



**California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CA LCC)**  
**Steering Committee Meeting Summary**  
October 26, 2011

**Participants:**

Steering Committee Members and Alternates

Ellie Cohen, PBRO Conservation Science  
Diana Craig, US Forest Service (USFS)  
David Graber, National Park Service (NPS)  
Kevin Hunting, CA Department of Fish and Game (DFG)  
Rick Kearney, US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)  
Tom Kimball, US Geological Survey (USGS)  
Scott Morrison, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)  
Michelle Selmon, CA Department of Water Resources (DWR)  
Patrick Rutten, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)  
Brad Shaffer, Southwest Climate Science Alliance (SCSA)  
Bob Shaffer, Joint Ventures Representative  
Tom Suchanek, US Geological Survey (USGS)  
Michael Tansey, Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)

CA LCC Staff:

Debra Schlafmann, CA LCC Coordinator  
Brady Mattsson, Research Ecologist

Consultants:

David Ceppos, Managing Senior Mediator, Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP)  
Grace Person, Public Outreach Coordinator, CCP

**Action Items:**

- Debra will send via email a list of Subcommittee volunteer participants to Steering Committee Members.
- Diana, Ellie and Debra will create a list of possible locations for the December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Steering Committee Meeting.
- Debra will send an email to Steering Committee Members requesting newsletter articles, and photos of Steering Committee Members to use for the CA LCC website update.

- Grace will post meeting notes and the October 17<sup>th</sup> through October 21<sup>st</sup> Structured Decision Making workshop outcomes on the CA LCC website.

## **Welcome and Introductions:**

Debra welcomed everyone in attendance both in person at the CA LCC office and members on the conference call. She noted that Wayne Spencer and Nadine Peterson were not present. She then introduced Steering Committee members in attendance who were not able to attend the September 15, 2011 Steering Committee meeting. She also introduced Grace Person, from CCP, who is the new project coordinator.

## **CA LCC Updates:**

### Communication Specialist Hiring

Debra provided a brief update on the hiring process for a communications coordinator. They are interviewing candidates, and hope to have the position filled by the end of December.

### Structured Decision Making Workshop Results

Debra acknowledged Brady Mattsson and Rebecca Fris who held a successful Structured Decision Making (SDM) workshop, occurring the week of October 17<sup>th</sup>. Brady Mattsson was instrumental in bringing the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) workshop to the West Coast, and that this workshop was one of the first of its kind outside of NCTC. Structured Decision Making is a process that decomposes a problem by identifying the decision(s) to be made, clear management objectives, alternative management actions, predicted outcomes of those actions, and ways to choose among those alternatives to meet the objectives thus supporting a transparent, logical approach to decision making in natural resource management. Both Brady and Rebecca were responsible in getting relevant topics at the workshop. Brady shared how the focus of the workshop was to develop a prototype decision framework for four natural resource management problems.

Four teams of coaches trained in SDM were brought to Sacramento and assigned to each of the four management teams:

- 1) How to achieve broad-scale conservation objectives through coordination among FWS programs that could ultimately contribute to the broader LCC mission.
- 2) Using management resources efficiently to maximize the quality and amount of channel and floodplain habitat for anadromous salmonids in the lower American River.
- 3) Developing a framework for an optimized, spatially explicit, state-wide, hierarchical vegetation classification map as a base layer for scientists and decision makers regarding land management in Alaska.

- 4) How to conserve San Francisco Bay tidal marshes in light of future climate change, and what actions, if any, should be conducted when, where, and how.

Brady mentioned that there would be opportunities for follow-up discussions allowing for the inclusion of a larger set of interested parties to refine the decision frameworks prototyped during the SDM workshop.

Debra stated that this workshop is an example of a kind of approach CA LCC can provide partners. She hopes to use the training workshop as a way for groups to engage other programs in a broader set of agencies and organizations in the future. Several SC members requested summary notes from the SDM workshop. There is a written summary of the outcomes that will be posted on CA LCC's website.

### Updates

The LCC Coordinator's meeting will be November 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup>, in Seattle, WA. This is only the second meeting for Coordinators from the 22 national LCCs. David Hayes, Deputy Secretary of the Interior, will attend the meeting. Debra will attend the meeting and she is part of the National LCC Charter Team. The goal of this meeting is to define a vision and mission for the National LCCs. Rick Kearney, announced that Dr. Todd Hopkins is the new Science Coordinator for the Great Basin LCC. He is funded by FWS and working out of BLM office in Reno next to the GB LCC Coordinator. Rick also mentioned that John Mankowski is another new LCC Coordinator, and Mr. Mankowski works for the North Pacific LCC. Rick sees these developments as evidence the network is maturing.

