskatchewan NAWMP Committee)**

**Manitoba Habitat  
Heritage Corporation**

## **PHJV Related Reference Documents**

- PHJV Agreement 2005-2019 (Draft)
- PHJV Prospectus, 1989
- PHJV Strategic Plan 2005-2009 (Draft)
- PHJV Waterfowl Working Group Terms of Reference
- PHJV Shorebird Working Group Terms of Reference
- PHJV Waterbird Working Terms of Reference
- PHJV Landbird Working Group Terms of Reference
- PHJV Policy Committee Terms of Reference

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**PHJV Advisory Board Partners**

*Original signed by*

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William (Bill) Gummer  
Regional Director, Prairie & Northern  
Environmental Conservation Branch  
Environment Canada

*Original signed by*

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Jim Skrenek  
Executive Director, Wildlife Branch  
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Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

*Original signed by*

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Bob Carles  
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Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

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