

**Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (DLCC)
Steering Committee Meeting
US EPA Tribal Air Monitoring and Support (TAMS) Center, Las Vegas, NV
April 10-11, 2012**

Final Meeting Notes

Participants

Please see Appendix A for a list of participants.

Objectives

- Review options and agree to DLCC Steering Committee size/structure
 - Determine action on new DLCC Steering Committee membership request(s)
- Review and approve (or determine alternative action on):
 - Science Working Group recommendations for long-term DLCC science needs, developed through the comprehensive needs assessment process
 - Recommendations regarding use of 2012 science needs and project suggestions to information DLCC activities and funding opportunities
 - DLCC Communications Plan
- Updates on National LCC coordination, Southwest Climate Science Center coordination, and partner activities (partner presentation(s))
- Discuss and identify next steps for Desert LCC performance metrics

Outcomes and Consensus Agreements

- DLCC Comprehensive Needs Assessment
 - The Steering Committee reviewed the process and recommended science priorities, identified edits, and agreed to a timeline and process for finalizing.
- DLCC 2012 Science Needs and Projects
 - The Steering Committee reviewed the process and projects list and agreed to a timeline and process for submitting additional feedback and finalizing.
 - Future project identification processes should be strategically designed to involve the Science Working Group and utilize the comprehensive science needs priorities.
- Genevieve Johnson will serve as the DLCC representative to the Climate Science Center Stakeholder Committee.
 - The Steering Committee should review similar future decisions whereby someone is being asked to formally represent it.
- The Steering Committee determined that the Administrative working group should develop specific proposals regarding size, structure, and membership for the Committee and opportunities beyond the Committee for broader participation; the Committee agreed to expedite this process in light of the existing membership request and should review proposals on its next conference call.
- The Steering Committee postponed the decision on QuadState membership to the Steering Committee until questions regarding size and structure were resolved.

Action Items and Next Steps

- Once a timeline is established, FWS will send out an email to populate a panel to help in the hiring process for the Science Coordinator.
- Genevieve Johnson and Mary Gustafson will draft a thank you letter to Christina Vojta.

- Comprehensive Science Needs Assessment
 - Steering Committee will send edits/questions to Paul Miller by April 24, 2012.
 - Paul Miller will work with the Science Working Group to make revisions by May 10, 2012.
 - Final Steering Committee review/approval on the summer call.
- 2012 Science projects
 - Two week review by Steering Committee; feedback given to Paul Miller; if there are additional projects that will or would have organizational traction, inform Paul Miller.
 - Avra Morgan will send out the questions from her presentation on the BOR 2012 DLCC funding opportunity announcement
 - Paul Miller (or Coordinator) will collate and send back to the Steering Committee
 - Coordinators and partners will look for opportunities for funding/leverage
 - BOR will develop a draft FOA and share with the Committee for comments. BOR will address relevant comments based on available time to complete FOA.
- Climate Science Center
 - Genevieve Johnson will share with Steering Committee
 - Overview/list of program areas for pre-proposals, next steps, and pertinent future information
 - Future calls for proposals
 - Share with the Climate Science Center
 - Engage in discussion with Mark Scogge regarding membership on the SWCSC Science Committee
- National Landscape Conservation Cooperative
 - Genevieve Johnson will continue to be involved in the national-level conversations and share information back to the Steering Committee
 - If a more formal structure/process begins to emerge, Genevieve Johnson will share information with the Steering Committee for feedback and comment
- DLCC Performance Metrics
 - Genevieve Johnson will work with the Administrative (add John Stewart) and Science Working Groups to develop performance metrics
 - Members of the Steering Committee will send examples of performance metrics to Genevieve Johnson
- GIS and Data Working Group
 - Working group will develop a needs statement for the data portal and share with the Steering Committee for comment
 - Working group will utilize the needs statement to assess options and will develop a proposal for the data portal and share with the Steering Committee on the next call
 - Once proposed and approved, use the portal to address science needs
 - Add Genevieve Johnson and Louise Misztal to the working group
 - Contact Tom Owens with any additional data portal options
- DLCC Steering Committee size and structure
 - Administration Working Group and additional Steering Committee volunteers will generate specific proposals regarding overall structure, steering committee, etc. The Working Group will consider:
 - Overall LCC structure, including options for participation of all partners (beyond the Steering Committee)
 - Structure and composition: refinements to the governance document (strategic recruitment, executive committee or decisions makers, roles/responsibilities and decisions to be made)

Need to consider how relates to or ties to the mission and goals of the LCC
 - The proposal(s) will be reviewed on the next Steering Committee conference call; input will also be sought in advance of the call.