Dave Graber asked Brad Shaffer if he had any information on what is happening at the Southwest Climate Alliance. Brad responded that he didn't have much to share as he is in transition to begin work at UCLA and moving to Los Angeles in January. Debra thanked Brad for being present for the meeting, and expressed hope that he would be able to share updates about the Southwest Climate Alliance at the next meeting.

Ellie Cohen provided an update that she and Grant Ballard had a call with Wade Crowfoot, who is the Deputy Director and Military Affairs Advisor in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. He is working with the Governor on a major effort regarding climate change and extreme weather events in California. They are holding a kick-off event on December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Cal Academy, and Terry Root has been invited to speak at the event on climate change and extreme weather impacts on birds and other wildlife. Additionally, Ellie said she encouraged Mr. Crowfoot to include impacts on nature as a topic for discussion at future symposium events hosted by the Governor's Office of Research and Planning as a way to build public understanding of the linkages among economic, health, and natural environment issues.

### **Steering Committee Administration:**

### Steering Committee Chair and Vice-Chair Nominations and Vote

Debra began the discussion by reminding the Steering Committee that Diana Craig and Ellie were nominated for Chair, and there were no nominations for the Vice Chair. Ellie offered to be Vice Chair given she has limited availability this year. She strongly supports Diana's leadership as Chair. Rick also nominated himself for Vice Chair since he thought there might be a hole in the governing structure, but subsequently withdrew his nomination. Debra expressed her appreciation of the committee members' willingness to help out with this process, particularly during this first year of establishing the CA LCC.

Debra asked the committee if anyone was opposed to Diana as Chair. With no responses in opposition, Diana was confirmed as Chair of the Steering Committee. Steering Committee members were very enthusiastic about Diana being Chair and asked that she share details about herself.

Diana is the Regional Wildlife Ecologist at the US Forest Service. Of the National Forests in California, portions of the Sierra Nevada forests on the western slope and into Southern California are within CA LCC's territory. She has worked with partnership groups on monitoring and management of wildlife in California. She gave examples of her various interests, particularly her role for the past two years as a CA LCC Interim Steering Committee Member. She has worked with several partnership organizations; previously with the Riparian Habitat Joint Venture, and currently with the California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision effort on their Stakeholder Advisory Group. She also mentioned that she is part of the climate science integration team the US Forest Service put together to address requirements the agency needs to implement. Diana expressed her appreciation for the Committees' support. She sees the CA LCC as an excellent opportunity for everyone to work together to decrease duplication of effort to get science integrated into management decision-making models.

Debra said she and the rest of the CA LCC staff will provide Diana all the support she needs to carry out responsibilities as Chair.

Debra then asked if anyone was opposed to Ellie being Vice Chair. With no responses in opposition, Ellie was confirmed as Vice Chair.

Debra expressed her belief that Diana and Ellie will be an excellent team, and that she appreciates their help with the CA LCC.

### Subcommittee Chairs Proposal and Vote

Debra noted that there was a proposal for CA LCC staff to fill Subcommittee Chair roles, and that there were no other alternative nominations. She then shared that Michael Tansey offered to be Co-Chair for a subcommittee. Debra said that the CA LCC Charter

did not have a co-chair system, but that the group could decide to do so if the Committee felt that was necessary.

Ellie asked Debra what the Charter called for regarding leaders for Committees.

Debra said that the Charter lacks definition regarding the Subcommittee's positions and responsibilities. She said that the Steering Committee was very clear on its membership criteria as well as Alliance membership criteria, but further organization of subcommittee membership and roles have not been defined. So far there are the Science, Strategic Planning, and a Communications Subcommittee. She explained how the Charter says that some subcommittees may be long-term and others short-term depending on CA LCC activities. Debra said she thought the Strategic Planning Subcommittee would probably not be a long-term committee. Debra then recommended that the group maintain the leadership structure that was setup per the charter of only having one chair for each subcommittee. She then asked the Committee to vote on the proposal that CA LCC staff be chair of the various subcommittees, specifically Rebecca Fris as Chair of the Science Committee, herself as the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, and the person hired for the Communications Coordinator role would chair the Communications Subcommittee.

Dave said that he thought it was unusual for staff to be chairs of subcommittees, that it is more common for staff to be staff to the committees. Then he expressed that he could not think of a reason why it would be a problem to have Staff as the Subcommittee Chairs.

Debra mentioned that this proposal came from Bob Shaffer, and Bob explained that it could be difficult to find a committee member who has the time to fulfill the responsibilities of the chair position. Also, that Central Valley Joint Venture has been using this structure for its subcommittees without detriment.