- Periodic review should be conducted.
- Chair and Vice-Chair will develop and share with the Steering Committee options for how the Committee can resolve issues if no consensus can be reached.
- DLCC Steering Committee membership request
 - Expedite resolution to occur on the summer conference call
 - Commit to a timeline for QuadState
 - Genevieve Johnson will work on keeping QuadState involved in the structure discussion

Next Meeting

- Face to Face: Fall of 2012 possible locations include Texas and/or California.
- Conference Call: Summer
- Genevieve Johnson will poll for exact dates and times

Detailed Meeting Overview

Welcome, introductions, and agenda review

- Opening remarks (Josh Avey, AZGFD, proxy for Larry Voyles, AZGFD and DLCC Chair & Duane Pool, RMBO/DLCC Vice Chair)
 - Encouragement was offered for the effort as it transitions into a more working/living group.
 - Importance was placed on remembering the meeting guidelines and keeping the mission statement in focus as the group moves forward through the meeting.
 - Big decision points will need to be made during this meeting, the group should be ready to work in cooperation with others.
 - The Steering Committee (SC) and observers were given the opportunity to introduce themselves.
- Introduction of DLCC Coordinator (Genevieve Johnson)
 - Genevieve Johnson was introduced by Avra Morgan as the new DLCC coordinator; she will be working out of the Phoenix, Arizona office, has previously worked in state and federal offices and hopes to help facilitate work within this group.
 - Christina Vojta has retired from Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).
 - FWS will work to hire a permanent replacement and in the interim will provide a detailee; Paul Miller will provide support for Science in the DLCC in the near-term, working with FWS detailee.
 - Recruitment for DLCC Science Coordinator: Comment that FWS was very impressed with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) process for hiring Coordinator and would like to adopt some of the aspects of that process.
 - FWS is requesting specific involvement from SC for hiring panel, as appropriate (BOR, other Fed agency, State agency, NGO, Partnership, tribal). Dana will provide information on recruitment process and timeline to SC.
 - The group would like to have a thank you note sent to Christina Vojta and requested Genevieve Johnson work up a preliminary draft with the help of Mary Gustafson. The final letter will be signed by the Chair and Vice Chair.

<p><i>Action Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Once a timeline is established FWS will send out an email to have a panel populated for the hiring</i>

of a new Science Coordinator

- *Genevieve Johnson and Mary Gustafson will draft a thank you letter to Christina Vojta*

- Agenda review (Facilitator)
 - The facilitator reviewed the agenda and highlighted the action items and agreement points as well as meeting guidelines.

Comprehensive science needs assessment

- Overview of assessment process and presentation of priority science needs recommendations (Paul Miller, BOR)
 - Paul Miller gave a presentation with an overview of the comprehensive science needs assessment process and presentation of priority science needs recommendations. Please see presentation for further details.
 - The Steering Committee was solicited for database expertise to aid in the continued development of a comprehensive science needs database.
 - After a robust discussion, the following themes for edits and specific edits were identified to be considered moving forward with the science needs assessment:
 - Monitoring: Range shifts overall (not just US and Mexico)
 - Cultural: Clarify disincentives and edit if needed
 - Water: Clarify the terms water policy and aquatic resources: define, clarify, broaden
 - Language - review overall and edit for:
 - Standard terms: consistency
 - Human needs
 - Structural consistency: phrasing
 - Cultural and Socioeconomic: edit category name to include both
 - Tiers: clarify/define first and second tiers
 - Look for opportunities to merge/link (e.g. is one an example of another) where appropriate, but do not lose the specificity
 - The SC outlined a process for making edits and revisions reflecting the themes above.

Next Steps:

- *Steering Committee will send edits/questions to Paul Miller by April 24, 2012*
- *Paul Miller will work with the SWG to make revisions by May 24, 2012*
- *Final SC review/approval on the summer call*

2012 DLCC science needs and projects

- Overview of recommendations regarding use of 2012 science needs and project suggestions to information DLCC activities and funding opportunities (Paul Miller, BOR)
 - There is \$1 million in grant money available.
 - This grant money is from BOR and has to have a water nexus.
- Overview of BOR 2012 DLCC Funding Opportunity Announcement (Avra Morgan, BOR)
 - The group discussed different aspects of the funding opportunity announcement as summarized below:
 - Desire for continued collaboration with the Climate Science Center (CSC);

- Need for GIS/Data Management and Spatial Data Working Group to continue working on pulling together information and work with other LCCs – these baseline data synthesis needs could be added to the comprehensive needs;
- Need to determine what the process is to identify projects (future) – the process should involve the science working group;
- Identify other groups already working on projects; and
- Involve whole partnership in ranking projects.