Ellie stated that once the subcommittees start meeting there will an opportunity to see who are the active members, and also expressed her desire for the partners to be the formal chairs eventually so they can take lead roles.

Dave suggested the committees meet for a year with CA LCC staff as the chairs to see how the process works, and then evaluate to see if a change is necessary.

Brad expressed that he could see both options, and offered that at the end of the year the groups identify people who can transition into the subcommittee chair roles. Ellie concurred with that idea.

Rick asked Debra if the composition of the subcommittee would be of partners from the Alliance. Debra confirmed that Subcommittee members can be from the Alliance and the Steering Committee.

Debra asked the group to vote on the proposal that subcommittees be chaired by CA LCC staff for one year. The Group affirmed Aye.

Debra said she would send out a note reminding Committee members which subcommittees they requested to be on. Dave specifically requested to be on the Science Subcommittee. Debra mentioned that there is much interest in joining the Science Subcommittee, but the other subcommittees need volunteers as well.

## **Next Steering Committee Meeting - December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

### Location

Regarding the next Steering Committee meeting, Debra explained that it will be an in-person meeting, and the hope is to have it from 10 am - 3pm. Brad asked if a location had been selected yet. Debra said that the goal is to have it at a location with easy transportation access. Brad wanted to know if there were target venues, and how many people will attend the meeting. He also mentioned that if the meeting was in Northern California, he might be able to reserve a conference room at UC Davis cost free, and there would not be parking issues since it would be winter break and students would not be on campus at that time. Debra said that there would need to be airport access for one member who will fly in from Southern California, and that probably 25 people will attend the meeting.

There was also discussion of other venue options including meeting at National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy offices in San Francisco, as well as the Department of Water Resources office in Sacramento. At which point, Debra mentioned that she, Diana and Ellie would meet to discuss possible locations and would inform the group as quickly as possible of the final venue list.

### Strategic Planning Update

Debra explained that in order to create conservation objectives for the CA LCC, staff is interviewing a subset of management partnerships focused on conservation within this LCC as part of the Strategic Planning Process. From these interviews, a summary report with initial analysis will be presented to the Steering Committee at the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Debra told the group that this first round of interviews includes 6 or 7 partners, and from their responses, there will be a report that will help the Committee formulate a process to solicit and select project proposals for funding next year. Debra also mentioned that there will be additional interviews in the future to collect more information from resource managers e.g. park rangers. To date she has interviewed the California Fire Science Consortium and the Central Valley Joint Venture. She also stated that at the next meeting, the Committee can spend more time discussing which of the other Alliance members to contact for interviews.

### Expectations of Committee Meetings

Debra asked the SC which topics they would like to cover at the next Committee meeting. Dave stated that he hoped these meetings would be substantive in nature. Diana shared that she saw two primary goals for the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting: figuring out what to fund for 2012 and getting the strategic plan designed and functional. Brad asked for clarification on whether the funding goals will be specific or broad in nature. Diana stated that these would be more general goals, and that the Science Subcommittee would work on specific funding goals. Rick said that the basic assumption is that partners will seek a common interest, at a minimum to coordinate their efforts. Flowing from that assumption is the idea that there will be some information that will benefit all. CA LCC is meant to identify that information and pursue it, to help meet conservation objectives that span across LCC partners.

Tom responded that there might be some confusion about whether or not to fund modeling tools or site-specific projects. He thought regional topics might be more effective for CA LCC to address. Brad reiterated that funding specific projects might be a more effective use to leverage greater outcomes.

Patrick Rutten stated that CA LCC should look for defined, measureable outcomes to represent the collective suite of conservation objectives. He then provided an example about hydrologic issues such as water storage and use. He also made a case that conservation of coastal areas may be neglected within the LCC and that since the US Forest Service owns much of the forests along the coast, this could be a topic for the next meeting.

Tom explained that the task of the Science Committee is to identify the most critical issues, and review funding requests. Dave offered the idea of creating a fourth subcommittee to address conservation. Ellie thought that separating the purpose of the subcommittee might not be helpful since it would separate the issues from the science. She reminded the Committee that a primary goal is to bridge the gap between science and management. Dave then responded by stating conservation is a societal value that the tool of science can help support. Ellie suggested continuing the conversation at the next Committee meeting.

### **Other**

Wrapping up the meeting, Debra informed the Committee that as part of continual website updates, she wanted to use photos and names of Steering Committee members. Dave asked if CA LCC was still posting meeting minutes on the website, which Debra confirmed. Debra stated that since the meeting had run longer than expected, she would send an email to the Committee with the request for photos to use for the website. The meeting adjourned at 11:08 am.