Agreement:

- **2012 Projects**
 - *Two week review by Steering Committee; feedback given to Paul Miller; if there are additional projects that will or could have organizational traction, inform Paul Miller*
 - *Paul Miller (or Coordinator) will collate and send back to the Steering Committee*
 - *Coordinators and partners will look for opportunities for funding/leverage*
- *Future project identification processes should be strategically designed to involve the Science Working Group and utilize the comprehensive science needs priorities.*

Action Item: *Avra Morgan will send out the questions from the presentation regarding input on the listed projects.*

National LCC and CSC updates and discussion of performance metrics for the Desert LCC

- Update on National LCC and CSC activities (Genevieve Johnson)
 - Please see the presentation for more details.
 - Climate Science Center
 - During the presentation, the group learned the Southwest Climate Science Center had called for proposals that went to a limited recipient list. The group felt it was important that all proposal opportunities be shared. Some felt this was a missed opportunity.
 - Both BOR and FWS shared in this surprise and felt there was a lack of dissemination regarding the proposals.
 - The proposals had to be related to CSC consortium institutions or USGS and were fairly restrictive.
 - Restrictive or not, the group would like to be made aware of all proposal opportunities.
 - The following dates regarding the proposal were shared with the group:
 - April 9, 2012: Pre-proposals were due;
 - April 23, 2012: Finalize review of pre-proposals;
 - May 7, 2012: Full proposals due to SWCSC (tentative); and
 - May 19, 2012: Awards announced.
 - Genevieve Johnson will take on a role as DLCC rep for the SWCSC stakeholder advisory committee. Paul Miller will fill in for Terry Fulp when needed for BOR. There will be an additional request for a representative for the SWCSC Science Committee but this has not been made formal at this time.
 - During discussion of Genevieve’s appointment as a representative to the committee, it was emphasized that the Steering Committee

should review any similar future decisions whereby someone is being asked to represent it.

Action Items:

- ***Genevieve Johnson will share with Steering Committee***
 - *Overview/list of program areas for pre-proposals, next steps, and pertinent future information*
 - *All future calls for proposals*
- ***Share with the Climate Science Center***
 - *Engage in discussion with Mark Scogge regarding membership on the SWCSC Science Committee*

Agreement: *Genevieve Johnson to be the DLCC representative to the CSC Stakeholder Committee*

The Steering Committee should review any similar future decisions whereby someone is being asked to represent it.

- National LCC
 - The “LCC Team” is currently made up of the national coordinator and the assistant coordinator and volunteers from the LCC coordinators are being encouraged to join.
 - The “LCC Network” has a larger involvement. It is comprised of coordinators, steering committee members, and partners.
 - One of the purposes of the National LCC meeting in late March 2012 was to identify cross-cutting issues for all of the LCCs.
 - The Steering Committee discussed:
 - A need for continued national level discussions and coordination
 - Voices for LCCs
 - Budgets
 - Cross-coordination and information sharing
 - Models to learn from include CSC and joint ventures at national level
 - An interest in having a group on the national level that was not just coordinators but representation that could provide a broader view

Action Items:

- ***Genevieve Johnson will continue to be involved in the national-level conversations and share information back to the Steering Committee***
- ***Genevieve Johnson volunteered to be a participant on the National LCC Team.***
- ***If a more formal structure/process beings to emerge, Genevieve Johnson will share information with the Steering Committee for feedback and comment***

- Discussion of DLCC performance metrics
 - Overview of potential approaches (Avra Morgan)
 - There was a discussion at the National LCC meeting about the need to identify performance metrics for the LCCs. There has been Congressional input that a coordinated message about what the benefit of the LCCs is would be appreciated.
 - There was a white paper shared with the national coordinator network describing how conservation targets could be developed and identified to be a marker.
 - There is Congressional appropriation language asking for the following specifics:

- Rationale for performance and setting a criteria for evaluation in order to differentiate funding being distributed to the LCCs; and
- Describe how the LCCs are benefiting other organizations and projects.
- FWS is working on a performance matrix or benchmarks. The LCC does not have to utilize this system but if it compliments and supports FWS, it could be mutually beneficial.
- The group was encouraged to consider performance metrics on the following three levels:
 - Relating back to home organization; if there is a correlation back to the home organization, it reinforces the commitment to provide resources for membership
 - Relating to partnership performance; commitment to mission and operations plan
 - Relating to the idea of the national level LCC; showing relevancy to all at a table and showing time spent has made certain achievements
- The group discussed the following considerations for development of performance metrics:
 - Build on the current Operational Plan with more specifics;
 - Be clear on what to measure;
 - Measure outputs, not just inputs; measure efficacy, efficiency, and effectiveness;
 - Link to benefits for/utilization by managers;
 - Stay mindful of the scale of the LCC;
 - Allow for evolution over time; start with something preliminary for the first several years and refine/reevaluate; and
 - Involve the Science Working Group; metrics should link to science needs and activities.

Action Items:

- *Genevieve Johnson will work with the Administrative and Science Working Groups with the addition of John Stewart to develop performance metrics*
- *Members of the Steering Committee will send examples of performance metrics to Genevieve Johnson*

GIS and Data Working Group Update (Tom Owens)

- There is broad representation on the working group including states, federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and partnerships
- Geographically, the members are located from California to Texas and all have expertise in geospatial work and database management.
- The charge was to select a data portal for the DLCC and the last group call was in December. The summary of the call is as follows:
 - Criteria discussion
 - User friendly
 - Security features – sensitive data
 - Usable for both US and Mexico partners
 - Useful for managers: currently and baseline authoritative data sources
 - Potential functions
 - Source of baseline authoritative data sources
 - Contains documents related to DLCC SC and working group; library of important DLCC information

- Data storage
 - Linkages to other LCCs
 - Potential Users
 - Scientists
 - Decision makers and land owners
 - GIS
 - Interested public
 - Energy, water, state wildlife
 - Very wide, broad array of people
 - Potential providers
 - Science base USGS product; Bibliographic data base
 - Western regional partnership
 - Mojave desert ecosystem program
 - USGS SW biological science center
 - Data basin (Nature conservancy?)
 - Compare and contrast to have an objective discussion
 - Report and recommendation to SC by the next quarterly call.
- A request was made to the Steering Committee to suggest/recommend any other data portal providers.
 - A member suggested the USGS Watershed Condition Framework
- It is important to note that inter-operability, models, and data sharing across the LCC network is going to be very valuable for all information about projects that are being funded.
- Also to consider are any efforts made to cross the borders to Mexico with the data portal.
- Many of the LCCs have employed a data steward to populate the portal with science and funding needs. For the long term, it may be useful to add a science need for baseline information and data capacity.

Action Items:

- *Working group will develop a needs statement for the data portal and share with the Steering Committee for comment*
- *Working group will utilize the needs statement to assess options and will develop a proposal for the data portal and share with the Steering Committee on the next call*
- *Next step will be to use to address science needs*
- *Add Genevieve and Louise Misztal to working group*
- *Contact Tom Owens with additional portals to explore*

Desert LCC Steering Committee size and structure

- Overview of recommended DLCC Steering Committee size and structure options (Avra Morgan, BOR)
 - Avra Morgan presented a proposal to the group; for further details, please see the document titled, “Desert LCC Steering Committee Proposal on Size and Structure).
 - The proposal identified a process by which the Steering Committee would annually review its membership to identify membership needs, limits, inactivity of members, and whether an Executive Committee is needed.
 - During the discussion relating to size and structure, the group spent significant time on the following topics (no specific agreements on size and structure were reached, but the following topics were emphasized as important considerations).
 - Having broad representation in order to make rounded decisions
 - Staying true to the original intent of the Steering Committee
 - Remaining capable of decision making if the group grows larger

- Recognizing the lack of Mexican membership
- Maintaining inclusivity
- Capacity of Steering Committee members to represent a larger population (ex: landowners or counties); some felt they could do this/are doing this but others emphasized that they cannot represent any entity other than their own.
- Understanding size, structure, and representation may also result in changes to the decision-making process outlined in the governance document (e.g., if the group grows larger, consensus may be more difficult to reach)
- Seeking out further representation rather than waiting for the groups to approach the SC; there was a recommendation that the Committee strategically identify and fill gaps (ex: agriculture, local government, Mexico)
- Finding a place for all interested to participate on the LCC whether it be on the SC or in working groups; there has been the talk of additional opportunities for participation through regional groups, resource groups, and sectors but these opportunities have not been created
- The Steering Committee also discussed the consensus process and what would happen if consensus could not be reached. The governance document states that in this case the Steering Committee would identify a mechanism for conflict resolution.
 - There were concerns that consensus is not always efficient, but there were also concerns that having a voting option would not protect minority views and interests.
- After significant discussion, the Steering Committee decided that the Administrative Working Group should work with these considerations to develop a specific proposal; once agreed to, period review should be conducted.

Action Items:

- **Administrative Working Group and additional Steering Committee volunteers will generate specific proposals regarding overall structure, steering committee, etc. The Working Group will consider:**
 - **Overall LCC structure, including options for participation of all partners (beyond the Steering Committee)**
 - **Structure and composition: refinements to the governance document (strategic recruitment, executive committee or decisions makers, roles/responsibilities and decisions to be made)**

****Need to consider how relates to or ties to the mission and goals of the LCC****
- **The proposal(s) will be reviewed on the next Steering Committee conference call; input will also be sought in advance of the call.**
- **Periodic review should be conducted.**
- **Chair and Vice Chair will develop for review by the Steering Committee some options for how the Steering Committee can resolve issues if no consensus can be reached**

Determine action on new DLCC Steering Committee membership request from QuadState Local Government Authority

- After a discussion, the Steering Committee felt it was best to table the membership decision until after the structure conversation has been completed.
- The group felt it is important to expedite this for resolution on the summer conference call. Previous to this, the administrative working group will have completed their proposal for over all structure.

Agreement: Postpone the decision on QuadState membership

Action Items:

- **Expedite resolution to occur on the summer conference call**
- **Commit to a timeline for QuadState**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Genevieve Johnson will work on keeping QuadState involved in the structure discussion</i> |
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Partner presentations

The DLCC were presented with partner updates on a substantive area of scientific interest in the Desert LCC. For more information on the following, please refer to the attached presentations.

- Southern Nevada's water resources: planning and management to meet future conditions (Jeff Johnson, Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA))
- Arizona surface water mapping project (Craig Wissler, The University of Arizona, USGS)

DLCC communications plan

Genevieve Johnson gave an update on statement of work for DLCC communications plan, please see the presentation for details. BOR staff is developing a communications plan.

Location and Date of next meeting

Possible locations for the next meeting are Texas or California. Texas will do its best to arrange a meeting location.

Appendix A: Desert LCC Steering Committee Meeting Attendance, April 10-11, 2012, Las Vegas, Nevada

Steering Committee Members and Alternates

*Whitney Albright, California Department of Fish and Game
Josh Avey, Arizona Game and Fish Department
Scott Boruff, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Julie Decker, BLM-Arizona State Office
Fon Duke, U.S. Department of Defense
Terry Fulp, Bureau of Reclamation
Mary Gustafson, Rio Grande Joint Venture
*Amy Heuslein, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Steve Hvinden (April 20, 2012), Bureau of Reclamation
John Longworth, New Mexico Office of the State Engineer
Tony Madrigal, Native American Land Conservancy
Robert Mesta, Sonoran Joint Venture
Avra Morgan, Bureau of Reclamation
Jenny Neeley, Sky Island Alliance
Tom Owens, United States Geological Survey
Sharon Pinto, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Duane Pool, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
Dana Roth, Fish and Wildlife Service
Jon Sjoberg, Nevada Department of Wildlife
John Stewart, California Association of Four Wheel Drive Club
Benjamin Tuggle, Fish and Wildlife Service
*Larry Voyles (April 11, 2012), Arizona Game and Fish Department
*Participation via telephone

Coordinators

Genevieve Johnson, Bureau of Reclamation
Avra Morgan, Bureau of Reclamation
Paul Miller, Bureau of Reclamation (Interim Science Coordinator)

Facilitators:

Julie Shapiro, The Keystone Center
Niki Koszalka, The Keystone Center

Presenters and Observers

Gerry Hillier, QuadState Local Governments Authority
Jeff Johnson, Southern Nevada Water Authority
Rick Kearney, Fish and Wildlife Service
Russell Scofield (April 10, 2012), Desert Managers Group
Seshu Vaddey Bureau of Reclamation
Craig Wissler, The University of Arizona
Noe Santos, Bureau of Reclamation